

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB) MEETING  
**MINUTES**  
August 11, 2011  
EDC Office, Willmar

Present: Robert Carlson, Betty Bollig, Ron Erpelding, Duane Hultgren, Rick Nordin and Milan Schmiesing

Excused: Jim Butterfield, Beverly Dougherty and Jean Spaulding, Assistant Director

Staff: Steven Renquist, Executive Director

Ex Officio: Bruce Peterson

Media: Anne Polta, West Central Tribune

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

President Ron Erpelding called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

IT WAS MOVED BY Duane Hultgren, SECONDED BY Milan Schmiesing, to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA—**

Approve: 1. Minutes of July 14, 2011 meeting  
2. Financial reports as of July 31, 2011, subject to audit  
3. Removing Diane Schulte from the Business, Retention and Expansion/Recruitment Committee and Finance Committee

Accept: Committee Minutes  
1. Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development 6/16 and 7/21/2011  
2. Business, Retention & Expansion/Recruitment 7/6/2011  
3. Finance 7/12/2011  
4. Marketing and Public Relations 4/25/2011  
5. Leisure Travel 6/6/2011

MOTION CARRIED.

**PROGRESS REPORTS**

[Betty Bollig joined the meeting.]

**Willmar.** Bruce Peterson reported the new Willmar City Administrator, Charlene Stevens, started working and he believes she will be a good addition; he met with two industrial businesses that have expansion plans and with Buhler representatives, who have expansion plans and are looking to become active in community events. Peterson continues to work on airport issues; Senator Gimse scheduled a meeting for next Monday on the airport issue; Peterson received a proposal from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on doing the release in phases, which is not consistent with the city's plans; he continues to negotiate with

the FAA; he received copy of the National Register's application that the city must complete; and is beginning to work on a marketing plan for the industrial park. Steve Renquist reported Buhler will be manufacturing self-propelled sprayers and will continue with some pull-type sprayers. Buhler currently has 70 employees and anticipates 100 by year end and 120 by next year.

**Willmar Design Center (WDC).** Renquist announced the WDC is holding its Bounty of the County dinner this evening. Renquist reported he made a presentation to the Willmar Community Development Committee on a proposed parking needs analysis for the central business district of Willmar and recommended the city make plans for the next 20 years rather than the next 20 months. Rice Memorial Hospital management is in favor of the needs analysis. The EDC's original focus of the parking needs analysis was to address parking needs for Rice Memorial Hospital. No decision has been made on a needs analysis as the cost is yet unknown. Peterson reported Bev Dougherty and Richard Engan will return to the city in a couple of weeks to address the issue.

**EDC/MinnWest Technology Campus (MWTC).** Renquist reported the Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center continues to progress and Tenex Health continues its building remodeling at MWTC.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS—**

**Agriculture & Renewable Energy Development.** Renquist reported the Kandiyohi County Zoning Department held its public hearing on an amendment to the zoning ordinance as to the ag employee housing issue, which was denied. Renquist reported the anhydrous ammonia project is nearing fruition. The project is looking for two to three cooperatives to be founders and approximately \$6 million in funding. **Renquist** will schedule an evening meeting for the EDC boards to hear an in-depth presentation on the anhydrous ammonia project. The committee is moving forward with ag financing options through Ag Ventures of Iowa, which would like to locate a satellite office in Kandiyohi County. The committee is also working on a fuel cell project, which has the support of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. Renquist suggested the project include the EDC's renewable resources office at MWTC in cooperation with Ag Ventures. Duane Hultgren reported St. John's Township is holding a meeting this evening to address opening its own zoning office.

**BRE/R.** President Erpelding stated the committee is stressing the importance of manufacturing in the county and Jim Rieth is leading a committee to showcase manufacturers in the county possibly the end of September.

**Finance.** President Erpelding reported the Finance Committee took action and adopted a motion to recommend that Feedlogic Corporation be allowed to make interest-only payments on

its Revolving Loan Fund loan for six months to allow it to launch a new product line and manage its equity resources. Renquist provided information on Feedlogic Corporation.

IT WAS MOVED BY Bruce Peterson, SECONDED BY Milan Schmiesing, that the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission Joint Operations Board allow Feedlogic Corporation to make interest-only payments for six months beginning August 2011 on its Revolving Loan Fund loan. MOTION CARRIED.

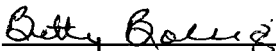
**Marketing and Public Relations.** Betty Bollig reported the committee met with the Willmar Area Multicultural Market as to marketing its kitchen. The committee also discussed how the EDC should market its accomplishments and what avenues should be used.

**Leisure Travel.** Bollig reported the area's June weather was difficult for the local tourism industry along with the state shutdown in July. Rick Nordin reported the managers of County Park 2 felt that because of the weather, it lost a significant amount in revenues.

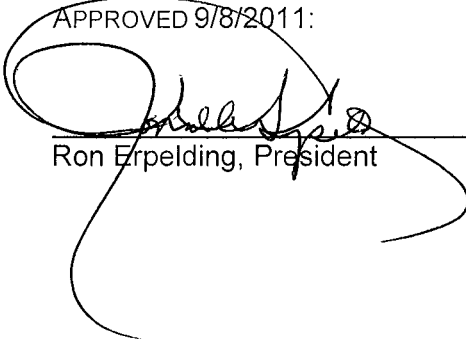
**Other.** Renquist reported he made contacts relative to a boat manufacturing company referred by Milan Schmiesing. Nordin informed the board Citizens Alliance Bank is very motivated to lease its high technology space that housed the former coupon redemption center. Renquist informed the board that Jean Spaulding is attending the Minnesota Angel Network meeting today.

**NEXT MEETING**—The next regular board meeting is 11:00 a.m., Thursday, September 8, 2011, at the EDC Board Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.

  
Betty Bollig, Secretary

APPROVED 9/8/2011:

  
Ron Erpelding, President

9/8/2011