

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB)  
BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION/RECRUITMENT (BRE/R) COMMITTEE  
TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
**MINUTES**  
Friday, December 4, 2009  
EDC Office, Willmar

Present: Dean Bouta, Kathy Dillon and Jeff Tengwall  
Excused: Jeff Roiland  
Staff: Jean Spaulding, Assistant Director  
Secretarial: Ruth Koenen, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

Jean Spaulding called the meeting to order at approximately 7:32 a.m.

**MINUTES**

IT WAS MOVED BY Dean Bouta, SECONDED BY Kathy Dillon, to approve the minutes of October 13, 2009 and October 27, 2009 meetings as e-mailed. MOTION CARRIED

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS—**

**Website grant update/survey results.** Spaulding reviewed with the committee the survey results. There were two different survey results due to having one grant in 2008 and another in 2009. Overall, grant recipients were favorable to the program and saw an increase in their market.

**Ridgewater College seminars.** Discussion took place regarding whether there should be another web seminar in 2010. Spaulding suggested looking at priorities for the upcoming year. A portion of the BRE/R's 2010 budget previously used by Technology Committee will go towards marketing the airport. At the seminar wrap-up meeting, Ridgewater did not seem motivated to participate with the EDC to put on a seminar again. Discussion took place on possibly moving it back to MinnWest Technology Campus (MWTC). If it was moved back to the MWTC, the EDC staff would coordinate it. The discussion turned to what topics would be good to work with since website developers from the seminars were not excited about doing another one. For the companies, it was more of a community donation than for profit. A topic that the committee showed interest in was the use of social media for marketing i.e. Facebook, etc. A half day seminar would be enough for the topic of social media. **Bouta** will check with Sarah at his office for her input, as she attended a seminar in Litchfield on this. It was suggested to look at Jay Bosch and Genesis10 websites for their unique work on social media. Discussion changed to offering grants when there is no website seminar. Do we assist those that have websites but want to enhance them? Parameters would need to be talked about. If a social media seminar took place, the costs would mostly be for marketing, space rental and a speaker. **Spaulding** will talk to Bill Coleman from Blandin for some monetary assistance.

**Cellular Phone Coverage.** It was mentioned that there will be cellular changes so there will be decreased coverage for this area, which will impact the community. Discussion took place as to where the dead zones are now and what companies are/will be in those areas. **Jeff Tengwall** will research this. **Dean Bouta** will check with Amy Klobuchar's staff person to see what she knows about

companies, towers and coverage for our area. **Spaulding** will contact someone on the Willmar city council for their insight on this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS—**

**Blandin Broadband Conference update.** Question was raised about finding someone who could do grant writing versus looking for money from elsewhere. Discussion occurred on the past Blandin Grant of \$50,000 and what role the committee can play to advance technology. Committee members agreed that a resident grant writer would be nice so it was tabled until another time. **Spaulding** will check with Blandin for any clearing house grants.

**Mission/Members/Priorities.** Spaulding presented the question to the committee whether to actively seek new members. Discussion took place that maybe the committee should look at its priorities and where they want to go from here. It will depend on what the committee does and plans for next year as to who to look at and recruit. Spaulding went over the current list of members. **Spaulding** will contact the county to see if someone other than Jay Kroona would want to be on this committee. If the committee decides to work on social media, there might be some interested parties from the City of Willmar, Kandiyohi County and Ridgewater College. Another possible committee member is Steve Salzer's new assistant. Once she is settled in, she may be approached.

**Other.** Spaulding distributed a laptop cover and luggage spotter to each committee member. She thanked each person for their time and efforts on the Technology Advisory Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING—**The next regular committee meeting is **7:30-9:00 a.m., Friday, March 5, 2010** at the EDC office.