

Sargent County Job Development Authority

Sargent County Courthouse Conference Room

5:00 p.m.

April 19, 2005

Present: Bob Cookson, Ray Brockman, Jerry Erickson, Mike Walstead, Ron Narum, Sandy Hanson,

Not Present: Dan Delahoyde, Roger Bopp, Lu Dorr, Jerome Brekke, Jay Jacobson

Guests: Darin Bollinger with Lake Agassiz, Charissa Rubey with Agcam

Call To Order-Chr Ron Narum

Minutes of Last Meeting- Minutes of the November 2004 meeting were distributed and reviewed. Bob/Jerry to accept the minutes as printed. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report- A copy of the Expenditure Guideline was distributed. A budget of \$56,700.00 was approved by the commission as stated on the report. A balance of \$53,000.00 is in the economic development line for financial support to the authority for projects. No activity has taken place this year's budget. Sandy submitted her room stay for a renewable energy conference in Mandan in December 2004. Total bill 69.50. This was submitted to the commission and will come out of the miscellaneous line item. Discussion was held on allowing carry over of unused budget to allow for a way to build the economic development fund up. Also discussed the payments from the loans coming back to the JDA for future projects. Ron/Mike to accept the report as given. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Images of Forman-Darin reported that Mr. Gates has not made any of his monthly payments on his micro loan through Lake Agassiz. Mr. Gates has been very uncooperative in Darin, Ron, and Ray's efforts to work out a plan with him, as well as meeting with him or returning phone calls. Lake Agassiz is taking legal actions against Images.

KW Services- Kevin is struggling with his business. He has been cooperative in working with Darin. He listens to Darin's advice and tries to take action on it. His weakness is being a business owner. He is a hard worker and good manager of the store. Mike commented that the business is needed in the community. Darin stated that Kevin is open to alternative options to try to keep the door open.

Forman Café-Betty is making all her payments on time. She is a hard worker and has some future plans internally to keep the business open after she pays off her loans.

OLD BUSINESS

Wind Tour-Sandy has had contact with Charlie Kramer on several occasions throughout the winter. She contacted him right before this meeting to try to arrange a date for tour and information of the experimental site and the wind energy farm. This group picked the following dates for Charlie to work with. May 9th, 16th, 24th, or 25th. The tour will be put on for the JDA Board and will be held during the day. Sandy will lock in a date and contact the board regarding the time.

Renewable Energy Summit-Mike Walstead attended a conference in Grand Forks in February and Sandy and Jay attended a conference in Mandan in December. Both attendees concentrated on the wind energy meetings and collected information regarding that subject. Other renewable resources are in our area, but are not being pursued at this time. The push for renewable energy in ND is going to have to be from the grass roots if it is going to be supported in our legislature.

NEW BUSINESS

Oath of Offices-none were given at this time

Reorganization of Chairs- No election was held at this meeting.

Sargent County Local Advisory committee recommendations- Mike presented a list of recommendations to the JDA that were adopted at the 4-19-05 commission meeting. Several items listed in the recommendations listed the JDA as a resource for initiation or leadership in accomplishing these proposals. Mike asked that we review the list for input and guidance.

AGCAM- Darin presented some history of the beginning of the working relationship with Charissa Rubey and her product agcam. Charissa handed out a portfolio regarding the business. She reviewed the package with us. The business was established in 2003 and is currently exceeding projections of sales. She currently has 4 employees and in 2005 estimates adding six-eight more. Starting pay is 6.75 and average pay is 9.00 per hour. They will begin offering a 50/50 insurance plan in the near future. The agcam has been on the market for 3 years and they have 360 dealers across the U.S. IR/Bobcat and New Holland are currently looking at the product for their equipment. IR/Bobcat is also looking at the product for the work place. AGCAM will have an article in the Successful Farming Magazine this winter. They have FCC approval and can offer wireless capabilities as an option. The product started out as an ag use for Farm machinery and livestock barns, but the market has widened. The cost of the product is \$1,000 - \$1,300. They try to keep all parts as local as possible. They want to stay in the rural area and understand the rural area needs of employment and economy. Charissa and Dave are currently setting up dealers in Australia. Charissa demonstrated the agcam product. Darin explained the loan process that he is working on with Rubey's. It will be a IRP (Intermediary Relending Program) Loan. AGCam is requesting \$150,000 loan from this program. Sargent County JDA will have to financially support 25% of the loan. The money will go into a pool at Lake Agassiz to use for the IRP and payments will go back into that pool. This pool is earmarked for Sargent County projects. If the County is not using the pool, another county can come in and buyout the pool and use the money for their projects. The interest earned on the pool is split with 60% going to Lake Agassiz to cover administrative costs and 40% going into the county pool to help the dollars grow. Lake Agassiz will work with a local bank of the borrower's choice and take a second position on the loan. Darin also discussed the Interest buydown option. This offers less exposure to the County JDA. Darin will forward more information to the JDA on the interest buydown.

Jerry/Bob to approve the loan for Lake Agassiz and Dakota Micro Inc. and financially support the IRP program with 25% of the loan, approximately \$38,000.00. Motion Carried.

MICRO LOAN PROGRAM- Darin explained that is a loan program for high risk business adventures that can't get loans anywhere else. There is a \$35,000.00 cap on this program.

Community Activities and Updates-No reports at this time.

Round Table

With no further business Ron adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.