

**Minutes**  
**Swift County RDA Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 10, 2008 @ DeToys Benson, MN**

**Members Present:** Pete Peterson, Paul Kittleson, Belinda Sanders, Ann Delgehausen, Tim Wengler, Jason Heinecke, and Ed Ulmaniec.

**Members Absent:** Eric Rudnigen,

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Gruis

**Others Present:** Rob Wolfinton

Jennifer called the meeting to order at 7:05 am.

## **100 Agenda**

### **200 Minutes**

The **Minutes of the 11-8-07 RDA Board Meeting** were reviewed. **MOTION** by Jason second by Ann to approve the **Minutes of the 11-8-07 RDA Board Meeting**. Motion carried. There were no Minutes from the 12-13-07 meeting as there was no quorum.

### **300 Financial Reports**

The Board reviewed the October and November 2007 financial statements for the RDA as prepared by Conway Death and Schmiesing.

The balance sheet showed \$435,478.72 in total liabilities and equity on 10-31-07. Statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balances showed a net income (loss) of (\$20,621.18) for the period 1-1-07 to 10-31-07. Revenue and Expenses for the period 1-1-07 to 10-31-07 were \$44,941.83 and \$67,790.40 respectively. Available to lend on 10-31-07 was \$43,202.42 and available to operate was \$144,269.00

The balance sheet showed \$418,436.09 in total liabilities and equity on 11-30-07. Statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balances showed a net income (loss) of (\$37,233.86) for the period 1-1-07 to 11-30-07. Revenue and Expenses for the period 1-1-07 to 11-30-07 were \$48,517.62 and \$92,261.44 respectively. Available to lend on 11-30-07 was \$44,768.54 and available to operate was \$127,001.15

**MOTION** by Belinda second by Paul to approve the October and November 2007 financial statement as presented. Motion carried.

### **400 Decision Items**

**401 Board Resignation** - Jon Erickson's resignation from the RDA Board was reviewed by the Members. **MOTION** to accept by Jason, second by Paul. Motion carried.

**402 Board Member Application - Dorothy Rosemeier** - The Board reviewed the application from Dorothy Rosemeier from District 5 to replace Jon Erickson. Dorothy referenced Ann in her application. Ann commented that she has spoken with Dorothy regarding the changes in 2007 and the goals and action planning for 2008 and felt she would be a good addition to the Board. Pete noted that Dorothy is on the record opposing Dublin Dairy. Discussion continued regarding the economic development of Dublin Dairy. Belinda noted that some conflict can enhance the conversation. **MOTION** by Ann, second by Belinda. Motion carried.

**403 Contract Wage Increase - Sandi Rodahl** - The Board was presented a wage increase request by Sandi Rodahl. Sandi had not received a pay increase with the RDA for 10 years.

**MOTION** by Belinda, second by Paul. Motion carried.

**404 Mileage Rate Increase** - The Board was presented with the new IRS mileage rates for 2008 and asked to accept the 2008 rates. Belinda questioned whether the Bylaws stated the RDA would use the IRS rates. Jennifer did not know. **MOTION** by Belinda, second by Pete. Motion carried.

**405 Big Stone ii Resolution** - Rob Wolfington asked the Board to issue a Resolution in support of the project given the scope of Economic Development this project will bring to the region, and that the City of Benson purchases back-up power from and is a member of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), one of the partners to the project. The Board was presented with a copy of the Benson City Resolution, various regional editorials on the project, information that Willmar agreed to purchase 30 MW, and a Notice that PUC was taking public comments on the transmission line proposals through MN.

Rob explained the relationship that the City of Benson has to the MRES and the project and briefly discussed the transmission line options, noting that the option directly through Swift County may not necessarily be in the County's best interest. There was discussion between Paul, Ed and others regarding the need for transmission lines for wind power and where that capacity would come from. Ann questioned whether our focus on the "Renewable Energy Marketplace" would be inconsistent with passing this Resolution. Tim agreed with the thought. Questions remained whether these transmission lines could serve proposed community wind projects and if making a resolution for transmission is endorsing the plant.

Rob noted the economic development value this project brings directly our region to Agralite and the City of Benson and Ottertail could be \$50 million. Ann stated she was interested in the economic value but not by every and any means. Paul stated that we need capacity on hand to grow and survive. Rob mentioned the importance of transmission assets and Paul discussed the natural gas pipeline near Benson.

Discussion continued and Board Members shared concerns regarding safety, the environment and water; impacts of coal, mercury, co2. It was mentioned that the goal was that the emissions will be less than they are now with the additional plant.

Tim asked when the Resolution needed to be made. The response was that for timely comments to the PUC the deadline was Jan. 17. Ed stated that personally he was in favor of adding capacity, but that as a Board we may not be able to issue a resolution on it. Ann stated that individually we all the opportunity to comment. Paul stated that at the very least he would like to see the Board pass a resolution regardless of time. Tim stated he would like more time to review before issuing a Resolution. **MOTION** by Tim to Table this until the next meeting, second by Jason. Motion carried, Paul and Pete opposed.

## **500 Discussion Items**

**501 Earthtech Energy Update** - Jennifer informed the Board that the Willmar paper reported that Earthtech Energy has chosen not to pursue their 1<sup>st</sup> choice location in Willmar due to the conditions placed on the property. Jennifer has sent an email and phoned Greg Mast, CEO to remind him of Swift County.

## **600 Information Items**

**601 Executive Director Report** - Members were provided a copy of the Director's report for the previous month.

**602 Events Calendar** - Jennifer highlighted upcoming events including Legislative 101

training in Brainerd, EDAM Conference in Bloomington, CEDS with the next RDA meeting, ED Pros 3/12, and Annual Meeting on 3/13.

**603 6 month probationary review** - Jennifer reminded the Board her probationary review was up on 1/30/08. She agreed to find the review and send it to Board Members.

**700 Adjournment**

Ed adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am. The next regular meeting of the Board will be held along with the CEDS and is TBD

Approved by:	_____	_____
	Ed Ulmaniec, President	Belinda Sanders, Secretary-Treasurer
Prepared by:	_____	_____
	Jennifer Gruis, Director	Date