

Minutes
Swift County RDA Board Meeting
Thursday, August 9, 2007, DeToy's Benson, MN

Members Present: Ann Delgehausen, Jon Erickson, Belinda Sanders, Ed Ulmaniec, Pete Peterson, Paul Kittleson, Tim Wengler, and Jason Heinecke.
Members Absent: Eric Rudningen
Staff Present: Jennifer Arnold RDA Executive Director
Others Present: Chuck Koenigs - outgoing Interim RDA Executive Director Rob Wolfington, Benson City Manager, and Byron Giese Swift County Auditor.

President Ulmaniec called the meeting to order at 7:05AM.

100 Agenda

Four items were added: #505 - State Demographer; #506 Comprehensive Plan, #605 Earth Tech Technology; and #606 Entrepreneur Academy.

200 Minutes

The **Minutes of the 7-12-07 RDA Regular Board Meeting** were reviewed.. **MOTION** by Paul second by Ann to approve the **Minutes of the 7-12-07 RDA Board Meeting** as amended. Motion carried.

300 Financial Report

The Board reviewed the June 2007 financial statement for the RDA as prepared by Conway Deuth and Schmiesing. The balance sheet showed \$470279.48 in total liabilities and equity on 6-30-07. Statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balances showed a net income of \$14,397.71 for the period 1-1-07 to 6-30-07. Revenue and expenses for the period 1-1-07 to 6-30-07 were \$41,470.99 and \$30,455.28 respectively. Available to lend on 5-31-07 was \$59,188.06 and available to operate was \$169,673.31. **MOTION** by Paul second by Belinda to approve the June 2007 financial statement as presented. Motion carried.

400 Discussion Items

401 2008 Budget and Tax Levy -A copy of a revised draft **2008 Budget** document was provided to the Board. Rationale for revisions were provided and several line items were reviewed. Gruis noted that the 2008 CVEC revenue share with HRA was projected using current economic indicators and the potential for CVEC expansion rather than historical averages. The proposed 2008 Budget includes a status quo tax levy. Concerns were voiced regarding the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations and whether a status quo levy would be sufficient given the County Board's expectations of the new RDA Director. The potential for seeking grants and an increase in the levy request was discussed. **MOTION** by Paul second by Belinda to approve the **Tax Levy** request for \$70,000 as presented. Motion carried.

402 Geyer Demolition Landfill - Gruis stated that preparation of the loan documents for the **Geyer Demolition Landfill** loan had been prepared and reviewed with Geyer. Discussion included clarification of the Landfill's purpose with Pete and Jason echoing that the Landfill's proximity is favorable for development in Swift County. It was recommended that the Board authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign the necessary documents to execute a loan from the Swift County RDA Loan Fund. **MOTION** by Paul second by Jason to

authorize the Board President and Secretary to sign necessary documents for the **Geyer Demolition Landfill** loan. Motion carried.

500 Discussion Items

501 Blue Ribbon Commission - Gruis informed the RDA Board she attended the 8-7-07 Swift County Board meeting and felt that the County Board would look to her to facilitate Renewable Energy Projects. It was suggested that Gruis meet the **BRC** to discuss their report and keep informed of developments in the interim.

502 National Development Council - Members were informed that Jennifer could attend three of the four classes required to achieve certification as an Economic Development Professional in 2007. The pros and cons of doing this and some additional course information was provided. Paul questioned whether there was state training available. Rob Wolfington stated that there was, but it was sporadic, and having attended the **NDC** courses, he felt they were of good value. Jen to investigate state sponsored options. In the absence of those, **MOTION** by Belinda second by Jon to register and attend the courses. Motion carried.

503 Former Curves Building - status report - Photos of the **Former Curves Building** were circulated to Board Members. Chuck Koenigs stated that is no action being taken at this time. Rob Wolfington suggested that Appleton might pursue a small cities grant to do some demolition.

504 RDA Board Dinner/County Tour - Discussion was held regarding a "Thank You" **Dinner** for Chuck as well as a **County Tour** to welcome Jen and introduce her to the community. After some discussion it was decided that dinner would be held the week of 8-12-07, and to allow for time constraints the Tour will have an Appleton/Holloway focus with a target date in September.

505 State Demographer - Gruis informed the Board that the **State Demographer** will be presenting locally on the topic of Swift County on Tuesday 10-23-07. Logistics will be worked out by Jen.

506 Comprehensive Plan - Ann noted interest in the results of the **Comprehensive Plan** and questioned "what next?". The Board discussed the data relative to the zoning map, and also to the BRC report. It was noted that the plan was presented as a 20 year plan and all players needed to stay focused. Paul stated that the **Comprehensive Plan** was akin to a guideline. Rob Wolfington addressed development in Swift County's flood plains, emphasizing that flood mitigation is fundamental to Swift County's economic development and **Comprehensive Plan**.

600 Information Items

601 Interim Executive Director Report - Members were provided a copy of the Interim Director's report for the previous month. Additional comments were shared on a few items taking place since issuance of the report. Among them included: a) continued contacts with a person interested in purchasing the Longhorn Corral; c) Earthtech Energy's plans to contest recent decisions made in a neighboring county and the still viable potential that the company could locate in Swift County; and d) handout of the Blue Ribbon Commission final report and presentation on 7-17-07 at 1:00PM to the Swift County Board.

602 Significant Correspondence - Significant incoming and out-going mail since the last Board meeting was routed past members.

603 Fair Booth - plans - Gruis informed the Members of her decision not to host a booth at the County Fair this year.

604 Wind Power - Gruis reported to the Members on topics presented at the UMRDC's public renewable energy meeting on small and community based wind development held 7-31-07 in Appleton.

605 Earth Tech Energy - Gruis circulated an article from the Willmar paper reporting that the Willmar Zoning Appeals Board voted 4-3 to overturn the Planning Commission's earlier denial of a conditional use permit for Earth Tech's proposed biomass pellet plant in Willmar. Conditions will still need to be set for the permit. Rob Wolfington noted there is still a way to go and Jen will continue to monitor as events unfold.

#606 Entrepreneur Academy - Gruis informed the Members of her involvement with the Youth Entrepreneurship Workgroup as part of the second session of the Entrepreneur Academy.

700 Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the Board will be on Thursday, 9-13-07, at 7:00AM at DeToy's.

MOTION by Paul second by Jon to adjourn the meeting at 8:35AM. Motion carried.

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