

Innovation Work Group Assignment

October 9, 2009

Present: Bill Droste, Tina Hansmeier, Adam Kienberger, Pauline Kleinke, Tom Umhoefer, Vicki Roy, Cathy Clucas, Darril Wegscheid, Gerald Henrichs, Gloria Kowalczyk

#1- Benchmarking Submittal and Analysis

We have 2 of the largest companies within our county: Thomson and Goodrich, but these big companies can't do it all. We need to pull together small and big businesses to create the climate that is ripe for innovation. We don't encourage innovation in this county enough.

We have unique resources and they have great potential for development: Our own Broadband, U More Park and working with the University of Minnesota, the Zoo School, a medical alliance in Burnsville, Carlton and St. Olaf College, DCTC, IHCC, and a vast array of other resources.

We seem to have an "east" versus "west" mentality creating a schism that needs to be corrected.

We create "crisis" mode too much to satisfy immediate needs.

#2 – Review, edit and adopt the draft work group goal.

Goal: Create and maintain an environment where innovation is encouraged and nurtured in business, government, and other sectors.

Perhaps the encouraged should be changed to expected. This goal is too passive.

#3-How do we get to be a "5"?

Where will we find funding? (Always a dilemma) We will tap into businesses and see what they do.

We must focus on retention but add the "fluff".

We must identify the strategy to be used, and then set short term goals.

We must get key stakeholders involved to help create the vision and get the county on the same page.

Pauline will help to create the strategies on how we proceed.

#4- Who else might be currently engaged in this topic and interested in participating?

Bill will invite someone who is a visionary and an expert at economic development and Adam and Pauline will talk to a couple of other business people.