

Intelligent Community – Leadership Team

October 9, 2009

Present:

LaDonna Boyd, Chair, Dakota Electric
Ron Thomas, Dakota County Technical College;
Greg Miller, Dakota Electric
Will Branning, Dakota County Commissioner
John Christiansen, ISD #917
Holly Dahl, City of Lakeville
Mary Hamann-Roland, City of Apple Valley

Cheryl Frank, Inver Hills Community College
Scott Ramsdale, Anchor Bank
Phil Sterner, Minnesota House
Sandra Masin, Minnesota House
Will Branning, Dakota County Commissioner
Taud Hoopingarner, Dakota County
Tom Lambrecht – Great River Energy
Kurt Bills, Rosemount Public Schools

LaDonna started out by stating that the leadership team is the big picture team that will make recommendations to the other teams. She then asked them to review the leadership team's goal.

Future Meeting Dates. The next meeting will be on November 6; however, the rest of the meetings will be one week later than the other committee dates in order to provide time for the other committees to meet and send their information to the leadership team. The meetings will be held at DCTC.

Timeline. We will be applying for Intelligent Community status in 2012. We will be submitting the application next year and it will be another year before we will know.

How Do We Reach a Five In Each Category?

It was suggested that individuals from the nonprofit sector be included on the team and that more business owners from the top businesses in Dakota County be brought in as well. We need more data on the top businesses in Dakota County. Ron will talk to Charles Muscoplat and Carla Carlson from the University of Minnesota about becoming part of this group.

On the east and west coasts, the counties run the economic engine, while here the cities are the key focus. A more regional strategy is needed. We don't get together often as a group; there's almost a competitive nature among the cities and school districts, and other entities.

How do we break through the state laws and ordinances and other barriers? Financing is an issue. Are we talking private or public financing? Inefficiencies need to be worked on in the system. Are we sending the right signals to business and industry? The barriers must be removed.

We need a high-performance partnership with cities and the county. We need to come together more as a multi-state region and globally as well. We need to strengthen Dakota County and then the region and then globally.

Boulder, Colorado is going on smart grid. They have support from the top. Our Governor is not a sales person for the area. Alabama has put a plan together to get business into Huntsfield and are taking businesses from Minnesota. The jobs in Huntsfield are real jobs, as well as technical jobs and the cost of living is much lower there. We need to decide what we can do to attract people here.

The Minnesota House now has a small business careers task force meeting two times a month and is looking for people to testify, as well as items for the next session.