

Manufacturer's Round Table

March 14, 2018

Location: Consolidated Telcom

Meeting Record

Present: Shari Buck, Senator Hoeven Representative; Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota; Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority; Reed Reyman, CHI St. Alexius Dickinson; Shirley Meyer, Senator Heitkamp Representative; Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation; Mark Resner, Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council; Rhonda Fitterer, Consolidated Telcom; Sarah Trustem, Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce; Estee Milburn, Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce; Kurt Froelich, NDSU Stark County Extension Office; Mike Soskis & Luis Ramos, Bridgespan Group.

Business – Go – Round:

Shari Buck, Senator Hoeven – Introduced herself and was welcomed to the group. The Senator is working on the Farm Bill.

Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota – Reported on the upcoming job fair at the BAC. 38 companies have booked tables with a broad range of sectors represented including: energy, healthcare, manufacturing and fast food. Last unemployment numbers available at the time were from December 2017 and Stark County was at 2.8% and the state was at 2.6%. (see attached handout)

Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority – Current employee count is 51 FTE and 2 part-time. SWA has paid \$58 million back to the state to date. Raw water parallel pipeline has been on hold until spring. They currently have 477 locations on waiting lists and the Dickinson usage numbers are down over previous years.

Reed Reyman, CHI St. Alexius Dickinson – Currently at 358 employees and January live births were down however they reported 30 births in the first 10 days of February. They have received a letter of intent on the purchase of the old hospital. Reed will be traveling to Washington DC in May to meet with congressional delegation on demonstration model for mental health and addiction. There is a new VA provider in town (STGI) and will transition into service this summer. A video has been produced recently showcasing the hospitals best employee engagement over all CHI facilities to be presented at their national conference in May.

Shirley Meyer, Senator Heitkamp – Spoke about Dodd-Frank regulations and electronic log devices (ELD). ELD would be detrimental to the ag community and they have been granted a 90-day extension and have been working on a permanent exemption. (see attached handout)

Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation – Reported on workforce recruiting efforts and working on the creation of a publication that will highlight the opportunities Dickinson has to offer. SDC is working with the DSU Centennial Committee to tell the

story of the opportunities Dickinson has to offer to the returning DSU alumni during their upcoming celebrations. SDC has also just launched a vocational training grant program to its members offering up to a \$2,500.00 match for employee training. (see attached handout)

Discussion took place regarding creating a vocational training committee to work with Job Service, DSU and the K-12 educators to create programs to meet the needs of the community.

Mark Resner, Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council – As the contract consultant for Roosevelt-Custer Regional Council he has been working to cut operational costs by about 50% and create a three-year plan of sustainability. RCRC has approximately \$250,000.00 in money from the revolving loan fund as well as \$200,000.00 in the community development block grant program. They are working to add more technical assistance and financial packaging to their clients. He also expressed the need for the creation of a regional foster care facility.

Rhonda Fitterer, Consolidated Telcom – Working on fiber overbuild in cooperative and they have four projects in Dickinson this summer converting from coax to fiber. Consolidated is also going to start offering more hosting and co-location services to their internet offerings with information coming soon.

Sarah Trustem, Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce – Reported they are working on redefining the purpose of the Chamber with a new strategic plan and considering a re-brand. Four board positions are open in the fall of 2018 and they are currently looking for candidates to fill those positions. The Chamber will be featured in the first issue (April 2018) of the Dickinson Magazine and will be hosting a launch party at the next business after hours on April third at the Crossing. They will also be looking at past events and evaluating what works and what needs reworking. The Chamber is also looking to offer more professional development opportunities for its members. Eggs and Issues will start in the fall of 2018 and offer open discussion and updates on community issues over breakfast.

Estee Milburn, Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce – Ag Committee will be hosting the first Banquet in the Field on July 9th at Kessel Farms near Belfield.

Kurt, Mike and Luis presented on a study recently conducted by the Equality of Opportunity Project. Stark County ranked the number two county in the USA for the highest absolute income mobility – the fraction of children who earn more than their parents since 1940. The National 4-H Council and the Bridgespan Group, a nonprofit advisor to the social sector, wanted to identify and understand efforts to help support/develop youth such that they can climb the economic ladder. The goal is to understand and help and improve economic advancement opportunities for youth across rural America.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 2:30 PM, at Baker Boy.