

Manufacturer's Round Table

January 8, 2020

Medora Corporation

Meeting Record

Present: John Odermann, CHI St. Alexius Health Dickinson; Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority; Shirley Dukart, Home and Land Company; Sarah Trustem, Dickinson Public Schools; Mary Urlacher, Job Service North Dakota; Cliff Tormaschy, Medora Corporation; Tom Krank, TMI; Deb Dragseth, DSU; Craig Kubas, City of Dickinson; Pit Mueller, Stark Development Corporation; Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation and Danita Tysver, Stark Development Corporation.

Business – Go – Round:

Mary Massad, Southwest Water Authority – The state engineer has announced his retirement. Cyber security is a big deal. EPA has cyber security for their systems. Upgrading pump systems. Need to upgrade flow capacity. There will be a pH seminar next week for use of lime application to increase pH in soils. Have had a few scenarios where bugs have eaten through ductile iron pipe. The North Dakota Water Education Foundation published a book about North Dakota's water history. Contact Mary if you would like a copy of the book. Southwest Water Authority uses less than a half inch of water from Lake Sakakawea a year. (see attached handout)

Shirley Dukart, Home and Land Company – Real estate has picked up. Back to 2014 numbers. Interest rates are 2.875% for FHA and 3.375% conventional 30-year loans. (see attached handout)

Sarah Trustem, Dickinson Public Schools – The Midget mascot survey results will be shared at the school board meeting this month. The survey filtered out responses from people who live outside the district. Pursuing a Success Academy that will be housed in the Hagen building. The academy will have three staff members and plans to start in February for high school students. Teachers on Call has been hired to staff substitute teachers. Working on legislation to assist with school construction. Consensus from the community advisory meetings was a new school needs to be built.

Mary Urlacher, Job Service ND – The region has 897 job openings. Top job openings are in transportation and healthcare. The job fair has been scheduled for March 17, 2020 at the BAC. About 500 attended last years job fair. Featuring an employer spotlight on Facebook. Labor market has great information, contact them if you need information. Working with the HIREVets recruitment program. (see attached handout)

Craig Kubas, City of Dickinson - More projects will be happening in 2020 than in 2019. Construction of the Dickinson Hills project is still on, will be rebidding the project in the next couple weeks. The project has been scaled back and the original owner is moving forward with the project. Hoping the project will be completed this fall. Will be working on a \$5 million mill and overlay project. Focusing on four areas of town. A portion will be special assessed to the landowners whose concrete will need to be replaced. Believe the current population of Dickinson is 26,000.

Cliff Tormaschy, Medora Corporation - Looking to increase engineering and IT departments. Looking to grow their contract arm this year. All equipment sold is connected to online system. Offer clients a subscription service to automate their system to automatically inject disinfectant when needed. Have had nice growth on higher horsepower equipment. Many machines sold are

not solar powered which is why they have developed the contractor arm to handle the electrical work and moved away from the Solar Bee name. Have some 2019 projects that they will be finishing in 2020. People are coming to them with new ideas to solve. Has been an exciting last couple years and expect 2020 to be the same. Have 70 employees, 45 out of Dickinson and the rest out of the area. Always hiring, have 6 or 7 current openings. Have a great safety training program, work with many fire departments to assist in training. Drinking water is about 70% of their market. International market has been good, plan to grow in 2020.

Tom Krank, TMI - Cyber security is important. All documents are stored in the cloud. Have many in house training programs for cyber security. Have 6 factory job openings. Will have minimal equipment updates in 2020. Will be focusing on fine tuning what has been installed. Have 250 employees.

Cell phone policies for businesses was discussed.

Deb Dragseth, DSU – The new President has started on campus. He has good history with the University and Dickinson. He may be interested in the position permanently. The campus has received his presence and vision positively.

John Odermann, CHI St. Alexius Health Dickinson – William Ermann has been selected as the new president for CHI St. Alexius Health Dickinson. His family has moved to Dickinson. Will be starting January 27th. Has a great background in finance. Wants to be involved in the community. Flu numbers have spiked in the last couple weeks. Had 722 births in 2019. Jody Bosch will be leaving the foundation.

Ryan Jilek, Stark Development Corporation – SDC's annual meeting will be February 18th at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel & Conference Center. Kelly Armstrong will be the keynote speaker. Continue to work with VUK Multimedia on a series of videos for workforce recruitment. Working on a new website that will include 10 years of economy at a glance statistics. The Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census continues to meet. Will be having Census week at the library and the mall to promote the census. Partnering with the City for a booth at the Williston Basin Conference. The ND Career Builders scholarship and loan repayment program is a skilled workforce program designed to recruit and retain individuals into high-need and emerging occupations in the state. (see attached handout)

Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 2:30 PM, Job Service North Dakota Dickinson Office.