



COUNTY OF BECKER

Economic Development Authority

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BECKER COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Thursday April 29, 2004
Lunch 12:00 noon
Public Hearing 12:30 pm
Meeting 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**ICE CUTTER DINING ROOM
HOLIDAY INN
DETROIT LAKES, MN**

**MISSION STATEMENT: THE BECKER COUNTY EDA WILL ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE
BY PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING HOUSING & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

AGENDA

Public Hearing

- 12:30 Call Public Hearing to Order
- 12:30 Lake Park Residential Lots
- 12:50 Adjourn Public Hearing

Strategic Planning Meeting

- 1:00 Call Strategic Planning Meeting to Order
- 1:00 Welcome & Introductions



- 1:05 Recap & Overview
Goal of meeting—Arrive at a consensus for the Becker County EDA:
- Vision Statement
 - Goals
 - Objectives
- 1:15 Ben Winchester, Center for Small Towns
Presentation, Becker County demographics & comparisons to surrounding communities
- 2:15 Exercise
List changes that have taken place in the community in the last year
- 2:25 Exercise
Identify major issues/community needs in Becker County
- 2:45 Break
- 2:55 Review current EDA Mission & Goals (See attached)
Review Becker County Comp Plan Goals for economic development (See attached)
- 3:15 Rewriting the Vision
- 3:35 Prioritize and rank top issues/challenges in Becker County
Identify priorities that apply to the EDA
Articulate partners and resources
Allocate remaining issues to others
- 4:10 Top three action items to be accomplished—next 12 months
- 4:40 Review and reconsiderations/changes/miscellaneous items
- 5:00 Adjourn

Joe Egge will collate the information discussed at the meeting and provide a written summary,



report, and draft work plan for your consideration.



(From 1998) BECKER COUNTY EDA

Mission: The mission of Becker County EDA is to develop, enhance, and promote economic development through agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, timber and housing.

Goal 1—Make Becker County EDA a primary facilitator for economic development efforts in the County.

- Create a supportive image with all governmental entities in the county
- Maintain rotating meetings
- Provide quality services in identified areas
- Establish an annual joint session with the boards of the Becker County EDA and Detroit Lakes Development Authority
- Work as a collaborator, integrator and facilitator with existing programs

Goal 2—Enhance the tax base of Becker County.

- Create 250 quality jobs in five years
- Develop \$3 million to \$5 million in financial resources over five years

Goal 3—Development and implementation of a marketing strategy for Becker County.

- Identify target industries for Becker County
- Identify qualified targets within identified industries
- Build industry clusters around identified industries

Goal 4—Coordinate and promote training programs throughout Becker County.

- Collaborate with existing programs to support and enhance available work force training
- Develop new training programs to meet needs of entrepreneurs
- Assist school to work programs

Goal 5—Promote and assist communities in Becker County with comprehensive planning efforts.

- Facilitate county and community planning
- Facilitate and secure funding for county and community planning
- Coordinate implementation of comprehensive plans when appropriate

Goal 6—Collaborate with agencies and organizations to assess housing needs

- Use comprehensive plans to determine community needs
- Work with businesses to assist filling needs of new and existing labor force

2004 MISSION STATEMENT BECKER COUNTY EDA

The Becker County EDA will enhance the quality of life by promoting and developing housing



and economic development.

2003 BECKER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (excerpts)

Vision (next 20 years): Becker County has a diverse economy that includes many sustainable businesses in tourism, retail, service, technology, manufacturing, forestry, and agriculture. Economic opportunities for wage earners and entrepreneurs, quality housing, and quality education are available for all people, and provide local opportunities for our children.

Five concerns expressed in writing goals:

- Supporting existing businesses and industry
- Encouraging economic growth and diversity
- Promoting the County's many assets for economic growth
- Minimizing nuisances and conflicts between economic and residential land uses
- The importance of housing as an economic development tool

Economic Development Goal—Becker County will support and encourage existing tourist, forestry, services, and manufacturing businesses.

Economic Growth and Diversity Goal—Becker County will encourage investment in infrastructure and technology to support new industries and diversify its economy, with concern for environmental quality.

Promotion Goal—Becker County will promote the County's educational, leisure, and quality-of-life assets.

Economic Development and Land Use Goal—Becker County will work with federal, state, city and township governments, and with the White Earth Reservation to ensure sufficient land, infrastructure, housing,, and transportation access for staged economic development throughout the county.

Housing Goal—Becker County will facilitate the development of adequate and affordable housing.

(See pp. 92-93 for economic development policies)



(2003 COMP PLAN CONT'D)

Strategies for Economic Development

Top priorities

- Create Economic Resource Preservation Zones
- Coordinate Commercial Zoning with the Cities and White Earth Reservation

High priorities

- Locally-owned Resort Incentive
- Head of Household Wages Incentive
- Encourage Rural Housing Development
- Implement the Community Housing Assessment Team (CHAT)
- Create Brownfield Mitigation Program

Secondary Priorities

- Infrastructure Support
- Financial Assistance for Small Businesses
- Use Tax Incentives for Economic Development
- Identify Economic Development Sites throughout the County
- Promotional Programs for Economic Development
- EDA Strategic Planning Effort
- Improve Housing Opportunities in the White Earth Reservation

Other Organizations

MMCDC Mission: To provide capital to rural businesses and for development of housing.

Three strategies:

- Provide debt capital to businesses...
- Provide investment capital for business that promote public purpose...
- Housing development and management...

DETROIT LAKES DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY is an arm of the City and was established by the City Council in 1985 to carry out economic and industrial development and redevelopment in Detroit Lakes.



BECKER/LAKES INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION works to encourage economic development and redevelopment by providing businesses with various incentives to locate or expand in Detroit Lakes and Becker County. Incentives include low cost building sites, low interest loans, loan packaging, and attractive leases.

