

Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 11, 2016

The Science/Technology/Innovation (STI) Committee meeting was held in the Madison-Jefferson County Extension office conference room at 7:00 a.m., Thursday, February 11, 2016. Participants were Gerry Keogh, Tom Harrington, Lee Good, Ed Handl, Tom Phillips, Leonard Wortman, and Marcy Lamb.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 am. January minutes were reviewed and approved.

1. Lee G. provided an update on the progress of the high speed development at the business park and the Whitehall community. The project is progressing and has slowed during the winter months and will start back up once the weather improves. He indicated he has been working with the Fiber Hotel in Helena and at the communications building in Helena and has equipment installed and is running tests. He demonstrated the linkage and showed internet speeds of 800-900 megabits up and down during the meeting validating the gigabyte internet capability is available. Discussion on the potential followed and that a newspaper article will be submitted to publicize the achievement.
2. Discussed the gigabyte capability has the potential to expand opportunities and capability in Boulder.
3. Data center marketing plan needs to be expanded to start looking at potential development opportunities. The planned testing of data storage for Jefferson County has been put on hold until a new county IT technician is hired.
4. Discussed the wind development project at the business park is moving forward and the prototype wind tower is still planned to be erected starting in February/March. The wind lease negotiations with Barrick/GSM are moving forward. The internet company that occupies one of the warehouse units continues to expand operations and internet capability in the area.
5. Marcy L. discussed the school enrollment is stable. She discussed attendance a conference on IT enhancements and there are many options and opportunities in this fast changing industry. She discussed the school is looking at offering more electives and technology offerings.
6. Leonard updated the group on the Pipestone Creek and Jefferson Slough projects. The Capp Ranch project has been delayed and is still in negotiations before it can proceed. Other options are being reviewed in the event an agreement can't be reached. Pipestone Creek channel relocation will be going out for bids soon and the Casagrande bypass project work has started and should be complete in March. The county is looking at funding sources to upgrade the bridge.
7. Other Items:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 a.m. The next meeting will be held in the Extension office conference room Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Harrington