

GREAT NORTHWEST DAY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 3, 2009

1:00 p.m.—CITY HALL, CAMERON

Becky Cleveland, Co-Chair of Great Northwest Day, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Those also in attendance were: Lisa Luke, Lisa Macali, Linda Gray-Smith, Paul Hamby, Shellby Hendee, Kathy Morgan, Cindy Esely, Eileen Irvine, Richard Baldwin, Steve Shieber, Jack Briggs, Mark Garges, Alice McKee, Luke Reven, Steve Johnston and Marcia Cunningham. Marcia read the minutes for review and approval. They were accepted as presented.

BUDGET REVIEW AND CONFIRMATION

Mark Garges gave the treasurer's report. Total revenue to date from sponsorships is \$10,450. There has been a single expenditure of \$66.00 so far, bringing the total to \$10,384. Added to the income carried over from last year, the total income amount presently is \$18,717.80. Mark also reported that Bank Midwest had been approached regarding the credit card sponsorship. They have indicated that the most they could do would be to waive their fees—but that would not come close to the \$2000 needed. More discussion on this issue took place during the committee reports.

COMMITTEES

REGISTRATION

Kat Morgan reports that we are good to go and that participants may register any time now.

SPONSORSHIP

KCPL has committed to a sponsorship of \$1500 but has not yet paid. Missouri Western has committed to \$500 but not yet paid. It is hoped that a \$500 sponsorship will come from Missouri Gas Energy (MGE). Ameren UE has been contacted and is considering a \$1500 sponsorship. If Ameren does so, it will be the corporate sponsor for the band at the evening's activity. At present, Steve and Becky have secured \$12,950 in sponsorship. This is slightly up from the \$12,900 we had last year so things are looking good!

FINANCE

During this committee report there was more dialogue about the online payment option. After much discussion, Lisa Macali made a motion to wait till next year to pursue this issue. Paul Hamby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

After much conversation regarding how best to collect the money due from individuals or counties, it was decided that Kat will send a list of all those registered by the early bird deadline. County Coordinators can compare that list to their list and see who still owes for GNW Day and hopefully collect the money prior to the event. Becky plans to send a letter to County Coordinators and instruct them on proper registration procedures.

MARKETING/COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa M will be sending out a 'save the date' memo to legislators. She also reported that she thinks the gifts to the legislators will be (eco-friendly) cardboard frames and matching notebook.

Lisa M asked the issues committee to help her with the issues by putting together a press release for her. She will then send it to the County Coordinators for media publication.

EVENT

Natalie had sent a message with Lisa Luke that highlighted the following points:

- Any special requests (mikes, screen, etc.) for luncheon and breakfast must be submitted to Natalie.
- If we have a cheese tasting table, we have to clear that with Capital Plaza Hotel.
- We really need to do a good job of getting numbers pinned down by the Friday before the event.
- Sponsor logos are needed for the brochure.

Mark indicated that he could send Natalie the numbers from the last few years which would show trends in numbers for dinner and breakfast. This might be good information for her.

ISSUES

Shellby H. passed out a copy of the many issues which had been sent in by various communities or counties. He read through all of them for the benefit of the group. (See following herein...)

Shellby also passed out a list of the proposed issues which we would take to legislators this year. They are as follows:

GNW Issues – Draft 12/01/09 – Issues with Common Connectivity (no particular order)

1. Water/Waste Water Infrastructure Development

Communities are being crushed with unfunded federal mandates and are non-compliant in meeting environmental standards because of this dilemma. State funding assistance that manages federal flow-through funds is cumbersome and inhibiting.

Solutions: Increase funds or relax policies of existing State Revolving Loan Fund to make it less onerous for communities to participate. Support regional initiatives for access and interconnectivity such as the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission.

2. Existing Business Growth and New Technology and Business Development

Business friendly climate for existing businesses (retention) and encourage growth of small business and growth-potential companies headquartering in Missouri.

Solutions: (1) Support initiatives that continue to define a “business friendly environment” such as creating a state countermand which neutralizes the effects of “Cap and Trade” legislation. (b) Shift funds within economic development to focus on growth potential or technology companies (i.e., the introduction of a tax credit to encourage investor participation). (c) Empower local communities and small business development efforts rooted in community initiatives. Encourage Missouri-based companies to grow and provide policy tools.

3. Roadway and Highway Maintenance

Maintenance of roadways and infrastructure is critical to the safety of Missouri’s citizens. Example: School districts in Northwest Missouri spend significant amounts of money and lost time on maintenance of buses.

Maintain funding for highway system and generate creative mechanisms for capturing dollars. One suggestion: Significantly increase fines for uninsured motorist (in-state and out-of-state) and drunk drivers and utilize those fines in maintenance fund for lettered routes.

Consideration:

HOT ISSUE: (This is a timely item – growing in significance. It has been requested to be included – either as an issue or as a cohesive voice for opposition for infringement on local initiatives.)

Issue: Allow local governments the responsibility and flexibility of utilizing funding mechanisms that have voter approval.

There is legislation pending barring cities from asking voters to approve sales taxes for operations and capital improvements above the current limits. This infringes on local authority and local voters’ right to support civic function and community improvements. (The example is legislation against “stacked-taxes” approved by local voters for operations and capital use.)

Solution: Oppose legislation that eliminates that local control of funding mechanism for community growth.

Alternate Issue:

Issue: Support Tourism Funding

Tourism is a primary means of economic development for many communities. Support tourism development and local grass roots regional tourism efforts such as the Highway 346 Heritage Alliance.

Solution: Maintain support for state tourism dollars as a match for local funding.

After a lengthy conversation, it was decided that the Issues Committee would hold a conference call on Monday, December 7, at 10 a.m. More information on the issues decision will be sent out after that time.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

IMPORTANT DATES and REMINDERS

- December 7—News Release #2
- December 18—Community Sponsorship pledge forms DUE to Lisa Luke
- January 8—Program template with Community and Corporate Sponsors will be emailed to County Coordinators
- January 15—News Release #3

Becky reminded everyone of the next meeting—January 21 at 1:00 p.m.—and thanked everyone for being in attendance. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Cunningham
Brookfield County Coordinator

2010 Great Northwest Day at the Capitol Top Legislative Priorities:

Maintain funding support for highway maintenance, County Aid Road Trust (CART), and Bridge Replacement Off-System (BRO) programs

Remove impediments such as impending legislation banning local governments from requesting voter approval to exceed 1% taxing threshold for general use (commonly known as stacked taxes)

Preserve funding support for programs in economic development that positively impact business development, encourage local match and invest in regional tourism and development – such as the Highway 36 Heritage Coalition

Equalize pricing mandates of federal and state funding for municipal water/wastewater improvements

Great Northwest Day at the Capitol Community Legislative Issues of Importance:

18-County Community Priority Listings (in no particular prioritized order – catalogued and combined)

Transportation:

- Superintendents in the area (8 of us) identified transportation issues i.e. the condition of state roads and the effect on our buses and building infrastructure. Perhaps some type of revolving fund could be created to allow schools to access dollars for facilities.
- Our highway system continues to be in need of expansion and improvement. Gains that have been made the last few years could easily be reversed without funding to maintain and upgrade the system.
 - Proposed Action:
 - Replace funding that is due to end for the construction of new roads and improvements to existing.
 - Maintain/increase funding level for BROS (Bridge Replacement Off-System).
 - Maintain/increase funding for CART (County Aid Road Trust).
 - Secondary bridges are crumbling faster than being replaced. We may see several bridges closed before they are replaced.
 - Secondary lettered roads improved for Farmers hauling harvest. (this issue is submitted every year)
- Interconnect hiking and biking trails; include horseback riding trails.
- We talk about the road conditions each year- there's a reason for that...infrastructure still needs to be addressed and we should be entitled to safe, drivable highways. A suggestion that fits another concern: Increase fines significantly for uninsured motorists and driving under the influence and utilize the incremental increase as maintenance funding for highways (lettered routes).
- Uninsured motorists cause significant loss each year to law-abiding citizens – and should be accountable.

Higher Education:

- Current trends of enrollment is an optimistic sign for the future of our economic well being; investing in our institutes of higher education is an investment in the entire state's future.
 - Proposed Action:
 - Continued support of funding for higher education.
- Require area colleges and universities to offer fine arts programs. These enrichments help area youth and should be required for State funding. College staff can offer lectures both on and off-campus.

Economic Development:

- Facilitating the commercialization of new and improved products can be a key component to stimulating the growth of Northwest Missouri as well as the state.
Proposed Action:
 - New tax credits to encourage the formation of early stage (angel) capital from private investors
 - State response to proposed federal legislation.
 - Climate legislation or “Cap and Trade.” Example state response: subsidy for energy producers. Protect Nodaway County’s competitive advantage in energy cost.
 - Labor legislation or “Card Check.” Example state response: become a “right-to-work” state. Protect Nodaway County’s competitive advantage in labor cost.
 - Health care reform. No specific state action was discussed. Consensus was: first, the cost to business of various reform plans was not clear; and second, current high cost was not a competitive advantage *for the region*.
- Support Tourism activities- especially those match local initiatives –
 - Provide low-interest loans through the State Revolving Fund for recreation centers. Currently recreation centers are not eligible.
 - Establish regional connectivity for area activities. Offer a regional web site with a regional activities calendar of events.
 - Want tourism to be one of their ‘four key issues.’
 - Our new Hwy 36 Heritage Alliance is hoping to have a presence at the event. With the Tour of Missouri and a 40% reduction to the Missouri Division of Tourism, I think this is a timely issue.
 - Tourism, Tourism, Tourism! IN many cases, tourism is all our small towns have to build on. WE are committed to this, hence the Missouri Highway 36 Heritage Alliance, but cannot do it alone.
 - Action: We need continued support form the state. It has been demonstrated over and over that money spent on tourism pays back, so keep the Missouri Division of Tourism well funded!
 - Support of the Highway 36 Heritage Alliance: The Way of the American Genius
 - Proposed Action: Recognition and funding for the North Missouri regional effort- five years ago the completion of Highway 36 to four lanes was one of the GNW Day Legislative Issues. Now that is complete, we need to promote this region by informing Missouri’s legislators.

Economic Development Continued:

- Changes that would allow us more latitude and cost nothing: Initiate/shape a conversation in terms of regional economic development and the development of regional assets, i.e. regional industrial parks.
 - Several smaller communities/counties share one industrial/business park and share the revenues generated from any development
- Minimum wage and how/what that is doing to all size businesses, especially the smaller ones.
- Healthcare – realize that is really more of a federal thing right now, but there may be some state issues that would play into that.
- Develop legislative financial support to ensure the ongoing success of Rural Economic Development and encourage enterprise facilitation projects with in the state.

HOT TOPIC:

- State Legislation exists that will greatly inhibit local communities from the right to request voter approval above the 1% threshold. This injects state government rule into local initiatives and weakens our ability at the local level to develop. The primary example that is critically timely - Representative Tilley has proposed legislation to disallow sales tax stacking "from continuing". If so, communities in Northwest Missouri and around the state will loose millions of dollars in operating monies from its general fund sales tax revenues. For one Northwest Missouri Community That revenue currently funds 100 positions in the City's General Fund, at least 80% of which are in public safety (80% of the staffing in the general fund is in public safety departments. The loss of 80 (80% of 100 positions) public safety positions would result in a 1/3rd (32%) reduction of the City's commissioned public safety force. This, during a time when the City needs more, not fewer, police officers.
- The Missouri Department of Revenue allowed the "stacking" to occur when the City took this issue to the voters in 2001. The local ballot measure passed with upwards of 70% majority.

Public Safety:

- One issue I would like to have put on there is the problem of people driving with no insurance on their vehicles. Especially if one is hit by someone out of state that has no insurance. I think tougher penalties need to be given.
- 911 Funding - The state of Missouri is made up of 114 counties plus the City of St. Louis. Of those 114 counties approximately 20 currently have no 9-1-1 services and only 20 of the remaining 84 counties have Phase II services. This means that if an individual had to place a 9-1-1 call from their cell phone and was unable to speak or tell their location, the dispatcher would not be able to send emergency crews in 84 of our counties.
 - Support the House's 2007 Interim Committee's Report 9-1-1. This includes support of an on-going revenue source utilizing a recovery fee from wired lines, wireless telephones, Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOID) and any other device that may call Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP), update the state's definition of technology

as it relates to 9-1-1 communication, as well as statewide informational campaign to garner support.

- Implement tax/fee on wireless telephone for the purpose of funding integrated 9-1-1 service.
- Increase per diem funding for the operation of the county jail.

Water/ Waste Water:

- Help with storm water/waste water/drinking water issues.
 - Funding assistance does not correspond with environmental standards. Increasing the funding or relaxing the standards would be helpful.
 - Seek state support for the Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission.
- Availability of potable water and infrastructure to get it to citizens both regionally and locally.
- Replacement of infrastructure in communities.
- Regional waste water issues which has been an on-going problem in NWMO.

General Comments:

1. Would like to see funding from the state and federal level be rotated to the areas of the state that don't normally receive such funds, every 2-3 yrs i.e.: low populated areas would receive a larger distributions every 2-3 yrs. then they normally would receive
2. Roads in NWMO do no receive proper resurfacing. The tar and gravel system does not work Again, rotate funds to lower populated areas for better maintenance and real asphalt or concrete paving.
3. Banking: Create a state bank in Missouri. A state bank, capitalized by our own taxpayers, would allow us to fund commercial development, mortgages, municipal debt, and student loans.
4. Education: Local Control. Education is the responsibility of parents and local school boards. Innovation and local control create better schools. The state of Missouri and the Federal Government involvement should be limited to funding only. NO mandates. Missouri should not restrict or discourage home schooling.
5. Digital TV does not work well in rural areas.
6. Broadband Internet not available to many areas of NWMO