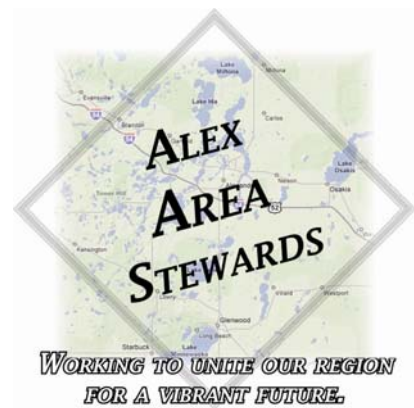


**All-Stewards Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2010**  
**7:00 am to 8:15 am**  
**Alexandria Technical College – Room 209**



**Attendees:**

Reed Becker, Carl Towley, Stan Finnestad, Todd Roth, Nancy Klepetka, Greg Klepetka, John Luepke, Shari Laven, Ben Oleson, Kris Willert, David Johnson, Corliss Stark, Anthony Zimny, Linda Roles, Chad Coquette, Pat Kalina, Virgil Batesole, Bob McCrory, Tom Wacholz, Jason Murray, Tom Jacobson, Rick Paulsen, Rick Banke, Marty Schultz

**New Members/Guests:**

Joani Neilson, Sue Jung

**1. Stewards Publication**

The Stewardship publication that was distributed in December was distributed to the group and comments/feedback received on it were discussed.

**2. Destiny Driver Updates:**

**a. Walleye Stocking (Rick Paulsen)**

18 lakes in Douglas County (including Lake Reno which is mostly in Pope County) were stocked with walleye fingerlings. The actual number of fingerlings was less than the goal of 500,000 because they are measured by weight and were larger than normal this year. Rick has heard numerous fishing reports of people catching lots of little walleyes.

Approximately \$1,000 was raised at the Douglas Machine fish fry this summer – 350 served. A total of \$64,000 was raised in 2009 for the stocking program.

**b. PMMC – Packaging Machine Manufacturing Consortium (Chad Coquette, Rick Paulsen, Jason Murray)**

The 5 packaging machine manufacturers in our area have joined forces to assist in workforce development and branding this area as a “Packaging Mecca.” Each, along with ATC and the AAEDC, has put in money to help fund initiatives including:

- Getting middle and high school students involved/interested in manufacturing.
- Creating a stronger awareness of packaging machine manufacturing throughout the region.

**c. Intergovernmental Communication/Collaboration (Marty Schultz)**

A group of 24 people from the Alexandria area just completed a week long Blandin Leadership training and a small group of them will be meeting with governmental units throughout the region to identify ways that they can work together more effectively.

**d. Industrial Park Committee (Jason Murray)**

The Industrial Park Committee is moving forward with their planning and information/recommendations will be presented to the AAEDC Board of Directors at their February meeting. This information and presentation will be shared with the Stewards in the near future.

e. **Affordable Housing (Reed Becker)**

Reed is continuing to work with Jeff Hess of the Alexandria HRA on developing a plan for more affordable housing in the region.

f. **Central Lakes Trail (Pat Kalina for Mark Grandgenett)**

Mark met with the Central Lakes Trail Committee in December and was able to identify some additional contacts for this Driver and will be contacting the group of interested Stewards soon to start moving forward again soon. If anyone who was not involved with this Driver earlier would like to get involved please email or call Mark.

g. **Volunteerism (Corliss Stark)**

The United Way is working on compiling volunteerism statistics and early indications show that volunteerism with the United Way for 2009 is up around 300%.

**3. Glenwood/Pope County Leaders Meeting**

Attendees discussed the key points of the meeting along with possible ways to move forward with including the Glenwood/Pope County area in the Stewards initiative.

**a. Key points from the meeting**

i. Communication

1. Continuing sharing information between communities.
2. Possibilities for service organizations that exist in both communities to work together on major projects.

ii. Transportation Corridor - Uniting for an expanded Highway 29 corridor

1. There is currently a transportation study in the works for the City of Alexandria and Marty Schultz volunteered to bring the Hwy 29 corridor expansion concept to that group for inclusion in the study so it would be better highlighted to MNDOT. The feeling of the group (and the Glenwood meeting) was that MNDOT will listen more to a sizable and united group from the region and potential move more quickly their selection/funding process.
2. Group members commented that this project could be an excellent next step for the two areas working together for mutual benefit.
3. Jason Murray volunteered to contact the Willmar Chamber Director to learn about the process utilized to move their Hwy 23 expansion forward and produce a letter template that can be printed, signed, and mailed to MNDOT to show support for this project. This letter will be shared between both communities (leaders, business owners, and community members) to gain increased support.

iii. Recreation opportunities

iv. Joint Marketing/Promotion

1. Regional marketing efforts between Chambers and other organizations.

- b. **Glenwood meeting participants:** In an effort to encourage candid conversations with community representatives, a small group of Stewards (roughly equaling the community representatives) participated in the Glenwood/Pope County meeting.

**4. Other Items**

**a. Success Report/Destiny Driver Update**

- i. The group discussed the potential and need for some form of a group report to present to the region about what has taken place and is moving forward with the Destiny Drivers and related initiatives. Potential spring release was discussed.

**b. Increasing Stewards Involvement Throughout the Region**

- i. The need to involve more people from throughout the region (especially from the smaller communities) was discussed. Consensus was that the most effective way to increase involvement will be to identify people that have strong ties to both a smaller community and Alexandria so that it is relatively convenient to participate in meetings.

**c. Future Regional Community Meetings**

- i. Future meetings in Brandon and Milona were briefly discussed, potentially having one in March, along with the plan to keep the number of Stewards representatives low – potentially seeking to match numbers as in Glenwood.
- ii. The need for a follow-up meeting in Osakis was discussed – potentially to meet with some of the same representatives again but also to purposefully invite some of the younger business representatives and potentially some elected officials.
- iii. The group felt that to be most effective with these meetings that we should go into them with the goal of identifying one project that our communities could work together on – Hwy 29 corridor expansion was an example. The project will potentially provide a good communications focus and collaboration base.