

Northwest Oklahoma Alliance



Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon

Northwest Technology Center

Incubator Conference Room & IETV & Conference Call

Alva, Oklahoma

Minutes

1. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order by President Sonja Cook at 10:10 am. Roll call: Sonja Cook, Barclay Holt, Brian Gaddy, Mark Faulkenberry, Vicki McCune, Matt Gard, Patti Wilber present.
2. Recognition of Guests – Ray Murphy, Northeastern State University Center for Rural Development, and Neal Williams, Oklahoma Department of Commerce were recognized.
3. Approval of minutes of previous meeting – Minutes were presented from the June meeting. Motion made by Gaddy to approve the minutes; seconded by Gard. Roll call vote: Cook, yes; Holt, yes; Gaddy, yes; Faulkenberry, yes; McCune, yes; Gard, yes; Wilber, yes. Motion carried.
4. Presentation by Ray Murphy, Oklahoma Virtual Communities – Ray Murphy was introduced to the board where he presented Oklahoma Virtual Communities and City Vue as tools for economic development. Through various databases, OVC/CV uses the country's best and most current demographics. 2nd Quarter demographics will be available soon for access. Murphy demonstrated the use of OVC/CV to board members. Wilber is the northwest Oklahoma representative working in collaboration with Murphy for entering data and registering communities. NWOA will be using this venue for assisting communities in the region.

President Cook moved to Items 7-11 for discussion.

5. Discussion/possible action to accept resignation of Mark Faulkenberry as board member – Following Agenda Item #11, Cook moved to Item #5.

Cook reported that Faulkenberry tendered his resignation as NWOA Board Member. He expressed the honor he had in serving on this board and working with each member. With regret, McCune made the motion to accept his resignation; Gaddy

seconded. Roll call vote: Cook, yes; Holt, yes; Gaddy, yes; Faulkenberry, yes; McCune, yes; Gard, yes; Wilber, yes. Motion carried.

6. Discussion/possible action regarding appointment of Melissa Washmon to fill the vacant board position – Melissa Washmon, Finance Committee member and who works at Northwest Electric Cooperative, was suggested to fill the vacant board position held by Faulkenberry. Discussion followed. McCune made the motion to appoint Washmon to fill the board vacancy; Gard seconded. Roll call vote: Cook, yes; Gaddy, yes; Faulkenberry, yes; McCune, yes; Gard, yes; Wilber, yes. Motion carried.

7. Discussion/possible action regarding NwOA trade show booth/display. Gaddy presented to the board his recommendation and samples for NwOA purchasing 3 floor models for use at events. In the discussion, members expressed “kudos” to McCune and the work she has done on NwOA’s new web site. Gaddy will work on using the web site design and wording for consistency in the stand-alone floor models. Since budgeted funds of \$2000 for purchasing these displays were approved by the board at a prior meeting, McCune made the motion for Gaddy to move forward on the purchase of 3 displays at approximately \$500 each; Holt seconded. Roll call vote: Cook, yes; Holt, yes; Gaddy, yes; Faulkenberry, yes; McCune, yes; Gard, yes; Wilber, yes. Motion carried.

8. Discussion/possible action regarding NwOA website – McCune reported on NwOA’s new web site at www.nwoka.com that is now online. A Members Only login is now active and all NwOA members are urged to submit information such as activities, events, and photos to her for adding to the web site. Wilber has submitted to her the current membership list and will keep her up to date as new members are added.

9. Committee reports:

a. Finance – Faulkenberry reported on NwOA’s finances as of September 17. Bank balance is \$25,828.14; Income YTD from January 1 is \$14,647.68; Expenses from July 1-September 1, \$10,860.04; Bank balance, \$3,787.64.

b. Communication – McCune reported that she plans to create a NwOA newsletter posted on the web site. She asked that NwOA members submit information to her for inclusion in the newsletter. Discussion followed regarding concerns in keeping NwOA members current on NwOA activities and regular communications were emphasized. McCune asked about payment to the web person as the invoice has been submitted but to date not paid. This concern will be followed up to make sure payments by NwOA are made timely. McCune also reported that PREDCI will host their 10-year celebration at their annual meeting in November in Guymon and suggested that NwOA have booth space at this meeting.

c. Membership – Wilber reported that 54 memberships for 2008 are paid to date. Membership letters were first sent in January and a follow-up letter was sent in August to those not paid in 2008. Nine new members were added this year and 18 memberships to date have not paid their 2008 membership. Discussion followed in that membership is sometimes not paid until closer to an event, such as the annual

meeting and legislative event. Members are encouraged to talk with communities about the value of NwOA membership, especially with the new web site and Members Only section.

d. Business Retention, Expansion & Recruitment – Gaddy discussed the need for a “plan of attack” in assisting businesses with workforce needs. He mentioned the Warren Act and the report that is released of national layoffs. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce should have access to this report and could be useful in placing on the web site Members Only section for businesses and communities that are looking to hire. Gaddy also reported the disconnect between job vacancies and unemployed that is often seen in regions. He discussed that a conference-type event planned for the spring could bring together groups that would enlighten opportunities for employment in the region and how it can occur with businesses looking to fill job vacancies.

e. Special Needs – Cook reported that NwOA’s annual meeting occurs in the last quarter of the year and a date should be set for this event. The date of November 13 was selected with General Session to begin at 10:00 am. Further discussion followed on detailing the agenda for the annual meeting. Sessions discussed included: NwOA Board elections, legislative event, BRE conference, web site, City Vue, alternative energy, housing, and workforce. It was also suggested to have contractors and other groups of interest to NwOA set up booths at the meeting. Cook will create a tentative agenda and submit it to the board for finalizing.

f. Legislative – Holt reported that the date for NwOA’s annual legislative event will be held the second Tuesday in February. Plans are underway for the 2009 event with the evening reception at the Oklahoma History Center. Anyone with suggestions for the reception’s keynote speaker is asked to contact Holt.

g. Events – No report.

10. Discussion/possible action in regards to committee updates – Discussed in committee reports. No action taken.

11. Discussion/possible action regarding NwOA meeting dates – Discussed in committee reports. No action taken.

12. New Business – None.

13. Adjournment – McCune made the motion to adjourn; Gaddy seconded. Roll call vote: Cook, yes; Holt, yes; Gaddy, yes; Faulkenberry, yes; McCune, yes; Gard, yes; Wilber, yes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.