



Spring 2006 Newsletter



The departure of Executive Director, Jim Dahlen last May left the Forward Devils Lake Development Corporation without a director until July when Denise Hendrickson, a Lakota, ND native, came onboard as the new Executive Director. Denise is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a BBA and a major in banking and financial economics. Prior to FDL, Denise was the Economic Development Specialist and Business Consultant at the North Central Planning Council for the past ten years.

Manufacturer's Roundtable promotes business progress...

The Devils Lake Manufacturer's Roundtable was started in August and has brought manufacturers and entrepreneurs together from Devils Lake, Fort Totten, St. Michael and Leeds with plans to continue to grow the group. The purpose of this quarterly meeting was to first, introduce and cultivate relationships between all of the participants as well as involve an educational element to the meetings. The attendance at the meetings continues to grow indicating that the roundtable is a worthwhile event.

Forward Devils Lake hosts the Governor's Military Task Force

Forward Devils Lake sponsored a dinner for the Governor's Military Task Force on April 11, 2006. The task force met at Camp Grafton April 11 and 12th and the dinner was a token of appreciation for all of the efforts to grow and support the military presence in North Dakota. Forward Devils Lake is especially proud of our "own" Camp Grafton!

Devils Lake Regional Partnership

FDL is one of four members of the DLRP. Together, Cavalier County, Towner County, the City of Rolla and Forward Devils Lake work at promoting the region as a place to become home for start-up and expanding businesses.

The partnership will be hosting a small dinner with a few alumni from the region this May in Minneapolis in hopes of planting and cultivating the seeds of coming home for business expansion possibilities.

An intern program was started by the DLRP last summer which assisted in the development and funding of 10 interns in the region. This year Forward Devils Lake committed funds for up to five interns in the Devils Lake area. Interns are being hosted by the Devils Lake Airport, Pugsley's Sandwiches, Camp Grafton, Thrifty White Drug and Northern Plains RC&D. Funds are provided at a 50% match up to \$1750 from the local development entity. The use of interns provides a valuable experience for both the business and the intern. This is one way that we are working to promote the Lake Region as a place that has jobs!

Forward Devils Lake Mini-Grant Fund

A portion of the funds allocated by the FDL Board is termed "mini-grants." These funds are usually a small grant used for business development. This could be market development, studies, patent work etc. The funds are provided on a 50/50 match basis. Applications are available at the FDL office.

Business Development

The main focus of FDL is obviously business development. This involves business retention and expansion, entrepreneurial development and finally business attraction. Each of these areas is addressed in the following manner:

Business Retention and Expansion- One-on-One visits are conducted with area businesses as well as the creation of the Manufacturers Roundtable has brought the assistance which can be provided by FDL more to the forefront of area businesses. FDL is available to assist with most types of business development and can serve as a voice of the business community.

Entrepreneurial Development- While FDL staff is trained as a business consultant and can work with individuals, FDL also provides funds annually to the Small Business Development Center which in-turn provides free and confidential business consulting. FDL is also attempting to create a branch office of the Grand Forks Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) chapter. These volunteers will also work one-on-one with potential entrepreneurs and existing businesses on a free and confidential basis. More volunteers are needed to develop this program. If you are interested in providing a few hours a month in this valuable service, please contact the FDL office.

Business Attraction- Forward Devils Lake also works with companies looking to relocate or expand in our area.

Other Developments – FDL continuously researches additional opportunities for growth as well. One example of this is the investigation into renewable energy for the area. LRSC and FDL both have an interest in wind energy and as such are working together to

address the level of potential development in that area. Other areas of renewable energy are also being explored searching for a determination of the best entrance of Devils Lake into this emerging market.

Available buildings and building sites are also a needed asset for FDL. If you know of available properties, please pass along the information.



Membership Renewals

Thank you to the following that have recently renewed your membership in Forward Devils Lake!

*Bremer
Comfort Inn
Lake Region Corp.
Woodland Resort
DLPS District #1
Wired Cellular
Skybergs Meats
White House Café
AmeriPride
Carl Bloomquist
First Financial Center*

*Britsch and Associates
Heartland Care Center
Greater Dakota Homes
Dr. Kunkel
Drs. Lawson and Herman
KLJ
US Bank
NCPC
Highway Two Self-Storage
Lake Region Sheet Metal*

*Mercy Hospital
Klemetsrud P & H
Real Estate 7
North Central Granite
Great American Inn
HE Everson
Noridian
MDU
ND Human Services
Edward Jones*

Lake Region Growth Fund

The Lake Region Growth Fund is a sales tax funded economic development tool which generates funds to invest in business development.

Two grants were recently approved by the fund and the City Commission. The first is an investment of \$15,000 per year for three years in the Lake Region State College Centers of Excellence program. The second grant is a matching contribution of \$12,500 to the Devils Lake Airport for a marketing grant.

Devils Lake Community Development Corporation

The Devils Lake CDC is the non-profit organization that oversees the Devils Lake Area Foundation. Additional board members have been requested from the Devils Lake Kiwanis, Rotary and Lion's Clubs. A board reorganization meeting will occur later this spring. This summer, a celebration of \$1,000,000 of donated funds from the DLAF will occur. Watch for additional details later!