



3M Redevelopment Jobs Workgroup -Meeting Notes-

May 26, 2009
11:30-1:30pm
Goodwill/Easter Seals

Attendees:

Dina Elias (Merrick), Theresa Gardella (Payne-Lake), Hillary Vannygeeren (CLUES), Luis Pereira (PED), Karla Bachman (CLUES), Kevin Martineau (American Indian Family Center), Alicia Smith (American Indian Family Center), Mary Dahlquist (St. Paul Regional Labor Fed. AOP), Joe Stratig (Goodwill/Easter Seals), Paul Huot (Huot Mfg/MN Precision Mfgs Board), Ellen Biales (City Council Leg. Aide - Ward 7), Harry Melander (St. Paul Building Trades), Anne Briseno (ESNDC), Leslie McMurray (District 5), Janayah Bagurusi (Twin Cities LISC), Tom Cook (Metro State), Jeremy Lenz (BioBusiness Alliance of MN)

Facilitator:

Janet Ludden, Employer Solutions Inc.

Discussion:

Process: Ms. Ludden presented for input a discussion outline she had prepared and sent out for review prior to the meeting. Group consensus was that this would serve as an appropriate roadmap for the series of scheduled Jobs Workgroup (Jobs WG) meetings through September 2009.

What Does Green Mean?:

Mr. Hilleman presented information related to two different reports. The first, "Making It Green", is the study drafted by the Mayor's Initiative on Green Manufacturing. The report broadly defines green manufacturing as green processes, green products, and/or green buildings.

The other was a January 2008 report to the Port Authority board on research related to green building and green manufacturing activity currently taking place in Port Authority Business Centers. The report illustrated a broad range of green businesses, products, activities and buildings currently in these business centers.

General Discussion:

Mr. Huot with Huot Manufacturing and a MN Precision Manufacturers Association board member stated that the organization represents about 300 machine shops around the state, with the bulk of them being in the Twin Cities. Mr. Huot commented that the manufacturing world for some time has been having conferences and seminars around the green ideas of Pollution Prevention, Waste Reduction and Energy Efficiency; however, most businesses don't call it that and it's just considered "good business" and implemented where it makes clear financial sense.

Mr. Martineau discussed a potential municipal solid waste (MSW) gasification project that would create green jobs that could potentially be located at the 3M site. One rationale he suggested was that the transport of MSW to the Newport waste facility is inefficient and requires the consumption of significant quantities of diesel fuel that could be conserved if there were a facility closer to the City. He and others interested in pursuing a project like this are working on a research trip to such a plant in California.

What Does Bio Mean?:

Jeremy Lenz, Vice President of Operations for The BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota disseminated materials and gave a brief explanation of what the Alliance does: the organization conducts research, advocacy and organizes public and private sector efforts to grow the state's gross domestic product through economic and business development activity in the Life Science industries.

Mr. Lenz provided a brief explanation of the proposed Elk Run BioBusiness Park in Pine Island, MN near the Mayo Clinic. Specifically, he explained the resources, timing and strategy required to put together what will become a significant bio-campus which they believe will achieve the goal of recruiting national and international companies to create new jobs in that community. A venture capital firm has committed to provide the \$1 billion in capital necessary to compete on an international basis and attract firms to the project. He stated that the Alliance has invested 5 years to date in this and other efforts. Mr. Lenz mentioned that Minnesota hasn't yet begun to position itself for true international competition, and in fact is losing talent and business to other states with a head start on strategy and resources. He said they regularly 'shop' MN and the Twin Cities to recruit firms whose technologies are ripe for commercialization (the stage at which most job creation occurs) and relocate them to other states (Coasts and Southern States).

General Discussion:

- Mr. Hilleman commented that the presentations and discussion today demonstrated that there was a wide variety of businesses and industries associated with "bio" and "green". He said that the Port Authority intends to use these discussions to help inform its marketing and recruitment strategies for the site, and that those efforts will be to broaden the site's appeal to a larger pool of potential end-users, not to exclude users from the site.
- Ms. Gardella stated that the site redevelopment should result in a balance of job opportunities that require a variety of skill levels (high skills, low skills, tech-school level skills, trades skills, etc.).
- Mr. Martineau referenced as an example a particular building that was built for a specific purpose and that its angled roof design was based on the needs of the business's production line. He stated that if businesses are asked to reuse the existing buildings on-site versus being able to build a new building to suit their businesses specific needs, we will limit the site's development potential.
- Ms. Biales stated that she has been hearing from constituents concern that, to-date, thoughts about 3M site redevelopment were not creative enough and that we should not limit ourselves to light industrial boxes.
- Ms. McMurray noted that Ms. Ludden's discussion outline suggests that the Jobs WG consider perspectives from economic development, business development, workforce development and community development perspectives to help drive the 3M site's redevelopment. She stated that such an integrated approach could lead to suggestions from this group to the Advisory Committee to achieve "optimal economic impact" for Eastside communities. She also commented that it is understood that there are competing values within the six principles (presented at Jobs WG Meeting #1). She stated this workgroups work and charge is to fully explore and advise the Task Force on all strategies that can effectively secure the greatest economic benefit to the East Side and Saint Paul. Some capacity building strategies may extend the work of the committee beyond the parameters of the 3M parcels per se. She stated that this group should be wholehearted in this pursuit.

- Mr. Melander discussed timing and training needs for jobs. He stated that apart from training for a specific company, that it would be more effective to provide broad soft skills training (workforce preparedness), transferable skills training, and re-training that will help get neighborhood residents jobs in a wider variety of industries that may locate at 3M. He spoke of the need for resources for training of any kind.

Requests/Tasks/Information for Next Meeting

- Mr. Cook agreed to identify the appropriate staff from MnSCU to bring to the next Jobs WG meeting to talk about recently developed information on bio business job types, and discuss needed training for bio and green industries job types. (Cook)
- Invite the Chamber of Commerce to participate at future meetings. (Hilleman)
- Invite DEED staff to help identify growth industries and re-employment needs at a future meeting. (Ludden)
- Send out Capstone students' follow-up research to "Making It Green" for prior review and then discussion at the next meeting. (Pereira)
- Bring the Advisory Committee "Development Principles" that were presented at the first Jobs WG meeting, to each meeting and display. (Hilleman)

Meeting Schedule

Future meetings are currently scheduled for:

- ~ June 23rd
- ~ July 28th
- ~ August 25th

All meetings are from 11:30-1:30pm at Goodwill/Easter Seals' offices. Lunch will be provided.