

County Perspectives

The newsletter of economic development in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties

Bergquist chooses Brandon for manufacturing facility

Governor Mike Rounds announced that the Bergquist Company will expand their operation into Brandon, South Dakota, taking one of the sites in the Corson Development Park. The new Bergquist manufacturing facility will open in 2008, with construction set to begin this year.

"Bergquist is an international name in electronics manufacturing," Rounds said. "Their decision to locate in South Dakota is further proof of the advantages our state offers high tech and electronic companies. We're proud that the Bergquist Company has chosen South Dakota."

Headquartered in Chanhassen, MN, the Bergquist Company has five additional domestic manufacturing plants located in Big Fork, MN; Cannon Falls, MN; Prescott, WI; Torrington, CT, and Wareham, MA. Additionally, Bergquist has manufacturing, sales and marketing support throughout the world, with over 900 employees in 30 locations worldwide.

A leading manufacturer of engineered materials and components for the electronics industry, Bergquist ranks as the largest supplier of thermal interface materials in the world. The firm is the sixth largest privately held electronics company in Minnesota and the fiftieth largest privately held electronics company in North America.

Numerous locations were reviewed prior to selecting Brandon, according to Bergquist company officials. Traditional factors were evaluated, including proximity to headquarters, transportation accessibility on ground and air and energy suitability. Based on these factors alone, any number of sites could have been chosen.



Dick Miles, Bergquist Corporate Facilities Manager, addresses a crowd of business leaders at the announcement ceremony.

"The commitment of the South Dakota economic development team to us as manufacturers wanting to stay in the U.S. was what set Brandon apart from other locations," said Richard Miles, Bergquist Facilities Manager. "That commitment, coupled with excellent population growth demographics and a strong South Dakota work ethic, ultimately solidified our decision."

The Corson Development Park is a 120 acre site with fully developed rail service plus room for expansion. The land was purchased by the Corson Development Association Limited Liability Partnership, composed of the Sioux Falls Development Foundation, the Minnehaha County Economic Development Association (MCEDA) and the Brandon Development Foundation, Home Federal Bank, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls, Great Western Bank, Alliance Communications and Sioux Valley Energy. Wausau Supply, a Wisconsin company that already has plans for expanding in its Corson Park location, was the first tenant.

"The combination of rail and interstate access makes this a unique location in the Midwest region," said Jeff Eckhoff, MCEDA executive director. "We've seen great interest from a variety of companies and expect to see continued growth in the Corson Development Park."



Dan Scott (seated, left) and Dick Miles sign purchase agreements for the Bergquist site as Dennis Olson, Larry Beesley, Joel Jorgenson and Jeff Brusseau look on.



*Lincoln County
Economic Development Association
Board of Directors 2006-2007*

Todd Nelson, LCEDA President, At-Large
Bob Lier, LCEDA Vice-President, Canton
Mary Thoen,
LCEDA Secretary-Treasurer, At-Large
Dan Cotton, Beresford
Jon Klemme, Harrisburg
Virgil Musch, Lennox
Vacant Seat, Tea
Mike Metivier, Worthing
Jim Schmidt,
Lincoln County Commission

County Perspectives

Volume 8, Issue 1

*The newsletter of economic development
in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties
is published three times yearly by
LCEDA and MCEDA*

*P.O. Box 907, Sioux Falls, SD 57101
605-339-0103*



*Minnehaha
County
Economic
Development Association
Board of Directors 2006-2007*

Marv Wieman,
MCEDA President, Crooks
Jim Clark,
MCEDA Vice-President, At-Large
Dennis Olson,
MCEDA Secretary-Treasurer, Brandon
Carol Ackerman, At-Large
Jason Pittman, Baltic
Dian Hoven, Colton
Kris Langer, Dell Rapids
Owen Wiese, Garretson
Rick Freemark, Hartford
Allen Schmeichel, Humboldt
Eric Krouse, At-Large
Mike Wendland, Rural Mayors
Neil Winterton, Sherman
Don Johnson, Valley Springs
Anne Hajek,
Minnehaha County Commission



Sioux Falls Regional Livestock holds grand opening ceremonies

Siuoux Falls Regional Livestock, one of Lincoln County's largest business developments of 2006, hosted grand opening festivities December 4 at the company's location near the Canton exit off Interstate 29. In addition to the livestock company, the agri-business center houses a veterinarian, a John Deere Insurance office, a livestock trucking company and a café, all contained in the 16,000 square foot office section of the facility. An additional 100,000 square foot steel building is used for livestock sales, with a total of 250,000 square feet with concrete floor.

Speaking at the grand opening were Senator John Thune, South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture Larry Gabriel and Sioux Falls Mayor Dave Munson. Regional media personality Jim Woster was master of ceremonies for the event, which included a formal ribboncutting ceremony sponsored by the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sioux Falls Regional Livestock holds sales three days a week, on Mondays at 10 a.m., Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 11 a.m. The first sale at the new facility was held on October 16, 2006 with 500 people in attendance and 1,900 cattle changing hands. Since the first sale, over 68,000 head of cattle have been sold at the growing business.

"Sioux Falls Regional Livestock is an excellent example of a group of investors working together to meet a regional need," said Jeff Eckhoff, executive director of the Lincoln County Economic Development Association. "The partners have created a first-class operation in a state-of-the-art facility with a great future."



The ribboncutting ceremony included, left to right, Jason Spykerboer, Chamber of Commerce rep Cindy Christensen, Tom Donohue, Sid Koedam, MC Jim Woster, Tim Donohue, Senator John Thune, Roger Koedam, Phil Donohue, Duane Rus, Brad Klostergaard and David Minor.

Four leaders join county economic development boards

Business leaders from local governments and business communities have joined the boards of directors of the Minnehaha and Lincoln County Economic Development Associations. New MCEDA board members are Kris Langer, representing the city of Dell Rapids, and Anne Hajek, Minnehaha County Commissioner. New to the LCEDA board are Dian Hoven, city of Colton, and Jim Schmidt, Lincoln County Commissioner.

Anne Hajek is the principal in the Hajek Law Firm in Sioux Falls, specializing in employment and labor law. She was twice elected as a Sioux Falls city council member. Her civic involvement includes the Catholic Family Services Board of Directors for Eastern South Dakota, South Dakota Association of County Commissioners, TurnAbout, Civic Fine Arts Center, South Dakota State Bar Association Board of Ethics and she is a member of the Sioux Falls Park and Recreation Board.

Kris Langer is a realtor-broker associate at LandMark Realty and Auction of Dell Rapids. She is a graduate of



Anne Hajek



Kris Langer



Jim Schmidt



Dian Hoven

South Dakota State University and grew up on a family farm near White, SD. Langer is Dell Rapids City Council President, a member of the Lutheran Church of Dell Rapids, treasurer of the Dell Rapids Baseball Association and a board member of Dakota Business Finance.

Jim Schmidt serves as Executive Director of the Sioux Empire Housing Partnership. Recently elected chairman of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Schmidt is the former president of Kilian Community College in Sioux Falls and led the regional office of the American Cancer Society for several years. Schmidt serves on several civic organizational boards and operates a farm in Lincoln County.

Dian Hoven was elected to the Sioux Valley Energy board of directors in 2000. After retiring from a 19-year career at the Colton Farmers Elevator, she became mayor of the community, population 675. She represents Colton on the MCEDA board.



JOINT ANNUAL MEETING ATTRACTS LARGE CROWD

The Minnehaha and Lincoln County Economic Development Associations held their combined 2006 annual meeting in the Starlite Room of the Holiday Inn City Centre in downtown Sioux Falls. The annual meeting focused on the development achievements of the past year in both counties and a combined annual report was distributed at the meeting.

Yvonne Taylor, executive director of the South Dakota Municipal League, delivered the keynote address, discussing economic development activity in the communities of South Dakota. Taylor drew upon her work with the South Dakota legislature and with towns of every size across the state in commenting upon the success of Minnehaha and Lincoln counties in planned, sustained economic growth.

MCEDA chairman Marv Wieman and LCEDA secretary Mary Thoen each provided a report from the county and Jeff Eckhoff, executive director of both groups, addressed the accomplishments in rural development during 2006.

“Once again, we can point to the enthusiasm of volunteers, the commitment of local governments and the pro-active attitude of business people in our counties as the recipe for success,” Eckhoff said. “We share common goals and equal determination to continue to grow our economies and our communities.”

University presidents gather to discuss regional development and education

University presidents and business leaders met recently at the Forward Sioux Falls Higher Education and Economic Development Presidential Summit. The gathering was held at the Holiday Inn City Centre in downtown Sioux Falls and featured Dr. Richard Lester, founding director of the Industrial Performance Center at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Participants were welcomed by Forward Sioux Falls chairman Kelby Krabbenhoft, and Dr. Lester was introduced by Dr. Douglas Knowlton, president of Dakota State University in Madison. Higher education representatives included presidents and officials from DSU, South Dakota State University, the University of South Dakota, Northern State University, Augustana College, Black Hills State University, SD School of Mines and Technology, Kilian Community College and Southeast Technical Institute.

Lester is a professor of nuclear science and engineering at MIT. His research focuses on industrial innovation and the management of technology, with an emphasis on the energy and manufacturing sectors. He has led several major studies of national and regional productivity, competitiveness and innovation performance commissioned by governments and industrial groups around the world.

Following Dr. Lester’s address, the presidents held a roundtable discussion on economic development applications for higher education in South Dakota.



Dr. Richard Lester

County Perspectives

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER: *By Jeff Eckhoff*

The benefits of that rising tide are felt by everyone

News from neighboring communities about new jobs and new companies, or about major philanthropic donations that promise to change the economy in coming years, are sometimes met with the comment, "How will that help my town?"

The answer to that question is obvious to anyone who has watched the growth of our two-county area during the past decade. When business growth is strong in Sioux Falls, the benefits are felt from Beresford to Dell Rapids and all points in between. The old economic development axiom that a rising tide raises all boats has never been so dramatically proven as in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties during recent years.

That fact is the guiding principle behind MCEDA and LCEDA. We band together for economic development action because we know that we're in this together. There are no member communities which have not experienced some form of growth, whether residential construction or new commercial enterprises, thanks to developments in other communities. In addition, new services and stores are now available closer to home than

ever before, thanks to county-wide economic strength.

We all know people who live in one community and work in another. Their children go to our schools, the families fill our churches and they buy their gas and other necessities in our town's retail establishments.

Those new residents may be looking for a smaller community in which to raise their kids, or a town that feels similar to the one in which they grew up. Perhaps they have found the perfect lot on which to build their dream house—and that lot happens to be in a community that requires a short drive to work.

So whether it's a new business with new jobs coming to your town or ten new families building ten new houses, our communities are feeling the effects of economic successes—in every other city and town in our area. Let's celebrate that fact, and congratulate each other on how well things are going for all of us!



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED.

P.O. Box 907
Sioux Falls, SD 57101

County Perspectives