

LOCALNEWS

KEDA hears report from Mayor Avis of Fort Frances

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

The Koochiching Economic Development Authority Wednesday heard a report from the mayor of Fort Frances and an economic development consultant on the town's current economic outlook.

Mayor Roy Avis and Tannis Drysdale ventured south of the border to share a wide variety of information and data with the KEDA, focusing on the town's current outlook and plans for future economic development.

Fort Frances is fortunate to be on the U.S.-Canada border, Avis said, and the town relishes the opportunity to work with its U.S. counterpart, International Falls.

"We're very fortunate to be on the border, and be able to use your resources," Avis said. "And I know there's a lot of people on your side that come over and use ours."

Avis mentioned Wagner Construction Inc. as a spe-

cific example of a U.S. business working on the Canadian side of the border. The company has bid on and won sewer and water contracts in the past two years, he said, and now has a presence in the Fort Frances area.

There are some significant differences when it comes to economic development in Canada, Drysdale said, as the forests, roads, and water are all managed by the government. Demographic and business information, like overall sales and revenue figures, aren't available either, she said.

"Our fate is largely controlled by external forces, pulp and paper companies, and governments far away from us," Drysdale said.

With the paper mill in Fort Frances recently shutting down for good, Drysdale said there's been a local push to look at the impact and find new ways to diversify the local economy.

"We need to become more entrepreneurial," Drysdale

said. "We need to embrace this new era that we're going to be in, and we're working towards that."

Local groups saw the writing on the wall about the paper mill about two years ago, Drysdale said, and came together to develop a plan to move forward and develop new business opportunities. The economic development group came up with a five-step plan for diversifying the local economy in a post-paper mill environment. The plan includes: growing mining supply and services, supporting value added forestry, strengthening retail and commercial, expanding other sectors, and building a tourism market.

New Gold Inc., a multinational mining company, is looking to open a gold mine in the Rainy River District in the next couple of years, Drysdale said. The company is going through the government process required to break ground and Fort Frances is looking to become the

region's mining resources location, she said.

"Not only are we learning to sell to mines in Fort Frances, or in the Fort Frances district, but to sell up to Red Lake, which is the largest gold mine, I think, in North America," Drysdale said.

There has also been a push to increase local spending and to encourage people to shop at and support local businesses, Drysdale said. The "Go Local" program is like a loyalty card program in which shoppers can get rewards for shopping at 40 local businesses.

"The idea is not to only exclusively shop local, but when you out-shop, to then take a percentage of that and shop local," Drysdale said.

Drysdale said her personal favorite shopping item is shoes, so every third pair of shoes she buys, she buys locally. A third-party review of the Go Local program also found it increased local spending by 30 percent, and about half of the population

has and actively uses a Go Local rewards card, she said.

In addition to the five-step plan, dubbed "The Path Forward," Drysdale said the town hired an outside consulting group to evaluate their strategy, and help with a new brand development. They had to redefine themselves, which means in the future, Fort Frances will be more than a mill town, she said. The transition will be a generational challenge and diversification will mean smaller industries built on focused, major, meaningful attributes.

The new brand for the town features a logo, depicting a bird, with the bird's wings forming two f's, symbolizing Fort Frances, Drysdale said. The closure of the local paper mill was sad, she said, but it also opens up new, boundless opportunities, which is the town's new slogan: Boundless.

Drysdale compared Fort Frances' current situation

to the one it faced 100 years ago, when it decided to define itself as a mill town, and reaped 100 years of industrious prosperity. Now, it has the chance to define itself once again and determine where the town will go, she said.

"We're now back, 100 years ago, at that moment, and we're going to find that next opportunity, and those opportunities are boundless," Drysdale said.

In other business, Jenny Herman, business consultant with the Small Business Development Center, gave a report to the KEDA Board on economic indicators she's been tracking in the wake of cuts at the local paper mill and closures of other businesses in Koochiching County.

"There's lots and lots of data out there, it's just a matter of determining which data we want to use, and what is going to give us the best information," Herman said.

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Request for Bids

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc.

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc. is soliciting bids for the installation of insulation, air infiltration measures, and related items for its Weatherization Program. This does not include HVAC or DHW installation or repair. The time period covered for this bid proposal shall be for the program year of July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015. Bidding packages can be had by calling Dana Herschbach at 218-999-0820 or at the main office located in the Central Square Mall, 201 NW 4th St. Ste 130. Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Bid packages must be received no later than 4:30 PM on Monday June 30th, 2014.

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc. provides equal employment and contracting opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment and contracting opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, amnesty, or status as a covered veteran in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws. KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc. complies with applicable state and local laws governing non-discrimination in employment and contracting opportunities in every location in which the agency has facilities. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment and contracting opportunities including, but not limited to, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation, contracts and training.

BACKUS RAINY LAKE TRIATHLON

August 9, 2014 - 9:00 a.m.

Registration Table Opens at 8:00 a.m. at City Beach

Enter as an Individual Or a Team of Two or Three

SWIM - ¼ Mile

BIKE - 11 Miles

RUN - 5K

Registration Fee

By August 1, 2014

After August 1, 2014

\$60.00 per Person

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER



Koochiching County Engineer Joe Sutherland, left, updates Koochiching County Commissioner Rob Ecklund and County Auditor/Treasurer Bob Peterson on the flooding situation Friday at the emergency response center in the basement of the Law Enforcement Center.

STAFF PHOTO BY SPENSER BICKETT

MESOTHELIOMA LUNG CANCER

If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with Mesothelioma, Lung Cancer or any other asbestos related disease contact us for a confidential review of your rights. There are strict time limits in which to bring these claims. Shermoen & Jaksa, PLLP has been representing Minnesota asbestos victims for over 20 years. We are one of only two Minnesota law firms that regularly litigate asbestos cases.

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Terminal Rehabilitation and Expansion

Falls International Airport

SEH No. INTER 125927

Notice is hereby given that sealed Bids will be received by the International Falls – Koochiching County Airport Commission until 2:00pm, Wednesday July 9, 2014, at the City Council Chambers, 2nd Floor of the City Municipal Building, 600 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN 56649, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of the Terminal Rehabilitation and Expansion project. Major components the Work include a phased removal of the existing terminal building and construction of a new 27,190 SF terminal building with a passenger loading bridge. The terminal building consists of the following:

Level 1:	23,350 SF
Electrical Vault:	580 SF
Mezzanine:	3,260 SF
Total:	27,190 SF

Bids shall be on the form provided for that purpose and according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) dated June 20, 2014.

The Bidding Documents may be seen at the Issuing Office of SEH located at: 3535 Vadnais Center Drive, Saint Paul, MN 55110-5196.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the BIDDING DOCUMENTS link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 3375140 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

Paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$350.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at 1:00pm on Monday June 30, 2014 in the County Board Room at the Koochiching County Courthouse, 715 Fourth Street, International Falls, MN 56649. Representatives of Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the Project. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

Bids shall be directed to the Secretary, securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper, "BID FOR TERMINAL REHABILITATION AND EXPANSION, FALLS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT."

The Commission reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Commission.

Robert W. Anderson, Chairman

International Falls-Koochiching County Airport Commission

International Falls, Minnesota

A Memorial Honoring Penny (Lorraine) Hallock

(December 8, 1940 - March 9, 2014)

Will Be Held At 10 a.m. On Saturday, June 28th, At 340 15th Street E.

(Home Of Curt & Jane Wagner In Int'l Falls)

Family And Friends Are Invited To Join In This Celebration Of Penny's Life

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Bids will be received for the remodeling of the WOODLAND PARK APARTMENTS COMMUNITY ROOM 2014. The project is located at 1200 Riverside Drive, International Falls, MN 56649. The contract will be with OWNER. The Owner's representative will be Kim Nuthak. PLANS WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2014 from the office of the Architect.

Bids will be RECEIVED UNTIL 2:00 P.M. (Local time) Thursday, July 10, 2014 at the Office of the Owner. Faxed or emailed bids will be allowed and preferred. The BID OPENING WILL TAKE PLACE Publicly. BIDS WILL BE AWARDED WITHIN 14 DAYS. Written proposals will be received, in duplicate, on Contractor's standard proposal forms.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bidder's bond, certified check, or cashier's check in a sum equal to five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, conditioned that if the contractor's bid be accepted and the contract awarded to him, within ten days after notice of award will execute and effect a contract in accordance with the terms of his bond. Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations until bid opening time: OWNER's Office and at Lucachick Architecture, Inc., 481 Mag Seven Court, Suite #9, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601-0219, Phone: (218) 759-2305, Fax: (218) 759-0407.

Plans may be obtained by bidders only for their personal use from the office of the Architect/Engineer upon receipt of a refundable deposit check of \$25.00 per set. Requests for plans by mail must be accompanied by a \$10 non-refundable deposit to cover expenses. Make all deposit & expense checks payable to: THE OWNER.

Plans and specifications shall be returned to the Architect **IN COMPLETE SETS** within ten (10) days after contract award **FOR RETURN OF DEPOSIT**. Partial sets of Bidding Documents will not be issued. All bids shall be in accordance with Bidding Documents prepared by Lucachick Architecture Inc., 481 Mag Seven Court, Suite #9, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601 and the consultants listed. Bidders must carry Minnesota Worker's Compensation insurance and conform to all governing laws of the State of Minnesota. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informalities in bidding, and to award the contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in the discretion of the OWNER, their interest will be best served thereby. **THE OWNER REQUIRES THAT ALL BIDS BE FIRM FOR FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF BID OPENING. ANY BID WITHDRAWN IN THAT TIME PERIOD WILL SACRIFICE THE BID SECURITY.**

FOR THE OWNER: Woodland Park Apartments
End of Invitation to Bid