

**HASTINGS BRIDGE COALITION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Monday, May 5, 2008 – 7:30 a.m.**  
**Community Room – Hastings City Hall**

Present at meeting: Judy Misencik, Regina Medical Center; Michelle Jacobs, and Claire Mathews, Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce; Terry Strandberg, Wells Fargo; Danna Elling Schultz, City Council; Katie Sieben, State Senate; Leslie Nielsen, Hastings Public Schools; Krystal Ohlhaber, Treasure Island Resort & Casino; Tom Wright, Hastings Cable Access; Joe Harris, Dakota County Commissioner; Mike Osskopp, Congressman John Kline; Keith Farquhar, MnDot Bridge Office; Lynn Clarkowski, MnDot Metro District; Dan Dorgan, MnDot Bridge; Elizabeth Benjamin, MnDot Metro; Barry Nelson, MnDot Metro; Dave Osberg, City of Hastings; Joe Lux, Washington County; Jaci Eischen, Eischen Cabinet/Hastings Chamber; Wayne Beissel, Hudson Manufacturing; Darrell Silverness, Main Street Bank/Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce; Greg Kasel; Downtown Tire & Auto; Joe Moore, Denmark Township; Mark Mogan, Prairie Island Indian Community; Denny McNamara, State Representative; Heather Leiferman, Treasure Island; Paul Hicks, Mayor; Shannon Rausch, City of Hastings; Bob Hollenbeck, Hastings HRA; Barb Hollenbeck, City Council; Kevin Hoeschen and Philip Nelson, Downtown Business Association; Mark Frazer, Hub& Landing and Marina

Chair Judy Misencik called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves. Misencik also asked for motion to approve minutes from last month. Motion carried.

Jacobs reported that she and Misencik had attended the \_\_\_?\_\_\_ Small Business Summit in Washington, DC from April 16-18. They met with Klobachar, Coleman and \_\_\_\_\_. They delivered the letters everyone had written regarding the Hastings Bridge. It was a very positive trip.

Lynn Clarkowski from MnDot gave a brief statement stating MnDot would be covering three subjects today; Inspection results, Construction and Timeline.

Dan Dorgan from MnDot reported that the overall structural conditions for the bridge were unchanged since the last inspection. There were eight tack welds that were cracked. These have been ground out and will continue to be monitored. The annual inspection showed that the gusset plates were designed correctly. The upper gusset plates are in excellent condition. The lower gusset plates show some slight distortion, but nothing that would affect their general structural integrity.

\_\_\_?\_\_\_ said that because the construction date for the new bridge has been moved up to 2010, MnDot has revised the amount of work to be done this year. There will be reduced amount of painting, expansion joint replacement, side walk and curb repairs. The planned repair of bridge bearings, deck crack sealing and other deck repairs are still necessary. It was originally planned that the work would take 12 weeks. It is now planned to take from 6-8 weeks with temporary closures until November. During the repair time, the bridge will be single lane, 24/7 with three weekends when the bridge will be completely closed. (These complete closures will not be during Rivertown Days or when there are car shows.) Someone inquired about signs on the north side of the bridge explaining using the two lanes with the zipper rotation. There are no signs up at the present time.

Lynn Clarkowski stated that MnDot expects to have a contract signed by June 1, 2010. Maintenance work will be completed by Fall, 2008. After that there will be environmental studies, right-of-way issues, discussions on relocating utilities, selection of bridge types and selection of the design-build contractor. Hopefully construction will begin Fall, 2010. The environmental study usually takes 18-24 months. MnDot is currently planning to have this done in 18 months. Community members will be involved in this process. At this time it is projected that the bridge construction will take 3-4 years with the present bridge being open most of the time. MnDot expects to begin right-of-way discussions early 2009.

Executive Committee Introductions: Judy Misencik, Chair; Mark Frasier, Vice Chair; Marc Mogan, Treasurer and Michelle Jacobs, Secretary

Chair Misencik reviewed the purpose of this group

- Bring forth ideas to expedite bridge process.
- Advisory Group . Group's role is to influence, no official power. Who should be involved . Dakota County, Washington County, Cities of Hastings and Cottage Grove; elected officials and business leaders in those communities, as well as individual citizens.
- Vision - Membership application, each organization represented with one voting member. Individual members make up not more than 10% of board.
- Federal and State Elected Officials would act as ex-officio members.
- No budget has been drafted . funds would be needed for items as in mailings, legal advice.
- Conflict of interest resolution process is absent from the current bylaws draft, but should be included in the final draft.

There was discussion regarding who is a member and who comprises the board. If you are a member, you are on the Board, but anyone can attend meetings.

Mayor Hicks stated that if an issue arose between Coalition and City, the final decision is with the City. And the goal of this coalition is for everyone to come together for the common good.

### **Bylaws**

Chair Misencik read each bylaw and members were encouraged to ask questions as she went through each item. The Bylaws were drafted using the Wakota Bridge Coalition's bylaws as a model.

Membership Dues . Greg Kasel suggested a \$50 fee as a number to be discussed.

- 3.6 Resignation and Removal. What type of situation would arise that removal would be necessary? Not attending meetings was an example. Tony Alongi suggested it was wise to leave the wording open, with removal requiring 2/3 vote. If deemed necessary, there would be an option available if the coalition needed to remove people from the Board. And that at this time it would be hard to foresee any reason someone would have to be removed.
- 3.12 Quorum . what percent of voting members present constitutes a quorum?  
It was suggested and concluded that the Majority of Board Members would present a quorum (50% +1)
- 4.2 Terms: Annual elections at October Annual Meeting . following the fiscal year of the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce. Officers would hold a one year term, but can be re-elected.

Designating another person to vote . would not be permitted because they may not have attended meetings and would not be fully aware of all information. But if there is a conflict for elected officials, might want to have a representative alternate with voting rights. (Note: that bylaw 3.4 allows board members to change representative)

Strike 4.3 - why would that authority be needed and a special meeting can be called.

5.1 Change Executive Committee to Board

5.2 Same as 5.1

6.2 Approval not needed to pay bills.

6.4 Use of Funds: . if extra is left over than the Board would decide how to disburse.

Changes to the bylaws will be made and City Attorney will review and at next meeting can be adopted.

Application . List currently has about 40 people

## Membership Dues

Cost tiers were discussed, how to break it apart and have a rate for Individual and another for Business. Flat fee was discussed where a vote is a vote. A \$50 dues fee was suggested and opened for discussion.

- What would the funds be used for? Possibly for mailings, attorney fees, if would we need to send someone to Washington D.C. to lobby for federal assistance.
- If membership fees don't cover costs, we could go back to members to raise more funds.
- If dollar amount is too low will Board become too large and then have trouble functioning?
- Don't want to have a lot of excess funds just sitting around.

Motion and second to table the membership dues discussion until next meeting when we would have a better idea about expenses and would know if there would be attorney's fees or if the City Attorney would review bylaws. All ayes, motion carried.

Judy Misencik and Michelle Jacobs are going to Washington April 16 -18 to be proactive on seeking funding for the bridge. The expenses of this trip are being paid for by the Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce and Regina Medical Center.

At the next meeting the bylaws will be reviewed again after having been reviewed by an attorney and an application form with dues will be discussed and determined.

Motion and second to adjourn the meeting, all ayes, motion carried.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 a.m. at Hastings City Hall Community Room.

Minutes submitted by Anna Amy.

Reviewed by Michelle Jacobs, Coalition Secretary