

Cass County EDC Board member highlights his role

by Jim Tertin Director of Manufacturing Magnum Research | Posted: Saturday, June 15, 2013

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I've been involved in the Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) for at least five years. I'm in my third term elected to the board, I think – time goes very fast.

Over the years, I have served as president, vice president and now as secretary. When I have more time to be involved, I am. Right now, I am very busy at work, so it is ok to commit a little less time to the EDC.

Whatever my elected role is, I believe that a board member's responsibility is to actively participate in the board meeting discussions. I, myself, provide input from the manufacturing perspective.

The camaraderie of the board members is really good; we work together well. At times I have felt that board members could speak up more at meetings because each person on the board has a unique perspective, depending on their business experience. All are important to the group.

I became involved in the EDC because I like people — I like to hire people in my business! I like to see people employed when they want to work.

As a board member, I seek to “Create a climate where people who want to work, can get a job. They can work here and pay taxes right here in Cass County.”

I have really enjoyed the business start ups and expansions that the EDC has coordinated. Recently it was the tele-pharmacy business in Longville. Earlier the CavCom expansion into the Walker Industrial Park was very memorable.

As a native of Wisconsin, I see many cranberry farms in operation with good jobs. The land is similar in Cass County, so that might be a great opportunity. All that is needed is flat land and abundant water, and these Wisconsin growing companies could expand into Minnesota.

The potential is great for the EDC to recruit a large company with many good jobs. “Landing a big one,” that is, will be important to our future and the organization.

The Cass County EDC is a local non-profit corporation with the mission to “Improve the business environment of Cass County by encouraging a strong, diverse and sustainable economy and to build better relationships between business, government agencies and local communities.”