

## Cass County EDC Board of Director highlights Cy Struss

by Cy Struss | Posted: Friday, July 12, 2013 9:18 am

Growing up in this area, I understand the importance of having an organization such as the Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to help business grow or get established. Economic development — which results in job creation and capital investment — is vital for our communities.

I've been on the Board of Directors since 2000; prior to that I attended events sponsored by the organization. When I first started on the board, the organization was “shelved” with only the ability to offer an educational seminar or two a year. Since then, with the hiring of capable staff, I'm proud to say the EDC has been active and successful.

The results speak for themselves with more than 673 jobs created since 2004 and more than \$58 million in tax base.

The most rewarding experience is engaging with other active and dedicated board members. One of the most fun board meetings was in the middle of Walker Bay on a board member's boat. As always business was conducted, but it was definitely memorable. Truly living up to our mission of job creation and capital investment, with other dedicated board members, is very gratifying.

In the future, I hope to see more of the same results, but they are only possible with active members. Our summer goal is to increase our memberships by \$2,500 which equates to about 16 new members. As a matter of fact, we have the ability to obtain matching dollars for each new member through the month of August with the help of the Minnesota Business Finance Corporation.

I am also involved in the North Central Economic Development Association Board of Directors, Pine River-Backus Youth sports volunteer and the Pine River-Backus Booster Club. I enjoy following my three sons at their sports and school activities and am interested in hunting, fishing, boating and gardening. With a very active family life, this board involvement fits in well. Most of the meetings are at the end of the day and before sports.

I have a real vested interest in the EDC and Cass County through my employment and family. For the future, we want the board to remain active and involved. With that, it will live up to the mission of proven results.

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.”