

Northern Sales, Mfg., finalizes plans to manufacture Ice Castle Fish Houses in Pine River

staff reports pilotnews@pilotindependent.com | Posted: Thursday, March 6, 2014 8:03 am

Northern Sales and Manufacturing, maker of Ice Castle Fish Houses and RVs, is expanding to Pine River, according to an announcement from the Cass County Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

Owners Jeff Drexler and Dave Handeland have finalized the purchase of property south of the city on the east side of Highway 371. They plan to hire 20 employees at this site over the next two years.

This will be an expansion of the Ice Castle manufacturing operations headquartered in Montevideo, Minn.

The EDC coordinated the project by helping them find a site, providing a direct loan and facilitating a Minnesota Investment Fund loan with Cass county for the expansion. All of the financing is in the form of low-interest loans.

The new jobs will be 75 percent manufacturing and 25 percent sales-related, with wages starting at 12.45 per hour, including benefits.

“The EDC is always willing to help and answer questions,” stated Drexler and Handeland. The EDC worked with them for about two years on this project.

“The Cass County lakes area is the perfect location for this expansion,” stated EDC Executive Director Gail Levenson. “A great work force, low taxes and a highly-accessible and visible location will help this company continue to grow and thrive.”

Close Converse, a professional real estate company in Brainerd, also provided professional assistance to this project.

The Cass County EDC is a local 501(c) (3) corporation whose mission is 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.”