

Manito Area Region Economic Development (MARED) to host
Ag Day for Sesquicentennial

MARED of Manito met recently to discuss future projects. Carrie Warner, president, conducted the meeting. Secretary Judy Lacer reviewed the minutes.

Members attending were: C. Warner, T. Hoeft, T. VonBoeckman, R. Palmer, D. Sleaford, K. Farnam, N. Proehl & J. Lacer. Absent were: R. Bockler, D. Kreiling, K. Worner, K. Emme, & K. Krause.

Copies of the National Geographic guide to Scenic Highways & Byways was purchased by MARED and will be distributed to Manito & Forest City Village Halls, the high school, Willett's Winery, Manito Community Bank and the Lost Creek Pottery. Discussion was held concerning the Illinois River Road Byways project and the impact on the Manito area.

A decision was made to donate gifts for "Follow The Star" gift baskets for Manito on the Move on December 7.

A brochure from Bankers Advertising from CJ's Printing was shown with possible promotional items for later purchase.

The group discussed MARED's sponsorship of Ag Day, August 2, 2008 for the sesquicentennial

A tentative schedule was discussed:

Noon-grilling in the park for possible 500 to 1000 people with an invitation to a group to use as a fundraiser.

Also during this time- Toy farm equipment displays and Petting Zoo

Possible vendors set up in the park - Walking tacos, Elephant ears, 4-H drinks & bake sale items and any other interested vendors.

1:00PM- Ag on Parade- - farm related displays; farm equipment old & new and any livestock. More entries to be determined later.

3:00PM-Kids' tractor pull and games

4:00PM-Ag of the Past Tractor games

6:00PM-Square dancing

7:00-10:00PM Music in the courtyard hosted by Willett's Winery

We discussed having a display of veggies grown in our area - along with an information board. More research is needed.

Hopefully, local restaurants will be open to provide evening meals.

Members will contact FFA and 4-H clubs to see if they might be interested in participating.

Discussion was held concerning closing certain streets in the area of Veterans' Park and Broadway.

MARED members are researching other events and will report back at the next scheduled meeting on Monday, Jan. 28, 2008 at 6:30PM at the Forman Library. There will be no meeting in December.