Project Updates & Highlights:

● Pat mentioned that the training dates scheduled to occur at the TRF Casino have been postponed and no new dates have been set. It seems they still have training needs but phone calls are not returned and commitments on the part of the casino have not been fulfilled. Pat will keep us updated on any future developments.

● Pat had some bad news in regards to the Complimentary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) grant or also referred to as the “Integrative Medicine” grant. Jackie Anderson, Instructor, has left as of January 15, 2009. This affects the grant in a huge way according to Pat. There are two classes left to be delivered and the three healthcare facilities involved (Roseau/Greenbush, Baudette and Fosston) may not be able to wrap up the grant as planned by June 30, 2009. NCTC/COI is currently working closely with the facilities involved to develop strategies to complete the grant as planned. Pat will keep us in the loop as to what occurs.

● There has been a request from Strata Corporation along with other North Dakota and Minnesota Associations to resurrect the Truck Driving Program according to Pat. They are exploring different options currently and talking with institutions on both sides of the river. Different meetings have already taken place and Pat said they are just in the “information gathering” mode with no definite program plans at this time.

● Kirsten reported that the 15 week finance class for Arctic Cat employees (engineers and managers/supervisors) taking place at the Swenson House in Thief River Falls is in its fourth week and going very well. The purpose of the class is to educate employees about the financial side of the business and give them the knowledge to understand how their jobs impact the overall success of the whole company.

● Jackie and Bonny mentioned the “workforce” project they are involved in with Keith Lund, Vice President Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (GF EDC) and Mark Schill, Praxis Strategy Group. The project’s objective is to collaborate with communities, employers, workforce development and training agencies to develop a regional strategy to address
workforce development needs and or shortages in North Dakota and Minnesota. Bonny participated in employer interviews with Keith and Mark at Digi-Key, Central Boiler and Mattracks. Jackie has also met with Keith and Mark and will be involved in a steering committee as the project takes direction and moves forward which in these current economic times could easily change focus to address the most pressing needs in the region.

● Pat reported the NCTC Foundation has approved $100,000 in scholarships for dislocated workers in our region. Some of the money will be dedicated to “Strength Quest” training and coaching sessions which will provide people with a deeper understanding of their strengths and assess their skills so they can make better informed career decisions. Most educational programs are two years in length so the money dedicated will be run to accommodate the training ($50,000 for the 1st year and $50,000 for the 2nd year).

● Pat mentioned that COI is working on leadership training with New Flyer and have signed contracts in both the Crookston and Winnipeg plants. They will be starting in Crookston with “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” and executive coaching for mid and upper level supervisors and managers. New Flyer also inquired about “Industrial Supervision” training programs which are not currently offered at any MNSCU campus. Pat said they (COI-NCTC) should be able to pull parts from other related programs to create the industrial supervision training that has been requested.

**Workforce Development Needs & “Other”:**

● Bonny recently met with Cecil Anderson who is the General Manager of Anderson Power & Equipment/Hardware Hank which was purchased by Titan Machinery. He requested that NCTC start offering some type of a 2 year or less “Parts Person” training since the closet program is located in Canada. We all agreed that car, agricultural equipment and auto part dealers in our area struggle with finding competent and well trained parts people. Pat said experts in that area would need to be brought together to design a program and that takes time so nothing could be done in the near future but she will bring this suggestion back to NCTC and keep us posted on any developments.

● Jackie reported to the group that AgriMax and Ross Seed Company have merged effective January 1, 2009. The two companies have many similarities such as shared customers, a similar geographic footprint and shared values. Both companies will retain their names and operate at their present locations with the exception of having the “main offices” at one location by the 3rd quarter of 2009.
Bonny mentioned that Central Boiler may possibly utilize an MJSP grant for welding training in the future and also use some incumbent worker monies for other specialized areas. It is good to see businesses considering training and looking ahead even in these stressful economic times.

Jackie reported that on February 20th, an ITV conference will be held at BSU/Bemidji and MSCTC campuses in Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls and Moorhead to go over information and seek input on the pilot project that was conducted with American Crystal Sugar using a digester converting sugar beet tailings into energy. This upcoming meeting’s purpose is to discuss the educational aspects of this technology, what curriculum is necessary to teach others and how it might be integrated into existing or new curriculum at MN State.

Bonny and Jackie mentioned that Business Service Specialists throughout the state are now working in Workforce Center resource rooms to help with the higher number of people needing job seeker services or unemployment filing assistance. Bonny also said that DEED is filling 10 to 12 positions to do “Unemployment Profiling” (assisting UI claimants) in all areas of the state. One of those positions will be filled to cover our seven county area.

The whole group discussed the “All in a Day’s Work” seminar ideas for Roseau which could possibly be held this spring (May?). Bonny said it was talked about at the recent Roseau JSEC meeting and the SBDC along with other businesses and agencies are very interested and would like to co-sponsor the event. She said they will be meeting again to discuss possible topics and decide whether it should be a half-day or all day session with breakouts and or small group meetings. Bonny will update us as information becomes available.

Next Meeting Date:
Wednesday, April 29, 2009 @ NCTC-East Grand Forks Campus
9:30 a.m. (Pat’s office)

Meeting Notes submitted by: Jackie Brekken, BSS/DEED