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MADC ANNUAL MEETING: “TRACKING FOR THE FUTURE: FULL STEAM AHEAD”

The Minot Area Development Corporation held its 2018 annual meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the Grand Hotel in Minot from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer was the keynote speaker for the annual event. “We were honored to welcome Senator Cramer home to North Dakota for our 2018 annual meeting,” said MADC President and CEO Stephanie Hoffart. Kamryn Morrison performed the National Anthem and the Minot Air Force Base Honor Guard presented the colors. About 140 people attended this event.

WIND ENERGY BLOWS BUSINESS INTO INDUSTRIAL PARK OF MINOT

Watco Supply Chain Services is the Minot Area Development Corporation’s newest tenant at the Industrial Park of Minot. A Watco Companies subsidiary, the Arkansas-based division was officially launched in 2014 to provide efficient, cost-effective supply chain solutions for their customers. Watco Companies, is the largest, privately held, rail-based entity in the United States.

The company entered into an agreement with MADC in late 2018 to lease 76 acres of land at the industrial park in northeast Minot for a period of 24 months. Watco Supply Chain Services is using the land as a staging and deployment location for a future wind turbine development. Wind turbine components arrived via truck and rail, were offloaded, and placed on bunks on the ground. The 680 total components,

including tower sections, hubs, and blades, will remain on the structures until they're assigned to the 89 unit wind farm.

To read more, [click here](#).

EXPO ADDS VALUE TO AG FOR MADC

2019 marked the 48th year of the annual [KMOT Ag Expo](#), the largest indoor agriculture show in the Upper Midwest. With more than 1,000 booths and estimated traffic of 30,000, the KMOT Ag Expo is always an impactful way for MADC to promote Minot as an authority in agriculture. This year's show boasted impressive foot traffic despite the subzero temperatures. MADC staff and board members provided information on the available acreage and distribution opportunities at the Industrial Park of Minot to more than 250 attendees. Agriculture continues to be a targeted sector for MADC, and the 2019 KMOT Ag Expo connected MADC with 22 prospective businesses and local farmers.

2019 NPGA ANNUAL CONVENTION

The [Northern Pulse Growers Association](#) hosted its 26th Annual Convention at the Clarion Hotel (formerly Holiday Inn Riverside) in Minot at the end of January. The event has become a premier gathering place for industry representatives and producers of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas and fava beans. MADC was a silver sponsor at this 2019 convention. Staff and board members were on site at the event to offer information on the acreage and distribution advantages available at the Industrial Park of Minot.

MADC PRESIDENT AND CEO ATTENDS GNCC MEETING

MADC President and CEO Stephanie Hoffart traveled to Fort Worth, TX in late January to participate in talks at the [Great Northern Corridor Coalition \(GNCC\)](#) meeting. The corridor is considered a strategic link in the global supply chain spanning the northern US between the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest. The GNCC is a multi-state cooperative of eight states, MPOs, numerous ports, [BNSF Railway](#) and other interested parties promoting a globally competitive multi-state freight corridor. The two-day meeting included a tour of BNSF Railway's corporate headquarters.

MADC'S ANCHOR TENANT HAS AN APPETITE FOR SUCCESS

MADC's anchor tenant at the Industrial Park of Minot, [AGT Foods](#), commissioned the Minot facility in 2013 with a single production line and approximately 30 full-time employees. With six production lines and 130 employees at the close of 2018, AGT has proven to have an insatiable appetite for growth and expansion in the local community. And they're just getting started. AGT executives shared they will roll out with an exciting announcement early in the second quarter of 2019. The pulse industry giant dedicated much of 2018 developing new food technologies; having recently entered the consumer testing phase of the process, it might be fair to assume they hit the mark. AGT Foods indicated they plan to make a big splash in early spring 2019, and they want the local community to play a big role in the celebration.

Investor Spotlight

Stories contributed by MADC Investors*

FIRST INTERNATIONAL BANK AND TRUST DONATES \$140,000 FOR MSU DOME RENOVATIONS

MADC private investor, First International Bank & Trust (FIB&T), recently announced their donation of \$140,000 to aid in the renovation of the Minot State University Dome. Originally constructed in 1981, the Minot State Dome has played home to a host of sporting and community events spanning nearly four decades. FIB&T is pleased to partner on this project which will ensure the iconic facility continues to be a point of pride in the Minot Community.

FIB&T recognizes the continued success of their bank depends on the financial health of the communities they serve. The State Class B boys tournament, which runs a single weekend in March, brings between \$2 and \$3 million to the local economy, according to Minot State. The MSU Dome accommodates this competition with seating for 10,000 spectators. MSU says the renovation to replace seating inside the dome will help ensure high school tournaments stay in the community and provide a boost to the Beavers recruiting efforts.

DAKOTA BUSINESS LENDING RECOGNIZED AS #1 SBA LENDER IN

ND

In December, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) North Dakota District Office recognized Dakota Business Lending as North Dakota's #1 SBA Lender for 2018. This award recognizes lenders throughout the state for their participation with the SBA in providing financing for start-up and existing small businesses in their area.

Visiting the Dakota Business Lending headquarters to deliver this award was Alan Haut, District Director of the North Dakota District Office for the SBA. "As district director, I have the pleasure of recognizing lenders that excel in helping small businesses achieve their dreams by providing the capital that businesses need to succeed," notes Haut. "Dakota Business Lending's extra effort puts additional capital in the hands of small business owners to expand, hire more employees and help grow the economy in our local communities and across the state of North Dakota."

[Click here](#) to read more.

Thank you for supporting economic development in the Minot area and investing in Minot's future! The following businesses renewed their yearly investment in January 2019:

**Century 21 Action Realtors, Inc.
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
Enbridge
Excavating, Inc.
Helgeson-Norton Agency
Hyatt House Minot
Liechty Homes
Mayer Electric, Inc.
Mi Mexico
Michael Buseth Agency
Norsk Høstfest Association
North Country Sportswear
Prairie Federal Credit Union
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RDO Equipment Co.
Ryan Family Dealerships
Soaring Eagle Outerwear, LLC.
The Computer Store
Tires Plus
Watne Inc. Realtors**

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