

**MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION**

May 3, 2022

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in a Work Session on May 3, 2022 at 2:16 p.m. at the Government Center, 201 1st Street NE, in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz: Chair Jeff Baldus, Vice-Chair Mike Ankeny, John Mueller, Jerry Reinartz and Polly Glynn. Also in attendance were County Administrator Trish Harren, Executive Assistant Denise Barthels, and Randall Forster, Mower County Historical Society Director, Tom Trow, Project Coordinator and Archaeologist, Dr. Robert Sicora (remotely)

Mower County Historical Society Director Randall Forster and Project Coordinator and Archaeologist Tom Trow presented to the Board information pertaining to the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry. Native Americans used Chert to make knives. The land has been purchased as a historical site and there is approximately 15 acres in this conservancy. The goal is to make the site accessible to the public for educational purposes. The plan is to have walking trails (some handicap accessible) around the pits with educational signage, an on-line visitor guide with an informational video. The open area surrounding the wooded area with the chert pits is to be converted to its original prairie by planting seeds for various prairie vegetation. Currently buckthorn is being removed from the wooded area. A parking lot and a trail to the quarry needs to be developed. The trail will need to be constructed over a ditch in the habitat being restored to prairie. Security will need to be addressed to discourage rock pickers from the historical site. There is a plan to set up an endowment fund to handle the on-going maintenance of the historical site.

Dr. Robert Sicora presented to the Board information concerning various Sicora Consulting Services available to the County. Consideration is being given to Leading from the Helm that will use science-based methodology to evaluate strategy, engagement, culture and the people to maximize potential for success. Through the process, specific current areas of concern can be addressed. Through a discovery phase with employee interviews data is collected to analyze and then formulate a strategic plan that encompasses all the facets of the county for success. Leadership isn't done in isolation but intertwines the many spokes of the organization which include culture, team, engagement, customer, strategies, processes and results. A discussion followed with a Board consensus to bring consultant agreement forward at the next Board meeting for approval.

The work session concluded at 4:25 p.m.

THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: _____
Chairperson

Attest:
By: _____
Clerk/Administrator

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