

**Sauk Rapids Chamber Monthly Meeting**  
**Meeting Location: Sauk Rapids Municipal Park**  
**Meeting Date: May 26, 2011**

Welcome, introductions, first time guest introductions and permanent name tags were handed out by Chamber chair Shelia Tepley-Lamar Outdoor Advertising and Chamber vice chair Jennifer Novak, Pine Cone Vision.

-- Meeting was co-hosted by Clear Waters Outfitters and Express Employment Professionals.

--Host Presentation: Express Employment Professionals-Tiffany Platz:

- Tiffany shared a survey of 19,000 people and found that 62% are having morale issues within their companies.
- On June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Express is hosting a free webinar called Workplace Morale and Engagement –to register go to :[www.expresspros.com/webinarregistration](http://www.expresspros.com/webinarregistration) -- Upon registration, you will receive an email confirmation and participant code. Speaker will be Christine Cashen.
- 300,000 people are employed through the Express Employment Professional franchise- each franchise is locally owned, all payroll done locally.
- Potential employees are screened and given background checks.
- Express has over 700 tests that they can administer to prospective employees depending on the positions applied for.

Clear Waters Outfitters: co-host and speaker Dan Meer

- Dan handed out a map of the Mississippi River that showed both the Mississippi River from Rice to St. Cloud and the various parks and the amenities available at each park, and on the back side the locations for their various canoe and kayak trips that their company offers.
- Dan discussed the various types of water sports that are available locally to us on the river— some parts are much like a lake-smooth and calm, parts are like whitewater rafting with the rapids, some parts let you feel like you are in the wilderness and you can camp on the islands in the middle of the river.
- Fishing above the dam is great for walleye and bass, below the dam is good for all fishing due to the shallower water. There are no motor boats allowed there due to the shallow water.
- Clear Waters Outfitting offers trips some as short as 2-3 hours to overnight trips, equipment rental for here or vacation use.
- Many companies are also using these canoe trips for team building, employee incentives etc.
- They also offer shuttle services both for their trips or if you are canoeing on your own.
- They were started in 2009 and are located in Clearwater MN –[www.cwoutfitting.com](http://www.cwoutfitting.com)
- The St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi Corridor Plan is a group devoted to developing the local corridor on river.

Announcements and Testimonials were given.

**Updates:** Sauk Rapids Chamber –Jodi Speicher --Sauk Rapids Chamber is in the process of planning for the upcoming year. If you have ideas, suggestions, please let Jodi, Sheila or Jen Novak know.

St. Cloud Area Chamber Leadership class is still taking applications through next week –9 month class that meets once a month—information is available online.

Government Affairs committee will do its wrap up for the year on June 10<sup>th</sup> –all are welcome to attend –see website for time and details

Sauk Rapids City Update—Todd Schultz—Current projects are Walgreens, new city hall and a convenience store across Highway 10. There are also two new apartment buildings going to be built up across from Highway 10. One complex will be 154 apartments the other will be a 191 luxury apt. complex.

Sauk Rapids School Update: Superintendent Dan Bittman- There will be all day, every day kindergarten next year. On June 10<sup>th</sup> there will be National Digital Literacy conference in Sauk Rapids-this is open to students, parents, professionals –see school district web site for details. Three area principals have been chosen to go to China for a week by the National College Board—this will not cost any of the districts any money to go.

Door prizes were awarded.

The next meeting will be:

June 23, 2011 at Good Shepherd Communities who is also the host for the meeting. The speaker will be Joe Barrett on search engine optimization

Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. MEETING TIME: 11:45 a.m.

For more information on the Sauk Rapids Chamber, please contact Shelia Tepley—Lamar Outdoor Advertising –Sauk Rapids Chair—253-3000, [stepley@lamar.com](mailto:stepley@lamar.com), Jen Novak-Pinecone Vision-Sauk Rapids Vice chair-258-3915 –[jnovak@pineconevisioncenter.com](mailto:jnovak@pineconevisioncenter.com) or Gail Ivers-chamber staff at 251-2940 ext. 109 [givers@stcloudareachamber.com](mailto:givers@stcloudareachamber.com)

Minutes submitted by

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