

Wausau expansion is thrilling news

As I got home this past weekend and started reading my week's worth of the Dispatch, I was thrilled to see the announcement that Wausau Paper has decided to do their \$27 million capital expansion project at the Brainerd mill.

It was late January when I joined Dan Vogt and Sheila Wasnie Haverkamp in a confidential meeting in St. Paul. The three of us met with the Wausau Paper Company Vice President of Operations and the Commissioner and staff from the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The Wausau official laid out their proposal, asked what we could do and let us know that there were other sites they were considering. Sheila and Dan proposed what the city may be able to do and the DEED staff also presented some options. As the only elected official at this meeting, I told the Wausau official I would work with both the city and state to do whatever we could to have those investments made in the Brainerd site.

Following the meeting I sent letter of support to the Wausau ownership team and their Board of Directors. The dialogue and correspondence continued and ultimately the Wausau Board decided that the Brainerd Facility and Minnesota was the best choice for them to expand their business.

Thank you to Wausau for the much needed shot in the arm for our area. Wausau has been a great community partner and we look forward to a great partnership for many years ahead. Also, thanks to Dan and Sheila for their remarkable efforts in producing these wonderful results.

Rep. John Ward

Minnesota House of Representatives
District 12A
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