

**Nebraska Development Network-Central Region
Annual Planning Meeting, South Central RC&D
Wednesday, December 16, 2009**

10:00 a.m. Call meeting to order/Introductions: Dena Beck, REAP; Linda Black, NEDED; Alison Raymond, SCEDD; Lisa Karnatz, KCEDA; Pat Compton, NEDED; Merrill Duntz, SCPPD; Tim Armstrong, Great Plains; Linda Fettig, RDC; Rick Nelsen, NPPD; Randy Gunn, SCRC&D; Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD; Scott Knapp, NBDC-PTAC. Steve Meyer, Trailblazer RC&D joined after lunch.

Minutes of Aug 19 meeting in Hildreth: Rick Nelsen moved to approve the minutes, Merrill Duntz seconded; minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Balance as of Nov 30, \$4270.66; 2 checks outstanding for Governors Conference scholarships, \$130 total, \$50 to Minden Cof C, \$80 to SCEDD. Rick will invoice the PRN for reimbursement of \$100. SCEDD presented an invoice for \$555.60 for the Superior RRCD; Sharon Hueftle will prepare a BECA draw for reimbursement of this amount. Linda Black moved to approve the treasurer's report, Randy Gunn seconded, approved unanimously. Rick informed the group that a tax ID number is needed to change banks.

Review of 2009

Feb 18, Gibbon, regular meeting: locals joined us, 2 speakers - Ed Tribio, wind and solar & Jamie Dolan, Gibbon Crematory

May 4, RRCD in Superior: Housing and Business Succession were the topics

May 5, RRCD in Taylor: Specifically for Marketing Plans for Ag/Eco Tourism businesses with Kenzie Choquette

June 17, Giltner, regular meeting: no locals attended, no speakers

Aug 19: Hildreth, regular meeting: good local turnout, toured businesses w/ local guide; connections were made between community and resources

Partnership for Rural Ne (PRN) report-Linda Fettig: PRN will have funds for 5 or 6 scholarships per NDN for the Governor's Conference; helped 40 attend in 2009.

PRN is established in State Statute, so re-evaluating their role. Will ask for participation from NDN's regarding planning for the future.

PRN and RDC offered 3 "Listen and Learn" sessions, moderately successful, (Stapleton, Bridgeport, McCook, Ogallala) ended up being more for resource providers as few community members participated. Looking at how to do these in 2010

More Than Just Money....: full day of programs that have funding and technical assistance

Arts Council, Humanities Council, DEQ, DED, Fed Reserve

Will likely do couple more as satellite downlink in 2010

RDC Newsletter: looking at dedicating a page to NDN's

PRN: will have strategic planning soon – would like to make this more like it used to be, driven from the bottom up.

Members: CARI, USDA, RDC, DEQ, Dave Taladay as rep from NDN's. Found official agreement between USDA, UNL, NEDED.

Please send ideas of desired outcomes of PRN to Linda Fettig. PRN is very unique, nationally, and we'd like to keep it that way.

PRN is not a liaison between local, state, federal – and does not report to anyone. PRN is a quasi federal organization, state/federal blend.

Biggest loss as a result of an inactive PRN? Loss of cross training resource staff. Original intent – see that federal and state programs complement not duplicate.

RDC is to be ears for Governor The Rural Development Commission is the federally and state recognized rural council.

There are 26 states that have federally recognized councils/commissions

2010 Planning

BlueHill:

Does BH have a CRA or CDA?

Is there a willing seller for skip-annexation?

Motivational speaker to discuss community ____?

Economic Impact study?

Attitude is an issue – BH has been offered acres in the past and have burned bridges.

Randy Cantrell – to address the heart of the issue

Claire Gustin – motivational

PR Framed as “looking for bright spots in NE with this economy – BH has much to offer...”

Who in community could talk to each council member individually to ensure their participation?

Purchase electricity from MEAN and maintain it themselves. Need to involve Corrine or Jim.

Watchable Wildlife: Red Cloud/Superior Area, date – when Jim Mallman can come

Phelps County: March or April, education for county/city gov’t regarding when it is time to call in PCDC and other economic development professionals. Maybe bring govt, medical, school, etc –

Probably not a summit, just request of the NDN-CR.

Open Meeting Laws: Northeast group bringing in speaker for this, could fit this here

Ord: August for regular meeting

St Paul: Dena will visit with Mike Feeken about a summit

Burwell: Rick will visit with Caleb regarding a summit in the Burwell/Ord area

Watchable Wildlife Workshop? Burwell is a MEAN Community

Superior/Nelson: interested in Social Media Workshop; Sharon will contact GROW about this

2010 Schedule:

February 10, 2010, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at UNK, CRRD Brief

March 22 or 23, Blue Hill RRCD

April: Phelps County

June 16: Ord/Burwell, time TBA reg mtg, c/b RRCD

Aug 18, 2010, St Paul 3:00-5:00 PM Mtg, 5:30 PM RRCD

Dec 15, 2010: Doniphan Planning Session, 10-2

TBA: Burwell/Ord Watchable Wildlife

TBA: Red Cloud/Superior Watchable Wildlife

Leadership (officers): Rick Nelsen made a motion that Linda Black and Sharon Hueftle be Co-Chairpersons, Dena Beck Secretary, and Rick Nelsen Treasurer. Merrill Duntz seconded the motion, approved unanimously.

Plan of Work

Vision & Mission approved

Goals:

- A. Improve Communication with communities and partners
 - a. Website is much improved, thanks to Mary K.
 - i. Add a flow chart/narrative of where NDN fits with PRN, June 2010, PRN
 - b. Update Central Region Network Guide
 - i. Update the database from Mary K at NPPD at each meeting, Ongoing, All Members
 - ii. Check with Sandy Scofield regarding the database of providers (result of legislative review summer of 07 or 08), February 2010, Dena Beck
 - iii. Check on status of database/website being developed by the University of Nebraska, Pete K., February, Shawn Kaskie
 - c. Improve electronic communications with members and partners
 - i. All members reply with additional names for list, ongoing, all members
- B. Hold regular meetings and Increase membership and participation in the Network
 - a. Increase Network participation by service providers

- i. Department of Labor
 - ii. Libraries
 - iii. Heritage Nebraska/Mainstreet
 - iv. Chambers of Commerce
- b. Increase Network participation by communities
 - i. Invite locals to regular meetings
- C. Provide educational opportunities for community members and service providers within the region
 - a. Hold 4 Rural Revitalization through Community Development workshops in 2010
 - b. Assist with Governor's Conference as needed
 - c. Respond to community requests as appropriate
 - d. Provide scholarships for community development workshops

Notice: January 8, 2010: Satellite video conference, Rural Job Summit

BECA and Value Added Grants: received modest funding in the reduced budget. Watchable wildlife is an eligible activity for VAA.

Job Training dollars are available

Provider Updates:

Rick Nelsen, NPPD: transmission line project, Axtell to Kansas/Franklin County line, reliability and back-up issue for power to flow in, currently only one route. Half way thru process of selecting route, going thru extensive public input process. Prospect activity is up slightly. Kearney and Aurora were among three Nebraska communities to be selected by DED to receive funding to study/plan the development of technology/energy parks. Proximity to and capacity of electrical and telecommunications infrastructure were important criteria. Reminder – NEDA Scholarships available for Basic and EDI with deadline in early January. Rick will be president of NREDA in 2010, Rick and Jim Keeler were only Nebraska members of this group, however have been recruiting. Next conference will be in Portland in July, 2010.

Randy Gunn, SCRC&D: involved with 8 RC&D's to offer organic ag informational workshops, includes workshops and field days. Buy Fresh/Buy Local - promote local produce and local food products, includes institutions, etc. SCRC&D is involved with Hastings on a major wellhead protection plan, many public meetings and educational meetings. Working with District Foresters & Trailblazer RC&D on tree inventories, diversified plantings, will be working with NRD's for tree planting resources in area communities. Aronia berries, high in anti oxidants, will be the topic of a meeting in Grand Island on January 19. Prairie Loft, the state top RC&D project!

Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD: SCEDD has been working with many communities, currently conducting a survey for Superior and facilitating strategic planning, just completed a survey and strategic planning session with Clay Center, working with Ravenna to create an economic development. Working with UNK to find software to enable us to scan surveys in the future. NSP is underway for demolition in Holdrege, Superior, and Harvard. CDBG projects in progress for Central City, Harvard, Franklin, and Marquette. Melissa is swamped with energy grant applications. SCEDD's annual meeting was held in November, recorded \$3 in outside dollars brought in to SCEDD for every \$1 in dues. SCEDD assistance has resulted in \$645,000 in projects within the SCEDD region. Partnering with REAP and SCRC&D to survey professionals regarding their knowledge and interest in training for working with start-up and transitioning businesses.

Scott Knapp, NBDC-PTAC: Opened new PTAC offices in Auburn and Wayne this year, Scott is doing workshops at UNK and as webinars. NBDC received a grant from USDA for transition workshops and specific plans for businesses, maybe in 12 counties. Working with bigger companies on government contracts, \$500,000 used to be large, now working with \$500M companies.

Dena Beck, REAP: NPPD transmission line info meeting in Alma, January 12 – topic of SPUCC meeting. MarketPlace Feb 23-24 in Kearney, room for 600 this year. Attendance: 25% youth, 60% business owners or considering business ownership. Held a MarketPlace in Hays, Kansas in November, about 350 attended. Mid-January REAP will roll out small business needs assessment survey, working with stats class at UNK for data analysis of 2008 data. Two loan calls today, been very busy – 2nd quarter of 2009 was busiest ever for REAP loans in its 20 year history.

Alison Raymond, SCEDD: Working on business continuity planning, will need assistance getting a business needs assessment survey regarding business continuity planning to businesses in the new year. Will have a booth at MarketPlace.

Lisa Karnatz, Kearney County Economic Development Agency & Minden Economic Development: Administering two CDBG's for businesses in Minden; just wrote a grant for the beautification team in Minden for banners and bike racks. Axtell will hold an open house Jan 30 for their new fire hall. PK Innovators & Entrepreneur Club monthly meetings cluster to begin in Minden in January 2010. Minden's housing has taken off with activity, West Minden Estates has spec house built and sold within 2 months – for \$50,000 more than estimated. Two more specs being built as well as eight duplexes by a developer. Next step for Minden housing will be rentals. School to work program, one student is assisting Lisa. Updating Minden's website, putting Minden's available jobs on Twitter. Working on becoming a Certified City, will have DED come out for a mock site visit in January or February. TEP grant – scored only one point behind #1 recipient for a hike/bike trail, estimated to begin in 2013. Minden featured in Nov./Dec. NE Life Magazine. In process of developing a logo and positioning statement for Minden, seeking grant funds. Will be hosting Wednesday evening prior to Nebraska Economic Developers Association in September 2010. Processing 8th business loan with KCEDA funds.

Pat Compton, NEDED: Annual Action Plan video conferences just held with 5 year Consolidation Plan. Comment period open thru January 4. Comments may be e-mailed to Libby Elder libby.elder@nebraska.gov. Previously there was \$1.2m in housing for central area, & this year \$495,000 for the competitive cycle. Set-aside amounts do remain the same for regional programs. We're getting more inquiries about rental housing applications from areas rather than new construction, single family home ownership projects. Application workshops will be Jan 12, videoconference in Kearney. Go to www.NEDED.org to find other dates/locations. Omaha touted as #1 City on East Coast for low unemployment rate, jobs available, low number of home foreclosures, strong lending institutions, cost of living, and quality of life.

Merrill Duntz, SPPD: Clay Center presentation of CNAS, Sharon and Linda did great job, the community members that stayed for strategic planning were good ones that will take action. Merrill was on the Economic Development committee. It's been 4 or 5 years since BRE's were completed, theme of comments from owners at that time was "nice to have someone care." Will be doing BRE's again in Clay Center, would like to look at results from previous BRE. On the South Heartland District Health Board, just notified that as of Monday everyone will be eligible for the H1N1 vaccinations.

Steve Meyers, Trailblazer RC&D: Thirteen projects, highlight bigger ones – organic farming – scheduling information meetings and tours. Just completed 2 computer recycling events, 22000 pounds collected. Trees for Nebraska towns, had 15 towns in 7 counties, partnering to plant trees. Household Hazardous Waste Grant –

applied for thru DEQ for collection in all 7 counties; applying for grant to do tire collection. Aug 11, 2010, Women's Wilderness Weekend, about seventy women attended in 2009.

Linda Fettig, RDC: VAA and BECA were refunded by the legislature.

Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.