

Nebraska Development Network - Central Region

University of Nebraska at Kearney

West Center Building 131E – 1917 West 24th Street, Kearney

Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 10:00-2:00p.m.

Minutes

Call to order/Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 10:10 with the following present:

Paul Bartlett, USDA	Linda Black, NEDED	Monica Boyken, Phelps Econ Dev
Merrill Duntz, SCPPD	Donna Jarzynka, USD	Josh Jelden, Kearney Chamber
Shawn Kaskie, CRRD	Scott Knapp, NBDC/PTAC	Wes Leithoff, Sherman Econ Dev
Andrea McClintic, NEDED	Kelley Messenger, USDA	Rick Nelsen, NPPD
Alison Raymond, SCEDD	Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD (via phone for 2010 Mini Summits)	

Welcome

Shawn Kaskie, Director, Center for Rural Research and Development, College of Business and Technology, UNK gave the welcome and introduced his associate, Carrie Stithem.

Minutes of December 16, 2009 meeting in Doniphan: Merrill Duntz moved to approve the minutes, Shawn Kaskie seconded; minutes approved unanimously. Note: The minutes are not available on the website as the website is currently down.

Treasurer Report: Balance as of January 29, \$4,122.47; a new account was established at First Bank & Trust in Minden effective December 17 and the account at Platte Valley State Bank was closed January 26. The change was due to the accumulation of bank fees at PVSb. Two signatures are required on checks and Rick Nelson, Dena Beck and Sharon Heuftle are authorized signatories.

Opening balance:	\$3,000 (from PVSb)
Check printing:	\$12.99
Deposit:	\$1,135.46 (from PVSb)

One reimbursement is outstanding for Governors Conference scholarships, no receipt for reimbursement was submitted by attendee. The PRN reimbursement of \$100 is still outstanding for two scholarships, \$50 per person.

Old Business

The state map outlining the Partnership for Rural Nebraska Regional Groups was handed out to attendees.

The **Watchable Wildlife** information session with Jim Mallman is scheduled for February 24, 7-10pm.

Wes Leithoff requested more information about this program.

Website: <http://www.watchablewildlife.org/>

Linda Black is looking for volunteers to assist with administering **Clay Center's BR&E** surveys to approximately 15-20 businesses. Rick Nelson, Merrill Duntz (may have conflict as resident) and Shawn Kaskie volunteered.

New Business

Overview of Center for Rural Research and Development at UNK: Shawn Kaskie, Director, provided two handouts outlining the mission and objectives of the CRRD and the College of Business and Technology at UNK. The Department of Management now offers an Entrepreneurship minor and the Department of Marketing now offers an International Marketing minor. The Department of Industrial Technology has been recognized as a program of excellence and a recent event brought 80 businesses to campus to meet with students about technical sales. The Baldwin Free Enterprise Lecture Series is hosted

and funded by the CRRD, in addition to the main lecture event the speaker meets with students in the classroom and there is potential to also meet with area organizations such as chambers or I&E.

The CRRD has 3 objectives: entrepreneurship center and outreach; international business education; and primary market research. The international business education component includes sending students on a 2 week or semester study abroad program to work with an international company and sending faculty to related conferences overseas. A request was submitted for funding to send regional businesses to similar conferences and to offer scholarships to businesses to take a Certified Global Business Professional test. Primary market research services will soon be available to businesses and communities. (The group toured the rooms that will be used for this purpose.)

**2010 Mini Summits, Sharon Hueftle, South Central Economic Development District (via phone)
Blue Hill**

Proposed dates: April 1(2nd is Good Friday), 12, 13, 19, 20

Proposed time: 6-6:30pm supper and 6:30-8:30 program

Proposed speakers: Claire Gustin and Nikki (co-worker), Sunflower Electric Power Corp.

Originally looking to have panel of speakers but Claire's presentation could fill entire evening

Target audience: people from all areas of community

Proposed topic: Visioning process

Shawn commented that the university faculty could be used as speakers at future events. He will send article by faculty members to group on this topic.

Watchable Wildlife information session and follow-up workshop

Information session in Superior confirmed for February 24

Next step is full day workshop possibly in Red Cloud or Guide Rock; cost for event is close to \$3,000. Motion proposed to use BECA grant to fund the approximate cost of \$3,000 for the workshop. Rick Nelson moved to approve, Merrill Duntz seconded, motion approved unanimously.

Ord

Proposed date: June 16

Proposed topic: regular meeting, RRCD, also look into Jim Mallman's schedule for Watchable Wildlife information session because if he is already in town we can piggy back for an event

Provider Updates:

Paul Bartlett, Donna Jarzynka & Kelley Messegner, USDA, Rural Development: In reference to the ARRA federal stimulus funds, all project funding must be obligated by September 30, 2010. Two current ARRA funding opportunities are for loans or grant assistance for library projects and farmers' markets/food banks/community kitchens projects. Ongoing funding programs include energy and housing. A follow-up to the January 8 Rural Job Forum will be held March 29 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney. Website: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NE/job_forum.htm

Merrill Duntz, SCPPD: Ag-expo and farm safety events held in Red Cloud; economic development ongoing in Superior; the Good Sam care facility in Nelson closed and moved to Superior; the spec building in Sutton is for sale; the Prairie Bunkers in Clay Center are being promoted as an industrial site for data storage with several buildings for sale.

Wes Leithoff, Sherman County Economic Development: Working on business expansion and a new business by summer; have community buy-in for tourism; in terms of affordable housing, building new sub-division and also looking at feasibility of rental units. Loup City is still working on certification process as a Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community.

Scott Knapp, NBDC/PTAC: NBDC now has an office at the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce on Tuesdays to meet with and serve clients in that area. Odee Ingersoll is working with businesses on loan restructuring, expanding their marketing footprint and the GSA schedule. Scott will be at Marketplace February 24 and at the USDA Job Conference March 29. He is also continuing to train businesses on procuring government contracts.

Monica Boyken, Phelps County Economic Development: Looking to have site evaluation in community as they are currently land locked; also looking to bring everyone together to go through a community visioning process to respond to this issue as well. PCDC Annual Meeting is Friday, February 12. Two new staff members recently joined PCDC, Sara Stevens-Stehl and Shanda Kandell.

Alison Raymond, SCEDD: The business recovery survey will soon be available on the SCEDD website and she is looking for assistance in promoting to businesses. SCEDD will have a booth at Marketplace February 24 and Sharon will be a featured speaker. Office is currently accepting applications for a full-time administrative assistance at Holdrege office.

Linda Black, NEDED: The public comment period is currently open to review proposed changes in the Economic Development funding category. The Department is proposing amendments to:

- increase the maximum award amount from \$500,000 to \$1 million as a guideline for any project in the Economic Development category;
- increase the award amount from \$750,000 to \$1 million as a guideline for any speculative industrial park project;
- modify the maximum amount of loan forgiveness up to the total award amount benefitting a business; and
- remove the aggregate maximum annual amount awarded for speculative building or industrial park projects (previously set at \$5 million).
- increase the amount of funds available for distribution in the Tourism category to \$900,000; increase the maximum award amount from \$200,000 to \$300,000, and modify the matching requirements.

Both Plans involve annual distribution of about \$12 million Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$5 million HOME program, and \$500,000 Emergency Shelter Grant Program funds; \$300,000 Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS funds; plus \$1.5 million Homeless Shelter Assistance Trust Funds. The 2009 Annual Action Plan also includes distribution of \$8 million Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Funds (NAHTF) while the Proposed 2010 Annual Action Plan will distribute \$4 million NAHTF.

Andrea McClintic, NEDED: Working on business expansion and job creation projects and especially focused on working with the Department of Labor in Dawson County in response to the Tenneco layoffs.

Rick Nelson, NPPD: Attended IBDC leadership summit and attended a very interesting presentation on the “Health of the Healthcare Industry” which highlighted a case of reducing the costs associated with uninsured diabetic patients through targeted outreach. He will be attending a wind industry supply chain meeting at UNL. NPPD will soon begin work on a new 345,000-volt transmission line in Kearney and Franklin counties, the line extends from Axtell to Kansas border, and this project will have an economic impact on Minden with the increase of NPPD workers in the area.

Josh Jelden, Kearney Chamber of Commerce: The chamber’s annual meeting will be held March 2. The Buffalo County Jail is near completion and will be offering tours to the public. The Buffalo County Economic Development office continues to promote the kearneyareajobs.com website.

Next meeting: TBD