

Community Center
555 W Gage St.
Blue Hill, NE
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Minutes

3:00 PM Call to order Sharon Hueftle, Co-Chair

Introductions of Attendees

Clare Gustin and Nikki Pfannenstiel, Sunflower Electric, KS

Jodi Garrelts, SCEDD Shawn Kaskie, UNK Cheryl Larson, UDSA RD

Dena Beck, REAP Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Merrill Duntz, SCPPD

Charlotte Narjes, UNL Jim Keeler, MNPP/MEAN Steve Meyer, RC&D.

Welcome

3:05 Business Meeting Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD

Minutes from February 2010 were available online. Motioned for approval by Shawn Kaskie, seconded by Merrill Duntz. Motion carried.

Financial report Rick Nelsen was not present -a few WW checks will be given to Rick today to deposit. \$

Old business: Sharon Hueftle

Watchable Wildlife Info Session, Feb 24 Superior- 25 attendees, Jim Mallman and his information was well received. There was no charge for the session.

Watchable Wildlife Workshops, registration is \$25 until May 10th after that \$40. Registration is at 8:30, start time 9 and end time 4:00 pm. \$2000/workshop was worked out with Jim rather than \$3000, which is what is originally set. BECA grant was received by the Dev. Network received a BECA in 2008 to hold these workshops. \$1000 SCEDD & \$500 CNEDD. BECA Community applicants Nuckolls and Webster Counties were the applicants.

May 18 Red Cloud

May 19, Ord

BECA fulfilled at this point.

Western Ne Tourism Coalition is sponsoring Jim for the workshop in Ogallala on May 20th.

New business: Sharon Hueftle

Additional RRCD? BECA grant stated that we would do 6 total over a 2-year period. Franklin, Central City & Broken Bow were done without BECA. Superior & Taylor in 2009, Blue Hill, Red Cloud & Ord in 2010. Alma may be interested. St. Paul wants to host the NDN-CR August 18th. Dena spoke with Mike Feeken, St. Paul Development about tentatively scheduled. There may be some monies available to bring someone in to present. Tabled until June. Linda and Dena will talk to Mike Feeken.

3:28 Provider Updates:

Claire Gustin, Sunflower Electric, KS - National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA), July 11-13 in Portland, OR. Rick Nelsen, NPPD is the President. Summer 2011 in Memphis. She mentioned a similar group in Kansas as well as Leadership infrastructure for rural communities which is changing. The visioning process is an important piece of leadership in communities. Ft. Hayes State Civic Engagement Center was discussed as well as Leadership Studies within the college.

Nikki Sunflower Electric, KS – Energy Efficiency grants & financing available to KS residents-people can pay back through utility bills or directly to the bank. Working on a new power plant and will have a public comment period this summer.

Jodi Garrelts, SCEDD – new office manager for SCEDD since March 15th. She has been working on press releases, registration forms are online (NDN-CR's website) for watchable wildlife. She is learning names, etc.

Shawn Kaskie, UNK - discussed working with Phelps Co Dev. Corp on community visioning with Phelps Co leaders, planning & zoning, and PCDC on May 4-5 to help with economic development planning. They will be using NPPD's *option finder* along with a model Shawn was familiar with in his work in WI. Shawn made the survey draft available to the group. June 3 UNK will be hosting Export 201 with Cong. Adrian Smith for ag, commercial, retail, etc. The Technology Lab is open for primary market research and assistance with secondary market research. International Business internship grants for 9 students at UNK. Those monies may be available for businesses to expand their knowledge and experiences.

Cheryl Larson, UDSA RD – stimulus funds are still available (library, know your famer, know your food); energy efficiency, guaranteed housing will run out of money for the fiscal year, direct housing program is still going, etc. USDA's fiscal year is Oct. 1-Sept. 30.

Dena Beck, REAP – discussed MarketPlace results coming in, high loan volume in the SW/Central Region, SPUCC and summer SPUCC tour June 3-4 in the eastern region. The 2010 Small Business Needs Assessment was discussed.

Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD – Melissa is working on grants in the SCEDD communities. Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant is progressing in Holdrege. Alison is working on business disaster recovery survey is still out and not getting a good response. NDN-CR will ask members to share the link to businesses. PK Partnership will be offering EDGE Class in the Fall in Holdrege. Innovator and Entrepreneur Club's winter cluster finished last night. Red Cloud is interested in hosting an EDGE class. They are working on building a coalition and sponsorships for that purpose. PK Professionals Survey online to gauge our professionals activity with our existing , transitioning, and/or starting businesses. SCEDD works with businesses as well. A youth entrepreneurship program with the ESI curriculum with Janita Pavelka. Career Fair was held in Holdrege for ESU 11 kids. Several hundred HS Sophomores attended. The Ne Regional Organizational Council (N-ROC) is a newly formed non-profit of Ne Development Districts.

Merrill Duntz, SCPPD - BRE in Clay Center with a team of 6-7 possibly in June. Utilities are interested in Energy Wise, etc. different programs are available for commercial, individual, industrial, etc. are available through the local utilities. Cost sharing is based on energy savings. June may be an appliance stimulus funds with \$100-250 rebate (1.3 million for the state). Some stores are having people pre-sale deals and some times the money is gone in one day. Household Hazardous Waste Collection with Trailblazer RC&D communities. 7 – 55 gallon barrels of paint, many chemicals, 85 loads came through. Local Boy Scouts assisted. Clay Center is working on 1% sales tax for general purposes. It will be on the May ballot. 911 available were down for 24+ hours in Merrill's region as well as the eastern part of the state. Clay Center, First Bank & Trust was robbed this morning.

Charlotte Narjes, UNLCenter for Applied Rural Innovation - Public Service Commission stimulus funds for regional broadband planning. The Broadband Planning was awarded to Ne Public Service Commission from the US Dept. of Commerce Nat'l Telecommunications and

Information Administration (NTIA). She would like the NDN-CR to assist with the regional broadband planning with monies available to conduct. The consensus was to support this project. Dena will take the proposal to the SW Development Network meeting in McCook tomorrow.

Jim Keeler, MNPP/MEAN – survey of PRN should be completed by April 30 and they will use that for part of the PRN board planning. He encouraged all NDN-CR members to fill it out and share it with others.

Steve Meyer, RC&D – Project overview: Arbor Day Tree Planting events in Franklin and Clay Center with the Ne Statewide Arboretum. Trailblazer has a grant in for tire collection for the fall.

4:35 discussed the evening workshop. Claire discussed the format, distribution of resource providers, etc.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2010 Arnold. Kristi Dvorak-Dena will talk to her. *Jim Keeler*

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena R. Beck, NDN-CR Secretary