

NDN-CR  
Callaway, NE  
June 16, 2010  
10:00 a.m. -

**Present:**

Dena Beck	Steve Meyer	Randy Gunn	Shawn Kaskie
Karen Kollars	Tom Tabor	Pat Compton	Sharon Hueftle
Donna Jarzynka			

Started with morning tour provided by Mary Ridder. Lunch at Jo's Café.

Meeting called to order at 12:06 pm.

1. The minutes were approved.
2. Financial report was provided. \$4181.36; in the bank.
3. Evaluations of Blue Hill RRCD: Clare Gustin, Sunflower Electric Visioning Session was discussed.
4. Watchable Wildlife – review of events to date as well as further workshops. Tom suggested seeing if people in the regions of the areas are willing to take some leadership in the communities. Dena suggested following up with the attendees and see what action has been taken, inventories of area attractions. Betty Sayers, Chicken Dance Trail & Ne Rural Living has offered to help lead the group in the south Platte area. Contacts of attendees were shared with other attendees. There seemed to be a good mix of attendees at each of the workshops.
5. BECA Reallocation of funds for Marketing Audits. Audit format was shared as well as businesses nominated for assistance. 30 nominees will be accepted for one-on-one assistance for around \$2,500. Currently there are 16 businesses that are scheduled. Businesses are asked to pay her mileage. Communities include: Gibbon, Ravenna, Loup City, Minden, Red Cloud, Central City, Hastings, Kearney, Holdrege, & Loomis. Dena will prepare the evaluation for the participants and get feedback from Sara about questions to ask. Sara will report to Sharon H. with the process and schedule participants. NDN-CR Executive Committee will review the recommendations to see if there are local entities to refer people. Dena discussed the Summer Learning that uses \$500 of the BECA funds. Close out the BECA grant soon. Reallocation of BECA funds for Marketing Audits and Summer Learning Series was a decision of the NDN-CR Executive Committee.
6. Nominations for the Governor's conference on Rural Development's Connecting Ne Award nominees are due to Linda Black by the Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in St. Paul.
7. Charlotte Narjes will attend the Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in St. Paul for a 30 minute presentation on the Rural Broadband Survey.
8. Ended with discussion on *what next* for Watchable Wildlife. Using a BECA this year for another round of workshops in the region was discussed to have more trainings. Possibly using Jim Mallman to do some group training as well as one-on-one consultations. Train the trainers was a suggestion. Connect practitioners that are making use of watchable wildlife with people that are skeptical. Sharon will *resend the contacts* for attendees of Watchable Wildlife to Dena, Randy, Shawn, Karen, & Tom. Limited resource counties include Harlan, Franklin, Nuckolls, that are eligible for the 25% match rather than 50%. Others are <list>. A BECA planning grant is an option as well \$5000 with no match, perhaps Jim coming to our region to train the trainer activity with Jim Mallman and resource providers. Shawn suggested using BECA for trainings

with entrepreneurs on financial feasibility studies. Finding local match was a discussion topic. Tom T. suggested utilizing Environmental Trust monies, nature-type entities, Donna J. suggested bank's CRA funds, Pat C. suggested community foundations. Partners included the Western Tourism Coalition? Keeping the workshops in the NDN-CR region was suggested. Karen suggested using monies for scholarships for attendees. Training cities and municipalities on the importance of nature tourism brings to the regions was a suggestion. Utilizing and expanding the Chicken Dance Trail routes and resources-Betty Sayers is the contact for that database with South Platte United Chambers of Commerce. Connie Frances has data from Rowe Sanctuary attendees survey results may drive our direction. They wanted more nature viewing places-crane watching is typically done by 8:30 am. *Ne Nature Tourism Coalition* was a suggestion for the name of the group. Tom T. will start with the planning grant and Shawn K. will work on a draft of the training grant.

9. Next meeting. Wednesday, Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>, St. Paul 10-2 pm. Mike Feeken, St. Paul Dev. Corp will host.

Provider updates:

Dena Beck, REAP – she briefed the group on the SPUCC Summer Tours and Summer Learning Series.

Steve Meyer, Trailblazer RC&D –

**Randy Gunn, SCN RC&D:** Organic farming tours are planned for later this summer; continue to promote Buy Fresh Buy Local Nebraska in the area (2010 Local Food Guides are available now); working with WasteCap Nebraska to set up & publicize retail and public sites for recycling of fluorescent (compact & linear) light bulbs.

Shawn Kaskie, UNK CRRD-

Karen Kollars, Ne Dept of Travel & Tourism-

Tom Tabor, Ne Dept of Travel & Tourism-

Pat Compton, DED-

**Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD:** Alison is ready to provide presentations on Business Disaster Recovery Preparedness, please consider her as a speaker if you have opportunity to do so (Chambers, Rotary, etc). SCEDD is seeking applicant businesses in Buffalo, Hamilton and Kearney Counties for their revolving loan fund – amounts not to exceed \$50,000 or 40% of a project. Melissa assisted 7 communities with successful energy grant applications.

Donna Jarzynka, USDA RD-

Meeting concluded 2:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dena R. Beck