

NDN-CR  
Cairo, NE  
Community Center  
August 10, 2011

Attending:

|               |                  |                |                   |                 |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Shawn Kaskie  | Dena Beck        | Tom Tabor      | Andrea McClintic  | Melissa Vinzant |
| Jodi Garrelts | Scott Knapp      | Connie Francis | Corrinne Pedersen | Twyla Witt      |
| Paul Bartlett | Joyce Sears      | Paul Sears     | Tom Witt          | Walt Sorensen   |
| Ryan Green    | Margaret Treffer | Jerry Karel    | Marcia Keller     | Tom Emerton     |
| Evelyn Dvorak | Tricia Beem      | Joe Grabowski  | Steve Stebbing    | Georgeann       |

10:06 Shawn Kaskie, NDN-CR Co-Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed the 24 attendees.

10:09 am Tom Emerton, President, Pathway Bank gave the Welcome. He is part of an economic development agency; spoke on the renovation of the school, addition of *a/c, Cairo Root's Museum*, etc. Main Street Improvement Project is in full bloom – new sidewalks, plantings, etc. The 18 hole Golf Course north of Cairo is one of the best golf courses in Central Ne; people are coming here on their 3-day golf tour. Lots are for sale on the golf course.

10:13 am Shawn explained Development Networks and the Mission of the Central Network and the 21 counties involved. The meetings are moved around to bring resources to the communities.

10:15 Merrill Duntz made the motion to approve the minutes; Scott Knapp seconded. Motion carried.

10:16 Financial report was given by Shawn Kaskie for Rick Nelsen, Treasurer who was absent ~\$3,000 is in the account in at First Bank & Trust Co of Minden. Watchable Wildlife workshops and Marketing Audits are some of the activities of the NDN-CR.

10:20 Andrea McClintic passed out some copies of the draft NDN-CR Annual Newsletter. Shawn encouraged attendees to send potential stories to the NDN-CR.

10:23 New Business – there was no new business.

10:24 – 11:23 am Roundtable Reports.

Next meeting October 12<sup>th</sup> in Guide Rock – confirmed by Merrill Duntz; still need a topic for the meeting.

11:24 – Noon Cairo Economic Development Committee gave a presentation

Below is information from the Cairo Economic Development group shared after the NDN-CR business meeting.

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[sstebbing@pathwaybank.com](mailto:sstebbing@pathwaybank.com)

Cairo Economic Development (2-3 months old steering committee) – farmers market promotion, façade development for downtown; appreciate and celebrate the past while looking forward to the future. Need community visioning assistance. Beautification is on the front burner.

[Nebraska Enterprise Fund- Revolving Loan Fund](#) programs for communities;

also ReDLEG from USDA (hyperlink?Paul).

REDLEG from USDA – ask SPD to be the recipient to play that role for the Cairo EDC. In the form of a grant to SPD then they grant or loan it to Cairo EDC. PAUL fill in gaps, please...

Southern Public Power District serves Cairo – Scott Welk is the contact in Grand Island office [swelk@southernppd.net](mailto:swelk@southernppd.net) ; Scott can also line up energy audits for Cairo businesses as well as assist with Facts Book/ LOIS and NEDI.

Cairo Web Site, ask Southern Power District – NPPD will help set up a web site and host it. SPD is the first call. A good example is [Dawson Area Development web site](#) that NPPD created and hosts.

TARGET Study – for Cairo – a free tourism assessment. It will take some time, collection of data and organization with some locals. Contact Micheal Collins, Dept of Travel and Tourism to set up a review – could be 6-12 months from initial contact. [Micheal.Collins@nebraska.gov](mailto:Micheal.Collins@nebraska.gov) .

LB 840 is a local option sales tax for communities for economic development – Andrea McClintic, DED is the contact for this program [andrea.mcclintic@nebraska.gov](mailto:andrea.mcclintic@nebraska.gov) . “Go for 1.5% sales tax,” Corrinne Pedersen, NMPP Energy. Or go with the non-sunset clause and a lower rate (1%). There is a web site that shows who has LB 840 funds and how much they raise. It needs to be a good group of (non-government) people with the same message talking with the public. Must have plan defined BEFORE you go with this option...may be 2-5 years after formation of the economic development entity. The process is 12-18 months of planning. Money will be received the next quarter, if the % and the plan are approved. These monies can be used as match for CDBG and other funding.

**OR** you can pass a 1% sales tax for the plan – NOT LB 840, ask Merrill Duntz, South Central Public Power, [mlduntz@windstream.net](mailto:mlduntz@windstream.net) Clay Center for more information. Less paperwork and more flexibility. Work with Attorney or Creighton School of Law Community Economic Development Clinic for flexible verbiage for the plan. Pathway bankers were given CU brochures.

Regarding downtown revitalization: Main Street/Heritage Nebraska – Elizabeth Chase, Main Street and JL Schmidt, Heritage Ne. [echase@windstream.net](mailto:echase@windstream.net) [jlschmidt@usa.net](mailto:jlschmidt@usa.net)

The [Rural Enterprise Assistance Project-REAP](#), serves Hall Co and can help bring people to downtown that are maybe operating in their home; also expertise with job creation, expansion, one-on-one technical assistance, training, etc. Loan fund with a max of \$50,000 also an option for gap financing. Dena Beck [denab@cfra.org](mailto:denab@cfra.org) 308-582-0060.

Expanding Community Foundation – may develop an Advisory Council made up of a different group of people that are not represented on the board. Young families, long term residents, alumni, etc. They can also serve as the eyes and ears in the community.

Ne Community Foundation can be the fiscal agent for the Cairo funds. See what fee structures might be for Grand Island.

An Investment Club may also be an option (Clay Center – 37 members @\$2,000/person; people can also join with \$50/mo until the \$2000 is paid). Can be given as grants or low interest loans. Ask Merrill Duntz for more information. It is a revolving loan fund. Ask for the by-laws from the Clay Center Investment Club formed from the community club. Loup City, Burwell also have those clubs as well – tap into them for assistance.

The [South Central Economic Development District](#) covers Hall County and specializes in working with communities, businesses, and entrepreneurs including disaster planning. Office located in Holdrege, Sharon Hueftle [SharonH@scedd.us](mailto:SharonH@scedd.us) . Present at the meeting Melissa and Jodi.