

South Central Economic Development District
Thursday, January 29, 2009
Meeting Minutes

The South Central Economic Development District exists to develop and promote a positive economic climate which supports regional growth.

6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting @ Everybody's Restaurant, Guide Rock, Webster County

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Jerrell Gerdes

Roll Call

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| Adams | Eldon Orthmann | Buffalo | Lynn Rauner |
| Clay | Absent | Franklin | Jerrell Gerdes |
| Hall | Absent | Hamilton | Clarence Trumble |
| Harlan | Lonny Hanna | Kearney | Absent |
| Merrick | Absent | Nuckolls | Roger Watson |
| Phelps | Absent | Webster | Laura Roybal |
| Private Business | Absent | Private Business | Wayne Bell |
| Private Business | Absent | At Large | Merrill Duntz |
| Stkhldr Org: UNK | Absent | Stkhldr Org:: CCC | Bill Hitesman |

Introductions: Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Executive Director; Bob Rose, Emergency Manager Clay County; Liz Rasser, Jay Hall, Mary Delka, Red Cloud; Steve Waring, Alma City Administrator; Joe & Michaelle Strickland, Inavale; Charles Ohmstede, Chairman for Village of Guide Rock; Dakotah Hueftle, Holdrege.

No Additions to the Agenda

Minutes of November 20, 2008 Meeting were approved with a motion by Wayne Bell, second by Merrill Duntz; unanimous approval.

Financial Report for FY2008 was provided and accepted for filing with a motion by Wayne Bell, second by Laura Roybal; unanimous approval.

Employee/Grant Report was provided, Sharon discussed the projects and activities.

Old Business:

Addition to SCEDD Board: Motion was made by Merrill Duntz and seconded by Roger Watson to appoint Bill Hitesman, Dean of Central Community College Hastings Campus, to the Board of Directors of the South Central Economic District as the representative of a Non-governmental Stakeholder Organization. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Election of Treasurer: Merrill Duntz nominated Eldon Orthmann for Treasurer, seconded by Wayne Bell. Bill Hitesman made the motion for nominations to cease. The vote in favor of Eldon Orthmann to serve as Treasurer and signer on corporate checks was unanimous.

Revisit Secretary position: Jerrell Gerdes stated that he'd like to discuss the Secretary position, reminding the group that in November the board elected Merrill Duntz as Secretary with the agreement he would not take minutes. Merrill explained that it was the view of the nominating committee that SCEDD staff should take minutes and he agreed. Wayne Bell expressed concern about the practicality of the dual role of Executive Director and Secretary.

Merrill Duntz resigned as Secretary. Wayne Bell made a motion to accept the resignation, Roger Watson seconded the motion, motion passed. Bill Hitesman then moved to have Wayne Bell serve as Secretary, seconded by Jerrell Gerdes, motion passed.

New Business

Interlocal with Emergency Managers on Disaster Coordinator: Bob Rose, Emergency Manager for Clay County and head of the South Central Planning, Exercising, and Training Region attended the meeting to discuss a potential partnership with SCEDD. This discussion was held at the beginning of the meeting to allow Bob to leave early. Sharon Hueftle discussed the EDA Grant received by SCEDD to hire a disaster coordinator and stated the emergency managers in the region are interested in paying SCEDD an amount equal to the grant award to provide a scope of work similar to the EDA Grant scope of work, for an area that includes 11 of SCEDD's 12 counties and 4 additional counties. This funding would allow SCEDD's Disaster Coordinator to provide services for approximately 3 years rather than 18 months. Bob Rose shared the funding opportunity from the point of view of the emergency managers and explained their funding comes from Department of Homeland Security. He also answered questions. Bob concluded the discussion by asking SCEDD to write a letter in support of this funding to be submitted to Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy. Bob then left.

Jerrell Gerdes stated a conflict of interest on this issue due to his son being an emergency manager for a number of the counties involved. Laura Roybal motioned to have SCEDD send a letter in support of this partnership to the Lt. Governor, with the letter signed by Chairman Gerdes. Motion was seconded by Eldon Orthmann, motion carried.

Terms for Appointed Board Members: The Board was asked to consider if terms should be implemented for the board members invited to be on the board by the board members that are representatives of member counties. Board members affected would include Non-Governmental Representatives of Stakeholder Organizations and Private Business and At-Large Representatives not appointed by a member county. No action was taken.

Board Member Reports: see below

Next Meeting: Adams County, Thursday, March 26, 2009, Central Community College

Adjourn Board Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Board Member and Attendee Reports:

Adams, Eldon Orthmann: Adams County has a new County Treasurer. Hastings lost the business "Great Danes" but the Back Alley Bakery will be expanding to fill the building; new restaurant at the mall will have a CCC graduate as their chef. Heartland Pet Connection having a chocolate and wine tasting event.

Buffalo, Lynn Rauner: City of Kearney considering purchasing the Event Center; courthouse renovation project is progressing.

Franklin, Jerrell Gerdes: Franklin has a manufacturing business that has expanded from 1 to 3 FTE; hospital project is gaining – the open house is scheduled for before Labor Day; Superintendent of Schools is leaving for York.

Hamilton, Clarence Trumble: Hamilton enlarged their county board from 3 members to 5, Clarence is a new board member. Aurora News: Aventine Ethanol plant is on hold until June, reconfigured the golf course with a new housing development.

Harlan, Lonny Hanna: Alma hospital has new administrator, Jeff Shelton formerly of Hastings; hospital renovations complete and open house was held.

Webster, Laura Roybal: 2/14 Jazz Concert; 2/28 Ladies night out at the Opera House; 3/17 Ag & Home Expo in Red Cloud; 4/24-25 Cather Spring Conference: this year will include activities in the area. Red Cloud has a new hospital administrator, Maryanna Harris from Henderson. Easter Cantata Palm Sunday; 3/5 SHPO is coming to Red Cloud to meet with the local historic commission and hold a public meeting regarding tax incentives for preservation and discuss a Webster County CLG that could help historic projects

outside the Red Cloud City limits.

Wayne Bell, TCBY, Kearney: City of Kearney looking to purchase the event center. Eaton has had some temporary lay-offs. Medical community is growing and expanding. There is interest in data centers in the Kearney area, however there is a problem with adequate fiber, solutions are being sought. ESU 10 will have an open house for their new wing March 16. Nebraska Turkey Growers have possible purchaser to reopen the plant. Land between Kearney Yamaha and Interstate 80 at the Kearney exit has been sold for commercial development, brought \$2.5m. Next door to TCBY in Kearney a QDoba is opening.

Merrill Duntz, SPPID, Clay Center: Clay Center looking to merge schools with Harvard or Sandy Creek for the 2010/11 school year– Why? The 09/10 school year projections show 36 students in the High School and their levy is \$1.49. Elvis will be in Franklin 2/8.

Bill Hitesman, CCC, Hastings: Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be 2/4, Governor and Lt Gov are both scheduled to attend. Prairie Bunkers data storage - could be one of the largest in the world may possibly purchase the old NAD bunkers, these are located a few miles just Southeast of Hastings. CCC received a \$2.1m Community Based Job Training Grant for health in 2008. This joins their Trucking Simulator and the \$2.1m received for Advanced Manufacturing for Midwest plastics and design. CCC is one of 68 recipients in the US and the only 1 in Nebraska, they received the 4th largest grant, making this their 4th grant from the Department of Labor. Currently, Central Community College is utilizing it trucking simulator to provide firefighter training – just completed training 65 firefighters in GI, and set to train in Holdrege, and Hastings. All are welcome to visit the Hastings CCC campus, check out the newly remodeled Clay dorm, which will bring the total on campus housing to 356 students.

Liz Rasser, Starke Round Barn, Red Cloud: Starke Round Barn is open to the public, work continues on cleaning out the basement – it is ½ cement and was a dairy. Septemberfest was hosted at the barn with vendors, activities, stories, and entertainment from the Humanities Council. They will host a small event in April for the Cather Spring Conference. They are applying for marketing and renovation funds.

Mary Delka, Webster County Board: Red Cloud has a new leather business and is exploring the possibility of an assisted living facility.

Joe & Micki Strickland, owners of Spring Creek Home, Inavale: they recently purchased the Gala Gardens facility and started a day program, they specialize in schizophrenia. The facility has 40 beds and employs 22. They hope to foster community re-entry for their residents via life coaches and job coaches.

Charles Ohmstede, Village of Guide Rock: Everybody's Restaurant opened in October; Guide Rock closed their high school in 1998 and grade school in 2002 – they demolished the 3 story building and the Village took over the 3 room building, providing a facility for walkers, home ec room for elderly meals, etc. PaHur Days - their annual celebration.