

**South Central Economic Development District
Thursday March 26, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

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

6:00 PM Board of Directors Meeting @ CCC, Hastings, Adams County

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Jerrell Gerdes

Roll Call

Adams	Eldon Orthmann	Buffalo	Tim Lowenstein
Clay	Barb Barnett	Franklin	Jerrell Gerdes
Hall	Gary Quandt	Hamilton	Absent
Harlan	Absent	Kearney	Richard McBride
Merrick	Rex Weller	Nuckolls	Roger Watson
Phelps	Theresa Puls	Webster	Laura Roybal
Private Business	Wayne Bell	Private Business	Absent
Private Business	Jim Gorman	At Large	Merrill Duntz
Stkhldr Org: UNK	Absent	Stkhldr Org: CCC	Bill Hitesman

Introductions: Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Executive Director; Melissa Vinzant, SCEDD Community Consultant; Lynn Rauner, Buffalo County; Pat Compton, DED; Cheryl Larson, USDA; Mary Delka, Red Cloud; Jay Hall, Red Cloud.

No Additions to the Agenda

Minutes of January 29, 2009 Meeting were approved unanimously via a consent motion from the Chair.

Financial Report as of February 28, 2009 was approved unanimously via a consent motion from the Chair and filed for future audit.

Employee/Grant Report was provided in written form. Sharon and Melissa discussed the plethora of projects and activities. Highlighted were the official travel guides from SPUCC and the recent hiring of Deb VanMatre to serve as the SCEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator. Jerrell Gerdes explained Deb's role in the organization.

Old Business:

Interlocal with SCEPTR for Disaster Coordinator: Sharon explained the written attachments that were included in the board agenda packet. No formal decisions have been made concerning this item. Staff is still clarifying information and answering questions from state officials.

Terms for Appointed Board Members: Sharon and Deb Murray developed a recommendation to provide terms of office for appointed SCEDD board members. This recommendation staggered the terms as follows: One year – Stu Wilsman and Deb Murray; Two years – Jim Gorman and Merrill Duntz; Three years – Bill Hitesman and Wayne Bell. It was moved by Bill Hitesman and seconded by Jim Gorman to establish the recommended terms of office as indicated above for appointed SCEDD board members. This action would commence January 2009. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

New Business:

Request to Hire Part-time Administrative Assistant: Sharon reported that office space might become available in Holdrege in the former Work Force Development office at the Holdrege City Building. A need was noted for additional administrative office help. Money is available from unspent budgeted funds from the previous fiscal year. That, coupled with reductions in other budget areas, would allow enough funds to create this new position. It was moved by Laura Roybal and seconded by Eldon Orthmann to hire a part-time administrative assistant. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Project Selection Process: This topic was discussed in detail. Sharon noted a large number of project requests and asked the board for ideas to help prioritize projects. Pat Compton suggested pre-application forms with deadlines. Sharon initiated discussion of using county boards to filter projects. Barb Barnett and Tim Lowenstein expressed agreement. Jim Gorman questioned folks being willing to help or dumping things on SCEDD. After further discussion, Merrill Duntz suggested that a four or five member board be formed from SCEDD board members to recommend prioritized projects. No action was taken and board members were directed to consider options to be discussed at the May meeting. Any ideas formulated before the May meeting were to be shared with Sharon or Jerrell Gerdes.

Stimulus Money: Pat Compton brought up stimulus money and Continuum of Care Groups. There are resources available to people through Mid-Nebraska Community Action Services. Pat emailed contact information to Sharon to be disseminated to the board. Barb Barnett suggested that the information be placed on the SCEDD website.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program Applications: Sharon reported that the majority of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program money will be distributed to the Omaha and Lincoln areas. About \$2 million is left for the rural sections of the state. The final application is due May 6, 2009. The board voted in November to approve applications for demolition only. All applicants must be in an eligible county. Only Webster County is excluded in SCEDD. Community information is to be submitted by April 6, 2009. A special meeting will be held to approve the final application(s).

Board Member Reports: See below

Next Meeting: Buffalo County, Thursday, May 28, 2009

Adjourn Board Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Board Member and Attendee Reports:

Pat Compton, DED: Plans have been submitted for the continuing care plan. There is a May 4, 2009 deadline for the affordable housing application. There are new people on the housing team. They will be doing board orientation.

Webster, Laura Roybal and Mary Delka: The Home Expo had 300 participants. There was a historic preservation information meeting. Cather weekend is April 24-25. The community playhouse is performing Quilters at the opera house. There's a free movie April 28th. There's a vote for an assisted living sales tax to be used to build 14 units. The importance of economic development in agriculture was cited.

Sharon Hueftle: ESU 11 in Holdrege hosted a career fair where SCEDD had a booth about what it takes to be an entrepreneur. 370 students attended the fair and 150-200 visited the SCEDD booth.

Merrick, Rex Weller: A specialty door manufacturer is doing Sun heaters contract. He is still hopeful for the future of the county ethanol plants.

Kearney, Dick McBride: Wilcox had an assessment survey and had 3 priority needs - grocery store, day care, and home rehabilitation. Axtell has a new fire hall. Minden was 7th nationally.....

Phelps, Theresa Puls: Four couples bought the Sun Theater.

Hall, Gary Quandt: There are additional flights at the Central Nebraska Regional Airport.

Merrill Duntz, SCPPID, Clay Center: Clay Center school district is closing and merging with Sandy Creek. A dinner theater is being held to raise money for band uniforms for students in the new school district.

Nuckolls, Roger Watson: In Ruskin the Aurora Coop is putting up two 500,000 bushel grain bins. Hardy has a problem with the water supply and is getting water from Superior.

Buffalo, Tim Lowenstein: The jail is under construction. Realtors are not seeing an upswing in foreclosures but there is an increase in bankruptcies. A Development Council meeting of the State of the Economy had a full house. The Federal Reserve to meet with a group of local businesses looking at the state of the economy. County is cutting budgets and looking at options.

Bill Hitesman, CCC, Hastings: CCC has doubled the size of its facility in Holdrege and have a five year lease on a building. May 9th is commencement. May 6th they auctioned off the house CCC students built. They have an incubation program that helps upstart businesses.

Adams, Eldon Orthmann: They are working with R.Y.D.E. to take over their public transportation.

Franklin, Jerrell Gerdes: The open house was held for the new hospital.

Wayne Bell, TCBY, Kearney: The Kearney TCBY manager was featured by the national corporation for her use of Facebook to promote yogurt sales.