

**South Central Economic Development District
Thursday, May 28, 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 @ Great Platte River Road Archway Monument, Kearney, NE

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairman Jerrell Gerdes; Mr. Gerdes announced that this was an Open Public Meeting and the Open Public Meeting Procedures were displayed.

Roll Call

Adams	Eldon Orthmann	Buffalo	Tim Lowenstein
Clay	Barb Barnett	Franklin	Jerrell Gerdes
Hall	Gary Quandt	Hamilton	Clarence Trumble
Harlan	Steve Waring	Kearney	Richard McBride
Merrick	Rex Weller	Nuckolls/Bs	Roger Watson
Phelps	Theresa Puls	Webster	Laura Roybal
Private Business	Stuart Wilsman	Private Business	Absent
Private Business	Jim Gorman	At Large	Merrill Duntz
Stkhldr Org: UNK	Absent	Stkhldr Org: CCC	Absent

Introductions: Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Executive Director; Melissa Vinzant, SCEDD Community Consultant; Kathy Burr SCEDD Administrative Assistant; Pat Compton and Linda Black, NEDED; Lonny & Sally Hanna., Harlan County Board Chairman.

Additions to the Agenda: REAP Support Letter

Minutes of March 26, 2009 Meeting and the May 5, 2009 Special Meeting were approved unanimously with a motion from Tim Lowenstein and second by Jim Gorman.

Financial Report dated April 30, 2009, was accepted for filing via a consent motion from the Chair.

Employee/Grant Reports were provided. Sharon and Melissa discussed projects and activities. Sharon Hueftle also reported that Deb VanMatre has resigned as SCEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator effective immediately to take other employment. There was discussion on how to fill the position. Deborah Murray, UNK, SCEDD stakeholder has resigned her post on the board effective June 30, 2009. UNK has offered her CRRD Executive Director replacement as the new SCEDD stakeholder; board members approved this.

Old Business:

Interlocal with SCEPTR for Disaster Coordinator: No action, John Roseland is working on this for SCEPTR.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program Application(s)

-Procurement Procedures: Tabled until July

New Business:

Annual meeting plans: There was discussion regarding an annual meeting that included hosting a dinner, inviting more county officials, having a speaker and making it a memorable event. Having the annual meeting coincide with elections was discussed. Tim Lowenstein stated that there needs to be more awareness and promotion of SCEDD so an annual meeting separate from elections was his preference; Gary Quandt agreed. It was decided the November SCEDD Board meeting will be an annual celebration meeting held November 19th (4th Thursday falls on Thanksgiving) in Hall County.

Omaha Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City invitation to discuss capacity needs and opportunities for collaboration: The roundtable will be June 18, 2009 11:30-1:30 pm at Mahoney State Park. Sharon asked if any board members wanted to attend. Laura Roybal, Roger Watson, and Merrill Duntz were interested.

Local Public Agency Responsible Charge for Federal Highway projects: After much discussion Merrill Duntz moved that SCEDD not be involved as the LPA/RC for Federal Highway projects. Tim Lowenstein seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

REAP Support Letter: REAP is asking for letters of support for their CDBG application to help implement REAP work. Richard McBride moved that SCEDD sign the letter of support. Laura Roybal seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Board Member Reports: See below.

Next Meeting: Clay County, Thursday, July 30, 2009

Adjourn Board Meeting: Meeting was adjourned 8:30PM

Board Member & Attendee Reports:

Pat Compton, DED: The final regular cycle of Affordable Housing funds have been awarded; Owner Occupied Rehab grants are due July 31. Excited to see who gets funded from NSP. Pat is Special Needs Housing Liaison for the State, and reported \$5m in stimulus money has been allocated for the 7 continuum of care regions for rental assistance. This amount is usually \$800,000. Pat requested that board members and staff listen for indications of families at risk of losing their homes or needing utility assistance, and refer them to MidNE Cimmunity Action Partnership. She noted that people not previously in this position do not know where to go for assistance or aren't even aware that assistance is available. Department of Econoomic Development's 5 year consolidated plan needs public comment, to get information go to www.neded.org and check out press releases.

Linda Black, DED: Been working with several SCEDD area businesses - some expanding and some surviving. NSP is exciting, NSP2 will include one statewide application to the Federal Government. Downtown Revilization grants will be announced soon, these are only available to Certified Economic Development Cities.

Adams, Eldon Orthmann: Back Alley Bakery Resturant opening in Hastings; Assembly of God Church doubling in size; Mary Lanning Hospital addition is open. The construction of a new power plant is creating many jobs and employing folks laid off from other local positions.

Buffalo, Tim Lowenstein: Jail under construction, it continues to be a good project that's moving fast. Verizon Wireless is preparing for the "most rapid and aggressive buildout of wireless throughout the nation" which will be very exciting for NE economy & rural America. CMAS, a program to allow emergency managers to send a warning text message to every cell phone that is turned on in a geographical area in danger, is in the works and will help with safety of the public. Tim also shared about his encounter with an economic developer/investigative writer working on a project in Roswell, NM - he was "hired to turn little green men in to Economic Development Toursim!"

Franklin, Jim Gorman: Nathan James Customs, a Franklin welding/plasma/sand blasting company, employs 4 others and is doing well. Jim bought 1902 bank corner building and is remodeling the site. He also purchased another mainstreet building to protect local dance/karate business.

Franklin, Jerrell Gerdes: 100 year Franklin Fireman celebration will be June 13. August 30 will be Franklin County Hosptial dedication of their \$4.1 million project. The Frosty Mug Drive Inn is opening again. Ten alumni from classes of 2003-2005 have moving back to area to farm and/or start businesses.

Nuckolls, Roger Watson: Regional Revitalization workshop was held in Superior on May 4.

At Large, Merrill Duntz: Hastings Chamber of Commerce members are visiting businesses to generate business to business connections. This could present some opportunities to barter with each other instead of paying cash. He encouraged members to check and share information out the new NE Weatherization Program as it has improved; income eligibility has doubled with money for heating, insulation, windows, caulking, labor, etc. This year there is \$41 million to spend in 2 years (typically \$5-10m). Prairie Bunkers, data storage in the old bunkers east of Hastings, is exciting for SCPPD. Coastal companies can save \$1 million per year on utlity costs. Estimated cost is \$9 million to renovate each bunker for data storage; Prairie Bunkers has an option on 64 bunkers.

Webster, Laura Roybal: On May 12 Red Cloud had a special election for an assisted living and sales tax; both items passed. May 22 Red Cloud Foundation was awarded \$2000 to give out as \$800 grants for exterior restoration work. Red Cloud Economic Development has grants available for facade work on downtown businesses. Stark Barn is having fund rasiers and seeking grants/funing for a new roof. Bargains on ByWays, Bike and Build, Tank float and Writers Workshop are coming up. Red Cloud got a CLG grant to reproduce 200 residential and 100 business design guidelines for properties within in Historical Districts and on the National or Local Historic Registries.

Merrick, Rex Weller: Central City has a new Dairy Queen. The ethnol plant has new owners and will be operational in July.

Hall, Gary Quandt: Dedicated new helicopter base today; Nebraska State Fair is progressing; ten new ball fields were built including baseball, softball and soccer.

Private Business, Stuart Wilsman: Franklin's clean up day netted 25 garbage trucks of litter.

Kearney, Richard McBride: Royal Plastics celebrated 60th anniversary; they have doubled employees in last 10-18 months. Minden Machine Shop is expanding, adding 10 FTE. MAAD Days (Manufacturing and Ag Appreciation) will be in Minden the last week of July.

Harlan, Steve Waring: 600 BRAN Riders will be stopping in Alma. Alma has a Spring Spruce-up Campaign that includes an aggressive program with demolition, and seeking funds for demolition and housing rehab. There's a new ATV track by the dam at Republican City. The local Veterans put up a new Honor Wall that is Awesome! It was a good Memorial Weekend for the lake and communities. The Alma Lutheran Church is adding on. A donation for the children of Alma to put in a new park play area is nearly complete with the help of many volunteers.

Clay, Barb Barnett: Harvard has a new computerized cemetery directory and shelter. Clay Center's Fuzzy Bar is re-opening. Sutton's Truss Plant closed.

Phelps, Theresa Puls: Pat Gerdes was named Emergency Manager of the Year for Nebraska. Holdrege and Clay County are working together on 18th Street paving project. The courthouse renovation is done; the DMV was moved to Treasurer's office and Emergency Manager was moved upstairs. LB 480 money was used for Cozy Café's new awning and Sun Movie Theatre frontage. Four young couples started a partnership to purchase the Sun Movie Theatre, and it is getting others interested in partnerships in the area.

Hamilton, Clarence Trumble: Aurora Movie Theater is a great facility run by volunteers. The new ethanol plant is sitting still; the company has filed for bankruptcy. Hamilton County was awarded the #1 county in the country for raising a family. Governor was in Aurora to break ground for a 300 home housing development; phase 1 will include 57 new houses. A new day care for 100+ kids is in the works. A falling down building in the townsquare is being fixed. A Chinese couple bought the old drive inn on Hwy 34 for a restaurant. LOVE'S on I-80 has purchased an additional 40 acres, maybe for Federal Express distribution center. A new entrance to LOVE'S was constructed. Hwy 14 north of Aurora to Platte River is being resurfaced & widened. Marquette is working on new fire barn; Melissa prepared and submitted a community development block grant application.