

**South Central Economic Development District**  
**Thursday, July 30, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Board of Directors Meeting @ Deweese Community Building, Deweese, NE**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 6:40 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	Absent	Buffalo	Absent
Clay	Barb Barnett	Franklin	Jerrell Gerdes
Hall	Gary Quandt	Hamilton	Clarence Trumble
Harlan	Absent	Kearney	Absent
Merrick	Rex Weller	Nuckolls/Bs	Roger Watson
Phelps	Theresa Puls	Webster	Laura Roybal
Private Business	Absent	Private Business	Wayne Bell
Private Business	Jim Gorman	At Large	Merrill Duntz
Stkhldr Org: CCC	Bill Hitesman		

**Introductions:** Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Executive Director; Kathy Burr SCEDD Administrative Assistant; Sam Clark, and Jan Diehl, City of Superior, Superior, NE; Steve Meyer, Trailblazer RC&D, Red Cloud, NE; Pat Compton, NEDED.

**Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. Jim Gorman moved to approve the agenda. Wayne Bell seconded.

**Minutes** of May 28, 2009 Meeting were amended. Added to the Board member reports was: Barb Barnett talked about Prairie Bunker storage, and Theresa Puls said the City of Holdrege and Phelps County (not Clay County) were working together on 18<sup>th</sup> St. paving project. The amended minutes were approved unanimously with a motion from Clarence Trumble and second by Gary Quandt.

**Financial Report** dated June 30, 2009 was provided. The financial report was accepted for filing via a motion by Laura Roybal, second by Roger Watson. Motion passed. After much discussion it was decided to get three certified audit bids. The last financial year (May 2008-April 2009) is to be audited.

**Employee/Grant Reports** were provided.

**Old Business**

**Interlocal with SCEPTR for Disaster Coordinator:** Sharon informed the board that the South Central Emergency Managers are in the application process for Homeland Security funds for this project.

**Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Application(s)**

**Procurement Procedures** were provided by Sharon. Laura Roybal moved that the procedures be approved. Clarence Trumble seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Chairman Jerrell Gerdes and Secretary Wayne Bell signed the agreement.

**New Business**

**Replacement hiring of Disaster Recovery Coordinator.** Three people were interviewed and a second interview will be Aug 4, 2009 for the final candidate.

**NSP 1 Selection Process for Priority B Communities:** Sharon provided the SCEDD, Inc. NSP Demolition Program Guidelines for review and approval by the board. She explained \$300,000 will be awarded to SCEDD, up to \$160,000 for Holdrege's project and all remaining funds for Superior and/or Harvard projects. Wayne Bell moved the SCEDD, Inc. NSP Demolition Program Guidelines be approved as written. Bill Hitesman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Chairman Jerrell Gerdes signed the document.

**Board Member Reports:** See below.

**Next Meeting: Franklin County, Thursday, Sept 24, 2009.** Jerrell suggested the meeting be held at the Franklin County Museum with a catered meal.

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

**Board Member & Attendee Reports:**

**Clay, Barb Barnett:** Lots of summer storms in Clay County, hail in Harvard, Clay Center and Edgar, causing a real setback for farmers. 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Trusty Days in September in Clay Center. (Old Trusty was an incubator manufacturer.) The courthouse has new phone system. Clay County newspaper was new owners. Sheriff recall failed.

**Franklin, Jerrell Gerdes:** Nathan James buying ARC building. The Frosty Mug Drive Inn is owned by 24 year old. 2003-2005 graduates moving back to area to farm and/or start businesses. Moving Aug 17<sup>th</sup> into Franklin County Hospital \$4.1 million addition.

**Hall, Gary Quandt:** Hall County is working on their budget, which is a challenge with a new jail, event center and the State Fair.

**Hamilton, Clarence Trumble:** New day care opening in Oct. There are lots of layoffs. Trucking business on I-80 expanding. New Federal Express distribution center by LOVE's I-80. Marquette fire hall and community building moving forward. Tax valuations are going up. Hamilton county fair starts July 31.

**Merrick, Rex Weller:** Merrick County Economic Development is getting new director. The ethanol plant is going.

**Nuckolls, Roger Watson:** Superior has new business, L & S Storage built new building. City auditorium brings renovation to community. Nuckolls County soccer program started. Oak is having Oregon Trail enactment Aug 15. Have tire recycling.

**Phelps, Theresa Puls:** Privilege to be in Deweese! Great to see rural Nebraska. Sun Movie Theater has new stucco front, very pretty. Swedish days bigger than ever, Silver Run was big. There were many high school reunions same time. Excited that Holdrege received NSP funding to demolish an eye sore. Allmand Brothers took major cuts, now back to 40 hour weeks.

**Webster, Laura Roybal:** Handed out the Red Cloud newsletter, 90 copies of each issue are distributed in town with additional emails to others. Upcoming events: Street Car Days, Missoula Children Theatre, Relay for Life. There are new owners of bowling alley. Grant funding was received to reprint booklets about the historic districts.

**Stkhldr Org: CCC, Bill Hitesman:** Central Community College fall enrollment is high due to economic times. Added a new dorm so able to house 399 students, planning to be full this fall. Strategic plan for roads on campus will add 280 yds of concrete over 5-10 years. Surveying Highway 6 for student safety, added new electrical, upgrades in classrooms. The business incubator to help with new businesses is full. At Holdrege CCC will spend \$200,000 to double the space for medical courses. Have wind, solar and GF thermal projects going.

**Private Business, Wayne Bell:** Buffalo County Fair has started. New pavilion will be built for next year. Cruise Night is over. Turkey plant in Gibbon closed permanently, for sale. Ravenna has a lot of young people moving back. Vista Point sold. Strip malls in Kearney keep filling up. ESU 10 is getting stimulus money. TCBY had biggest week in 5 years, also paid biggest state sales tax check in 5 years. The Buckle warehouse is expanding in SW Kearney, adding 40 jobs.

**Private Business, Jim Gorman:** D & D Restaurant has new young owners. Riverton got a grant for a fire truck and equipment. Macon has waterfowl project-trees removed and restoration. Senior Center received a CDBG grant for renovation. Franklin will participate in the NCIP program. County fair is finished.

**At Large, Merrill Duntz:** Received great service at Speakeasy's outside Holdrege when six Clay Center golfers were coming back from SPUCC in Curtis. Next SPUCC meeting is Aug 11 in Beaver City. (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of month). Rosie Stockton is new president.

**Pat Compton, DED:** There is a new consolidated 5 year plan in place. NED needs public comment regarding how the money should be used. There will be a Housing Conference Aug 26-27. There are four potential grant awards in central region. Stimulus money available but strings attached. Groups need to work together, need more public support, be proactive, work regional, and network with other communities.

**Sam Clark & Jan Diehl, City of Superior:** Superior has new lumber yard owners. Local economical development provided a loan so owner can add a small farm store.

**Steve Meyers, Trailblazer RC & D:** Women Wilderness Weekend Aug 3-5<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen communities are getting trees for towns. Collected household hazard wastes in 7 counties.