

**South Central Economic Development District  
Thursday January 28, 2010  
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 @ Edgerton Explorit Center, Aurora, Hamilton County**

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

**Open Public Meeting:** President Jerrell Gerdes indicated that a copy of the open meetings law was duly posted in the meeting room.

**Roll Call**

Adams	Eldon Orthmann	Buffalo	Lynn Rauner
Clay	Absent	Franklin	Jerrell Gerdes
Hall	Dan Purdy	Hamilton	Clarence Trumble
Harlan	Steve Waring	Kearney	Absent
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; Christian Evans, Aurora Economic Development Director; Steve Meyer, Trailblazer RC&D Coordinator

**Agenda:**

There were no agenda additions. Approved unanimously via a consent motion from President Jerrell Gerdes.

**Minutes:**

It was moved by Jim Gorman and seconded by Clarence Trumble to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2009 meeting. Unanimous approval.

The notes from the November 19, 2009 Annual Meeting were entered into the record.

It was moved by Eldon Orthmann and seconded by Laura Roybal to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2009 Special Meeting. Unanimous Approval.

**Financial Report:**

The financial report as of December 31, 2009 was provided. The report was approved unanimously via a consent motion from President Jerrell Gerdes and filed for future audit.

**Employee/Grant Reports** were provided in written form with copies included in the official record.

**Old Business:**

**Interlocal with SCEPTR for Disaster Coordinator:** This is still in progress but a note was received from Jon Rosenlund that outlined the progress toward partnered funding. He related that Alison Raymond is doing a good job preparing for full program implementation and anticipates future success.

**New Business:**

**Executive Director Evaluation:** President Gerdes reported that 7 evaluations were returned and the results of those evaluations were shared with the board. It was moved by Laura Roybal and seconded by Clarence Trumble to retain Sharon Hueftle as SCEDD Executive Director. Unanimous Approval. It was moved by Rex Weller and seconded by Bill Hitesman to increase the Executive Director's compensation by 3%. Unanimous Approval.

**Set Annual Dues:** It was moved by Rex Weller and seconded by Jim Gorman to set county dues at \$5,000. President Gerdes requested a roll call vote. Unanimous Approval.

**Budget Approval:** After discussion about reserve funds and budgeted travel funds, it was moved by Jim Gorman and seconded by Merrill Duntz to approve the 2010 proposed budget. Unanimous Approval.

**Election of Officers:** Rex Weller represented the nominating committee and recommended to keep the current slate of officers. Eldon Orthmann declined nomination for treasurer. It was moved by Rex Weller and seconded by Clarence Trumbull to elect President Jerrell Gerdes, Vice-President Barb Barnett, and Secretary Wayne Bell. Roll call vote: Yes –Rauner, Purdy, Trumble, Waring, Weller, Puls, Watson, Roybal, Gorman, Bell, Hitesman, Duntz. Abstain – Orthmann, Gerdes. Motion was approved.

It was moved by Laura Roybal and seconded by Rex Weller to elect Theresa Puls as treasurer. Roll call vote: Yes – Orthmann, Rauner, Gerdes, Purdy, Trumble, Waring, Weller, Watson, Roybal, Gorman, Bell, Hitesman, Duntz. Abstain – Puls. Motion was approved.

**Election of Executive Committee:** It was moved by Merrill Duntz and seconded by Laura Roybal to elect the SCEDD Executive Committee consisting of Jerrell Gerdes, Barb Barnett, Wayne Bell, Theresa Puls, Jim Gorman, and Clarence Trumble. Unanimous Approval.

**Appointment of Board Member:** It was moved by Laura Roybal and seconded by Bill Hitesman to table the appointment of replacement board members until the March meeting. Unanimous Approval. Board members will recommend individuals willing to serve on the SCEDD, Inc. board.

**Discuss/Approve CDBG Capacity Building Application for Development of a SCEDD Housing Program:** It was moved by Merrill Duntz and seconded by Jim Gorman to approve CDBG capacity building application for development of a SCEDD housing program. The application would involve a request for a \$40,000 grant to hire a person to develop community surveys and write grants for communities. Hopefully this would develop into a chargeable service. Concerns were raised about space to house the person and possible duplication of services. Roll call vote: Yes – Orthmann, Rauner, Gerdes, Purdy, Trumble, Waring, Puls, Watson, Roybal, Gorman, Bell, Hitesman, Duntz. No – Weller. Motion was approved.

**Board Member Reports:** See below

**Next Meeting: Harlan County, Thursday, March 25, 2010**

**Adjourn Board Meeting:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

**Board Member and Attendee Reports:**

**Steve Meyer, Trailblazer RC&D Coordinator** reported to the council on a number of projects: Electronics waste collection; outlet for locally grown fruits and vegetables; a future DEQ grant for household hazardous waste collection; a used tire collection project; and a basic woodworking class at Sandy Creek High School.

**Christian Evans, Aurora Economic Development Director**, reported to the council on a number of projects: The opening of a community non-profit daycare center funded by private and foundation money that would have a capacity of 82 fulltime children; working on a 10 unit credits to own housing project; providing telecommunications for 300 lots in a new subdivision; non-profit group building a fourplex ball diamond; the FedEx drop relay yard plans to hire 20-40 new employees; and 153 acres purchased for a new business park working with a CDGB grant to attract high energy users – data centers.

**Adams, Eldon Orthmann:** Carmichael's purchased two buildings to renovate. The main floor is designated commercial and the second floor housing.

**Hall, Dan Purdy:** ICE seeking interest for housing non-violent offenders with families.

**Hamilton, Clarence Trumbull:** Conway Trucking is looking to double in size. The ethanol plant is scheduled to finish in 2011.

**Harlan, Steve Waring:** They are working on nuisance abatement in downtown Alma. There's a street project in place for three blocks of work. They are using a gas pooling agreement for supply options. They applied for energy assistance grants.

**Webster, Laura Roybal:** Numerous events were taking place in Webster County which includes a Willa Cather guest lecturer February 6<sup>th</sup> and a Mardi Gras luncheon February 16<sup>th</sup>. Webster County seems to be the place to be for fish fries in March. A special event is planned for Arbor Day at the Starke Round Barn.

**Phelps, Theresa Puls:** Holdrege has a new chamber director, Michele Ehresman. Flippin' Sweet Pizza moved from Bertrand to Holdrege. The Lincoln Place Development Project is doing well. They are working on energy grants for the courthouse. Two people have filed for county supervisor positions.

**Merrick, Rex Weller:** The hospital board is planning for a new hospital.

**Nuckolls, Roger Watson:** Lawrence Locomotive sold out to Superior Express (newspapers). Superior is working on a hospital expansion and raising money to refurbish the old city auditorium.

**CCC, Bill Hitesman:** There is a 17% student growth on campus. Dorms have been remodeled and are at 110% occupancy. The design technology course has increased to 35 students. The Starting Entrepreneur Center brings in 1100 high school students. They have applied for Tree Campus USA. They continue the effort to expand the Holdrege campus.