

**South Central Economic Development District
Thursday, May 27, 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 @ The Red River Steakhouse & Lounge, Minden, Kearney County

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:39 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	Dale Curtis	Buffalo	Absent
Clay	Absent	Franklin	Jerrell Gerdes
Hall	Gary Quandt	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	Jim Gorman
Stkhldr Org: UNK	Ross Taylor	Stkhldr Org: CCC	Bill Hitesman
At Large	Merrill Duntz		

Introductions: Sharon Hueftle, SCEDD Executive Director; Jodi Garrelts, SCEDD Office Manager; Rick Nelsen, NPPD; Marcy Brandt, Minden Chamber of Commerce; Pat Compton, DED; Arnold Brown, Nuckolls County

Additions to Agenda/Agenda Approval: There were no agenda additions. Approved unanimously via consent motion from President Jerrell Gerdes.

Minutes of March 25, 2010 Meeting: It was moved by Gary Quandt and seconded by Jerrell Gerdes to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 Meeting. Unanimous approval.

Minutes of March 3, 2010 Meeting: It was moved by Wayne Bell and seconded by Ross Taylor to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2010 Meeting. Unanimous approval.

Minutes of March 11, 2010 Meeting: It was moved by Theresa Puls and seconded by Merrill Duntz to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2010 Meeting. Unanimous approval.

Financial Report: President Gerdes opened the floor for comments or questions regarding the Financial Report. A question was raised by Merrill Duntz about the contract income shortage, Sharon Hueftle explained that this is due to several projects in process that have not been billed, such as Superior CNAS, \$5,000, and Cities of Harvard and Aurora for CDBG Administration totaling \$10,500. Sharon also noted there were no draws for the Partnership Planning Grant because EDA just released the contract from January for \$60,000. The financial report was filed for audit.

Employee/Grant Reports: Employee/Grant Reports were provided and included in the official record. Sharon updated the board on Melissa and Alison's activities. Melissa has been very busy with NSP and grant administration while Alison has been promoting business disaster preparedness. Alison is available to do business disaster preparedness presentations.

Old Business:

Interlocal with SCPETR for Disaster Coordinator:

The board was asked to give the Chairman authority to enter into an agreement with the South Central Planning,

Exercise and Training Region for funding that will allow SCEDD to continue the Business Disaster Recovery Coordinator position. A handout of SCPETR Grant Milestones and Funding were included in the official record. Laura Roybal gave motion to give the Chairman the authority to enter an agreement, Gary Quandt seconded. Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Jerrell Gerdes abstained to avoid a conflict of interest.

New Business:

Bid Letting for NSP 1, Superior & Harvard Structures:

At 7PM, Chairman Gerdes and Sharon Hueftle opened and read the two bids received for demolishing four structures in Superior and Harvard (refer to chart below). The contractors bid individually on the four structures as well as a discounted lump sum. It was moved by Bill Hitesman and seconded by Gary Quandt to approve the bid to the lowest responsible bidder subject to review. Motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Contractor	Individual Sum		Lump Sum	Date Received	Date Opened
Van Kirk Bros. Contracting	Project 2	\$136,000	\$425,000	5/27 4pm	5/27 7pm
	Project 3	40,000			
	Project 4	196,000			
	Project 5	63,000			
Blessing Construction	Project 2	\$325,000	\$750,000	5/27 4:50 pm	5/27 7pm
	Project 3	100,000			
	Project 4	325,000			
	Project 5	199,000			

Office space for SCEDD: Opened up for discussion were ideas for a new office space for SCEDD. Currently the SCEDD staff shares space with another agency, which has confidentiality and chaos issues. It was decided to research possible alternatives and offer new ideas via e-mail prior to the meeting in July.

Set dues for 2011: It was moved by Rex Weller and seconded by Clarence Trumble to maintain SCEDD’s annual county membership dues at \$5,000. Motion was approved.

Public Hearing on the Application for SCEDD to become a Nebraska Development Organization (NDO):

Chairman Gerdes opened a public hearing to receive comment regarding SCEDD’s application to become an NDO. Sharon explained that Economic Development Community Development Block Grants currently provide loans to businesses, and pay back of those loans (program income) is currently handled by the unit of government awarded the initial grant. Uses of program income is restricted to the same rules as the ED CDBG. If the program income is channeled through an NDO, the funds lose their original federal restrictions, which allows for more flexible use of the funds. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed. A resolution to complete the application was approved by the SCEDD board in November of 2008.

Board Member Reports: See below

Next Meeting: Merrick County, Thursday, July 29, 2010

Adjourn Board Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Board Member and Attendee Reports:

Adams, Dale Curtis: Mr. Curtis reported that the Valentino’s restaurant has reopened in Hastings; the city is looking to add a city sales tax to go towards the library, purchasing computers and road repairs.

Nuckolls, Roger Watson: Mr. Watson reported that the city of Superior has applied for a grant with the Nebraska Energy Office to renovate the auditorium. The airport in Superior is receiving improvements with larger runways after 5 years and \$2 million in funding through the Aviation Association with 5% of the cost provided locally. There is a new

business in Superior, ANZ Concrete, Landscaping Edge, LLC. Mr. Watson also reported that Governor Dave Heinemen visited Superior again this year.

Webster, Laura Roybal: Ms. Roybal reported that the Starke Round Barn in Red Cloud was named to the list of Architectural Wonders & Marvels of the United States; Cherry Estates is scheduled to open in December; Lynette Vogler of Guide Rock has been hired as administrator. Barnfest is August 21; Farmer's Market is starting tonight (May 27) and each Thursday night through October; the Public Library is raising funds by hosting a race; on Memorial Day, high school alumni will be gathering for an annual reunion. Ms. Roybal also reported that the Cather Prairie Writers Workshop was a success and that Cather Weekend will begin June 3. The Webster County Historical Museum is currently looking for a director. Heritage Highway Bargains on Byways is June 11-13. The Red Cloud Visitors Center has closed due to a lack of volunteers and the newsletter has ceased publication after 9.5 years.

Hamilton, Clarence Trumble: Mr. Trumble reported that a crew of more than 300 is completing construction of the Aventine Ethanol plant.

Merrick, Rex Weller: Mr. Weller reported that two new duplexes were constructed in Palmer; Central City is demolishing eight dilapidated residences with NSP funds; Central City is still working on new hospital and Palmer is going to get a satellite medical clinic.

TCBY, Wayne Bell: Mr. Bell reported that apartments, schools, medical facilities, houses are going up in Buffalo County; the Duck Race is back; The Cattlemen's Ball will be held June 5th; Highway 30 is under construction; Eaton's is expanding; there is a new Children's Museum; the new hospital is going up; Pawnee Indians are coming back for a Pow Wow at the Earth Lodge by the Archway; frozen treats are selling well at TCBY!

UNK, Ross Taylor: Dr. Taylor reported that there is a new global marketing lab at UNK that is available for rent to businesses and non-profits; great for focus groups with a camera, mirror, call center; the first client was an attorney preparing for a trial.

DED, Pat Compton: Ms. Compton reported that there is some difficulty with state budget shortages; the housing portion will not be affected as it is funded federally, trust funds are getting better. The last cycle for funding applications ended May 7th. SCEDD submitted an application. The awards will be announced after July 1st and DED will be doing interviews. July 31st is the deadline for the housing portion of block grants. Ms. Compton also encouraged applying for the NDO. The senate housing committee has been working on ideas for types of housing needed and what programs they qualify for. There is a demand for housing in Kearney, which makes it difficult for smaller surrounding communities (Elm Creek, Shelton, Gibbon) as people want more affordable houses in Kearney.

CCC, Bill Hitesman: Mr. Hitesman reported about the construction project at the Hastings campus; the Harlan Building (trucking center) is being expanded; seventy students are in the diesel program; Mr. Hitesman also reported that the Saratoma football team practices on the Hastings CCC campus during the week; the construction technology house built by the students sold for \$96,000; will be hosting the Nebraska Super Tech competition for professional heavy truck technicians. Nebraska Machinery will receive the Nebraska Department of Education's 2010 Outstanding Business/Industry Partnership Award at the June 10th annual Nebraska Career Education Conference in Kearney. They have an interlocal agreement with the Hastings High School and as the auto mechanic instructor is retiring, the high school students will earn up to 12 credit hours in the Automotive Technology program, this could possibly expand to other programs and hopefully opportunities for other high schools in the area.

Phelps, Theresa Puls: Ms. Puls reported that Bruning State Bank and Lincoln Place are at a standstill with water problems from the rain. Priscilla's changes a little bit everyday—asbestos inspection going on. Ms. Puls also reported that a big Swedish Days is planned this year beginning on June 18th; Holdrege has an enthusiastic chamber director.

Hall, Gary Quandt: Mr. Quandt reported the traveling Vietnam Memorial will come to Grand Island on July 4th; Grand Island will host the State Fair from August 27 to September 6. Mr. Quandt said it is everyone's fair and it is going to take everyone to make it work.

Harlan, Steve Waring: Mr. Waring reported that Harlan Co. is looking to add half percent sales tax; this issue will go on the ballot. Mr. Waring also reported that the county was awarded a grant for a street project and just let bids on one; they have also applied for a recycling grant to demolish a building.

Private Business, Jim Gorman: Mr. Gorman reported the Franklin County Museum is having pancake feed fundraising event from Saturday (May 29) through Monday (Memorial, May 31).

NPPD, Rick Nelsen: Mr. Nelsen reported that a power line is going up from Axtell and will extend past Franklin; the engineer has set up shop in Minden; possible peak of 175 construction workers at the start of 2011. Mr. Nelsen also reported that there has been ground breaking on 16 duplex units in Minden.

Minden Chamber, Marcy Brandt: Ms. Brandt reported that Minden has a full time Economic Development Director, Kearney Co. has hired a part-time director, Laurel Thorell. Ms. Brandt also reported that a new Minden logo will be rolled out this summer and it is the 10th Anniversary of the Opera House.

At Large, Merrill Duntz: Mr. Duntz reported that Clay Center is excited for its Fourth of July activities. Also, the Trailblazer RC&D is sponsoring Women's Wilderness Weekend at the 4-H Camp at Harlan County Lake in August.

Franklin, Jerrell Gerdes: President Gerdes reported that Franklin is fighting the struggle of lots of little towns. On May 10th, the local motel locked its doors and cancelled any scheduled reservations during alumni or memorial activities. The motel is up for sale at \$275,000. Franklin also lost a popular five and dime store that went on to have an unfortunate low sale. Ten thousand Matchbox cars are available in Franklin as a new business opened, and the Chamber and Development groups are looking to become active again. President Gerdes also reported that Franklin is concerned about the population in the upcoming census. Franklin has 147 houses with only one occupant, most of those elderly. Sales at the grocery store are down because everyone is driving north all of the time.

Sharon also reported that over 100 people attended the Watchable Wildlife Workshops. People are excited for the economic potential of watchable wildlife and nature tourism. It's a \$46 billion dollar annual industry in the United States, passing hunting at \$22 billion and fishing at \$44 billion. Ms. Hueftle also reported that Red Cloud is starting an EDGE Coalition and Holdrege will hold an EDGE class in the fall.

Ms. Hueftle invited everyone to attend the Public Meetings Workshop to be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney on June 17th.