

SouthEast (Nebraska) Resource Network (SERN)
Minutes from SERN Meeting
October 20, 2016
Auburn, NE

Hosted by Kim Beger and Stephanie Fisher, Auburn Development Council
Facilitated by Craig Eberle, SENDD

28 individuals were present for the business meeting including the following: Marguerite Himmelberg (Southeast Community College), Craig Eberle (Southeast Nebraska Development District – Lincoln/Bradshaw), Deb Lewis (American National Bank), Kim Beger (City of Auburn), Keith Ellis (NPPD), Kendall Comstock (BCM Solutions), Rick Janssen (Engles Agency), Jason Esser (OPPD), Holly Carr (Southeast Community College), Luann Brown (Rural Development), Crystal Dunekacke (Southeast NE Development District), Diane Wettstein (Thayer County Economic Development), Marilyn Schlake (UNL Extension), Roger McCullough (University of Nebraska-Omaha), Brook Aken (OPPD), Cheryl Brandenburgh (Black Hills Energy), Ray Ringlein (Senator Ben Sasse office), Ryan Kramer (Unite Private Networks), Janelle Moran (Center for Rural Affairs), Tim Borchers (Peru State College), Patt Lentfer (Fillmore County Development), Jennifer Olds (Peter Kiewit Foundation), Dan Mauk (City of Nebraska City), Dave Taladay (Taladay and Associates), Jim Ulrich (City of Plattsmouth), Charles Jones (City of Plattsmouth), Keith Carl (Hanna:Keelan Associates), Stephanie Fisher (ADC),

Welcome/Regular Business

Called to order at 10:10 A.M. by Craig Eberle, SERN Chair. Auburn City Council member Rick Janssen and Auburn Development Council Chair Stephanie Fisher welcomed attendees to the City of Auburn. Stephanie Fisher provided a brief overview of projects and programs that are currently underway in the City of Auburn.

Craig Eberle then provided an initial orientation to everyone in attendance on the meeting agenda and format.

A. Treasurers Report

Chair Eberle directed the attendees to the treasurer's report that was included in the meeting packet. The current balance in the general fund is \$1,144.10. The treasurers report was accepted as presented.

B. Acceptance of Minutes

Minutes from the previous SERN meeting (August 25, 2016) in York were distributed with the meeting packet and posted on the SENDD website www.sendd.org. No corrections were suggested from the attendees. The previous meeting minutes were accepted as written.

C. Other Items

Craig invited SERN members to volunteer to host a quarterly SERN meeting for the 2017 calendar year.

Round Table Updates – Resource Providers & Community Updates

Ray Ringlein (Ben Sasse Office) – Senator Ben Sasse has 2 arms: The D.C. Staff focused on policy & legislation, while the state staff focus centers on constituent service, helping Nebraska families & businesses navigate problems they experience with federal agencies. Asked for SERN reps to send Health Insurance concerns to their attention.

Janelle Moran (REAP) – Continue online marketing workshops across the state, if interested in bringing it to communities – please let her know. Small business loans up to \$150,000.00 continue offering Quick Books assistance to REAP Clients.

Kim Beger (ADC City of Auburn) – Airport ribbon cutting tomorrow October 21, 2016. Paved runway, taxi ways and new hanger. Nemaha County leadership class. The dog park just passed by City Council. CDBG Downtown Revitalization is underway with over \$400,000 in funding to help façade improvements to the two business district buildings.

Stephanie Fisher (ADC) – Stephanie is the Chair of the Auburn Development Council. She welcomed everyone to Auburn.

Ryan Kramer (Unite Private Networks) – Fiber Optics. Nebraska is their most developed state. Work with schools and large enterprises

Holly Carr (Falls City SCC) – Adding classes. Getting facility up and running. Shared information on the program.

Cheryl Brandenburgh (Black Hills Energy) – Black Hills Energy will be exhibiting at the metal fabrication show in November. We are hosting Location One information training on how to do your sites and buildings. This training will be sat York – October 27, at 10:00 A.M., see me if you have any questions. We attended the Industrial Asset Management Council in Indy with a focus on transportation, logistics, data centers and manufacturing.

Marguerite Himmelberg (SCC) – Neb City august open Cindy Meyer. 3 classrooms. Ribbon cutting Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 2. ESL classes, CNA, beginning Spanish, Excel. Winter – business, English comp, American history. Plattsmouth Wed Oct 26 at 4. Finishing touches on renovated historic building. SENCAP Career Academy Partnership. Local high school – active. Lean 6 sigma green belt classes have begun. Additional courses will be offered, open to public or customized for individual businesses.

Diane Wettstein (Thayer County Economic Development Alliance) – Oct 3 start ED of Thayer County Economic Development. Meeting area business. Hebron – Daylight doughnuts. Bar and Grill opening – Nov 1. Daycare opening in December. Replace existing business – café in December due to retirement. Working with Extension to work with youth.

Charles Jones (Plattsmouth Main Street Association) – RV Campground pending development on Missouri River. Branding study nearing final stage. SCC grand opening of training center to be held October 26, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

Jim Ulrich (Plattsmouth Main Street Association President) – Development of 2nd story housing. Planning – developing 2 apartments over an historic business, 2 other projects under development. Completed 2 months past – 2K square ft. loft similar to Haymarket/Old Market.

Brook Aken (OPPD) – Serve communities is 6 SERN counties – Lois training. Free demographic reports even if there isn't a location in your community. Involved with SET process. Rural Renaissance event coming up next month.

Dan Mauk (Nebraska City EDC) – Rural Renaissance. Updating Blight Study. VF Mall Site will be vacant – 2 local owners purchased facility – now to be included for TIF utilization. Hotel developers looking for opportunities in the community. LB 840 – up for renewal, voter education as part of public awareness campaign. Demonstrating the usefulness of the tax for ED in the community. Revised plans to include workforce housing. Developers looking for opportunities for housing development. SCORE mentor associated with the Lincoln Chapter – looking to provide resources for small businesses.

Roger McCullough (Nebraska Business Development Center) – SE 30 million for clients – federal funds awarded to area businesses. Sam.gov registration. Locate solicitations, bidding process and execution of contract. News – Bob Renier 40 year director is retiring, Catherine Lang is new director. (DED/D of Labor). Nov 4 in Omaha – UNO 2nd annual “Meet the Buyer” event. Federal, state and communities agencies to meet businesses who want to sell products and services.

Luann Brown (USDA Rural Development) – Rural Development is continuing to hold town hall meetings to inform public about direct guaranteed housing which is at its lowest rate. Business programs has relending programs for communities and energy loans/grants, REAP program and many business and energy loans and grants. Multi-family has guaranteed money for multifamily complexes. Community programs has both loan/grant fund for both community facilities and water/sewer programs. Project that we have helped fund in this area were grant State Theater, Auburn library and sewer plant in Auburn. Also completed water lines for Richardson County RWD #1 to Humboldt, Nebraska City center for children and families. Working on application grant for new ambulance in Falls City.

Dave Taladay (Taladay and Associates) – Former SENDD Director. Recently resigned as Executive Director of Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) from 1980 to 2016. Starting private consulting for affordable housing, community development and economic development.

Marilyn Schlake (UNL Extension) – Conducting *Marketing Hometown America* in Seward County with Milford, Utica, Beaver Crossing, Bee, Garland and Seward. Will start the program in York County in January. Entrepreneurship *Best Practices Summit*, November 17, 2016. Holding *Youth Inventure Days*, today, October 20, 2016 in York, and November 2, 2016 in Arlington and November 7, 2016 in Deshler. 4-H is looking for volunteers to help with the 4-H state Lego Competition on January 7, 2016 in Nebraska City. Also looking for sponsors for an upcoming Makerfest – Deb Wietzenkemp is contact. (Stem education-activities)

Keith Carl (Hanna:Keelan) – Planner throughout state. Busy across state and Midwest in comp planning and housing study. Comp plan and housing study for PC. DTR plan for Beatrice. Assisting Nebraska City with redevelopment planning with updated TIF recommendations. Attended NIFA workforce housing forum – Major employers face challenges as lack of housing causes employee shortages.

Jen Olds (Peter Kiewit Foundation) – Peter Kiewit foundation is a private Philanthropic trust in Nebraska, whom makes grants to support projects that support youth pathways, economic growth and strong & vibrant communities. We have a quarterly grant cycle, with the next applications being accepted by January 15, 2017. Contact the foundation to inquire about grant applications.

Pat Lentfer (Fillmore County Development Corporation) – New curtains in Geneva Auditorium (101 years old) – city Rialto Theater and Geneva Arts Council. An El Molcajete Mexican Restaurant opening on Thursday in Geneva. Housing Development in Shickley, Nebraska – 15 lots. Pool project in Geneva was started in August with completion expected in June 2017. Fortigen Geneva, LLC is in the midst of construction in Geneva, set to open spring 2017. Leadership for Fillmore City started in September 16, participants Career Industry Day for Junior high school students in September.

Keith Ellis (NPPD) – ED out of Lincoln – future of manufacturing – 4th industrial revolution. Technology – hearing aid industry total change in 500 days to 3D printing, changes happen fast with technology. Impact on rural America of technology – looking for role of rural America. NPPD marketing for dairy and poultry industry. Regen 2017 projects. Support for communities for strategic planning.

Deb Lewis (American National Bank) – Regional Manager representing Falls City, Fairbury, Nebraska City, Humboldt, Tecumseh and Elk Creek which is a SBA preferred lender. Elk Creek with Niocore will have housing needs.

Craig Eberle (SENDD) – Currently serving as Interim Director the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD). SENDD serves 15 counties in Southeast Nebraska. Discussed role of SERN as well as provided a Summary of SENDD program and services. Currently managing SEND Inc., with a goal of building a de-federalized regional revolving loan fund pool for the 15 county area.

Crystal Dunekacke (SENDD-Humboldt Office) – Crystal is serving as the Community Development Specialist for the southeast portion of the SENDD territory. Her office is located in Humboldt. She is also involved locally as the Mayor of the City of Humboldt.

Community and Business Spotlights

Marilyn Schlake & SET Team Members (SET – Stronger Economies Together)

Marilyn Schlake is the CVI Extension Educator with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has been working with the P4P group on the SET process. The SET process includes the counties of Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson. Marilyn, along with other members of the SET committees provided an update to the group on the SET process to date, and where the process will go from here.

Kendall Comstock, Bcom Solutions – Auburn

Kendall is the Chief Operating Officer for Bcom Solutions. Bcom Solutions is a digital marketing company that works with politicians, nonprofits, advocacy groups and small businesses to deliver impactful, results-driven digital solutions. This includes social media, website design, e-mail marketing and targeted advertising. Bcom Solutions employs seven people, and is headquartered out of Auburn.

LUNCH – EI Portal

Adjourn SERN Business Meeting

The SERN Business Meeting was adjourned.

Feature Presentation and Tour – Ariens Company

The meeting concluded with tours of Ariens Company facility for SERN meeting attendees. These tours were conducted by Cliff Barley and Jared Gerdes.