

SouthEast (Nebraska) Resource Network (SERN)  
Minutes from SERN Meeting  
June 19, 2013  
Falls City  
Hosted by Becky Cromer  
Facilitated by Jen Olds

31 individuals present for Business meeting including the following: Melissa Hansen (Village of Union), Julie Taylor-Costello (Peru State), Ron Snyder (Southeast Community College), Jim Ulrich (Plattsmouth Main Street Association), Charles Jones (Plattsmouth Main Street Association), Vicki Huddleston (Plattsmouth Main Street Association), Tim McDermott (Saline County Commissioner), Roger Meeks (USDA Rural Development), Eric Barr (Main Street Falls City/ Chamber Fall City), Elizabeth Chase (Nebraska Main Street), Kevin Burnison (SENDDD Humboldt), Lisa Beethe (SENDDD Humboldt), Deb Lewis (American National Bank), Nick Harling (American National Bank), Troy Gagner (NMPP/MEAN), Bob Jones (NDED Housing), Ray Ringlein (U.S Senator Johanns Office), Stephanie Shrader (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation), Beckie Cromer (Falls City EDGE), Janelle Moran ( REAP- Tecumseh), Roberta Pinkerton (OPPD), Paula Rhian (Excel Development), Lynn Kohout (NE DED – Business Development), Rod Armstrong (AIM Lincoln), Carla Rhodd (Falls City Edge), Timothy Hersh (Falls City Mayor), Gary Jorn (Falls City Clerk), Imelda Catalan (REAP Grand Island), Michael Foutch (SBA), Jen Olds (SENDDD Lincoln) Emily Bausch (SENDDD Lincoln)

Called to order at 10:03am by Jen Olds chair of SERN. Jen welcomed attendees to the Personal Care Center in Falls City noted the format of the meeting and discussed the member sign-in sheet.

SERN is a regional group, resource providers working to connect with communities. Meetings are held quarterly in different areas of the southeast region. This is the second meeting of 2013.

**Treasures Report** – No changes in the treasury, beginning and ending balance is \$1,072.99. No receipts or expenditures. SERN open to conducting additional strategic planning activities such as the local elected officials training held a few years ago.

**Minutes** of the March 20, 2013. Quarterly meeting were approved as presented on the SENDDD website [www.sendd.org](http://www.sendd.org) .

Host of SERN Beckie Cromer welcome members to the Southeastern corner of the state. She explained the renovation of the Personal Care Center building. It was previously an old gas station and now a newly renovated business.

Beckie introduced Mr. Tim Hersh Mayor of Falls City. Mayor Hersh welcomed everyone to Falls City. He is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Falls City citizen. He noted his goal to bring in new business and new jobs to Falls City. He also highlight some new improvements include the new library, new aquatic center, and new hospital. He discussed the CDGB industrial site development on south side of Falls City. Mayor Hersh noted that “People come to Falls City because it feels like home.”

Presentation: Michael Foutch from the US Small Business Administration gave a presentation on SBA loans. SBA guaranteed loans are available for small business to start and grow. More than \$87 million in loan volume has been approved since October 1, 2012. That's helped businesses across the state create 1,200 new jobs and keep 2,100 jobs in the state. The SBA's small loan advantage offers up to \$350,000 with up to an 85% guarantee for lenders to encourage them to continue to make access to capital available to local businesses to do contract work with local, state and federal government using a signed contract purchase agreement and inventory for up to \$5,000 million in working capital.

- Small Loan Advantage - \$350,000 guarantee fixed maturity with no balloon payments
- CAPLines Program finance small business working capital \$5million guarantee
- 504 Loan Program – Economic Development loan that requires job creation

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## Round Table Updates

Elizabeth Chase (Nebraska Main Street) - Nebraska Main Street has incorporated into the Nebraska Main Street Network, Inc. the premier level will still be the Main Street Designated community and we will continue to expand and grow the Associate member level and open participation to individuals and professionals. We always encourage new communities to join us. The Nebraska Main Street network board had its first official meeting last week and will have a planning retreat in July. I (Elizabeth) encourage everyone to participate in our regular training webinars. Non-member are welcome to attend. The webinars are done in partnership with Southeast Community College and held in our designated and associate member communities. We had almost 100 participants at our first one and over 40 at the last one.

Eric Barr (Main Street/Chamber Falls City) – Falls City will be hosting our Annual Cobblestone Festival on August 23-25<sup>th</sup>. We are also in the process of nominating downtown Falls City as a historic district. Also a committee has been formed and will be starting fund raising soon for a John P. Falter Gallery in downtown.

Roger Meeks (USDA Rural Development) – USDA RD Continues to have Housing, Community, Facilities and Water/Wastewater monies available for communities.

Lisa Beethe (SENDD Humboldt) – SENDD has been working on New Applications for CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation for Pawnee City & Falls City. Additionally, SENDD has been working with the City of Peru on a CDBG Public Works application for Park Avenue.

Kevin Burnison (SENDD Humboldt) – SENDD staff will be attend the 4 state conference and discuss the Statewide CEDs, there may be a needs assessment to be completed with Federal funding. SENDD is watching federal and state budget for future opportunities. I am here to listen in on the social media discussion.

Nick Harling (American National Bank) –American National Bank continues to look for lending opportunities in Southeast Nebraska. American National Bank is a SBA preferred lender.

Deb Lewis (Regional Manager American National) – Ms. Lewis was introduced to the group by Nick Harling.

Troy Gagner (NMPP/MEAN) – NMPP/MEAN is hosting an economic development resource partners meeting in Lincoln on August 6-7, 2013. NMPP/MEAN will continue to provide fiscal

impact analysis assistance for economic development projects. MEAN is looking to develop a key accounts program for MEAN communities.

Bob Jones (NDED Housing) – The annual cycle applications are currently being scored. CDBG Owner Occupied Housing rehabilitation pre-applications have been received.

Ray Ringlein (U.S Senator Mike Johanns Office) – Senate discussions have been or will be focused on issues related to the Farm Bill, Immigration and the implementation of the affordable healthcare act.

Stephanie Shrader (Nebraska City Area Economic Development Corporation) – Nebraska City held the unveiling of the 'Enchanted Arboretum' in April and Public Auction at Arbor Lodge will be on September 28 with a ribbon cutting at Lourdes Central High School. Ground breaking for new Saint Mary's hospital happened in May. Completed site selector visits in May, and been working on Downtown 2<sup>nd</sup> story living. The North Industrial Site has a sewer line extension. South East Partners for Progress are holding training for Industries; leadership boot camp, blue print reading, and CNC training.

Janelle Moran (REAP) – REAP continues to provide assistance with Business Plan development, micro loans up to \$50,000 and various training throughout the state.

Roberta Pinkerton (OPPD) – Midwest Transmission Project – 345 KV transmission line – Nebraska City station to Sibley MO final route will be selected announcement end of June/early July after a Public Hearing. Stakeholder engagement Public meetings will be next week Humboldt, Nebraska City, Louisville, Ashland, North Bend in Southeast area. Upcoming Events; NCCE (Chamber Event) – August 14-16, 2013 in Lexington and Omaha NEDA September 18-20, 2013.

Paula Rhian (Excel Development) – City Impact Homes (Lincoln) LIHTC had its ribbon cutting on May 29. We are working on some market rate rental and for sale project.

Lynn Kohout (NDED Business Development) – Continuing to focus on BR&E visits and working with communities on LOIS development. DED new field staff; Business Recruitment Manager position will be opening. Pat Compton has joined the field staff team. Field staff may have remapping. The Business Retention and Expansion visits focus on shorter survey. Continue to encourage LOIS updates for sites and building. The Cluster Development Manufacturing areas lead by Linda Black with Whitney Bumgarner and Jacob Knutson (a new hire). Intern Nebraska Program has opened up programs to all college student and community college increased funding for Pell students.

Rod Armstrong (AIM Lincoln) – AIM and other project partners are sponsoring the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual broadband Connection Nebraska conference in Kearney on October 16-17. Businesses or organizations interested in driving adoption of broadband services for community and economic development should plan to attend. Details will available at: [www.broadband.nebraska.gov](http://www.broadband.nebraska.gov)

Carla Rhodd (Falls City Edge/Chamber) – Falls City is hosting a Downtown Rehabilitation project ribbon cutting.

Gary Jorn (Falls City Administrator) – The City moved to a new location from 1820 Towle to 2307 Barada. The City is working on several infrastructure improvements; Airport upgrades, Well Project, Industrial track and Electric upgrades.

Ron Snyder (Southeast Community College) – Announced his retirement.

Jim Ulrich (President Plattsmouth Main Street) – Plattsmouth hosted a Main street training session on volunteerism. There were 40-50 individuals that attended and fundraising presented by Todd Barnarn of National Main Street program about 50 attended. Session was followed by a tour of Main Street.

Vicki Huddleston (Plattsmouth Main Street Association) – Gathering information for client who wants to join & open new business in Plattsmouth, Alex Perricci, they are looking at a Museum/education center/store. Plattsmouth Main Street Association is looking at next event– “Shop Early/Shop Locally– Christmas in July”. Plattsmouth Main Street Association is working wounded warrior project.

Charles Jones (Plattsmouth Main Street Association) - Discussed upper floor housing needs. A new HyVee store has arrived. The Entertainment Plaza has events. The Downtown Façade improvements are taking place. The street scape downtown has changed with LED street lights, 66 storefronts and trying to sustain the business in downtown.

Tim McDermott (Saline County Commissioner) – This is Tim’s first Introduction to SERN. Tim is a new Saline County Commissioner.

Melissa Hanson (Village of Union) – Union has been involved in revitalization efforts with the Technical Assistants to Brownfield (TAB) through Kansas State University. We are in the process of prioritizing projects to sustain the community in the future; Civic center, Main Street Program, Agri-tourism efforts, business site preparation. Want town cleaned up want business and looking for future development.

Imelda Catalan (REAP Hispanic Business Center) – Based out of Grand Island covering Southeast Nebraska. REAP offers technical assistance, lending up to \$50,000, trainings to start-ups or existing businesses.

Jen Olds (SEND) – SEND has a 15 county membership and offers grant writing and grant administration. SEND is working of Housing applications for OOR; York, Geneva, Nebraska City, Crete, Deshler, Hebron and Dorchester, DPA; Thayer County and Seward County, and working on Community Investment and Stabilization for Plattsmouth and Nebraska City. Public Works projects Wastewater Project in Janssen and Alexandria. SEND also assisted with the York Community Center grant application.

#### Community Spotlight

Beckie Cromer (Falls City Edge) – Discussed how Fall City is tapping into resources including: SENCA IDA Account “savings account”, Intern Nebraska, Southeast Nebraska Communications REDLEG, CDBG Re-Use and Market Rate Homes. One of the CDGB Projects is the loop railroad site 2 million in local contractors. Regionally Fall City is working with a worker training grant.

#### Feature Presentation

Juile Taylor Costello Director for the Institute for Community Engagement (ICE)

Emily Bausch (SEND) – Code Enforcement Presentation –Slide show attached.