

SouthEast (Nebraska) Resource Network (SERN)
Minutes from SERN Meeting
August 21, 2013
Seward
Hosted by Jonathan Jank
Facilitated by Jen Olds

31 individuals present for Business meeting includes the following: Dennis Kahl (Seward County UNL Extension), Brooke Robbins & Linda Hartman (Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center), Roger Meeks (USDA Rural Development), Keith Ellis (NPPD) Diane Garsky (Seward County Commissioner & Seward County Economic Development Corporation Board), Jeremy Voss (Thayer County Economic Development Alliance), Elizabeth Chase (Nebraska Main Street Network), Ray Ringlein (Senator Johanns Office), Pat Coldiron (Seward Chamber Director), Jim Keeler (University of Nebraska Lincoln Agriculture Economics & Broadband Institute), Alan Richard (Pawnee City Economic Development), Patt Lentfer (Fillmore County Development Corporation), Doug Watts (Wahoo Economic Development), , Ann Underwood (Home Real Estate & Seward County Economic Development Corporation) Becky Whitehead (Black Hills Energy), Monica Braun (Rural Enterprise Assistance Project Women's Business Center), Imelda Catalan (Rural Enterprise Assistance Project Hispanic Business Center), Milan Wall & Kurt Mantonya (Heartland Center for Leadership Development), Bob Jones (Nebraska Department of Economic Development Housing), Lisa Beethe, Emily Bausch, & Jen Olds (Southeast Nebraska Development District- Humboldt & Lincoln), Mike Luebbe & Mary Koci (Seward County Commissioner), Paula Rhian (EXCEL Development Group), Lisa Hurlly (York County Development Corporation), Allison Hatch & Lynn Kohout (Nebraska Economic Development – Business Development), Becky Hanna (HannaKeelen Associates), Max Kathol (City of Crete Economic Development).

Called to order at 9:05 am by Jen Olds Chair of SERN. Jen welcomed attendees to the Civic Center in Seward noted the format of the meeting and discussed the member sign-in sheet.

Host: Jonathan Jank (Seward County Economic Development Corporation) – SCEDC is working on a Seward County Housing study, the Seward/ Lincoln Regional rail campus (information at www.sewardrailcampus.com), and the Unite 16 program (www.unite16ceo.com). The City of Seward voters just passed a renewal and expansion of their LB840 Economic Development Program (www.voteallthreeyes.com). For more information on Seward visit www.sewardregional.com

Treasures Report – No changes in the treasury. Beginning and ending balance is \$1,072.99. No receipts or expenditure.

Minutes of the June 2013 meeting are posted on the SENDD website www.sendd.org

Round Table Updates

Dennis Kahl (Seward County UNL Extension) – Unite 16: CED through RFI grants, Seward County Economic Development Corporation and Seward County Begins in August. Unite 16 leadership through UNL Extension is recruiting now. Broadband Connecting Nebraska regional plans, October 16-17, 2013 Broadband conference Kearney. ECap research grant with 4 communities to build entrepreneurial communities. RFI conference November 3.5, at the Cornhusker Marriot in Lincoln.

Brooke Robbins & Linda Hartman (Southeast Community College Entrepreneurship Center) – The business incubator is experiencing turnover as the group of existing businesses graduated and new businesses start the program. The Center director accepted a job in California so the Center is experiencing a transition. The Center is rolling out a new coaching series called Business Design. There has been an added site to the Nebraska Business Development Center which allows the Center to help more businesses and help businesses gain funding.

Roger Meeks (USDA Rural Development) – At the end of the funding year, continuing to look for projects for next year and beyond. MINK was invited to the **National Center for Greatness Regional this year**. There will be a “smart community” round table in Kearney afternoon of October 17. The round table discussion will take place immediately after the Broad Band Conference in Kearney.

Keith Ellis (NPPD) – Food exporting webinar is August 29, NTL site consultant training October 28-20, 2013. Metal Fabrication company opportunity and trade show will be in November. January is when the internal poultry processing show is. NPPD’s entrepreneurial efforts includes: NPPD survey and study, service providers and “on stop business” the City Offices can use electronic survey to assess need of service provider. The goal is to maximize existing resources.

Diane Garsky (Seward County Commissioner & Seward County Economic Development Corporation Board) – Welcomed the group to Seward County.

Jeremy Voss (Thayer County Economic Development Alliance) – TCEDA received a JOBS grant for industry and to show other sides of manufacturing. There are 2 entrepreneurial grants for one for an Estate sale business and a Spa.

Elizabeth Chase (Nebraska Main Street Network) – The Nebraska Main Street Network is up and functioning. Continue to take membership from communities who want to join the Nebraska Main street network. Talk to Elizabeth Chase to schedule a time for her to come to your community. Nebraska Main Street Network is looking for additional board members if you’re interested or knows anyone, please let Elizabeth know. The fall webinar will be on “How to structure building redevelop + rehab” Jeff Siegler of Ohio Main Street will be the speaker. He has a strong background in redevelopment.

Ray Ringlein (Senator Johanns Office) – Senator Mike Johanns has been traveling throughout Nebraska during August holding town hall meetings and round table on topics ranging from Veterans in business to health care and agriculture.

Pat Coldiron (Seward Chamber Director) – Pat welcomed the group to Seward. There have been \$10 million dollar improvement project at the assisted living center, also a 9 hanger addition to the airport, over half million dollar addition to the theatre, and new art gallery, Jones Bank, and Old Church Community Theater.

Jim Keeler (University of Nebraska Lincoln Agriculture Economics & Broadband Institute) – State wide survey coming in early September to all business in Nebraska. The Broadband Institute will be calling Economic Developers in the state to work with business on broadband usage. Also Marilyn Schlake will be sending information on the affordable care act, and will be launching website is focused on rules and regulations divided by business type.

Alan Richard (Pawnee City Economic Development) – Main street store fronts are being worked on, working on annexation and a TIF project. C.J. Foods is looking at doing another expansion. Housing meeting with builder with 84 Lumber NIFA for financing single family 1200 square feet houses. The airport is looking at new taxi area. MINK meeting will be September 12.

Patt Lentfer (Fillmore County Development Corporation) – City of Geneva extended water and sewer in the Industrial site. Geneva Bank is nearly finished with renovation and expansion. Bank remodel and renovation will be done in October. FCDC did a Business Retention Expansion survey with manufacturing. The High School career day will include Industry and Business tours on September 25th. Shickley Community Building will be finished in October. Eddies station in Geneva is now the office for the Chamber. Metal Tech Partners built and addition in Geneva they supply parts for Lexicon.

Doug Watts (Wahoo Economic Development) – Wahoo just completed a community survey. Wahoo Economic Development is working on a strategic plan. They are beginning their BRE interviews and are working on Community re-certification process. Omaha Steel began pouring a new entrance from Lake Wanhoo. The new Expressway is complete.

Mary Koci (Seward County Commission) – The Seward County Commissioners continue to work to encourage new development in Seward County.

Ann Underwood (Home Real Estate & Seward County Economic Development Corporation) – Pleased to host the SERN group in Seward County.

Becky Whitehead (Black Hills Energy) –There is a new service technician in Seward – Paul Becker. BHE is features information about Natural Gas vehicles. The vehicles wrapped with logo for marketing. BHE weatherization program looks to assist elderly and low income to offer assistance with weatherization items.

Monica Braun (Rural Enterprise Assistance Project Women’s Business Center) -Collaboration in UNL Extension and local Economic Development organization to hold Social Media training. There will be Business Plan Basics class starting in Broken Bow in September. QuickBooks training classes continue the class can provide some individual technical assistance to small business owners. REAP continues to make loans to business. Imelda Catalan the Hispanic Business specialist works in Crete, York, and Nebraska City.

Imelda Catalan (Rural Enterprise Assistance Project Hispanic Business Center) – Working on loans in Nebraska City and Crete.

Milan Wall (Heartland Center for Leadership Development) – Working on Project with Central Community College, Columbus Campus, to implement Hometown Competitiveness (HTC) in Greeley, Sherman, and Valley Counties. Also partnering with NU on two Rural Futures grants and hosting upcoming webinars on people Attraction.

Kurt Mantonya (Heartland Center for Leadership Development) Working with Internships for community volunteers and service projects. Red cloud offered clean up days and repainting house helping to building community pride. Holdrege worked on rebranding project and made a YouTube video. Heartland is hosting two webinar “Recruitment and Community Development” and “Disaster Recovery”.

Bob Jones (Nebraska Department of Economic Development Housing) – The Community Development Block Grant Owner Occupied Rehabilitation application awards notifications will be announced soon. Applications were more than double of last year. Requests were about \$4.5 million and less than \$2 million available for award the applications 4.6million in requests.

Lisa Beethe (Southeast Nebraska Development District- Humboldt) – SENDD is available to assist communities with planning activities and needs identifications. Notify SENDD if you are interested in starting planning activities, fall and winter a good time to start planning. SENDD Performance reports copies are available if you have need additional copies. SENDD Humboldt is currently assisting Peru, Auburn and Stella with owner occupied housing rehabilitation projects and a Downtown Revitalization project in Auburn – storefront enhancements.

Mike Luebbe (Seward County Commissioner) – Support Seward County Economic Development.

Paula Rhian (EXCEL Development Group) – EXCEL has four newly constructed homes in Seward that are market rate. They have six newly constructed homes in Broken Bow with DPA. EXCEL is working with a Bank in Waverly for renovations.

Lisa Hurly (York County Development Corporation) – The York Convention Center is under construction and opening in the fall of 2014. BRE push the goal for around 50 BRE visits by the end of the year. YCDC is working on site development. Pioneer and Cyelonaer expansion are both under construction. YCDC is working on LB840 planning and development.

Allison Hatch (Nebraska Development Economic Development) – The InternNE program will be undergoing significant changes this fall. We are developing a Qualified Action Plan that will go out for public comment soon and the final QAP will be provided to the Governor for his approval late September and the changes will take effect October 1st.

Lynn Kohout (Nebraska Development Economic Development) – Nebraska Diplomats weekend is September 20-21, 2013 (Business Recruitment event). Field staff focuses on LOIS (Location One Information System) and BR&E visits (Business Retention and Expansion).

Becky Hanna (HannaKeelen Associates) – HannaKeelan is working on a housing study for Seward County. They are also working on an update for Crete's comprehensive plan.

Max Kathol (City of Crete Economic Development) –The Economic Development Director is a new position to Crete and is newly created. Crete will be working on a ground up approach to the community "have to start somewhere". Ongoing opportunities: Crete is looking at its first TIF project and program setup, Comprehensive plan update, a \$33 million school bond for a new high school the vote will be September 10th.

Jen Olds (Southeast Nebraska Development District - Lincoln) – SENDD has a 15 county membership and offers grant writing and grant administration and is a Certified Economic Development District. SENDD has a Business Loan Specialist whom offices from Lincoln and Bradshaw. Recently, the Cities of Plattsmouth and Nebraska City were awarded a CBDG CIS – Planning grant for Phase I. The CIS project is Comprehensive Needs assessment strategy. Fillmore County Down payment assistance program has been funded from DED. SENDD submitted 10 OOR housings Application. SENDD also assisted with grant applications in Dorchester for Public Works Drainage and the York Civic Center.

Emily Bausch (Southeast Nebraska Development District - Lincoln) – SENDD has several communities working on Nuisance Enforcement/Abatement programs.

Feature Presentation:

Bethany Blackburn – Unite 16: Community Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO): Seward County received a grant through the Rural Futures Institute that is based out of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. This grant enables Seward County Economic Development Corporation and UNL Extension in Seward County to develop an entrepreneurship training program, Unite 16: CEO. This program will equip high school students with the necessary tools to strengthen their skills in entrepreneurship, leadership, and networking. The program, geared toward high school sophomores and juniors, will include 27 students total with all three school districts in Seward County participating (Centennial, Milford, and Seward). For more information, please visit the program website at: www.unite16ceo.com.

Community & Business Spotlight

Seward County –Business Coach

Doris Lux – Director of E-Ship Center at Central Community College in Columbus discussed assistance available to Entrepreneurs. She discussed business plans and business incubators.