



# Southeast Nebraska Development District

## A Look at the SENDD Board

Over that last 5 years, seven new counties: Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Polk, Saline, Thayer, and York, have joined the eight previous SENDD participants: Cass, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saunders, and Seward Counties. The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) is a voluntary association of municipal and county governments, in existence for more than 25 years, and is formed under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. That interlocal agreement calls for the creation of a governing board who is responsible for hiring an Executive Director.

SENDD membership begins with the County becoming a member of SENDD. This then enables the municipalities in that County to join. Each local unit of government pays annual dues which are set by the SENDD board of directors. The new SENDD Board is comprised of one County commissioner/supervisor from each county, as appointed by that County commission/board of supervisors.

That current list of **15 Elected County Representatives** includes the following: James Peterson, Cass; Bob Mueller, Fillmore; Rex Adams, Gage; Marvin Yost, Jefferson; Bob Curry, Johnson; Bob Hutton, Nemaha; Steve Lade, Otoe; Brad Stake, Pawnee; Mike Smith, Polk; Jim Davidson, Richardson; Bill Wenz, Saline; Leroy Hanson, Saunders; Mary Koci, Seward, Dave Bruning, Thayer; and Kurt Bulgrin York.

**Non-Elected Representation:** The SENDD board also includes Non-Elected/Non-Governmental representatives. Current Non-Elected Reps include: At Large: Gus Brown, retired lender-York, Lowell Daisley, consultant-Cedar Creek. Stakeholder Organization Reps include: Stephanie Shrader, Nebraska City EDC; Doug Watts, Greater Wahoo Development; Cassie Seagren, York County Economic Development; Jeff Reynolds, Rural Enterprise Assistance Program; and Daryl Long, Peru State College. Private Sector Reps in-

clude: Jerry Divis, Wahoo realtor; Eric Leichty, Deshler banker; and there are currently 3 vacant private sector slots.

As the SENDD Board grew to 27 members, there has been a formal shift to utilizing an Executive Committee. The SENDD Executive Committee conducts monthly telephone conference call meetings. The full SENDD Board meets quarterly. The current SENDD Executive Committee consists of Chairman Bob Mueller, Fillmore Co; Vice Chairman Leroy Hanson, Saunders Co; Bill Wenz, Saline Co; Mary Koci, Seward Co; Steve Lade, Cass Co; Marvin Yost, Jefferson Co; and Eric Leichty, Deshler.

Full Board and Executive Committee meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month in Lincoln. These meetings are open to the public. If interested in further details regarding the SENDD Board of Directors and its activities feel free to contact SENDD staff.

**Carpooling provides an added dimension:** There has been a long tradition of carpooling to the SENDD Board meetings from the SE corner of the District. Long term SENDD staffer Kevin Burnison notes that the conversations on the way to and from the meeting often provide for the most interesting discussions of the day. Topics often range from: the potential to share road equipment, labor relations, bridge permitting requirements, etc. Crystal Duneckacke, just starting her second year at the SENDD Humboldt office notes that the first couple of trips to a SENDD Board meeting with 3 or 4 county commissioners provided a virtual short course in the varying qualities of road rock vs. gravel.



SENDD Lincoln office— Entrance from "N" street. The SENDD office has been located on the second floor of the Towne building since Oct. 1989.

## APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER



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## Tecumseh First Community to Earn Designation as DED Leadership Community

APRIL 7, 2011 (LINCOLN, NEB): The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) initiated the Leadership Community designation to help communities institute a solid planning and implementation process in the face of constant new challenges and pressures.

The DED Leadership Community designation serves as a second tier to the Economic Development Certified Community program. The EDCC program focuses on business recruitment, while the Leadership Community designation emphasizes planning and self-identification of appropriate community and economic development goals.

The application for the DED Leadership Community designation consists of five parts. The first section focuses on the community; the second section is strategic planning; the third section is community planning and zoning; the fourth section is business and technology; and the fifth section involves plan implementation and financing options.

Communities that submit successful applications and receive the Leadership Community designation are eligible to apply for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Downtown Revitalization program. This program was previously only open to Economic Development Certified Communities.

Tecumseh developed a Community Needs Identification Survey in fall 2010 following input gathered during two town hall meetings and numerous committee meetings. Much public input centered around the downtown area, prompting formation of a committee to work on downtown revitalization. The survey and town hall meetings resulted in a five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan focused on the areas identified by the community, including downtown historic square infrastructure, demolition and site clearance of neglected and abandoned properties, employment, street conditions and the City's swimming pool.

For additional DED Leadership Community program information or to apply for the program, contact Christina Bartels at 800-426-6505, 402-471-3172, or [christina.bartels@nebraska.gov](mailto:christina.bartels@nebraska.gov)



Arbor Day 2010

In partnership with the City of Tecumseh, Tecumseh Federal Bank & Black Hills Energy

## Activities for 2011 Community Development Week

Information on Community Development from: Nebraska Department of Economic Development's website

[www.neded.org/community/community-info/community-improvement/celebrating-success](http://www.neded.org/community/community-info/community-improvement/celebrating-success)

### Community Development Week April 25-30, 2011

- **Host your own proclamation signing.** Kick-off Community Development Week with a proclamation signing by local officials.
- **Honor community member contributions.** Hold a community appreciation dinner or awards program to recognize local residents for their valuable contributions to community development.
- **Inspire future projects.** Hold a town meeting at a completed community development project site or projects-in-progress. Use the gathering not only to celebrate and inform residents of community accomplishments, but also to set new goals and objectives for the community, and recruit new volunteers for future endeavors.
- **Highlight the value of civic organizations.** Hold an open house at a public facility such as the city hall, library, hospital, fire hall, or community center.
- **Involve the media.** Announce events and increase public awareness about community development projects through press releases, public service announcements, a storefront display, and/or media contacts. Try showcasing features on community and economic development achievements completed in the last year. Invite local press to your events. Ask them to write an article on CDBG or HOME during CD Week.
- **Involve community members.** Work with business owners and the chamber of commerce to promote downtown and area businesses with special sales, evening hours, or similar activities. Recruit businesses to sponsor an event or donate a percentage of the day's receipts to local improvement groups or projects.
- **Engage and educate Congressional members.** Plan to meet with your congressional members in their district offices during CD Week. Invite them to tour a CDBG- or HOME-funded project, participate in a ribbon-cutting of a HOME- or CDBG- funded project, or a meet a household assisted by the programs. .
- **Document your community development outcomes.** A compilation of finished projects can help inform citizens of the project's impact and issues the community is addressing. The compilation can also be used as a sharing resource for other communities and as an indicator of community progress.

**HELP US HELP YOU!! SENDD is conducting an inventory assessment of our members' needs. An assessment will be mailed or emailed to ALL member Counties, Cities and Villages.**

Request an assessment by emailing [ebausch@sendd.org](mailto:ebausch@sendd.org)

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

**WHEN: APRIL 29, 2011 6:00 p.m.**

**WHERE: Beaver Crossing (Village Hall)**

**800 Dimery Avenue**

LIMITED SEATING – MUST RSVP

SHANNON 402-532-3925

[villageofbc@windstream.net](mailto:villageofbc@windstream.net)