



JANUARY 18—A BUSY DAY



January 18, 2007 was indeed a busy day for the Rural Development Commission. The day started with committee meetings held at the Ferguson House. The Commission then hosted an educational luncheon for the State senators. Acting Chair, Edgar Hicks, welcomed the senators and staff and gave a quick overview and update on the work of the Commission. The lunch also featured a short presentation from Ingrid Krist on the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added Ag grant project she is coordinating and a similar presentation by Pat Haverty on a Building Entrepreneurial Communities project.

After the luncheon, the Commission returned to the Ferguson House for their regularly scheduled business meeting. Minutes of the meeting are posted on our website www.ruralnebraska.info.



FINANCE COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MARKETING COMMITTEE

COMMISSION MEETING

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

As you can tell by the photos above, the Commission is up and running strong. The calendar is set for the year and a strategic planning meeting is next on the agenda for the RDC.

Sandi and I are beginning to process grant reimbursement requests so the projects are underway. We plan to highlight some of the projects in the newsletter throughout the year.

The website is being revamped and will be more interactive. Under the new system, we will also have better access to keeping the site current. Watch for the "new and improved site" this spring.

Linda

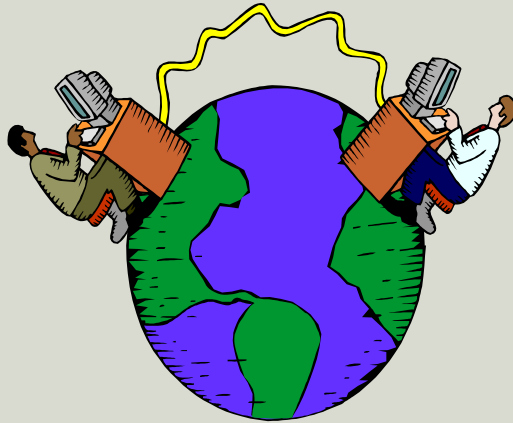


Acting Chair, Edgar Hicks, welcomes the senators and guests to the educational luncheon at the Capitol.

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MEET THE RESOURCES



Connecting the public to the opportunity to enjoy and experience the country in ways never before available—that is the claim of one of Nebraska's newest rural services. Log on to KAAPA Country Adventures at www.country-adventures.com to find that special experience or the opportunity to generate income from agri-tourism attractions or activities.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: check out www.myhometownhelper.com. This is a grant program sponsored by Hamburger Helper.

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT ROUND OF BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES GRANTS ARE DUE February 9, 2007 (noon CST)

Here are some helpful websites that have been shared with me:

[Http://thesaurus.reference.com](http://thesaurus.reference.com)

[Www.whatis.com](http://www.whatis.com)

[Www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com)

[Www.about.com](http://www.about.com)

[Www.geographyiq.com](http://www.geographyiq.com)

[Www.quotegarden.com](http://www.quotegarden.com)

[Www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com)

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

The Commission has an active board role in the Partnership for Rural Nebraska and is visiting regional groups across the state as the board works to encourage grassroots networking. We have visited the Central and Panhandle regions with a visit to the Southwest scheduled soon.

Work is already underway on the next Rural Institute so mark your calendars for September 17-19 in Holdrege.

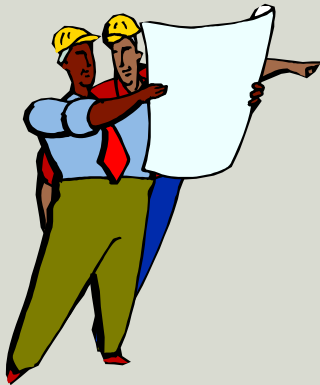
The Commission, DED, and Community Development Resources partnered on a satellite downlink training for the upcoming BECA grant, Microenterprise Rural tier, and New Market tax credit programs. 90 people across the state participated at 13 different sites.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a two-day Leadership Development Conference. Here are some highlights:

- People learn by “spaced repetition” - they need to hear the same thing at least seven times
- On average, we experience 3,000 negative influences every day. Focus on the positive
- Insanity is doing things the same way and expecting different results.
- To use “common sense” implies we have a “common experience”
- Global economy is redundant—all economies are global now.
- Know that time, money and energy are finite. Spend all of yours wisely.
- Are you “spending” time or “investing” it? You cannot get those hours, days, and years back.



I especially enjoyed the information shared on working with different generations. These were described as follows:

- Veterans—born pre-1945
- Boomers—born 1946-1964
- X-ers - born 1965-1978
- Echo Boomers or
- Y-ers born 1979-1995

The presenter covered some of the key characteristics of each age group explaining why it is important to understand their views.

Another session dealt with change. Change needs to be treated like any other grief process. First there is denial, anger, bargaining, depression and finally acceptance. The process is not linear—people will take a step forward, backward, and forward again before reaching acceptance.

EASY is an acronym for a persuasion technique.

- Express your feelings
- Address the situation
- Say what you want or need
- Yes—or no (ask for action)

COMMISSION CORNER



Senator McDonald introduces senators attending RDC Luncheon at the Capitol on January 18, 2007.

Welcome, Senator McDonald.

Speaker Flood has appointed McDonald to be the Unicameral representative on the Rural Development Commission.



Remember if you have represented the RDC or have been highlighted at some public function, please share the information with the commission.

RDC VISION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission seeks, through advocacy and action, to improve the quality of life in rural Nebraska.

RDC COMMISSIONERS

Edgar Hicks—Acting Chair
Gayle McClure—Acting Vice Chair
Chuck Hassebrook—Treasurer
Richard Baier
Scot Blehm
Larry Cooper
Ross Garwood
Mary Gerdes
Robert Gustafson
Dan Hoffman

Greg Ibach
John Jordison
Chuck Karpf
Tim Kenny
Senator V. Mc Donald
M.L. Martin
Marilyn Mecham
Lance Morgan
Bryce Neidig
Christine Peterson

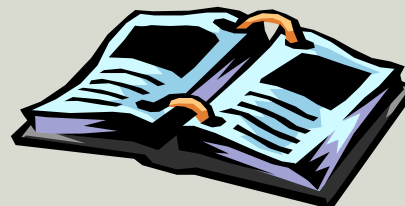
Tim Shafer
Sandy Scofield
Gary Warren

Committees and Chairs:
Legislative—John Jordison
Ease of Finance—Tim Kenny
Marketing—Tim Shafer
Rural Recognition—Chuck Karpf

CALENDAR CORNER

Feb 6-7—Agri/Eco-tourism workshop in Kearney
Feb 8—Grant Admin workshop—Ord
Feb 15—DED briefing—Lincoln
Feb 19—Office closed—holiday
Feb 28—Marketplace—Kearney
Mar 21—NDN-CR regional group meeting—location TBA
Mar 22—NDN-SW Regional group meeting—location TBA
Mar 30—Commission meeting—Grand Island
Apr 28—Office closed—Arbor Day
Sept 17-19—Rural Institute—Holdrege

2007 COMMISSION MEETINGS:
MARCH 30—Grand Island
JUNE 15—Curtis
SEPT 19—Holdrege



**ENTREPRENEURIAL
COMMUNITIES GRANT
APPLICATION DEADLINE
Feb 9, 2007 (noon CST)**

Rural Development Commission

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