

Special points of interest:

Meet our intern—Casey McMann - page 2

New web address—page 4

NEW OPEN MEETING LAW

With the changes in the Open Meeting law that took effect July 1, some procedural questions have been raised concerning the detailed agenda that is now required to be posted prior to the meeting and the right of the public to appear at meetings.

According to the Operating Guidelines adopted by the RDC, the Right of the Public to Appear is specifically identified.

“The public shall have the right to attend commission meetings and to speak on matters related to the commission and rural development. Any person may appear before and address the commission at the time designated on the agenda for public comment concerning any item on

the agenda for that meeting. Any person may appear before and address the commission at any scheduled meeting on any matter not on the agenda that concerns the commission or rural development by notifying the Executive Director at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting at which the person desires to address the commission. A time limit of five (5) minutes shall be placed upon each individual appearance before the commission and no more than thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed for public comment unless a majority of the quorum present shall extend such time limit. The Chairperson shall have the right to prohibit multiple appearances by persons presenting needlessly repetitious or redundant testimony.”

DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

It is August already. That means it’s back to school time, get ready for cold weather time (that seems odd to say when it has been near 100 degrees for so many days recently), and time for the second round of grant deadlines for BECA (August 1) and VAA (August 7).

Working through the first cycle of grants has definitely been a learning experience for everyone involved. There are some exciting projects proposed in the awarded grants and I am anxious to see them completed.

Linda



The pioneer spirit lives on in Nebraska from innovative soddies that once met the settler’s housing needs to today’s community projects and agricultural innovation in the new grant programs.

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MEET THE RESOURCES

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Meet Casey McMann, an intern with the Rural Development Commission.

Casey is a recent high school graduate from Curtis and will be attending Mid-Plains Community College this year.

If you are in the North Platte area, stop by and welcome Casey to the Commission.

Recently someone shared a new business transition website (similar to BizFind). <http://www.mergerplace.com/mp/visitor/buyers/search/results/20475>. It was interesting to see what Nebraska businesses are listed for sale on this site—look and see if you can identify the opportunities in your area.

New and updated information on the farm economy is available from USDA. Check out <http://www.ers.usda.gov/whatsnew>.

The 2006 Nebraska Rural Poll report can be found at http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/making_a_living.pdf.

PARTNERS AND PROGRAMS

Partnerships in July included working with the GROW Nebraska Advisory Board, participating in the National Rural Development Partnership Leadership Seminar Planning Committee, the Partnership for Rural America Board Meeting, the Partnership for Rural America—Region 3 Leadership Fall Conference Education Committee meeting.

Sandi and I both managed to take a few days of vacation.



LESSONS LEARNED (or to be learned)

NEW AT PERU STATE COLLEGE

Once again, a Nebraska college has identified a void and is working hard to fill it. Peru State College will begin offering a Master of Science in Organizational Management with an emphasis in Entrepreneurial and Economic Development. According to the brochure, the program blends coursework in organizational management, economic development, and entrepreneurship. Graduates will be uniquely prepared to start their own businesses, foster development of new enterprises in their communities, and facilitate a company's evolution to a more innovative and growth-oriented corporate culture.

For more information on this online program, click the Graduate Studies link at www.peru.edu.

NRDP LEADERSHIP MEETING

"Perseverance Through Partnerships" is the title of the upcoming NRDP Leadership meeting September 10-12 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The program is jointly hosted by the Colorado and Wyoming Rural Development Councils. The seminar will feature a tour of Chugwater, Wyo, and sessions on rural energy development, rural initiatives and investments, and board development. There will also be a partnership business and strategy session.

All commissioners are welcome to participate. If you are interested, contact Linda for more details.

RURAL INSTITUTE TO MEET IN AINSWORTH

The 2006 Rural Institute will feature keynote speaker and Australian Peter Kenyon, Bank of I.D.E.A.S. This year's institute will also offer sessions on creative bio-businesses, business transition, increasing rural retail markets, youth entrepreneurship, and other community and economic development issues. For more information or to register, visit <http://cari.unl.edu/nri>.

COMMISSION CORNER



Commission meeting April, 2006

The Rural Development Commission is beginning to "turn heads". The new Building Entrepreneurial Communities and the Agricultural Innovation and Value-Added grant programs are raising the commission's visibility within the state and staff work on national committees is attracting attention at the federal level, too.



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 MISSION

The Nebraska Rural Development Commission is a voice for rural Nebraska communities in the creation of laws, policies, and other initiatives that affect their economic, civic, and social conditions, and foster cooperation and understanding among all agencies and organizations, public and private.

The duties of the Commission are to:

- Focus attention on and increase awareness of opportunities and needs of rural Nebraskans
- Strengthen community sustainability and growth in rural Nebraska through increased community-based wealth creation, expanded economic opportunity and improved quality of life
- Stimulate rural development innovation and foster information transfer to, from and within rural Nebraska
- Ensure that rural Nebraskans are afforded the opportunity to determine rural Nebraska's development agenda
- Foster community-based development initiatives through multi-community partnerships

CALENDAR CORNER

August 1—**BECA grant deadline**—noon

August 7—**VAA grant deadline**—noon

August 14-15 Partnership for Rural Nebraska strategic planning retreat—Kearney

August 17—RDC Executive Committee call

August 22— Listening session—Bridgeport

August 28-30—Linda vacation

September 4—Holiday

September 10-13— NRDP meeting—Cheyenne

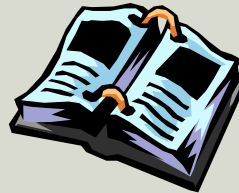
September 14—Department of Economic Development briefing --Kearney

September 19-21—Rural Institute-Ainsworth

September 26—Fed Reserve forum—Kearney

October 4-6—NEDA conference -So. Sioux City

**COMMISSION MEETING: Hastings
October 11**



Rural Development Commission



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