

Special points of interest:

See the information about Reuse Funds—pg 3

HOPE IN RURAL NEBRASKA

This article is reprinted from the Center for Rural Affairs June 2006 newsletter.

New report shows that local initiative combined with supportive public policies can help small rural communities to attract new population.

A significant number of Nebraska's small rural communities are growing, according to an analysis by Dr. Randy Cantrell, with the University of Nebraska Rural Initiative. The findings demonstrate there can be a future for rural communities across America. The key is local initiative and supportive public policies.

The report analyzed population change in Nebraska from 1990 to 2000. Its findings include:

- Population grew in exactly half the communities with fewer than 1,000 people and a little over half of communities with fewer than 2,500 people. Seventy-seven of Nebraska's 93 counties had a community that gained population.

- On average, towns with fewer than 2,500 people achieved a 25 percent increase in people aged 30 to 39.
- Sixty-three of Nebraska's 93 counties saw an increase in wage and salary jobs.
- The population with college degrees grew in 178 non-metropolitan communities.

These findings do not demonstrate that all is well in rural America. But they do demonstrate that very rural communities can draw families and grow. They show that small entrepreneurs are creating jobs and lives in very rural places.

Most important, they demonstrate hope. Strong local initiative and leadership together with policies that invest in the future can succeed in revitalizing rural communities.

For more information contact Chuck Hassebrook, chuckh@cfra.org or visit www.cfra.org

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

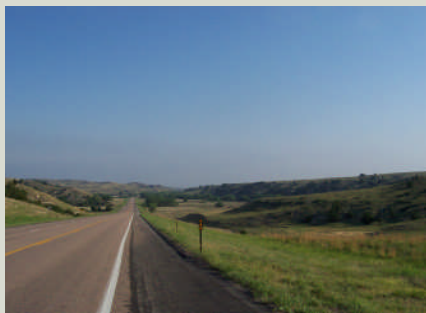
July 1—that means we are halfway through the year and what a busy year it has been for the Commission.

The Building Entrepreneurial Communities grant contracts have been mailed and most have been returned. The Value—Added grants were announced June 27 so we will begin preparing contracts for those awards. At the same time we are fielding questions and preparing for the second round of both grants.

The RDC has an ambitious workplan for the year and committees are preparing to meet

their goals.

We DO have a roadmap, so we will get where we want to go. *Linda*



If you don't care where you are going, any road will get you there.

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LESSONS LEARNED

CDBG PROGRAM INCOME as of December 31, 2005

<u>WESTERN REGION</u>	<u>ECONOMIC DEV.</u>
Cheyenne County	\$59,402.45
Crawford/Dawes Co	35,603.90
Elwood	28,523.98
Gering	15,070.57
Gothenburg	690,359.62
Hitchcock County	73,114.55
Imperial	26,078.02
Lexington	133,983.89
North Platte	67,326.00
Ogallala-Keith Co	61,835.83
Oshkosh	20,310.24
Overton	372,088.80
Oxford	67,227.82
Red Willow Co	305,594.23
Scottsbluff	63,350.86
Wauneta	<u>14,904.80</u>
TOTAL	\$2,034,775.56

CENTRAL REGION

Ainsworth	\$53,676.17
Atkinson	42,632.23
Aurora	169,537.21
Buffalo Co	205,956.96
Butte	44,623.35
Clarks	17,386.56
Custer Co	18,792.19
Dannebrog	24,644.72
Grand Island	156,968.79
Hastings/Adams Co	66,362.81
Holdrege/Phelps Co	324,656.00
Juniata	62,103.14
Kearney	86,082.57
Kearney Co	91,131.55
Knox County	108,872.26
Loup City	7,204.69
Minden	32,461.24
O'Neill	108,026.96
Ord	26,315.76
Sargent	4,658.36
Sherman Co	23,574.40
Stuart	37,645.05
Verdigre	<u>32,547.46</u>
TOTAL	\$1,745,550.43

These funds were available (as of 12/31/05) for qualified economic development projects in the listed cities. In addition to the \$9,168,526 for economic development, there is another \$1,774,189 available for specific housing projects.

EASTERN REGION

Allen	\$ 16,421.15
Auburn	245,672.54
Beatrice	370,941.00
Bellevue	354,353.76
Blair	108,295.64
Coleridge	4,377.39
Columbus	139,913.09
Dakota City	7,714.93
David City	18,310.71
Dodge	56,491.41
Douglas Co	82,517.33
Elk Creek	67,845.95
Fairbury	19,957.60
Falls City	108,902.99
Filley	18,402.02
Fremont	78,181.37
Friend	96,991.14
Geneva	256,891.07
Hebron	12,442.50
Howells	156,466.08
Jefferson Co	96,674.95
Lancaster Co	198,310.16
Laurel	23,226.32
LaVista	207,218.56
Leigh	12,061.23
Madison	27,438.28
Madison Co	76,366.60
Nebraska City	427,411.29
Norfolk	77,217.91
Osceola	76,772.53
Pawnee City	65,736.05
Pawnee Regional	342,643.22
Platte Co	93,167.16
Plattsmouth	48,350.65
Plymouth	16,524.75
Ralston	139,142.33
Sarpy County	446,839.44
Schuyler	36,675.12
Snyder	12,952.96
South Sioux City	58,978.37
Stromsburg	53,537.00
Tecumseh	29,377.49
Tekamah	49,852.37
Thurston	5,918.51
Washington Co	9,208.49
Wayne	32,286.23
Weeping Water	122,915.32
West Point	163,241.56
York	<u>217,065.53</u>
TOTAL	\$5,388,200.05

COMMISSION CORNER



Commission meeting June 8, 2006

Scot Blehm is the new chair of the Partnership for Rural Nebraska (PRN).

PRN is a cooperative commitment by the state of Nebraska, University of Nebraska, federal government, and regional groups to address rural opportunities and challenges identified by rural Nebraskans, to work together to meet those challenges and provide the resources and expertise to enhance development opportunities.



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

June 28– July 5 Linda on vacation

July 4– Holiday

July 12—Lincoln—Partnership for Rural Nebraska

August 1—**BECA grant deadline—noon**

August 7—**VAA grant deadline—noon**

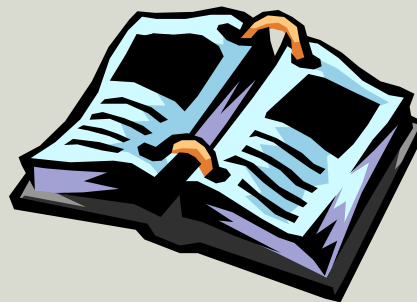
September 4—Holiday

September 14—Kearney—Department of Economic
Development briefing

September 19-21 -Ainsworth—Rural Institute

COMMISSION MEETINGS:

October 11—Hastings



Rural Development Commission



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