



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional
Planning Commission

www.ncrpc.org
October 2006

Executive Board

Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.
Mark Freel, City of Minneapolis
Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.
Marcia Funke, Washington Co.
Bill Garrison, Cloud Co.
Chuck Heidrick, City of Beloit
Judy Irvin, City of Salina
Mick Keating, Marshall Co.
Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.
Jonathan Mitchell,
City of Ellsworth
Joe Nold, Dickinson Co.
Larry Paine, City of Concordia
Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.
Abner Perney, City of Salina
Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.
David Thurlow, Clay Co.
Harold Wilber, Republic Co.

NCRPC Staff

John Cyr
Carol Torkelson
Connie Cyr
Doug McKinney
Margaret Cathey
Deb Ohlde
Debra Peters
Todd Tuttle
Sherry Angell
Pepper Roberg
Lori Thielen
Jeff Maska
Jeff Gansel
Dell Gier
Rod Thompson
Brett Beck

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Oct. 26, 2 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting

Friday, Dec. 8
BoardSource training with
consultant Michael
Daigneault at the Eisenhower
Center in Abilene. Details and
times to be announced.

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m.
Executive Board Meeting

NCRPC SELECTED AS FISCAL AGENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCILS

Homeland Security has been added to the list of activities with which the NCRPC is involved.

Kansas has seven regional homeland security councils that all have a similar mission to support local, regional and state-wide all-hazard preparedness while reducing vulnerabilities to natural disasters and terrorist attacks.

Each council receives a grant to help carry out its mission and were instructed to appoint a fiscal agent for the 2006 year.

The North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council first approached NCRPC about acting as its fiscal agent to oversee receipt and expenditure of a \$429,978 grant to the region.

NCRPC Executive Director John Cyr attended a Homeland Security meeting in Salina in June to



The North Central region is a 12-county area including the

learn more about what was being requested.

“During that meeting Gene Krause, Deputy Director of the initiative for the State of Kansas, made it known that he believed all regional councils would be well-advised to do just what the NCK group has done, that being to work with the existing regional planning organizations since the latter have ample experience in handling state and federal funds,” Cyr says.

The Northeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council also approached NCRPC about serving as fiscal agent for its \$1.6 million grant. The Council officially approved NCRPC as its fiscal agent in August.

counties of Smith, Jewell, Republic, Osborne, Mitchell, Cloud, Clay, Lincoln, Ottawa, Dickinson, Ellsworth and Saline.

The Northeast region is a 23-county area including the counties of Washington, Marshall, Nemaha, Brown, Doniphan, Atchison, Jackson, Pottawatomie, Riley, Geary, Wabaunsee, Shawnee, Jefferson, Douglas, Miami, Franklin, Osage, Lyon, Morris, Coffey, Chase, Anderson and Linn.

Each region’s security strategy provides the foundation for meeting the state’s vision by focusing on the four key areas of all-hazard preparedness including Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery.

NCKCN OFFERS NEW TECHNICAL SUPPORT

North Central Kansas Community Network (NCKCN) has changed its customer technical support service.

Support is now contracted through a firm in Lenexa, Kansas. This company provides technical service to NCKCN customers, responding to all questions concerning dial-up,

wireless and cable access.

The new service is available seven days a week between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. The toll-free telephone number is 877-841-6500.

Also, NCKCN added a second 45.0 Mbps point-to-point circuit linking its main server to the National Access Point (NAP) for Internet service in Kansas

City. Increased use of the Internet by existing customers including schools and hospitals plus the addition of cable customers through the expansion of Cunningham Telephone & Cable Company, Glen Elder, Kansas, resulted in the need.

For more about NCKCN services, visit www.nckcn.com or call 738-2218.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Libri Books for Children Program donates new, quality, hard-cover children's



books to small, rural public libraries in the United States.

First established in 1989, the Libri Foundation has the sole purpose of helping rural libraries acquire quality children's books they could not otherwise afford to buy. Since October 1990, the Foundation has donated more than \$2,800,000 worth of new children's books to more than 2,200 libraries in 48 states.

The Foundation indicates that a qualified library should serve a population under 10,000 (usually under 5,000), have a very limited budget, be in a rural area, and have an active children's department.

A library can receive up to \$1,050 worth of books through the Books for Children Program and previous grant recipients are eligible to apply for a second grant three years after receipt of their first grant.

Grants are awarded three times a year. Application deadlines are March 15, July 15 and December 15. Application materials are available at www.librifoundation.org or by e-mailing libri@librifoundation.org.

EDA RULE CHANGES IMPACT REGION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

For the past year the NCRPC has been attempting to address a number of issues introduced by the Interim Rule as published by Economic Development Administration (EDA) last fall that impacted our overall governing structure. The major issue affecting the NCRPC was EDA's desire to have all planning and development organizations alter their board make-up so 51% or more of the seats were occupied by non-elected individuals. That mandate conflicted with our by-laws and those of a great many other organizations nationwide which specifically state 51% or more of the governing body must be locally elected offi-

From the Director's Desk



John Cyr has been the NCRPC Executive Director since 1986.

cial. EDA has since modified its demands, enabling all organizations to remain dominated by elected public officials if they choose so long as 35% or more of the board is composed of private enterprise representation.

For the NCRPC that means no more than 11

seats or 65% of its 17 member Executive Board will be occupied by publicly elected officials, while no fewer than six (35%) but no more than eight (49%) seats will serve the direct interests of private enterprise. How we determine what member of the board represents what economic sector is up to us as an organization.

Also of concern was how EDA instructed its development districts to develop their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), since EDA wants all districts to ensure the economic interests of major business and industry are being addressed. Now we know *(Continued on page 3)*

CITIES, COUNTIES APPLY FOR FUNDING

Several cities and counties in the region have been busy working with NCRPC staff to apply for grant funding.

The most pursued grant funding in the fall is typically that of the Kansas Department of Commerce Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG).

CDBG annual competition funding categories include Housing/ Neighborhood Development, Water and Sewer, and Community Facilities.

Award announcements for the CDBG annual competition grants are expected to begin on or about January 5, 2007.

The following are applications with which NCRPC staff assisted and the grant amount requested:

CDBG Housing/ Neighborhood Dev.:
 Abilene \$430,000
 Blue Rapids \$377,304
 Clifton \$395,281
 Glasco \$380,000
 Glen Elder \$378,000
 Lincoln \$387,840
 Narka \$390,660
 Vermillion \$322,746

CDBG Water and Sewer:
 Ellsworth County Post Rock RWD \$400,000
 Barnes \$283,000
 Beattie \$366,324
 Hanover \$235,470
 Manchester \$70,000
 Woodbine \$171,000

CDBG Community Facilities:

Holyrood \$336,000
 Lincoln County-Sylvan Grove RFD \$300,000

CDBG KAN STEP:

Hunter \$296,551
 (Community Ctr.)
Other KAN STEP's in Process:
 Miltonvale (Fire Station)
 Hanover (Community Ctr.)
 Randall Rural Fire District (Fire Station)
 Woodbine Fire District (Fire Station)

KDHE Water Loan:

Glen Elder \$165,000
 Manchester \$70,000

Miscellaneous:

Lincoln Phase I Plan for Safe Routes to Schools

NCRPC TO PARTNER ON TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SUPERVISOR POSITIONS

Cities and counties will soon have an opportunity to take part in a training program focused on the leadership and personnel management needs of department supervisors.

Former NCRPC Board Member John Divine is making plans to work with the NCRPC to offer regional training and met with the current NCRPC Board in September to share his vision.

“As I get out and talk to local governments, probably one of the biggest requests in training is for their supervisory folks,” Divine says. “This can ultimately affect the entire staff.”

The training will consist of multiple sessions of two hours each.

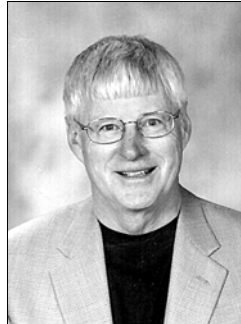
“By working together as a region, it helps make the investment in the training more cost and time feasible for local governments to participate,” Divine says.

The training will likely be

based on a curriculum of “Coaching for Improved Performance and Results.” Potential benefits that have been identified include improved results, increased motivation, better morale, more cooperation, energized people, accelerated change, less frustration, less mistakes, deadlines met, higher trust levels, clear communication, retaining key employees and improved work quality.

Divine’s first training offering will be a time management seminar in mid-December. The supervisor training is slated to begin in January or February 2007. More details will be available soon.

Divine is CEO of The Leadership Firm, a personal and organizational development company he



John Divine

founded in 1999 after his retirement from IBM. Focusing on technology in local government for IBM, John held the position of local government relationship manager for North America, manager of technology solutions for local government, plus various other local government related roles during his 23-year tenure with IBM.

The Leadership Firm’s mission is to assist public and private organizations reach their potential.

John has experience as a public speaker on topics related to personal growth. He has also served as mayor and city commissioner of Salina and is involved in numerous community organizations. Divine received his B.S. in political science from Kansas State University and is a certified leadership trainer and facilitator.

standing of just what gaps exist in the region’s business services.

One final change made this year deals with the ethnic, racial and gender diversity on district boards. There has been a ruling whereby districts can no longer be told they must fill seats in accordance with the ethnic or racial mix or gender of the population they serve. Legal opinion now holds such representation must be demanded by various groups them-

selves, not by EDA or any other federal authority.

Note: We were notified on October 25 that Paul Hildebrandt, EDA’s Economic Development Representative for Kansas and Missouri, was recently admitted to George Washington University Hospital in Washington, DC. Paul is struggling with lung cancer and his condition is critical. His family asks that he be kept in the thoughts and prayers of his many friends and co-workers.

MEET THE BOARD

Chuck Heidrick has been Secretary-Treasurer of the NCRPC Board of Directors for many years. He has



worked at the Guaranty State Bank and Trust Company in Beloit for 35 years and is Senior Vice President & Director working with commercial and real estate loans, bank investments and the trust department. He plans to retire at the end of 2006.

A long-time resident of Beloit, Chuck is involved in the Lion’s Club, Solomon Valley Economic Development Board, Salina Catholic Diocese Finance Council, Solomon Valley Cinema Board, and Mitchell County Community Foundation Board. He also serves as chairman of St. John’s Catholic Church Finance Council, president of Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems Endowment Fund, and a Beloit City Councilman. He is a candidate for Mitchell County Commissioner having won the Republican primary in August.

Chuck is a graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in accounting. He is also a graduate of the Colorado School of Banking and is a Certified Financial Planner. Chuck and his wife, Pat, have three grown daughters, Stacey, Kelley and Lesley.

(Continued from page 2) that creating several committees as a means of ensuring NCRPC’s understanding of specific economic sectors is adequate. The plan thus far is to create committees with five to seven persons who are decision makers in their respective industries, with each group chaired by a member of the Executive Board. Such gatherings, even if only a few times a year, should greatly improve the region’s under-

STARTUP KANSAS AWARDS FIRST ROUND OF FUNDS; FOUR BUSINESSES IN REGION TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Four businesses in North Central Kansas will receive financial assistance as a result of StartUp Kansas announcing its first ever funding awards.

With a mission to partner with local or regional business support providers such as Four Rivers Development, Inc. (FORDI) and NCRPC, StartUp Kansas helps these partners in providing seed capital funding for Kansas entrepreneurs for for-profit business startups, expansions, or purchase of existing businesses in rural and distressed communities.

StartUp Kansas is a service of the Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship through its Kansas Community Entrepreneurship Fund, all of which were established by the Kansas Legislature in 2004 through the Kansas Economic Growth Act.

The applications approved in North Central

Kansas include the service, retail and manufacturing sectors. The businesses are located in Cloud, Lincoln, Republic and Washington counties and propose to retain 12.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs and create 2 jobs.

The four awards from StartUp Kansas total \$165,000 and will be in the form of loans administered by the two NetWork Kansas partners, FORDI and NCRPC.

The businesses will utilize StartUp Kansas funds to leverage more than \$1.5 million in additional funding from other sources. FORDI is using \$80,000 from the newly created North Central Kansas Business Development Fund as match monies for leverage. This business development fund was formed when area banks received \$150,000 from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka to be used

About StartUp Kansas

- Competitive process
- Network Kansas partner must provide 40% of total funding
- Partners can structure the funding as a grant, loan, or equity injection as long as their match is the same

for gap financing.

In addition, the NCRPC's revolving loan fund is providing \$60,000 in match monies for leverage. Finally, area banks and other financing sources are providing \$1,382,300 with another \$61,500 coming from the businesses.

Two of the awards involve succession management of existing businesses and two are expansions of existing businesses.

Debra Peters, FORDI General Manager, says the recent awards help stretch the dollars available to as-

sist businesses.

"We are always looking for alternative ways to assist viable projects to go forward. FORDI saw the opportunity to turn its limited funds available into more through the use of the new StartUp Kansas Program."

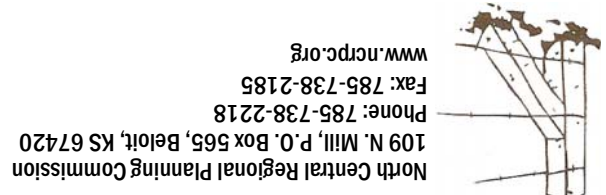
Although StartUp Kansas is a statewide program, the only projects funded in September were from North Central Kansas.

"These projects would not have gone forward without the assistance of the NCK Business Development Fund, NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund and StartUp Kansas," Peters says.

The next proposal deadline is December 15. Applications must be submitted by NetWork Kansas partners such as FORDI and NCRPC.

For more information on applying for StartUp Kansas funding, contact Debra Peters at 785-738-2210 or dpeters@nckcn.com.

Know others who would like to receive this newsletter? Prefer e-mail format? Send contact information to thlielen@nckcn.com. Feedback is always welcome.



North Central Regional Planning Commission
109 N. Mill, P.O. Box 565, Beloit, KS 67420
Phone: 785-738-2218
Fax: 785-738-2185
www.ncrpc.org