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- Secretary/Treasurer:**  
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### 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. 25, 2 p.m.**  
Executive Board Meeting
- Friday, Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m.**  
Workshop titled "Continuous Learning and Revitalization"  
Call NCRPC to register.
- Thursday, Nov. 29, 2 p.m.**  
Executive Board Meeting

## TRANSPARENCY, ETHICS IN NONPROFIT SECTOR DISCUSSED AT RECENT SESSION

Exceptional boards should not only comply with government filing requirements and report annually on accomplishments and use of funds, but they should also feel connected to the staff and organization, cultivate relationships with donors and stakeholders and earn public trust and support.

This was the discussion of a workshop September 28 on ethics and transparency facilitated by Michael Daigneault, Senior Governance Consultant for BoardSource. It was the third of a four-part series dedicated to nonprofit organizational development.

Daigneault defined the ethos of transparency. "Exceptional boards promote an ethos of transparency by ensuring that donors, stakeholders and interested members of the public have access to appropriate and accurate in-



Michael Daigneault

formation regarding finances, operations and results," Daigneault says.

It was discussed that no amount of information is truly transparent unless it is understandable.

Another key point of the workshop was defining the "new" audit committee that has been brought about by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. The bottom line of that act for audit committees is to have a greater focus of internal controls, demand more of auditors and to stress the importance of the role in gathering of ethics, compliance or financial concerns.

While the key role of an audit committee on nonprofit boards in the past

has been to review the audit and financial statements, the overall scope has become much broader. Daigneault says that in light of Sarbanes-Oxley, an audit committee's task of reviewing audit and financial statements is now a small percentage of what they do in a comprehensive view.

This development workshop was partially paid for by funds donated to the North Central Kansas Community Network, Inc. through placement of 75% state tax credits from the Kansas Rural Business Development Tax Credit Program.

For more on BoardSource, visit [www.boardsource.org](http://www.boardsource.org). To register for the last workshop titled "Continuous Learning and Revitalization" on November 2, call the Regional Planning Commission at 785-738-2218.

## STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING UNDERWAY

NCRPC assistant executive director, Doug McKinney has spent the last year serving on a 20-member topical working group for the Kansas Long Range Transportation Plan.

The current statewide Transportation Plan will end in 2009 and the Department of Transportation



is looking ahead by evaluating the current status and future needs of all modes of the Kansas transportation system, in-

cluding state highways and the local road network, transit, rail, trucking, aviation, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

For more than 20 years, Kansas has primarily used a set of mathematical formulas (known as the Priority Formulas) to select highway projects. These formu-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## DID YOU KNOW?



The **Small Communities Improvement Program (SCIP)** was established in 2007 to help improve the quality of life in rural communities.

This year \$500,000 is set aside for small communities that are undertaking improvement projects through sweat equity and volunteerism.

The program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, is designed to assist communities with populations of 5,000 or less that are not eligible for other Department of Commerce assistance and might not have the capacity to provide matching funds. The maximum award for a single project is \$125,000.

Examples of eligible projects are: arts, entertainment, theaters, historic preservation projects that impact the community, parks, playground equipment, walking trails and public restrooms.

Funds will be made available in one competitive round. Applications became available in September and must be postmarked by December 14 to the Kansas Department of Commerce.

To learn more or to view the application and guidelines, visit [www.kansascommerce.com](http://www.kansascommerce.com) or contact our office.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR: THE VALUE OF DREAMS IN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

Have you ever looked at your community and wondered how it came to be or who was responsible for making it what it is today? Someone, somewhere, sometime had a dream, not necessarily to build a specific place, but rather to build a better life, the pursuit of which led them to your particular location.

That individual undoubtedly left a known environment in search of the dream. While the place abandoned was good enough for those who stayed behind, it wasn't good enough for the one carrying the dream. That individual sought particular value where no such value had been seen before. The consequence of that vision set into motion actions leading to the foundation of a community.

Dreams are wonderful things. They spur the imagination and induce hope and energy into life. They drive innovation that brings about advancement and change. Absent the

*(Continued from page 1)* las use physical characteristics of the road, such as pavement structure, along with data on accident rates and truck and traffic volumes. The long range planning process has also sought local input for prioritizing needs.

McKinney's working group was tasked with rural and micropolitan (less than 20,000 population) issues. Four other topical

### From the Director's Desk



*John Cyr has been the NCRPC Executive Director since 1986.*

dreams of individuals, towns crumble and communities wither away for nothing new is introduced to spur personal advancement or communal growth.

Innovation, however, requires an acceptance of risk and a willingness to fail. Innovation's nemesis at times is management, which requires only the acceptance of status quo and a willingness to conduct business accordingly. While one engenders creativity and excitement, the other lends itself to continuity and apathy.

That's not to say management is not without risk; it's full of it. But man-

agers often become conservative and adverse to change, drawing upon the past for inspiration rather than seeking stimulation from what might be. They fail to anticipate the need for change and instead seek to maintain if not recreate the past without regard for the transformation the future demands.

Today, we work with what our predecessors built. They structured their dream upon a natural landscape; we must work around the man-made environment they erected. That presents all kinds of challenges, requiring us to free our minds and our aspirations from the structure those surroundings impose. But individuals with dreams will continue to engineer change, choosing to mold that which they find into something greater than it now is or ever was. They will draw inspiration from the past, but never assume it will – or should – occur again.

What will your community be in the future?

groups included freight, metropolitan, funding/finance and economic impact.

"Our group deemed safety as a top priority related to shoulder widening and visibility at intersections," McKinney says. "Maintenance and operations were also highly rated."

McKinney says the reports will be used for Kansas Department of Trans-

portation (KDOT) and KDOT advocates to go before the Legislature to let them know what is needed.

"We don't want to get behind other states because Kansas roads are in top notch condition compared to some," McKinney says.

For more information on the Long Range Transportation Plan and its status, visit [www.kansaslrtp.org](http://www.kansaslrtp.org).

## EXTERNAL ADVISORS NAMED TO NCK RURAL BUSINESS TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

**N**CRPC Executive Director, John Cyr, recently announced the naming of five individuals to serve as external advisors to the region's Rural Business Tax Credit Program.

"Such a group of advisors will provide external perspective on which projects make good economic development sense and which don't," Cyr says. "We are dealing with a regional program that could succumb to internal bickering over which projects have merit and which don't if all decisions are made internally. An outside group like this will balance that out."

The new group of external advisors includes Patty Clark, Don Macke, Jerry Lonegran, Jeff Tucker and Harry Watts.

**Patty Clark** is Director of Operations for the Kansas Leadership Center, an outgrowth of the Kansas Health Foundation. Although urban in origin, Patty graduated from KSU and was involved in farming for a good portion of her life. She has worked for the Kansas Department of Commerce, fulfilling multiple roles, the most recent of which was that of Assistant Secretary for Operations, a role which tied her to the RBTC program as it passed the Legislature.

**Don Macke** is Co-Director of the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, Lincoln, Nebraska. Don comes from a rural background and is past Director of the Nebraska Economic

Development Office. One of the originators of the Home Town Competitiveness (HTC) model, he has an avid interest in preserving rural communities and is widely known for his advocacy of their interests.

**Jerry Lonegran** is Associate Director of The Civic Council for Greater Kansas City. The son of a military family, he grew up in Salina which makes him very familiar with the region. Jerry has served as Research Associate for Kansas, Inc., later becoming its President. He has also performed private contracting services for a variety of state agencies, including the Kansas Energy Office.

**Jeff Tucker** is Associate Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI), Manhattan, Kansas. AMI was just recognized by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, as EDA's University Center for Kansas. This is the second time it has achieved this recognition. Jeff is an engineer and has been working with the NCRPC the past 18 months on developing a program whereby local entrepreneurs can access the knowledge and skills needed to further explore and flesh out ideas.

**Harry Watts** is Director of Governmental Relations for Kansas Farm Bureau. Having worked with Southwestern Bell Telephone in a similar capacity, Harry is very familiar with government-based programs. While with SWB, Harry was

stationed in Salina. He has also authored language proposing the creation of a Kansas Rural Development Authority, an issue that will be taken up by the Legislature this coming session.

"This is a good group of people to have working with us," Cyr says. "They are politically savvy and knowledgeable about rural development concerns and issues."

All of the credits for this year have been placed, giving approximately \$1.3 million to improve the region's economy in the 19-county service area.

The 19 counties that comprise the North Central region for this program include the following: Chase, Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Geary, Jewell, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Saline, Wabaunsee, and Washington.

The program was created when the Kansas Legislature passed the Rural Business Development Tax Credit Act in 2004.

The funds generated from the 75% tax credits are intended to provide capital for entrepreneurial efforts in rural communities, ensure regional determination for the usage of funds, and encourage local investment in the region's economic future.

For more information on the North Central Kansas Rural Business Development Tax Credit Program, visit [www.ncrpc.org](http://www.ncrpc.org) or contact John Cyr at 785-738-2218.

### MEET THE BOARD



**Mick Keating** is currently serving his third term on the Marshall County Board of Commissioners. He joined the NCRPC Board of Directors in 2006.

A lifetime resident of Marshall County, he was a dairy farmer from 1962 to 1983 and has been a self-employed insurance agent/real estate broker since 1983. A graduate of Beattie High School, Mick has also taken part in numerous insurance/real estate schools. He is active in many local groups.

Mick was a member of the Kansas Army National Guard for six years, serving two years active duty during the Vietnam War.

He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Heartland Works, a workforce development organization for Northeast Kansas. In the past he served on several state boards including BCBS, Kansas Healthy Kids and the Long Term Care Insurance Task Force.

Mick and his wife, Jane, have four grown children, Jeff, Maggie, Patty and Tom, and six grandchildren. His hobbies include spending time with family and anything involving politics.

## \$75,000 AVAILABLE TO WASHINGTON COUNTY BUSINESSES

The Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka recently awarded JOBS Grants totaling \$75,000 to Washington County banks to provide to Four Rivers Development, Inc. (FORDI) to capitalize its NCK Business Development Fund created in September 2006.

Banks receiving approval include: First National Bank of Washington, First National Bank of Clifton, and Citizens State Bank-Hanover Branch. Other area banks participating in the program include: Citizens National Bank, United Bank & Trust, Bank of Palmer, and Signature Bank KC of Haddam.

The initial funds are available to businesses in Mahaska, Clifton, and Washington County including neighboring locations having a positive economic benefit to the specific city/county. The recaptured monies will be available within FORDI's 10-county service area.

FORDI is a non-profit

organization that provides services to businesses and banks in a 10-county area in North Central Kansas including Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline, and Washington counties.

Debra Peters, FORDI Manager said assistance received from Christina L'Ecuyer, Washington County Business Coordinator, was extremely valuable to the application process.

"Christina was instrumental in Washington County being approved for \$75,000 in business assistance from this program," Peters says. "Christina provided crucial information that helped these applications score better in the four-state competition," Peters said.

The purpose of the NCK Business Development Fund is to enhance both job creation and job preservation. This will be accomplished by providing funds to:

- individuals desiring to

start a business

- individuals desiring to purchase an existing business
- businesses desiring to expand

Preference will be given to applicants who are:

- creating or retaining jobs
- creating or retaining jobs with above average wages

The loan program will seek to provide gap financing for business projects that appear viable and feasible, but have some credit weakness(es) preventing the bank from approving the business' entire request.

Examples include the start-up nature of business, insufficient down payment/equity, repayment based on projected earnings and insufficient collateral.

Infrastructure needs preventing projects from going forward will also be eligible for loan funds.

Standby loans or deferred loans will be considered on job preservation

projects, down payment assistance, and for other special circumstances.

The FORDI Board of Directors will administer the NCK Business Development Fund. The maximum available per request is \$25,000. Applications will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

FORDI can assist businesses and banks in accessing other specialized financing programs to aid in the development of the entire business financing package including, but not limited to the North Central Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) programs, Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) programs, Rural Development programs and other revolving loan funds.

For more information on accessing the NCK Business Development Fund or to consult about another program, contact Peters at 785-738-2210 or 785-823-6106.

Know others who would like to receive this newsletter? Prefer e-mail format? Send contact information to [thielen@nckcn.com](mailto:thielen@nckcn.com). Feedback is always welcome.

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