



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission
Serving Kansans Since 1972

February/March 2008
www.ncrpc.org

Executive Board

Chair:

Marcia Funke, Washington Co.

Vice Chair:

David Thurlow, Clay Co.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chuck Heidrick, Mitchell Co.

Executive Board Members:

Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.

Mark Freel,

City of Minneapolis

Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.

Bill Garrison, Cloud Co.

Judy Irvin, City of Salina

Mick Keating, Marshall Co.

Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.

Jonathan Mitchell,

City of Ellsworth

Joe Nold, Dickinson Co.

Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.

Abner Perney, City of Salina

Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.

Frank Rytch, Republic Co.

NCRPC Staff

Sherry Angell

Brett Beck

Margaret Cathey

Connie Cyr

John Cyr

Jeff Gansel

Dell Gier

Jeff Masko

Doug McKinney

Deb Ohlde

Debra Peters

Pepper Roberg

Lori Thielen

Rod Thompson

Carol Torkelson

Jeanell Tucker

Todd Tuttle

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 28, 2 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 2 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

CLOUD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE GETS MONEY FOR CAMPUS WIND TURBINE

This article appears courtesy of Gayle Martin, CCCC Marketing Director.

A \$1 million federal appropriation has been awarded to Cloud County Community College to support construction of a wind turbine near the college's Concordia campus.

The appropriation was included in the federal Energy and Water Development and the Commerce, Justice and Science bills, according to U.S. Senator Sam Brownback who supported Cloud's request.

Sen. Brownback said the wind turbine will provide critical services for the residents of Kansas and help decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

CCCC President Dr. Richard Underbakke announced the federal support.

"Our college's objective is to be a leader in the re-

newable energy movement in Kansas," Dr. Underbakke said. "This appropriation is a major boost toward accomplishing our goal."

The college intends to erect a one to two-megawatt wind turbine for educational training and promotion of wind energy throughout the state and provide energy to power the Concordia campus.

"The connectivity and operation of this turbine will serve as a model for the community wind movement in Kansas," the CCCC president said.

"Additionally, it can become a prototype for the movement to power state buildings with renewable energy."

Cloud County Community College, in partnership with Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC), is the only college in Kansas ap-

proved to offer an Associate of Applied Science in Wind Energy Technology. The program will produce a qualified workforce to serve the emerging wind industry throughout Kansas and the Midwest. Graduates of the program will possess the necessary skills for industry careers related to the production and utilization of wind energy.

"A number of companies have expressed interest in working with Cloud on the wind turbine project," Dr. Underbakke said. "These partnerships will strengthen our wind energy technology program and expand the scope of the project."

The CCCC president said the college will work with Horizon Wind Energy on this project. Horizon has provided in-kind support **(See Wind on page 2)**

NEW GRANT PROJECTS ARE ANNOUNCED

January brought the news that many communities have anxiously awaited since applying for grants.

Three North Central Kansas communities learned they will receive grants from the Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to help make improvements.

The City of Wilson was one of 13 recipients in the Water and Sewer category of the CDBG Annual Competition. Wilson will receive \$400,000 to make water-line improvements. The city is receiving a loan from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for the remainder of the project.

The cities of Clifton and Linn were two of the five

recipients in the Housing Rehabilitation category.

The City of Clifton will receive \$284,299 to rehabilitate 11 homes and demolish three units.

The City of Linn will receive \$294,327 to rehabilitate 12 homes and demolish one unit.

The communities of Miltonvale and Greenleaf submitted KAN STEP pre-**(See Grants on page 3)**

DID YOU KNOW?



The **Annual Attraction Development Grant Program** has a remaining balance of \$44,587, therefore, a second grant round has been announced.

The Kansas Department of Commerce announced in late January that it will provide four Kansas tourism attractions and events with a combined total of \$85,413.

Those receiving grant funds so far this year under the program include the Boot Hill Museum in Ford County, the Collyer Community Alliance Association in Trego County, the International Chess Institute of the Midwest in McPherson County and the Kansas Underground Salt Museum in Reno County.

The grant may fund up to 40 percent of a project, with the community or business funding the remaining 60 percent. Funding for the program is made possible by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund, which comes from state lottery proceeds.

Grant applications for the second round may be submitted beginning March 1 and will have a deadline of April 30. For more information, contact Regina Nicol in the Travel & Tourism Development Division at 785-296-6777 or visit www.kansascommerce.com.

FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: STAFF CHANGES, TRANSITIONS TAKING PLACE

Change. It has the power to improve, to stimulate, to surprise, to open new opportunities, bring a different perspective and create excitement. Leo Buscaglia said "change is often worth the risk."

Let's reflect on how different our world is compared to 21 years ago when I started at the NCRPC. Employees used a typewriter to complete documents. E-mail was unheard of. Federal programs were in the early phases of state distribution. Cities inside counties and counties inside regions loosely worked together on an infrequent basis. Wheat was \$2.50 a bushel and gasoline was \$1.20 a gallon. Change has occurred.

Here at NCRPC the staff is changing this spring. One of those changes involves John Cyr who will step



Doug McKinney will become NCRPC Executive Director in April.

down as executive director. I am taking an all too brief moment to thank him for his leadership efforts in the region over the past 27 years. He will still be involved albeit in a less active role. Similarly, Connie Cyr is to be applauded for her service in the local housing improvement arena since 1980. She too will remain part of the or-

ganization on a limited basis. I am transitioning into John's position in April. His shoe size is a few notches larger than mine so it will be a challenge to fill them. Carol Torkelson is now housing director. Debra Ohlde is now assistant executive director. We also welcomed Jeanell Tucker as our new office receptionist and clerk.

In short, the NCRPC is in a transition mode. Change occurs each day in our lives and landscapes. Nevertheless, the NCRPC plans to provide the same services related to housing, health planning, and community and economic development as have been available in the past. I ask you to join us as we explore opportunities to help North Central Kansas become a better place, to live, work, and play.

(Cont. from Wind, p. 1)

for the college's previous grant applications related to wind projects. Horizon Energy is developing a large commercial wind energy farm, Meridian Way Wind Farm, within 10 miles of the Concordia campus.

"The Horizon project ideally positions Kansas to effectively market utility scale and community-based wind projects," Dr. Underbakke said.

Other benefits of Cloud's wind turbine project include making Kansas a national player in the effort to increase renewable energy, promoting state use of renewable energies, and providing op-

portunities to market the feasibility of wind and other renewable energies.

The new turbine will establish a prototype community wind farm other Kansas communities may follow. The project also supports the "Kansas Energy Plan" goal to develop 1,000 megawatts of wind-powered generation in Kansas by 2015.

Bruce Graham is the college's wind energy technology instructor. Assisting in the federal application were CCCC Instructor Kim Muff, Vice President of Academic Affairs Kim Krull and Vice President of Administrative Services Bob Maxson.

WIND NEWS

Two individuals affiliated with the NCRPC have been named to the newly formed Kansas Wind Working Group.

Steve Errebo, NCRPC Executive Board Member, and John Cyr, NCRPC Executive Director, are among the 34 members named to the group. Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson is chair.

The group will educate stakeholder groups with current information on wind energy markets, technologies, economics, policies, prospects and issues.

PERSPECTIVE: COMMUNITIES SHOULD PLAN, INVEST WISELY FOR THE FUTURE

The calendar has turned over to 2008, making it a great time to reflect on where we've been and on where we're going. Have you made a resolution for your community yet this year?

For a successful future we must build a community today that looks like what we want it to be tomorrow. That means investing wisely today by prioritizing the problems we must solve, guarding the critical services we must maintain and capitalizing on those opportunities that are too good to pass up.

It seems logical that if we love this rural area, we would annually rededicate ourselves to preserving it; and even better, to enhancing it for the future. Now is not the time for the faint of heart to shy away from molding the future of rural Kansas. Your community needs your efforts today.

But isn't building the community of the future expensive? Of course. That's why the solution is always a grant, right? I would argue that most often the answer is not a grant. The answer is a well thought out plan for the future of your community



Debra Carlson Ohlde has been named NCRPC Assistant Executive Director.

that is so appealing and well constructed that citizens will insist you spend local funds to make it happen and will be happy to chip in some of their own money or sweat equity. If there happens to be a grant program that can offset a portion of the cost, that is icing on the cake.

The secret to a vibrant future is not "out there" any more than the money to fund it is "out there." We must value ourselves first before we ask others to help us build the future. Money is rarely the obstacle to success. The spark, the idea that catches fire, frequently leads to the funding taking care of itself if you gather enough fellow citizens around the fire.

How do we change our thinking about local expenditures? Begin by reclaiming your right to design the future of your community. Second, reassign a certain portion of expenditures into investments in the future, if they legitimately belong in that category. Finally, strategize about the way money is spent to get the most bang for the buck.

Will residents invest in a local community foundation to ensure funding for future important projects? Does your community have a capital improvement plan and are you building the cash reserves to pay for the goals of that plan? Do your utility rates allow you to build a "rainy day fund" to maintain and replace the community's infrastructure?

When you come to the table with cash, your community can be proactive and can be a partner with funding sources to help solve community problems. You will be positioned to take advantage of opportunities for growth and enhancement.

Have a great year and resolve to invest wisely in your community's future.

MEET THE STAFF



Jeanell Tucker joined the NCRPC as receptionist/accounts receivable clerk in January. Originally from Scandia, Kansas, she attended Pike Valley schools through her sophomore year of high school. She completed her junior and senior years at White Rock High School in Burr Oak where her mother taught. Her family now lives north of Glen Elder near Kansas Highway 128.

Jeanell attended Independence Community College where she played volleyball and ran track. She graduated in December 2004 with an Associate of Science degree in Pre-Medicine/Chemistry.

She then attended Colby Community College to take additional classes before applying to the School of Pharmacy at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Jeanell attended KU from August 2005 until October 2007 before making the decision to move back closer to home.

Her favorite hobbies include playing sports, working out at the NCK Wellness Center in Beloit, and shopping.

(Cont. from Grants p. 1) applications to the KDOC in early January. Beginning in 2008, the KAN STEP program now is a semi-annual competition rather than being open all year on a first-come-first-served basis. Both communities made the first cut and were selected to receive

site visits from the KDOC in February. Final award announcements are not expected until August.

The City of Wilson also was selected as one of the first-ever recipients of the new Small Communities Improvement Program (SCIP) grants program. The city will get \$106,250 to

create a new park area to replace a blighted and underutilized property. Community members will offer volunteer labor, equipment and land acquisition in the amount of \$118,000.

For more information about these programs, contact the NCRPC or visit www.kansascommere.com.

EMPLOYEE FULFILLS HIS DESIRE TO OWN A BUSINESS, PURCHASES CWI PARTS FROM MINNEAPOLIS COMPANY

When an employee of the Minneapolis-based business, Classic Wood Interiors, was given the opportunity to purchase the company's parts division that he had operated since 2001, that employee jumped at the chance.

Warren Seilkopf purchased CWI Parts Depot in June 2007 from the owners of Classic Wood Interiors. The owner of the parent company first approached Warren in early 2007 to present the option to purchase the division to accommodate expansion plans they desired to make. Warren now owns and operates CWI Parts from his home in Minneapolis.

"Knowing that they were interested in using the existing space that the Parts Depot was utilizing and my desire to lessen the overhead by working out of my home as an office, it became a reality to buy the division out for

my own business," Warren says.

CWI Parts supplies industrial, maintenance, repair and replacement parts as well as equipment components for its customers in the pneumatic conveying industry so their equipment can always stay in working order.

Warren explains this industry uses equipment and machinery to convey dry bulk materials by vacuum and/or pressure from one location to another through pre-designed line sizes of one to eight inches at very high volumes of 2,000 to 40,000 pounds per hour. Those using pneumatic conveying are the plastics, grain, food processing, chemical, pet food, pharmaceutical and food packaging industries.

"My product lines enhance the working performance of each customer's equipment and machinery," Warren says. "When a company's equipment breaks down, their



down time gets very expensive with loss of production and labor costs."

CWI Parts inventories many parts so that lead times are as short as possible when a customer calls to order a replacement part or schedule maintenance down time.

The company's target audience includes maintenance supervisors, plant managers, and purchasing managers of the industries it serves.

Warren's work experience made this business purchase a natural fit.

"I have worked with three employers over the span of the last 30 years, all of whom are involved in the pneumatic conveying industry," Warren says.

The business purchase was made possible with loans from Central National Bank of Salina, the North Central Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund and investment by the owner.

"The NCRPC was a tremendous help in purchasing/financing my business," Warren says. "With their loan program and subsequent help with Central National Bank, I not only obtained my business loan but was able to secure a valuable line of credit with the bank that helps my business with fluctuating sales and cost of goods purchased for resale."

For more information on the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund, contact Debra Peters, General Manager of Four Rivers Development, Inc., at 785-738-2210.

For more information on CWI Parts, contact Warren Seilkopf at 785-392-2981. A complete product catalog is available.

know others who would like to receive this newsletter? Prefer e-mail format? Send contact information to rlhelen@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

