

# NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission  
Serving Kansans Since 1972

Aug./Sept. 2008  
www.ncrpc.org

## Executive Board

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Marcia Funke, Washington Co.  
**Vice Chair:**  
David Thurlow, Clay Co.  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Chuck Heidrick, Mitchell Co.  
**Executive Board Members:**  
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Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.  
Bill Garrison, Cloud Co.  
Judy Irvin, City of Salina  
Mick Keating, Marshall Co.  
Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.  
Ray McGavran, Ottawa Co.  
Murray McGee, Mitchell 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

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

## Upcoming Events

**Thursday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m.**  
Executive Board Meetings

**Tuesday, October 28,**  
NCRPC Annual Banquet  
American Legion, Linn, KS  
Further information and  
registration contained within.

## TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE, BEING PLACED

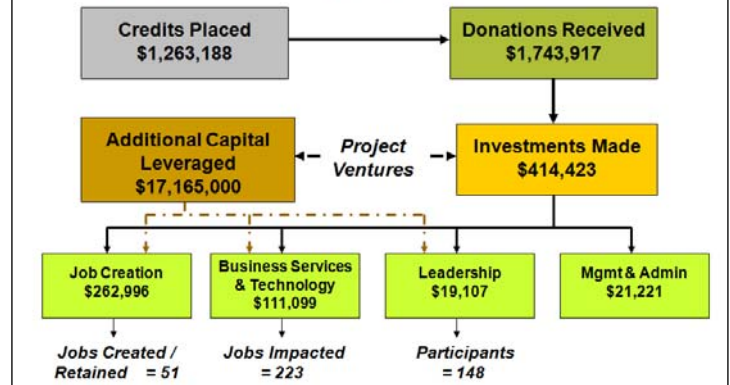
Four years after the Kansas Legislature adopted the Kansas Economic Growth Act, which among other initiatives created the Rural Business Development Tax Credit (RBDTC) program, the North Central Kansas RBDTC program has received more than \$1.7 million.

The Legislature has extended the Act out to 2012, making additional credits available to each region each year. This year the allotment of credits available to the NCK RBDTC program is \$285,714.

John Cyr, NCRPC Special Programs Manager, said that as of September 8, \$56,694 remained in 2008 credits to place in the region. Once placed, this amount will equate to another \$94,940 in donations.

The NCRPC and the North Central Kansas Community Network (NCKCN), a 501(c)3 affiliate non-profit company, have joint responsibility for the

### North Central Kansas RBDTC History: July 1, 2004 to July 31, 2008



The flow chart above illustrates the success thus far in placing the credits as well as the areas into which investment has been made.

RBDTC program in North Central Kansas.

Counties included in the region include the following: Chase, Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Geary, Jewell, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Saline, Wabaunsee and Washington.

“Our approach is regional and we are seeking out those projects that appear to cross boundaries of both conventional thought and practice,” Cyr says. “The

NCRPC/NCKCN team is committed to seeing the offerings of this program be equally accessible to all within the North Central Kansas region.”

The primary categories into which investments have been made to date include job creation, business services and technology and leadership.

For more information or to view the full NCK RBDTC 2008 Mid-Year Report, visit [www.ncrpc.org/services/economic.html](http://www.ncrpc.org/services/economic.html) or contact Cyr at 785-738-2218 or by email at [jcyr@nckcn.com](mailto:jcyr@nckcn.com).

## NCRPC WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The NCRPC is interested in what is going on in your community.

To help us be proactive in assisting the region, we would like to hear from citizens in North Central

Kansas as well as from member cities and counties as to what your project priorities are, how budgets are holding up, what future needs are anticipated, and what current concerns you have.

We invite you to e-mail comments to Sara Crangle at [scrangle@nckcn.com](mailto:scrangle@nckcn.com). Be sure to include your location. Comments will be compiled to form a general snapshot of the region, which will be shared later.



**(WOTC) — WORK  
OPPORTUNITY  
TAX CREDIT  
PROGRAM**

Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) offers a WOTC program that encourages private, for-profit employers to hire within one of several targeted groups of job candidates, reducing employer's federal income tax liability by as much as \$2,400 per qualified worker in the first year of employment.

Of particular relevance to the region is the category that includes 18 to 39-year-old residents living in a rural renewal county. Nine of the 12 counties in the NCRPC service area were announced as rural renewal counties in 2007. Included are the following counties: Clay, Cloud, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Republic, and Washington.

A full list of program-eligible job candidates is available at [www.kansascommerce.com](http://www.kansascommerce.com). Type "WOTC" in the search box.

Employers must apply to Commerce to receive certification of their eligibility for a tax credit. This should be done before the hire.

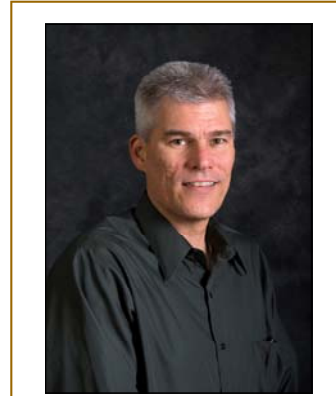
For more information, contact Commerce at 785-296-7435.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR: TIME TO GIVE THANKS, REFLECT, EAT AND CELEBRATE

It is time for the North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) and its affiliates, Four Rivers Development Inc. (FORDI) and North Central Kansas Community Network Inc. (NCKCN) to invite you to our annual banquet. It is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28. It will be in the American Legion Hall in Linn near K-15 Highway in southern Washington County.

We are planning a great meal, a time of reflection, pondering and a time of thanksgiving. It is an occasion to celebrate and seek the input of you our customers, partners and colleagues in community development.

The featured speaker is to be Trent Loos of radio and internet programs, Rural Route, Loos Tales and Faces in Agriculture. Mr. Loos is known for this



Doug McKinney  
became NCRPC Executive  
Director in April 2008.

passion for youth engagement, entrepreneurship, and rural leadership. Loos is humorous and tends to be very thought-provoking. He and his wife, Kelli, operate a purebred Limousin and Angus herd in central Nebraska while raising their three young daughters. Check out [www.loostales.com](http://www.loostales.com) for more information.

Also of note in this newsletter is a feature on a recent loan project partially funded through the NCRPC Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund, our involvements in tornado damaged Chapman and Jewell and further focus about the fairly new Rural Voices Scholarship offering we have.

I encourage you to peruse this issue and glean something that might help you or your neighbor. I appreciate our staff who skillfully serve you, your willingness to partner with us, and your help as we continue to better North Central and other portions of Kansas. We welcome your input.

Doug L. McKinney  
Executive Director

## HISTORICAL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

Every community has its share of older buildings, some of which might even be considered historic.

The Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) offers a State Tax Credit that is equal to 25% of qualifying expenses incurred during a qualified project on a qualified building.

Qualified buildings are those that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Register of Historic Kansas Places, or have been deemed contributors to a



National or State Register Historic District. Projects that are approved by the National Park Service for the 20% Federal Tax Credit will also qualify for the State Tax Credit.

Buildings may be either income-producing or non income-producing. Private residences do qualify for the State Tax Credit.

Proposed work must follow a qualified rehabilitation plan. Qualified projects are those that have been

reviewed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) through the application process.

Project expenses must exceed \$5,000. Smaller projects may be combined in order to exceed the minimum requirement.

Applications must be approved by the KSHS before work begins.

State Tax Credits may be carried forward for 10 years and are transferable.

Contact Katrina Ringler at the KSHS at 785-272-8681 to apply or to verify that your project will qualify

## URGENT NEED FUNDS AWARDED TO TWO CITIES IN REGION FOLLOWING STORMS

Kansas Department of Commerce announced in August the approval of Urgent Need funds to two cities in North Central Kansas

NCRPC assisted the City of Jewell and the City of Chapman with application preparation seeking the grant funds from Kansas Department of Commerce following storms in each of the communities in May and June.

In Jewell, the award of \$320,300 will help the city reconstruct a water chlorination pump station and construct a 50,000 gallon water tower as well as ground connection water chlorination pump station piping apparatus destroyed and damaged, respectively, by an EF3

tornado that struck the community on May 29.

In Chapman, the award of \$283,209 will reimburse the electrical system rebuilding costs

absorbed by the city in June and July

soon after the tornado struck the town on June 11. Well #6 and related pump station are to be rebuilt since it was destroyed as well. Also to be reimbursed will be the cost for the warning siren system ruined by the



Agencies and individuals came to the aid of the City of Chapman and the City of Jewell after each were struck by a tornado this spring. This photo was taken in Chapman five days after the tornado.

twister and replaced soon after.

Both cities are providing matching funds in the form of insurance proceeds or general city funds. The NCRPC is providing project administration for both communities.

## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS HAVE CHANCE TO REFLECT ON RURAL KANSAS, EARN CASH

High school seniors in North Central Kansas are invited to participate in the 2008-2009 RuralVoices Contest by preparing a written essay, a series of photos or a short video reflective of the theme, *"Rural Kansas...My Community."*

The contest, sponsored by the NCRPC, is in its third year. The top three entries will be recognized with publication on the EyeonKansas Web site and cash awards of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250.

"We saw increased participation in the contest last year and hope to see it increase again this year," Lori Thielen, NCRPC Con-

test Coordinator, said. "Entries were particularly high for the visual elements including photo essays and short videos."

Entries should be submitted electronically by November 15, 2008.

"It is always interesting to see how students interpret the contest theme," Thielen said. "With this year's theme, we anticipate students will evoke images of their community's geographic place and social networks."

Any senior in high school who lives in or attends a school in the 12-county NCRPC service area is eligible — including the counties of Clay, Cloud,

Dickinson, Ellsworth, Jewell, Lincoln, Marshall, Mitchell, Ottawa, Republic, Saline and Washington. Home school students in this area may participate.

The contest review panel consists of representatives from the NCRPC, Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Sampler Foundation, Kansas State University, Cloud County Community College, and area media organizations.

Additional information and registration details are available by visiting [www.eyeonkansas.org](http://www.eyeonkansas.org) and clicking on the "RuralVoices" link. All entries must include the online registration form.

### MEET THE BOARD



Abner Perney joined the NCRPC Board in Spring 2006 after being appointed by the Mayor to represent the City of Salina.

He has owned and operated Abner's Autos since 1997 and specializes in buying and selling late-model used cars to order. Prior to starting his own business, Abner worked as a contractor on two separate occasions. He also served as a Multifamily Housing Development Specialist for the U.S. Department of Housing from 1969 to 1980 and was Director for the Salina Housing Authority from 1983 to 1994.

In addition to being a City Commissioner for the City of Salina, Abner is a volunteer for the Smoky Hill River Festival and serves on the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors. He also participates in various car clubs including those for German cars, British cars and sports cars. Abner enjoys hiking and car activities. A graduate of the University of Colorado with a degree in architecture, Abner and his wife, Kathrynne, have two adult sons, Dylan and Adam.

## BELOIT HARDWARE STORE RELOCATES AND EXPANDS

A hardware store that has been a fixture in downtown Beloit for more than 60 years recently relocated and expanded to a larger building, also in downtown Beloit.

The current owners of the business known as Zachary's Ace Hardware, Bill and Valissa Zachary, have owned it 25 of those 60+ years. The move was just over a block away to a building that was formerly occupied by Boogarts.

While the move has kept the store in the downtown area, the relocation has already assisted existing operations through wider aisles, shopping carts, improved lighting, more checkout stands and hundreds of new items all on one level. The previous location had three levels.

Purchase of the building and expansion was made possible with loans from First National Bank of Beloit, the North Central Kansas Business Development Fund,

Startup Kansas and investment by the owners.

Both owners actively manage the day-to-day operations of the business. The project retained 8 full-time equivalent jobs. Many of the store's employees have been with the business for at least five years.

Murray McGee, Director of Mitchell County Community Development, is enthusiastic about the relocation.

"This family-owned business is an anchor retail business in downtown Beloit," McGee says. "We see this as a great opportunity for this business to grow, create new jobs and new revenues for the business itself and the community through increased sales tax revenues."

For more information about the financing programs used, contact Debra Peters, General Manager of Four Rivers Development, Inc. at 785-738-2210.



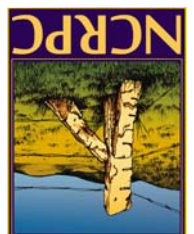
Zachary's Ace Hardware formerly occupied three levels of a downtown Beloit building.



The business purchased a larger building also in downtown Beloit and shoppers now enjoy new items and everything on one level.

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.

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](http://www.ncrpc.org)



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**NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
2008 BANQUET  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH**

**AMERICAN LEGION HALL, LINN, KS**

100 Fifth Street & K-15 Highway North

Telephone (785) 348-5370

*Linn is 10 miles south of Washington and 20 miles north of Clay Center*

**SOCIAL HOUR: 5:30 P.M.**

*Appetizers will be served*

*Relax and Network with Old and New Friends*

**DINNER: 6:30 P.M.**

*Meal to include choice of Smoked Pork Chop and Roast Beef*

*Homemade Pie from "Our Daily Bread," Barnes, KS*

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS FEATURING TRENT LOOS**

Rural America – Vital and Diverse

*Followed by Brief Question and Answer Session*

Visit his Web site at [www.loostales.com](http://www.loostales.com)

**WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND AND SHARE AN EVENING WITH US.  
PLEASE SEE REGISTRATION DETAILS BELOW.  
RSVP BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008.**



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**NCRPC BANQUET RESERVATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER TO ATTEND: \_\_\_\_\_

COST PER PERSON: \$12

PAYMENT ENCLOSED:

PAYMENT WILL FOLLOW via MAIL:

**RSVP by Friday October 17, 2008**

To Register, call the NCRPC at (785) 738-2218 OR Fax NCRPC at (785) 738-2185 OR E-mail [proberg@nckcn.com](mailto:proberg@nckcn.com) OR

Mail this form with Payment to:

North Central Regional Planning Commission

P.O. Box 565

Beloit, KS 67420