



## WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED

The NCRPC was recognized for its past and current efforts with the Weatherization Assistance Program September 20 at Governor Sam Brownback's office in Topeka. Executive Director, Doug McKinney, and Weatherization Director, Margaret Cathey, attended on behalf of the NCRPC. The Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) also was represented.

The NCRPC began its Weatherization Assistance Program in 1979 with an original service area of eight counties. That area has now expanded to include 35 counties.

At the time of the recognition, the Governor signed a Proclamation declaring October as National Energy Awareness Month. October 30 is designated as National Weatherization Day.

The financial and environmental benefits of a properly weatherized home were highlighted by the

KHRC and the Governor during Energy Awareness Month.

Actions such as installing programmable thermostats, washing only full loads of laundry and turning off the lights when you leave a room were encouraged.

Additional steps to lower energy costs in colder weather included:

- Enlist a professional to conduct an energy audit.
- Install foam gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches to reduce air leaks.
- Caulk and weather strip gaps, cracks and joints to reduce drafts.
- Replace air filters on HVAC units.
- Set the thermostat to 68 degrees; turn down the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Always unplug gadget and small appliance chargers.
- Open curtains during the day and close shades at night.



Pictured during the recognition and signing of the Proclamation are from left to right: Doug McKinney, NCRPC; Jeanette Spurgin, KHRC; Matt Spurgin, KS Department of Agriculture; Governor Sam Brownback; Margaret Cathey, NCRPC; Jesse Mofle, ECKAN; Dennis Mesa, KHRC; and Al Dorsey, KHRC.

## EDA Awards Funds for Bulk Material Research Facility to be in Salina

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded \$1,083,675 in Economic Adjustment funds to the Salina Economic Development Corporation to fund construction of a new building to facilitate a Bulk Solids Innovation Center.

This facility, to be built in north Salina, is the first of its kind in North America. It will provide space for multiple small and medium-sized research projects, and benefit industries that use and make conveyance systems for bulk material such as sugar, starch, minerals, chemicals,

and plastic pellets. This investment is part of a projected \$3.5 million project. It is estimated the project will create 30 jobs, save 5 jobs, and leverage \$21 million in private investment.

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### Leadership :: NCRPC Executive Board

**Chair:**  
Tim Vandall, City of Ellsworth

**Vice Chair:**  
Frank Ryttych, Republic Co.

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
Brian Ellert, Mitchell Co.

**Executive Board Members:**  
Jon Blanchard, City of Salina  
Karen Brumbaugh, Ottawa Co.  
Craig Chamberlin, Dickinson Co.  
Tom Claussen, Mitchell Co.  
Johnita Crawford, Cloud Co.  
Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.

Heather Hartman, Mitchell Co. Comm. Dev.  
Gerald Huehl, Lincoln Co.  
Gary Ouellette, Washington Co.  
Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.  
Hannah Stambaugh, Saline Co.  
Sonya Stohs, Marshall Co.  
David Thurlow, Clay Co.

## Preservation Grant Program Available



The Historic Preservation Partners, Inc. (HPP) announced the creation of its Preservation

Grant Program and solicited the first round of grant applications in August. Beginning in 2014 and subject to available funding, the HPP will accept grant applications semi-annually on March 1 and October 1.

The program assists in the stabilization, mothballing, and rehabilitation of historic properties. The maximum project award is \$15,000.

Stabilization and mothballing grants will address buildings that are in danger of decaying beyond repair or that need help to fund essential maintenance items to prolong the building's life while the owner develops a viable preservation plan. Rehabilitation grants will help finance small preservation projects that would not otherwise be feasible without outside assistance. Listing on the State or National Register of historic places is preferred, but not required.

Visit the website at [yourhistoricpartner.com/grant.htm](http://yourhistoricpartner.com/grant.htm) for more information.

To view additional funding sources for preservation or other types of projects, visit the NCRPC website at [www.ncrpc.org/services/community.html](http://www.ncrpc.org/services/community.html) and click on the "funding source matrix."

## NCRPC Executive Board Welcomes Stambaugh

Hannah Stambaugh joined the NCRPC Executive Board in 2012. She is the Saline County Emergency Management Director. In this role, Hannah coordinates disaster response, recovery and mitigation activities; organizes exercises to test plans and prepare responders; and develops and reviews emergency plans. Prior to this position, Hannah spent two years as the Saline County Emergency Management Deputy Director and eight years as a 911 dispatcher in Riley and Saline Counties. Hannah serves on the North Central Regional Homeland Security Council and the Kansas Wesleyan



Hannah Stambaugh

Emergency Management Advisory Council and is a member of the Kansas Emergency Management Association. She has a degree in

travel and tourism from Bryan Career College in Topeka. Hannah has one son and in her spare time enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with family.

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The project is a joint effort between several private companies, the Salina Chamber of Commerce, Salina Economic Development Corporation, Kansas State University, and the NCRPC and its affiliate NCKCN. It will use both public and private sector resources.

The 13,000-square-foot center will be used to study and increase the understanding of bulk solids materials handling, in turn enhancing the competitiveness of those businesses that use bulk solid materials or manufacture the systems that convey, store and dispense them. Unlike liquids and gases, the science of dry bulk solids is not thoroughly understood.



Courtesy Photo

Shown above is a rendering of the Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center to be built in north Salina.

The university will be the key tenant in the center, with various offices and research suites for permanent and visiting researchers, companies and other users. Two local companies, K-Tron and Salina Vortex, will be initial anchor tenants conducting research of their own as well as collaborative research.

## looking ahead : Meetings, Deadlines, and More

### Thursday, December 5, 2013

Executive Board Meeting  
Beloit Main Office, 2 p.m.

### Holiday Reduced Office Hours

The NCRPC offices will be closed November 28 and 29 and from December 25 through January 1.

### Remaining NCRPC Regional Meetings

January 9, 2014 — Jewell, 6:30 p.m.  
January 21, 2014 — Lincoln, 6:30 p.m.

### Thursday, January 30, 2014

Executive Board Meeting  
Beloit Main Office, 2 p.m.



**Contact Us:**  
**North Central Regional  
Planning Commission (NCRPC)**

109 N. Mill Street • PO Box 565  
Beloit, KS 67420 • 785-738-2218

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

Send newsletter suggestions to  
[lthielen@nckcn.com](mailto:lthielen@nckcn.com).

## Board Sets Goals during Recent Strategy Session

### EDA Conducts Peer Review of NCRPC

NCRPC Executive Board members participated in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee session on November 7. Leon Atwell facilitated

ment needs and priorities and recommends a regional approach to achieving sustainable economic development. It is required to qualify for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance. The NCRPC updates its CEDS every five years.

At the session, members discussed region-wide needs. The governing body also examined how NCRPC staff has been working past and present to address many of those needs and priori-

tized the most significant objectives moving forward. The group identified the top 10 goals for NCRPC promotion, related collaboration and direct assistance. The board will further review and refine the goals at its December meeting.

On Monday, September 9, 2013 Forlesia Willis and Mark Werthmann of the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA), along with Doug Elliott of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments, visited the NCRPC office and met with various staff and board members.

Their visit had three objectives. First was a three-year audit of the general operations and the NCRPC use of the planning partnership funding from EDA annually approved for the NCRPC since the early 1980s. Second was the audit of the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund, which has been in existence since 1991. The final objective was EDA's official approval to add Clay, Marshall, and Saline Counties to the revolving loan fund service area.

The review was deemed constructive and positive. The representatives expressed appreciation for the diversity of the organization's service provisions and compliments on detailed documentation supporting program activities.



Pictured from left to right during the November 7 strategy session are Kermit Rush, Leon Atwell and Gerald Huehl.

the session, which took place in the NCRPC office in Beloit. Atwell is an affiliate of the Kansas Leadership Council and co-founder of Advancing Rural Prosperity.

A CEDS provides a road map that reflects local economic develop-

### ..... Top 10 Goals Identified During Strategy Session .....

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Securing Basic Infrastructure        | 6. Providing Technical Assistance         |
| 2. Improving the Region's Housing Stock | 7. Enhancing Access to Business Capital   |
| 3. Supporting Business Development      | 8. Fostering Leadership Skill Development |
| 4. Improving the Regional Economy       | 9. Diversifying Energy Resources          |
| 5. Strengthening Human Capital          | 10. Furthering Regional Capacity          |

### Eye on Kansas Online Magazine Continues

The *Eye on Kansas* is an online magazine about what makes Kansas our home. Featured articles highlight the people, places and things one encounters while touring rural Kansas. Articles are contributed by rural residents, exposing the reader to the expertise and rich variety found in even the most rural part of the state.

The NCRPC began hosting the *Eye on Kansas* in 2005. In addition to featuring new articles each season, the *Eye on Kansas* also hosts the annual Rural Voices Youth Contest. Archived articles feature many areas of the state.

To view past issues, visit [www.eyeonkansas.org](http://www.eyeonkansas.org).

### Two NCRPC Regional Meetings Remain

Don't miss your chance to participate in one of the two remaining NCRPC regional forums. Participants will interact with staff, review what funding sources might be available for various project needs, and learn how we can partner with you to further the progress in your own community or on the board on which you serve.

Each meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a meal provided by the NCRPC and will continue with an information-filled evening.

Meeting dates remaining include Jewell on January 9 and Lincoln on January 21. To RSVP, call the NCRPC office at 785-738-2218 or email [lpeters@nckcn.com](mailto:lpeters@nckcn.com). Please RSVP by January 2.



## North Central Regional Planning Commission

109 N. Mill, PO Box 565  
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### business updates

Businesses in Clay, Marshall, and Saline Counties now have another option available to them for gap financing needs.

The NCRPC received approval from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to expand its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) service area to include Clay, Marshall, and Saline Counties. The NCRPC RLF, which was established in 1991, previously included nine of the 12 counties served by the NCRPC. The program, which is administered by the EDA, will now be offered in the entire 12-county service area.

The NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund assists area banks with gap financing needed by a customer to start, expand or purchase a business.

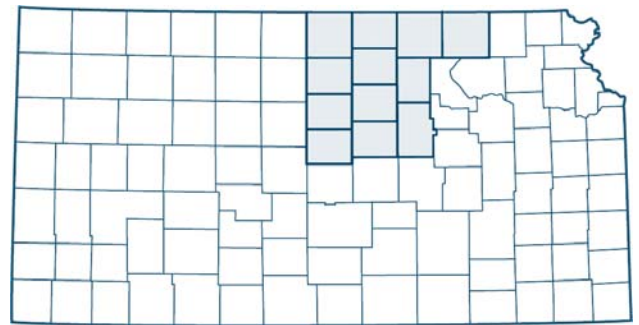
The three newest counties became eligible to be included in the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund ser-

## Revolving Loan Fund Area Expanded

vice area under a special needs allowance as a result of the 2012 federal drought declarations. A local match of \$17,600 was raised in each county as part of the EDA eligibility requirements. Each county has a representative on the RLF District Loan Committee.

The NCRPC RLF seeks to enhance both job creation and job preservation in the region by taking an active financial role in business and industrial development.

The program can lend up to \$50,000 per job or one-third of the total project cost, whichever is less. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 and the minimum loan amount is \$20,000. The borrower must inject 10% or more into the



All 12 counties in the NCRPC service area are now eligible to access the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund.

project. The funds may be used for working capital and fixed assets.

“We are pleased that we are now able to offer this program to our entire 12-county service area,” Debra Peters, NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund Program Manager, says.

For more information about this funding program, contact Peters at 785-738-2218 or by email at [dpeters@nckcn.com](mailto:dpeters@nckcn.com).