

# NCRPC NEWS

A publication of the North Central Regional Planning Commission

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www.ncrpc.org

## Emergency Response Focus of Exercise

Agencies from across the state participated in a full scale training exercise March 31 and April 1 that was designed to test emergency response capabilities. The exercise, sponsored by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM), took place at Crisis City, located southwest of Salina.

Sherry Angell, Homeland Security (HLS) Program Coordinator for the NCRPC, says full scale exercises occur periodically to test responders' abilities and help find gaps that need to be addressed.

Some of the equipment used was purchased with HLS funds.

The NCRPC assists in the procurement of equipment by serving as fiscal agent for six Regional Homeland Security Councils.

The exercise focused on three main areas including Search and Rescue (SAR), Incident Management Team (IMT) operations, and EMS Triage (MERGe). Pam Kemp, Clay County Emergency Management Director and North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Chair, acted as an evaluator for the IMT's during the exercise.

"Participation in realistic training and exercise gives responders a chance to test their skills in a safe environment where mistakes can be made without harm and all involved can review and learn from what happens during the exercise," Kemp says.



A Full Scale Exercise to test response capabilities took place recently at Crisis City, located southwest of Salina. (Photo courtesy of KDEM)

**"The result is a response to disaster that is much better than we have ever had before."**

— Pam Kemp  
Clay County Emergency Management Director and North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Chair

She explains that the IMT's in Kansas are funded primarily by use of the Regional Homeland Security funds.

"The process we follow in the Kansas Regional Homeland Security Councils gives us a coordinated evaluation of what is needed in each region and across the state to expand our capabilities and has resulted in a much more efficient use of those Homeland Security funds," Kemp says. "The result is a response to disaster that is much better than we have ever had before." ■

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Chair:

Gary Ouellette, Washington County

### Vice Chair:

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### Secretary/Treasurer:

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Kermit Rush, Ellsworth County  
Ed Splichal, Republic County  
Hannah Stambaugh, Saline County  
David Thurlow, Clay County  
Tim Vandall, City of Ellsworth

## ABOUT US

### Our Mission

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

### Our Vision

By 2024, communities in rural Kansas will favor choices that embrace innovation, increase prosperity and demonstrate resilience.

### Contact Us

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### Visit Us on the Web

www.ncrpc.org

# Cultivating Transitions Part of Leaving a Positive Legacy

Spring is here and summer is on its way. The seasons are transitioning. As I write this between events at a track meet, however, it feels much more like winter than spring. I am reminded that I like the changing seasons in Kansas and would probably not appreciate warmth if I didn't freeze every once in awhile.

Transitions also happen in businesses, on governing boards and with leadership in community or non-profit organizations.

I remember specific mentors in my professional and civic life; people who found value in my contribution, included me as a peer and trusted me with levels of responsibility when I demonstrated that I was ready for a stretch. And maybe, most importantly, the mentor recognized that we all make mistakes. I often mentally remind myself that I'm at the point where I need to be more mentor and less mentee. Time for a transition.

Regardless of your stage in life or the stage of your business or organization, we all need someone to challenge us, ask good questions and push us to the edge of our comfort zone; we just play different roles at different times. I value leaders who recognize the need to continually cultivate people who will work beside them and eventually take their place.



## VIEWPOINT



Debra Carlson Ohlde is the NCRPC Assistant Director.

Unfortunately, too many cannot or will not give up control or space at the table and, eventually, when they are done, their organization, business, or community is pretty much done too. They missed out on the chance to enjoy certain

partnerships and they allowed a once vital entity to slip away. In an effort to accumulate a bigger share, they may have inadvertently diminished the value of whatever they held dear. The pie is not finite, but human nature wants us to think that it is.

“Regardless of your stage in life or the stage of your business or organization, we all need someone to challenge us, ask good questions and push us to the edge of our comfort zone; we just play different roles at different times.”

— Deb Ohlde

The Boston Globe noted in an article last winter that Boston College's Center on Wealth and Philanthropy will be closing later this year; after nearly 50 years of success. The Center specialized in research related to giving. It had a strong reputation and made significant contributions to the field of

philanthropy. The irony is the Center is closing during a time when interest in philanthropy is at an all-time high and when vast quantities of wealth are being transferred.

I found one sentence in the article especially bothersome. One of the co-directors commented that they didn't want the Center to become something different under new leadership. Previously it had been noted that the current co-directors had encompassed a unique and especially dynamic set of qualifications and complementary skills. Surely finding that same combination in others would be difficult. Perhaps there was concern that anyone was even up to the challenge. But is seeing the entity disappear better than seeing it reemerge differently and with renewed relevance?

I don't know much about the Center and certainly don't know specifics about those involved, but allowing it to cease seems wasteful. If it were a business, wouldn't it be sad to see it close and leave the community lacking that point of commerce? If it were a community, wouldn't it show a lack of stewardship if the parks were unsafe and unkept? It would be like sending the message “We are done here, there won't be any more kids.”

Wouldn't a better legacy involve cultivating the transition and helping it evolve and grow? It is one thing if something has served its purpose and is no longer needed, but quite another to fear what might happen instead of realizing the joy of what it might have been in the next generation. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

### Thursday, May 28, 2015

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

### Thursday, July 30, 2015

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

### Remaining FY 2015 CDBG

#### Funding Deadlines

Commercial Rehabilitation - June 1, 2015  
Special Round - June 1, 2015

### FY 2016 CDBG Funding Deadlines

Housing - Aug. 31, 2015

Water and Sewer - Sept. 30, 2015

Community Facilities - Nov. 2, 2015

KAN STEP - Aug. 14, 2015 & Feb. 16, 2016

Economic Development - Open Window  
from Jan 1-Dec. 10, 2015

Visit [www.kansascommerce.com/cdbg](http://www.kansascommerce.com/cdbg)  
or call the NCRPC office for assistance.

## Executive Board Welcomes Splichal

Ed Splichal joined the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors in 2015 after being elected to the Republic County Board of Commissioners.

Ed was a public school educator for five years before spending 33 years in banking. He spent 32 years at the First National Bank in Belleville (now Astra Bank) and retired as its president in 2008. Ed was appointed Kansas Bank Commissioner in 2010, a role in which he served for three years. Splichal also was active in the Kansas Bankers Association, the Kansas Association of Bank Agricultural Representatives, and the



Ed Splichal

the Duclos Foundation and his church. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education. Ed and his wife, Karen, have four children and 16 grandchildren. In his spare time, Ed enjoys reading, bicycling, and hobby farming. ■

Courtesy Photo  
American Bankers Association, serving in various leadership roles in all three banking organizations, and locally is involved with

## Board Travels to Abilene for Field Trip

Members of the NCRPC Executive Board met and toured various locations in Abilene on April 30, continuing its annual field trip tradition.

increase efficiencies for farm, ranch and livestock production businesses.

The second tour was of the Abilene Water Treatment Plant located at 2100



NCRPC Executive Board Members toured multiple locations in Abilene on April 30. Members are pictured above at Rawhide Portable Corral with Cassy Wilson (center), who led the tour.

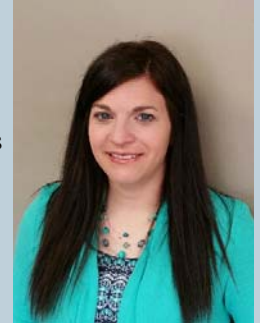
The day began with lunch at Joe Snuffy's Old Fashion Grill and was followed by a short business meeting at the Dickinson County Courthouse. The group then adjourned to its first tour at Rawhide Portable Corral located at 900 N. Washington. The business designs and manufactures a hydraulic portable corral on wheels that is intended to

W. 8th. Jay Leusman, Lead Water Plant Operator for the City of Abilene, led the tour of the reverse osmosis type plant, the first of its kind in the state.

For more information about these locations, visit their websites at [www.rawhideportablecorral.com](http://www.rawhideportablecorral.com) and [www.abilenecityhall.com/index.aspx?NID=23](http://www.abilenecityhall.com/index.aspx?NID=23). ■

## Bailey Joins NCRPC Staff

Keegan Bailey joined the NCRPC staff in April as Administrative Assistant. In this role she assists with accounts receivable and accounts payable for NCRPC and its affiliate, NCKCN.



Keegan Bailey

A native of Beloit, Keegan graduated with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Washburn University. Prior to that, she attended Bethany College for two years and played softball there. She is Assistant Coach for Beloit High School Softball.

In her spare time, Keegan enjoys participating in a number of recreational athletic events and spending time with family and friends. She is married to Tyler, and has a daughter, Isabell. ■

## WeKan!Support Ready to Accept New Projects

WeKan!Support, a crowdfunding and volunteer-sourcing site that is designed to match Kansas community projects with those who want to help through donations or volunteerism, is ready to accept new projects.

The concept was tested during a pilot project phase in Fall 2014 as Kanstarter. Wilson, Kansas, was one of the pilot projects and was the first to reach its fundraising goal. To learn more about how to use WeKan!Support, visit [wekan.kanstarter.com](http://wekan.kanstarter.com) and click on "How Do I Get Started?" ■



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# North Central KS Ag Spreader Business Changes Ownership

When Cory Peters had the opportunity to purchase the assets of Connelly Ag Spreader Service of Tescott, it seemed like a perfect fit.

Peters had worked full-time in the business since 2011 while operating his own custom forage harvesting business. He says the two businesses go hand-in-hand.

Peters purchased the assets of Connelly Ag Spreader Service in 2014 and now operates Peters Ag Spreader Service from his residence located northwest of Ada.

Area farmers, dairies and feedlots hire the business to remove manure from their cattle pens and spread it on crop fields. Peters says they receive repeat customers on an annual or even semi-annual basis. Many of their customers use both the spreading and custom forage harvesting services.

“By operating the two businesses I can provide multiple services to the same customers and, as a result, I can be more efficient and offer the services at a reasonable price,” Peters says.

The business is based in Ottawa County, but also provides services to a larger area primarily within North Central Kansas. Peters has two full-time employees and typically hires another part-time employee for the custom forage harvesting business.

This project was made possible with funding from the State Bank of Delphos, the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund, the Four Rivers NCKBDF Down Payment Assistance Loan Program, and investment by the owner.

For more information about the financing programs used, contact Debra Peters, NCRPC Business



Courtesy Photo

Peters Ag Spreader Service operates many pieces of large equipment, including the loader that business owner Cory Peters is pictured with above.

Finance Director, at 785-738-2218 or [dpeters@nckcn.com](mailto:dpeters@nckcn.com). ■