

NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission
Serving Kansans Since 1972

Dec. 2009/Jan. 2010
www.ncrpc.org

Executive Board

Chair:

David Thurlow, Clay Co.

Vice Chair:

Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chuck Heidrick, Mitchell Co.

Executive Board Members:

Tom Arpke, City of Salina
Johnita Crawford, Cloud Co.
Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.
Judy Irvin, City of Salina
Mick Keating, Marshall Co.
Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.
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Roger Otott, Washington Co.
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Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.
Frank Rytych, Republic Co.
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NCRPC Staff

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 28, 2 p.m.
Thursday, February 25, 2 p.m.
Thursday, March 25, 2 p.m.
Thursday, April 29, 2 p.m.
Thursday, May 27, 2 p.m.
Executive Board Meetings
NCRPC Office, Beloit, KS

TWO COMMUNITIES RECEIVE FUNDING

Two communities in North Central Kansas have received notice they will be receiving funding for projects.

The City of Mankato will receive a KAN STEP grant of \$300,000 to construct an addition to the city's fire station building. The addition will encompass 4,800 square feet that will include a truck maintenance area, meeting space and space to park fire trucks.

Local volunteers anticipate donating approximately \$217,186 in equipment and labor toward the project.

KAN STEP, administered through the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, is a self-help program that enables small communities to make major infrastructure

FRIENDLY CDBG REMINDER...
for cities or counties with open CDBG projects.

Remember that due to the open records laws, it is essential the original files be kept at the City Hall or County Courthouse for all federally funded projects. Files must be kept for four years after closeout.

improvements. Local residents volunteer labor or services while the grant provides funding for technical services and materials.

To view a map of all current and past KAN STEP projects, visit www.krwa.net/projects/projects.shtml.

The City of Abilene will receive \$48,000 through the USDA Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) Program. The program provides financial assistance to sponsoring organizations to assist in

the repair and/or rehabilitation of single-family and rental residences located in rural communities.

The NCRPC is the eligible sponsor who is administering the grant. The funds also are being leveraged with \$55,000 in HOME rehabilitation money that is already in place. A minimum of four owner or renter-occupied units will be repaired or rehabilitated through the HPG program.

For more about either of these funding programs, contact the NCRPC to visit with a staff member.

STATE TAX CREDITS REMAIN AVAILABLE

State tax credits for the 2009 tax year remain available through the NCRPC and its non-profit affiliate, the North Central Kansas Community Network Co (NCKCN). For tax payers, these credits offer a means of seeing that a portion of their state income tax is used to benefit North Central Kansas.

The credits are valued at 67.5% with funds donated

to NCKCN in exchange for these credits being used for rural business development.

The NCRPC has administered this program since 2004, raising \$1.8 million through donations for projects falling under one or more of these categories: Leadership Development, Business Services, Technology Acquisition, and Job Creation. To date, the

North Central program has invested more than \$1.0 million, which has helped area businesses create 148 jobs while supporting business initiatives that have impacted 258 others.

This program is made possible by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the 2004 Kansas Rural Business Development Act.

For more information, visit www.ncrpc.org.



RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANTS AVAILABLE

The State Energy Office (SEO) is now taking applications for the new Renewable Energy Incentives Grant Program.

The program will provide just over \$3.8 million in funding to promote the use of renewable energy in the public sector by offering grants to cover up to 25% of the costs (up to \$250,000) of developing, implementing, and installing a renewable energy source.

Eligible applicants include state agencies, cities and counties, public colleges and universities, community colleges and technical schools and unified school districts.

Eligible projects include wind, solar, biomass, geothermal and hydropower.

The funding is made possible through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

For more information, visit kcc.ks.gov/energy/arra/ or contact Terry Steuber at 785-271-3352 or by email at t.steuber@kcc.ks.gov.

FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW: NCRPC STAFF MAKE RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

A resolution often is a combination of hope, planning and intention to act differently. It also can involve changing habits and seeking solutions to concerns or problems. A resolution has different connotations for everyone.

We asked NCRPC staff members to share what was on their minds as we prepare to begin 2010.

As you read these brief comments from a small sampling of our staff, we invite you to think about and write down resolutions of your own – whether they be personal or professional in nature.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your patronage this past year. Let us know how we can serve you in 2010. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the NCRPC!



“I resolve to be happy and healthy in 2010.”
~Charlene Abell



“This year I resolve to become a woman of prayer.”
~Margaret Cathey



“I vow to learn to say no in order to abide by my contract to work but 20 hours per week.”

~John Cyr



“My objective for 2010 is to give of my resources and to provide more appreciation to

my creator, family, friends, strangers, as well as to co-workers.”

~Doug McKinney



“In 2010, I resolve to pause and think before speaking, to be truly engaged in whatever I am doing at the time (less multi-tasking), and to keep

things in their proper perspective – gauging the significance of events based on the impact 10 months from now rather than 10 minutes from now.”

~Deb Ohlde



“In 2010, I resolve to spend the first hour of the work day on the most critical item of

the day. Also, I will try to live more by priority, not by pressure.”

~Debra Peters



“I resolve to be more organized and get rid of stuff I don't need.”

~Pepper Roberg



“This year I resolve to focus more on being in the moment – spending less time worrying about the past or what lies ahead.” ~Lori Thielen

HEIDRICK RETIRES FROM NCRPC BOARD

After providing 18 years of volunteer service to the NCRPC as its Executive Board Secretary-Treasurer, Chuck Heidrick, Beloit, will be retiring from the position.

The Executive Board of Directors presented Heidrick with a certificate of appreciation and a personalized stone post at its December 3rd meeting.

John Cyr, former Executive Director, says Heidrick brought with him an understanding of regional collaboration and has always been willing to give of his time and talent to help guide the organization in its service to North Central Kansas.

“During my stint as Executive Director, Chuck became one of my closest

advisors,” Cyr says. “Sometimes all that was needed was his willingness to listen, but at other times his financial knowledge and advice were critical.”

Doug McKinney, Executive Director, agrees that Heidrick has been gracious with his time.

“Chuck has been a sounding board for John
(Continued on page 3)

ORGANIZATION EVOLVES DURING DECADE

The NCRPC has continually evolved since it was first formed in 1972. This past decade has been no exception.

Audit history shows that in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000, the NCRPC realized \$1.4 million in revenue while that figure was \$4.4 million for the year ending March 31, 2008. The 2009 audit report is being completed.

Many factors have contributed to the growth in revenue. While some funds are considered pass-through funds, there has been steady growth over the past decade. What follows are some key organizational highlights that have occurred during the past 10 years.

In 2003 the NCRPC began working with the North Central Kansas Public Health Initiative by hiring staff to provide support services in public health emergency preparedness and response planning.

In 2004 the NCRPC began working with the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship in Lincoln, Nebraska, to

introduce its Home Town Competitiveness (HTC) model of community and economic development to North Central Kansas.

In 2004 the NCRPC was made the administrative agent for the 2004 Kansas Rural Business Tax Credit Program in North Central Kansas. Over \$1.8 Million has been raised through placement of these credits that target leadership development and business support services that create jobs.

In 2005 the NCRPC began meeting with the Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI), Manhattan, to develop a better working relationship with EDA's new University Center in Kansas.

In 2005 the NCRPC began hosting and collaborating with Kansas State University on Web sites including the Eye on Kansas (www.eyeonkansas.org) and the Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy (www.ojrrp.org).

In 2006 the NCRPC authorized the funding of a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program in

conjunction with the North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit.

In 2006 the NCRPC began sponsoring a RuralVoices Youth Contest for high school seniors in the NCRPC service area to engage the region's youth in reflection on rural Kansas.

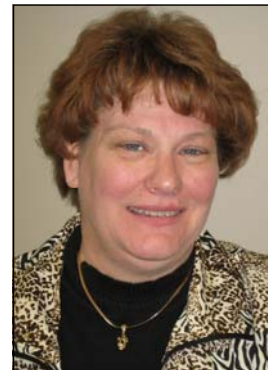
In 2006 the NCRPC was selected as fiscal agent for the North Central Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council and the Northeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council.

In 2007 the NCRPC was selected as fiscal agent for the Southeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council and the Southwest Regional Homeland Security Council, bringing the total regions served to four.

In 2008 the NCRPC was selected as fiscal agent for the Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council and the South Central Regional Homeland Security Council, bringing the total regions served to six.

For more information about the NCRPC, visit www.ncrpc.org.

MEET THE BOARD



Johnita Crawford

Johnita joined the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors in 2009. She has served on the Cloud County Board of Commissioners since 2006. In addition to being a commissioner, Johnita owns and operates a business in Clyde, Kansas, called Gluten-Free Essentials, which is dedicated to helping those on a Gluten-Free diet live healthy, happy and normal lives. Prior to that, she owned and operated the Cloud County Tea Company.

A native of Clyde, Johnita volunteers her time to many area organizations including the Cloud County Tourism and Convention Advisory Board, the Pawnee Mental Health Board, the Cloud Corp Board, the Juvenile Detention Center Board in Junction City, and the Clyde Development and Beautification Boards.

Johnita graduated from Clyde High School. She is married to Mike and has two grown sons and five grandchildren. Johnita has passion for tourism and enjoys painting.

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and I, and an adviser of sorts for many financial matters concerning the organization," McKinney says. "He has also donated about an hour every week and a half to reviewing expenditures and signing checks, which equals a lot of time over his tenure."

The NCRPC Executive Board of Directors has named Brian Eilert, also of Beloit, to replace Heidrick.



Chuck Heidrick was recently recognized by the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors. Pictured (from L to R) are David Thurlow, Board Chair, Heidrick, and Steve Errebo, Board Vice Chair.

SALINA FIRM PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS TRANSFERS

Businesses in North Central Kansas have resources available to them for support of business valuation and transfers.

KC&G Business Appraisal Associates, Inc., Salina, is one example of a valuation firm that provides business valuation and litigation support services to privately held companies. KC&G primarily works in Kansas, Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma.

Business owners utilize the valuation and litigation support services for a wide range of corporate financial and tax transactions including Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs), C to S corporation conversions, Family Limited Partnerships, Gift and Estate Tax, Buying or Selling a Business, Marital Dissolutions, Shareholder and Partner disputes, Buy/Sell Agreements, and SBA/Bank loan valuations.

Their clients include private companies ranging

from small mom and pop-type businesses to mid-size corporations with sales in excess of \$250 million.

The business valuation process includes developing an understanding of the business, analyzing the industry and current economic conditions, utilizing and understanding historical and projected financial data, and determining the most appropriate valuation methods to apply in developing a value for the company.

In addition, KC&G also provides comprehensive Exit Planning Services to the business owner community.

“Over the past few years I have spoken with a number of business owners who are ready to leave their business, but don’t know how to successfully transition their business



Melissa Goetz,
CPA/ABV, ASA

Stephanie Klingzell Carlin,
ASA, CExP

and meet their exit objectives.” says Stephanie Carlin, President of KC&G Business Appraisal Associates, Inc.

Planning to exit a business is a process that begins three to ten years before an owner wants to leave. It is a multi-step process that begins with helping the owner to determine what their exit objectives are, which in addition to maximizing the value of their business may include additional objectives like business continuation, taking care of their children or taking care of long-term employees. Once those goals are identified, KC&G works

with the client's team of professionals to ensure a successful transition from the business.

“We continually meet business owners, especially in smaller communities, who are frustrated by the lack of potential outside buyers for their company or they wish to transfer the business to a key employee, only to find out the key employee doesn’t have the financial means to buy out the owner,” says Carlin. “Through the valuation and exit planning process, combined with working with the client's CPA, attorney, and potential lenders, we can help the client meet their overall exit objectives.”

KC&G is co-owned by Stephanie Klingzell Carlin and Melissa Goetz. Visit www.kcgvalue.com for more information.

Other professional consultants in the region also work in this field and could assist in planning for your business transition.

Interested in rural and community development? Visit our sister sites!
Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy
www.ojrrp.org
Eye on Kansas
www.eyeonkanssas.org

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