



NCRPC NEWS

A publication of the North Central Regional Planning Commission

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www.ncrpc.org

Organization Sees Staffing Changes

A new year brought new roles in the organization for some NCRPC staff members.

Emily Benedick has been named Assistant

Director. In this role, Benedick will help lead the NCRPC Development Team and provide overall support and leadership for the organization.



Emily Benedick

She also continues as Community Development Representative, a position she has held since joining the NCRPC in 2015.

Todd Tuttle had served as Assistant Director since January 2016. He remains with the organization as NCKCN Systems Administrator, a position he has held since 1999.



Keegan Bailey

Keegan Bailey has been named Housing Assistant. In this role, Bailey will help administer housing rehabilitation projects in the region and provide support for NCRPC housing

(See Staff Changes on page 3)

Award to Assist with Fabrication Lab Planning

The NCRPC was awarded \$25,000 from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to support planning and technical assistance that will focus on development of a fabrication laboratory on the Kansas State Polytechnic campus. Fabrication labs (fab lab) are community spaces with a mix of low-tech and high-tech equipment where people can create physical prototypes and first products.

The project will help support a comprehensive planning process to develop a fab lab and supportive entrepreneurial eco-system. The focus will be on aviation and unmanned aerial systems (UAS).



Project partners include Kansas State Polytechnic, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce and Salina Economic

Development Organization (SCEDO).

NCRPC Director Doug McKinney says the value of this feasibility research and design of a community fabrication lab is immense.

"It will help determine the best path to follow in developing a solid facility," McKinney says. "Having the right tools in the lab and in the nearby region are important for future success of the regional economy." ■

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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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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Intentional Goal Setting an Important Aspect of Planning

Happy New Year! Just thinking about goals for the new year is easy. However, a more effective approach is to state them and put them down on paper for our own eyes and for others to also see—especially if they are members of the same team, board or business.

A load of outside factors affect the achievement of our objectives. Imagine if we stated our goals on sound facts and made each one attainable mostly by extra effort such as finishing a project or completing certain tasks that move the company forward. A goal should be clear



Doug McKinney has been NCRPC Executive Director since 2008.

enough so it is obvious if it is achieved. For example, the NCRPC intends to rehabilitate at least 20 houses in 2018. Also, the NCRPC intends to inspect four suspected asbestos properties in 2018. Those are numbers that are clearly stated on a report and are examples of

quantifiable goals. They will either be accomplished or not.

North Central Regional Planning Commission is focusing on goal setting and strategic planning themselves this month with an internal staff focus session and a gathering of a full executive board and others. If you would like to become involved with the latter, let me know. We know many of you or your neighbors will be recipients of the NCRPC and NCKCN services that result from the planning.

We look forward to serving you in 2018. Safe journeys. ■

Communities to Receive Funding for Improvement Projects

Several communities around the region will soon receive assistance to complete a variety of improvement projects thanks to funding received from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce.

NCRPC staff have assisted with the following projects and will provide project administration.

The City of Belleville was awarded \$600,000 for water distribution system improvements. A local match of \$601,142 is being provided through city funds.

The City of Enterprise was awarded \$600,000 for wastewater treatment system improvements. A local match of \$606,670 is being provided through a USDA Rural Development loan and city funds.

The City of Hoisington was awarded \$600,000 for wastewater treatment and collection system improvements. A local match of \$543,910 is being provided through the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

The City of Hope was awarded \$600,000 for water distribution system improvements. A local match of \$1,357,000 is being provided through a USDA Rural Development loan.

The City of Kanopolis was awarded \$600,000 for water distribution system improvements. A local match of \$1,399,035 is being provided through a USDA Rural Development loan.

The City of Linn was awarded \$196,142 for stormwater drainage improvements. A local match of \$196,143 is being provided through a USDA Rural Development Loan and city funds.

The City of Tescott was awarded \$76,792 for stormwater drainage improvements. A local match of \$76,793 is being provided through city funds.

The City of Ellsworth was awarded \$300,000 for housing rehabilitation and demolition. A local match of \$23,250 is being provided from a

combination of weatherization, city funds and landlord participation.

The City of Sylvan Grove was awarded \$300,000 for housing rehabilitation and demolition. A local match of \$16,000 is being provided from a combination of weatherization, city and foundation funds, and county landfill waived fees for demolition.

The City of Salina was awarded \$250,000 for a Commercial Rehabilitation project. A local match of \$90,363 is being provided through owner participation.

To be awarded CDBG funds for a project, local government units must meet at least one of three program objectives: benefit low and moderate-income persons; prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available to do so.

For more information about the CDBG program, visit the website at www.kansascommerce.com/cdbg or contact the NCRPC office at 785-738-2218 to visit with a staff member about your project needs. ■

Housing Projects Take Time to Plan

Maintaining quality housing is a top priority for most communities—large or small. NCRPC housing staff can help member cities and counties evaluate and address their respective housing needs.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation Program is one alternative that has helped several communities in the region address their housing needs. Designed to benefit low and moderate income families, the program makes funds available to local units of government for homeowner and rental rehabilitation and demolition of dilapidated residential structures. NCRPC Housing Director Carol

Torkelson recommends communities begin planning now if they are considering a housing application for the Fall 2018 CDBG Annual Competitive Round.

“In our experience it is necessary to begin project planning well in advance of the annual CDBG application workshop to have adequate time to complete the Housing Assessment Tool (HAT) and attend a Housing Interagency Advisory Committee (HIAC) meeting,” Torkelson says.

For more information or to request a presentation about the Housing Rehabilitation program or other housing resources, contact [Carol Torkelson](#) or [Keegan Bailey](#) or call the NCRPC office at 785-738-2218. ■

Staff Changes

(Continued from page 1)

programs. She also continues to manage affordable housing units for local developments and provide assistance with accounts receivable and accounts payable for NCRPC and its affiliate, NCKCN. Bailey joined the organization in 2015.

NCRPC Director Doug McKinney says he appreciates the contributions Tuttle made as Assistant Director.

“Todd remains a solid mentor and colleague,” McKinney says. “He has a broad perspective of North Central Kansas residents and businesses in mind. He has been innovative in approach, a team player and a collaborator with like entities.”

Benedick says she looks forward to taking on more of a leadership role and helping direct NCRPC’s future.

“As somewhat of a newcomer to NCRPC, I feel I can provide a fresh perspective based on what I have observed over the past two years,” Benedick says.

Bailey says she is excited for the opportunity to problem solve with communities.

“I look forward to working with our communities in addressing their housing needs and striving for success,” Bailey says.

For a full listing of staff, visit www.ncrpc.org/about/staff. ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Board Thanks Blanchard



Executive Board Chair Tom Claussen, (left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Jon Blanchard (right).

Outgoing NCRPC Executive Board member Jon Blanchard was recognized at the December 7 board meeting for his service to the organization and to the region. Blanchard served on the board two different times since 2013 as a representative of the Salina City Commission. ■

Business Development Expo Set for March 15

Business owners and entrepreneurs are invited to attend a Business Development Expo on Thursday, March 15 in Clay Center. The event is sponsored by the Clay County Economic Development Group.

At this booth style event, a variety of service providers and support agencies will be represented. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with their choice of organizations and providers relevant to helping them achieve their business goals.

The expo is from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 902 5th, Clay Center. There is no cost to attend. For more information, contact the Clay County Economic Development Group at 785-632-5974 or email lori@claycountycodevo.com. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Wednesday, February 21, 2018
CDBG Grantee Workshop
For FY 2018 CDBG Grantees
Kansas Highway Patrol Training Center
Salina, KS

Thursday, February 22, 2018
Thursday, March 29, 2018
NCRPC Executive Board Meetings
Beloit Office, 2 p.m.
www.ncrpc.org/news/events
www.ncrpc.org/funding



North Central
Regional Planning Commission

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Ownership Dream Achieved Early for Concordia Native

Owning a business had always been a dream for Concordia native Mackenzie Parker, but the opportunity presented itself much sooner than she imagined.

Parker purchased Monique & Co. Salon and Day Spa in downtown Concordia from original owner Lisa Brewer last Fall. The purchase was finalized on November 24—Parker’s three-year anniversary of when she first started working at the salon.

Monique & Co. Salon and Day Spa is a full service salon offering services for everything from hair to facials. Parker says they hope to add massages soon. A full list of services is available in the “menu” section of the salon’s Facebook page. The business currently has three full-time stylists including Mackenzie.

Parker says the salon prides itself on its customer service and staying on the cutting edge of the industry.

“We are a young group of stylists and while the salon has a fun vibe, we are able to provide anything from trendy to classic for our customers,” Parker says.

The transition to ownership came at a busy time of year.

“December is by far the busiest month for salons, so to have that as my first official month was exciting and busy,” Parker says.

This project was made possible with funding from The Citizens National Bank of Concordia, the Four Rivers NCKBDF Loan Program, and investment by the owner. For more information about the financing programs used, contact



Mackenzie Parker recently purchased Monique & Co. Salon and Day Spa located at 225 W. 6th Street in downtown Concordia.

NCRPC Business Finance Director [Debra Peters](#) at 785-738-2218 or email dpeters@nckcn.com. For more about the business, find them on Facebook or call 785-243-7505. ■