



June 2017

Annual Meeting Recap

WCNDD would like to take a moment to show its appreciation to all of those who were able to attend the 2017 Annual Meeting and to the communities and counties who continue to show their support through their commitment to being dues paying members. The general membership voted to approve the 2017/2018 budget and elect/re-elect Richard Colson- Village of Paxton, Kandra Kinne- City of Cambridge, Mike Aldridge- City of Benkelman/CRA, Doug Schultz- City of Curtis, and Mary Pierce- Mid-Plains Community College to the WCNDD Governing Board. Other current Governing Board members include Mike Tuttle- Keith County Area Development, Jason Tuller- City of Imperial, and Bob Sestak- Adams Bank & Trust.

WCNDD would like to thank all current and past board members for the time they have dedicated towards the success of WCNDD. Their proactive approach and willingness to think outside the box has helped this organization become a regional leader in several programs that promote the growth of community and economic development. WCNDD has been nationally recognized with Innovation Awards by the National Associations of Development Organizations (NADO) in 2014 for the Nuisance Abatement Program, as well as in 2016 for the implementation of the videoconferencing system, both of these projects have exceeded original expectations.

Special recognition goes out to Mike Aldridge and Rod Damrow at Valley Farm Industries for taking the time to provide us with a tour of their facilities and live demonstrations of how the trailers operate. Their company has provided the City of Benkelman with a local economic boost, as well as an increase in grain hauling capabilities and delivery efficiency throughout Western Nebraska.



Scrap Tires - Friend or Foe?

Every community, regardless of size, has a tire problem. Turn down an alley and you will find those pesky rings piled against the garage or scattered about. Why can't we seem to get rid of these worn out creatures-- why must we hang on to them?

According to Wikipedia, scrap tires are an enormous global problem because of their non-biodegradability, their flammability and their chemical composition that leads to leaching of toxic substances into the ground. Standing water in the tires can become the breeding ground for the mosquito. So rather than properly disposing of scrap tires, some folks are creating yard art. The question posed is . . . when does a tire transform into a planter, and then is it a tire or is it a planter?



In recent years, health concerns have been brought to light over the West Nile Virus. Now St. Louis Encephalitis and the Zika virus have been added to the list. All three are mosquito born viruses, and all three are active in Nebraska.

Residents should take a proactive approach to tire disposal by participating in a scrap tire amnesty day. Community and county officials can host a scrap tire event which can be paid for by grant funding offered by the Nebraska Department of

Environmental Quality. The application process is a simple one, with a September 13th, 2017 deadline for applying. Anyone interested should contact CJ Poltack and plan to place it on their August meeting agenda for application approval. So what is your answer-- is it a tire, or is it a planter?

Precautions for Potential Natural Disasters

Recent weather has shown exactly how unpredictable storms can be with recent tornado touch downs in the Nebraska communities of Bayard and Bellevue.

Is your community prepared for a natural disaster, have you taken appropriate measures to reduce the impact of a natural disaster in your community? If your emergency siren needs to be upgraded now is the time to look into applying for a Hazard Mitigation Grant through the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



The grants are provided to State and local governments to implement long-term mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce loss of life and property

due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from disaster. All projects are cost shared at 75% federal funding and a 25% local match.

If you are interested in applying for a siren upgrade, contact CJ Poltack for more details.

<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>



Getting Your Business Online

Having great products is not enough to keep a company in business these days. It is essential to survival that companies have an online presence. Locally based stores have a hard time competing with online stores that can reduce their prices and lower their overhead costs because they are distributing their products in much larger quantities with reduced costs operating a physical retail space.

“By engaging customers online, you can find new customers and grow your business. The advantages the internet offers

are limitless and can help your business not only get off the ground, but thrive in a competitive marketplace.” Providing your clientele with access to not only you, but also to your products on an around the clock basis will pay off huge dividends for your company. By creating a website, you are making your presence known which also has the capability to generate wide spread marketing. Online accessibility paired with an active social media account helps keep your business in the forefront.

For more information, <https://www.score.org/resource/how-get-your-business-online>



#whatshappeningWCNDD

What are you doing this year? Send us your pictures to mburke@west-central-nebraska.com with the hashtag #whatshappeningWCNDD and we will share them on our Facebook page. Meanwhile, see if you can guess where this is ...

Outdoor Recreation Funding Available

The Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) stateside assistance grant program has provided funding for community outdoor recreation projects across Nebraska for nearly 40 years. Eligible applicants may include a city, village, county, natural resource district or other political subdivision. Examples of eligible projects include: playgrounds, picnic facilities, trails, ballfields, soccer fields, shelter houses, tennis courts, multi-purpose courts and modest related support facilities. Acquisition of land for a new park or for land that is adjacent to an existing park is eligible for Fund assistance. Land to be donated by a private individual or a corporation after federal project approval is also eligible for Fund assistance. Professional consultant services to prepare the application or provide cost estimates are eligible for Fund assistance.

All proposed projects must meet priority outdoor recreation needs as identified in the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): A Guide to an Active Nebraska (2016 – 2020) to be eligible for grant assistance. Priorities can be found in Chapter Six: Action Plan for Nebraska. The SCORP can be found online at <http://outdoornebraska.gov/wpcontent/uploads/2015/12/SCORP-2016-2020-COMPILED-WEB-FILE.pdf>

The LWCF is a reimbursable grant, meaning the project sponsor must finance 100 percent of project costs as they are incurred. The sponsor may then request reimbursement for half of all eligible expenses up to the amount of the approved grant. To be eligible for reimbursement, all costs must be incurred and paid by the project sponsor during the project period as identified on the grant agreement. Project sponsors may not take title to land or begin development until after the project is approved by the National Park Service. Expenses for planning and engineering which are necessary to prepare the proposal for submission are eligible project costs if they are documented as pre-agreement costs in the application. These are the only eligible pre-agreement costs. If any other work is performed or title to land is accepted prior to federal approval of the project, the expenses incurred are ineligible for reimbursement or match.

If this is of interest to your community, contact CJ Poltack today to discuss potential projects your community may have in mind. In order to be eligible, your City Council/Village Board will be required to pass a resolution at a public meeting to participate in the LWCF program, complete an application form and supply all requested supplemental information as required by staff.

<http://outdoornebraska.gov/lwcf/>

Important Deadlines:

CDBG Pre-App Housing

August 4, 2017 (Pending)

Scrap Tire Application

September 13, 2017

CDBG Water & Waste Water

Open Cycle

2018 Nebraska Passport Application

December 2017