



2018 WCNDD Annual Meeting Recap

June 21, 2018- West Central Nebraska Development District, Inc. (WCNDD) held its annual meeting for community officials and members in North Platte, Nebraska. WCNDD would like to take a moment to thank all of those who were able to attend this year, as well as all of the communities, counties, and organizations that continue to show their financial commitment to the success of WCNDD.

The general membership voted to approve the 2018/2019 budget and re-elect Jason Tuller – City of Imperial, Mike Tuttle- Keith County Area Development, and Bob Sestak- Adams Bank & Trust to the WCNDD Governing Board. Other current Governing Board members include Kandra Kinne- City of Cambridge, Mike Aldridge- City of Benkelman/CRA, Doug Schultz- City of Curtis, Mary Pierce- Mid-Plains Community College, and Richard Colson – Village of Paxton. The dedication and regional awareness each board member provides makes it possible for WCNDD to remain a leader in community and economic development throughout the state.

The tradition of recognizing individuals and communities who have shown extraordinary drive and promise continued this year. The recipient of the clerk of the year has always been willing to go above and beyond her daily duties to excel. The recipients of both the project of the year and horizon award were willing to make bold moves that resulted in economic development, but also directly impacted the future sustainability of each community. Congratulations to the 2018 WCNDD award recipients; you truly do make a difference:

- Clerk of the Year – Jane Skinner – City of Ogallala
- Project of the Year – Benkelman CRA – Workforce Housing
- Horizon Award – Village of Elsie



Scrap Tire Grant Recipients Include Benkelman & Hayes Center

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy announced today that the state is awarding \$1.59 million to support 106 tire recycling and cleanup projects across the state. The Department received nearly \$2.2 million in eligible grant requests.

"The agency received many outstanding applications from across the state," Macy said. "These funds will provide needed support to local efforts which effectively deal with scrap tires in Nebraska."

The grants support local efforts to clean up tire piles and conduct community scrap tire collections. In addition, funds will be used by schools and organizations across the state to provide partial reimbursement for playground mulch, synthetic turf fields, running tracks, and other recycled rubber projects that were made from scrap tires.

The grants are part of NDEQ's Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants program, and are funded by a \$1 fee on new tires purchased in Nebraska.

For a complete listing of the 2018 Waste Reduction and Recycling Tire Grants, <http://www.http://deq.ne.gov/Press.nsf/%24%24OpenDominoDocument.xsp?documentId=25ECA9B60A2833C6862582B1004B9C5F&action=openDocument>

Essential Tools to Maximize Productivity

Freelance work in the United States is on the rise and with that comes the greatest struggle of all, time management. One of the keys to becoming a successful freelancers is to find ways to keep your productivity at an optimal level. Below are five tools that can help you stay focused, productive, and efficient.

- 1) The Pomodoro Technique trains your brain to work in 25-minute sprints, followed by 5-minute breaks.
- 2) Limit time on distracting websites through the Stay Focused Chrome extension.
- 3) Utilize time tracking applications like Toggl.
- 4) Securing all of your passwords in one place with LastPass.
- 5) The Hemingway App, helps to improve your communication by analyzing your writing.

All of these tools will improve your freelance capabilities. By staying productive with these applications, you are able to minimize wasted time and focus on the task at hand. For more information, <https://www.score.org/blog/essential-tools-contract-worker-maximize-productivity>





#whatshappeningWCNDD

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

Game & Parks Trail Grants Still Available

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is accepting Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant applications for fiscal year 2018 funding.

The RTP is a grant program through the Federal Highway Administration that reimburses political subdivisions, such as communities, counties and natural resources districts, up to 80 percent of project costs for trail acquisition, development, renovation and support facilities. Applicants must have the financial means to undertake and maintain the project and all funding should be on hand.

The RTP funds are divided among three categories: motorized trails (30 percent), non-motorized trails (30 percent) and diversified or shared-use trails (40 percent).

The application materials can be downloaded at <http://www.outdoornebraska.gov/grants>, or contact Kirk Nelson at 402-471-5513 or kirk.nelson@nebraska.gov for an application packet. Applications must be submitted to Game and Parks and postmarked by August 31, 2018.

Important Deadlines:

CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Pre-application	August 3, 2018
CDBG Planning Application Cycle 1	August 30, 2018
Recreation Trail Program (RTP) Grant Application Deadline	August 31, 2018
Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Application Deadline	September 7, 2018
CDBG Downtown Revitalization Application	September 30, 2018
CDBG Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Application	October 5, 2018
CDBG Water & Waste Water	Open Cycle