

Agenda

Those Present: Jenny Nixon, Amanda Glenn, Karen Kollars, Connie Hancock, Terry Rajewich, Colette Fernandez, Judy Amoo, Chelsie Herian, Marla Marx, Cheryl Burkhart-Kriesel, Starr Lehl, Glenna Phelps-Auri, Joni Jespersen, Margaret Sherard (14)

Welcome and Introductions: 11:02am

Summit Update – Starr, Connie, Jenny, Marla, Karen:

Connie: Steering Committee met Nov. 29th; currently in holding pattern until they hear from Ed Morrison. The rest of the sessions will be centered on Broadband pieces. They will try to bring in Richard Beyer to talk about the new initiative, which will enhance the Strategic Doing piece. Starr has been in contact with Ed Morrison's Assistant; a conference is set up for next week to work out details.

Karen: If anyone has ideas for the Summit, please let her know. The Department of Economic Development will discuss new programs as a session as well.

2012 Agri/Eco-Tourism Workshop – Karen:

Karen: Being held Jan. 1 – Feb. 1, 2012 in North Platte at the Sandhills Convention Center. Starts at Noon with working lunch on Tuesday and on Wednesday there will be a workshop that is concluded at Noon. NP CVP set up a bonus pre-conference tour at Heavenly Creations. The Brochure should be ready at the end of this week and copies should be ready the first week of December. Visit www.VisitNebraska.gov/industry for the agenda and registration form. There will be a Tasting Event Tuesday evening that will market Nebraska food and beverages. If you are interested in helping/attending, contact Karen.

MarketPlace Conference – Karen:

Karen: Will be held Feb. 21-22 in Kearney at the Ramada Inn. It will have a new look this year and there will be more information on this Conference in December. The agenda items are being finalized now.

Connecting Nebraska Award – (Governor's Conference on Rural Development – Wednesday, April 18, 2012 – North Platte) – Karen:

Karen: This will be given at the luncheon. It is open as far as who we would like to give the award to. If you have suggestions or would like to nominate someone, e-mail Karen or Amanda. After nominations are collected, there will be a group vote. We need suggestions by the January meeting.

Roundtable Discussion:

Amanda: Megan has accepted a position with the City of Sidney as of January 1st as the Community Development Director. Congratulations, Megan!

Cheryl: Working with Connie Francis to put customer service package together for teachers in Alliance. Farm and Ranch Museum and the North Platte Valley Museum will hold a public event soon to announce how they will be working together in early December at the Gering Civic Center.

Colette: Forward motion in Chadron. Maurices just opened and is doing very well. New Chamber Members and existing businesses improving their facilities. The old Hospital is now in use; First National Bank did a major remodel. Parade of Lights and Santa coming to the Chamber in December.

Connie: Broadband webinars are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The next one will be December 21 with a subject of "Network Nebraska". The January Webinar will be entitled "Nebraska Link" and will be held January 18th. On December 16th from 10-11am Mountain Time in Sidney, a focus group will provide input on the challenges and concerns of Nebraskans. If you want to help or provide input, contact Connie. This will be held at the TE Electronics Building. For those who cannot travel, a phone bridge will also be used.

Glenna: No updates, just glad to join in. Welcome Glenna!

Judy: WNCC has a new business incubator with applications online. Applications are being reviewed now. Judy has been making rounds through the panhandle discussing this. The Downtown Revitalization Task Force is in full swing now; they have \$264K for renovations and roughly \$100K is already spoken for. Thank you to Sidney for letting them see how they are revitalizing their downtown.

Karen: CSL Tourism Study for the State of Western Nebraska is the week of December 12th. Some will be setting up meetings in the Bridgeport area. Input for tourism or where you would like to see tourism headed will be discussed.

Starr: Margaret Sherard was in on the meeting with Starr today as well. Eric Zees and Dan Hoffman are coming out next week to discuss new DED programs in detail. Alliance's will be on December 8th at 1pm and Chadron's at 4pm. The Scottsbluff/Gering program will be on the 9th, and Sidney's will be more towards the first week in January. The Governor will be in Scottsbluff/Gering on the 9th at 9:30am for the pre-legislative breakfast, which the Scottsbluff/Gering Chamber is sponsoring.

Margaret: Microenterprise Tax Credit has 2 Million Dollars available.

Joni: Kudos to Connie and her team for being able to do the Broadband event in Omaha. It was a great opportunity to be in touch with service commissioners. Hemingford is gearing up for the Holidays.

Terry: Just facilitated a meeting with Scotts Bluff County Commissioners; discussed tourism in regards to iPads and apps available. Scottsbluff has a new Maverick filling station and gas prices have dropped dramatically. Terry just completed the Economic Development Institute Training and is currently helping Twin Cities Development on Business Retention and Expansion Interviews.

Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants Available (How it works / Projects going on / Opportunities Available) - Marla Marx (USDA):

Brenda's last day is Friday and the USDA is going through changes. Rural Development has a budget now.

*Please see your email for attachments including the Loans and Grant Presentation.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, January 25, 2012 via Webinar from 10-11:30am. ***Please note the time change**