

THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

June 2015

CALENDAR

June

10 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room

11 - Executive Board Mtg.;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

July

3 - Independence Day;
COG Office Closed

8 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room

9 - Executive Board Meeting;
5:00 PM, COG Training Room

9 - Executive Policy Council;
6:00 PM, COG Training Room

August

12 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room

13 - Executive Board Meeting;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marty Danzer, Chair
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Eric Skoog, Vice Chair,
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Jerry Caraher, Secretary
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Guy Richardson, Treasurer
Greene Co. Supervisor

Duane Deist
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake
Sac Co. Supervisor



Janet Ady Headlines WIAD Annual Meeting

WIAD held its annual stakeholders meeting at the Templeton Center on April 7th. Attended by nearly 100 persons, the event featured a keynote speech by Janet Ady, a nationally-recognized site selector and expert on rural economic development marketing. Janet stressed several "megatrends" when it comes to attracting projects:

- (1) We must work to decrease risk for investors. This includes offering sites that are ready to build, control of long-term costs like utilities, availability of resources, and a stable regulatory environment.
- (2) Regionalism is important and must to be embraced. Labor pools are best expressed in this manner, data is more usable, and pooled assets are more attractive.
- (3) Competition among regions means that regions need to sweat the details. Business retention programs are important, and how current businesses are treated indicate to recruited companies how they will be treated. A community's image (think everything from amenities to zoning enforcement) matters. Regions must understand their key assets.

The annual meeting occurred after Ms. Ady spent nearly 24 hours touring the

region and meeting with local groups about their available sites. During her tour of the region, she visited 7 sites and many communities.

At the meeting, Janet used her observed experiences and discussions with developers, COG staff, and local volunteers to discuss how our region fits into she sees as the four tiers of preparedness: organizational strategy, economic assets, positioning, and programs. Janet dissected each of these areas into sub-topics and discussed how she viewed Western Iowa Advantage's position, providing some thoughts for growth and improvement.

WIAD partners closed out Janet's visit to the region with a day-long training at Lake Panorama. Special thanks to MidAmerican, Alliant, and Black Hills Energy for sponsoring Janet's visit, her keynote, and the workshop!

Western Iowa Advantage is a partnership of economic development organizations in Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, and Sac Counties dedicated to promoting Western Iowa for business and job attraction and retention.



Transit Director Tom Feldman Reflects upon 25 years with Western Iowa Transit

This past February, I celebrated twenty five years in the public transit business. I was hired at Region XII in 1990 as a transit operations manager. Changes since that time are too numerous to mention in this article but I thought I would mention just a few that stand out in my mind.

Region XII currently has three transit buildings, one with a fully equipped service bay. In 1990, we were operating out of a small office in downtown Carroll and our service manager was servicing vehicles in parking lots or at driver homes. We had no two-way communication devices in any of our vehicles, nor did we have cell phones—if a driver needed to contact the office, he or she stopped and used a pay phone.

It was not unusual for me to have to hand-deliver appointments or cancellations to drivers as they performed their daily duties. There were no internet connections so all correspondence between our office, drivers and IDOT was done by mail.

Today's transit operators cannot attend a meeting or a training without some mention of regulations pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which did not yet exist in 1990. Likewise, there were also no commercial drivers licenses or drug testing requirements at that time; drivers needed a standard chauffeur's license to perform public transit duties and had only to see their personal doctor for a basic physical. We had charge accounts at virtually every gas station in the region, whereas nowadays we can use a single fuel card at any station.

I could go on and on about how tough it was in the old days, but public transit has come a long way! One thing that has not changed is our commitment to providing safe, reliable public transit for all residents in our region.



Laurie Gilbert, Housing Programs Manager, and Tom Feldman represented Region XII COG at the Audubon Career and Resource Fair at Audubon High School on March 19.

REGION XII COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS Partnership Program

The COG's Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG's mission to provide various needed services to the region's cities and counties. The Partnership Program philosophy is that all groups making up a community, including non-government entities like local businesses, are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the community. The COG appreciates the investments made so far this year by the 2015 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Bank Iowa, Denison
Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
Midland Power Cooperative, Jefferson

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Audubon County Econ. Development, Audubon
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bauer Built Manufacturing, Inc., Paton
Bruner, Bruner & Reinhart, Carroll
Carroll Area Development Corp., Carroll
Carroll County State Bank, Carroll
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Denison Job Corps Center, Denison
Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
Holmes Murphy & Associates, West Des Moines
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
People's Trust & Savings Bank, Guthrie Center
Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
Raccoon Valley Bank, Perry
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
United Bank of Iowa, Glidden
Western Iowa Networks, Breda
Westside State Bank, Westside

Iowa Waste Exchange: Mason City's Curries Opens Doors to Sustainability



TOP: Curries on-site recycling center divides trash and recyclables by type. MIDDLE: A "recycle tree" to help employees identify recyclables, diverting trash sent to the landfill. BOTTOM: The waste sorting exercise.

Curries, a manufacturer of steel doors and frames, and an ASSA ABLOY Group brand, recently announced that they have achieved ISO 14001 certification for Environmental Management at its Mason City, Iowa manufacturing facility. This certification was due to the waste reduction and recycling efforts of all 600 Curries' employees and the direct leadership of Curries' Sustainability Council.

In their efforts to obtain this elite designation, members of Curries' Sustainability team enlisted the assistance of Shelene Codner, Region XII COG's Iowa Waste Exchange Area Resource Specialist, to direct an on-site waste audit of their Mason City operations. A waste audit is a process of hand-sorting on-site waste to determine the composition of the waste stream by quantifying the amount of solid waste generated and determining the amount of solid waste that is ultimately going to the landfill. Curries has an aggressive on-site recycling program in place, however through the waste audit exercise Codner and members of Curries Sustainability team observed that some recyclables were still making their way to the waste receptacles and subsequently to the landfill.

Observations and data obtained from the waste audit assisted team members in identifying current waste practices and the feasibility in implementing specific waste reduction and recycling activities on site. One of those activities included "planting" recycling trees in place of trash barrels throughout the Mason City facility. To date, this initiative has resulted in a 26 percent increase in recyclables collected thus reducing the amount going to the landfill.

"When the team surveyed the facility, they realized that recyclable items were being thrown away simply because employees didn't have an easy way to separate their waste," noted Heidi Marquardt, Curries environmental engineer. "Hanging color-coded buckets on the recycling trees helps employees know where to dispose of and recycle their waste."

If you are in need of assistance in performing a waste audit at your facility, contact your Area Resource Specialist or visit [this Region XII COG link](#) to download a copy of the manual Performing a Waste Sort.

The IWE is a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and is administered by Region XII Council of Governments. For additional information regarding IWE contact Shelene Codner: (319) 404-1942, scodner@region12cog.org, or Fred Kesten: (712) 775-7813, fkesten@region12cog.org.

Upcoming Grants



If your community is interested in grant support for drinking water system improvements, waste water improvements, community facilities, downtown revitalization, or housing, contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or (712) 775-7811 to see how Region XII COG and Community Development Block Grants can help service your community's needs. **Applications are due in late 2015 and early 2016, depending on the program, and must start soon.**

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects	June 1, October 1	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll, and Crawford Counties.
Branching Out	Tree Planting	June 1, November 1	Cities served by Alliant Energy
Rail Revolving Loan and Grant	Assistance is available to improve rail facilities that will create jobs, spur economic activity and improve the rail transportation system in Iowa	June 19	Local governments and businesses
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	July 1, October 1	Local governments, public, or private groups
State Recreation Trails Fund (IDOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1	Local governments, non-profits
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects	July 15, October 15	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)	City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition	August 15	Local governments and county conservation boards
Union Pacific Community Grant Program	Projects should support one of the following categories: Community and civic: projects aimed at improving and enriching the quality of life in the community, health and human services: projects that improve the level of health care or human services in the community	August 15	Local governments and non-profits along the UP railroad
Traffic Safety Improvement Program	TSIP provides safety funds to cities, counties for site specific improvements, traffic control devices or studies	August 15	Cities and counties
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas	September 1, February 1	Local governments
Small Town Sign Replacement Program (IDOT)	The program will provide up to \$5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community on a first- come, first-served basis	Ongoing	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues.	Ongoing	Cities and counties
Highway Safety Improvement Program	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes.	Ongoing	Counties
Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants	Dollar-for-dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams	Rolling Cycle	Local governments, private non-profits in cities served by Alliant

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
RISE	Carroll County	\$163,800	210th Street Improvement to assist West Central Cooperative's Soy Plus expansion
Build with Bags	Grand Junction	\$1,691	Benches for the new community center
IDNR Derelict Building Program	Coon Rapids	\$500	Asbestos inspection for downtown building

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker by e-mail or at 712-775-7811 for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

Glidden Participates in the *Healthy Iowans* Program



Building upon the success of the new city-owned Wellness Center in its Downtown, Glidden was selected by Region XII COG to partake in a partnership between the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC), of which Region XII is a member, and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to plan and fund nutritional and physical wellness goals established by a committee.

A committee consisting of Glidden residents and city officials was created to manage the program, starting in February 2015. During the initial meeting, the participants were given a program overview and also listed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the committee felt had either physical or nutritional implications to begin evaluating the city.

Asset mapping, the public input portion of the project, was held a few weeks later when all the committee members were asked to bring someone with them that could provide new ideas or perspectives. The IDPH uses a predetermined input process for listing all city assets, in which the group would list nutritional and physical assets at the home, work and school level, citywide, as well as within city policies. The long session broke for a quick meal before discussing trends and ideas, allowing all participants to write any ideas for programs or improvements that could make Glidden a healthier community.

At the final meeting, all the ideas were sorted and then categorized by overarching goals and the committee decided which ideas it would prioritize and place in its action plan. The City Council also requested the entire list of ideas as something to use for future considerations.

The City of Glidden will receive \$10,000 to spend on achieving the established goals, of which a few include: new exercise equipment for the Wellness Center, a summer program for school-aged children that will feature activities and a meal held weekly in the city park, as well as promoting the weekly farmer's market.

NEW STAFF



Alex Foley has joined the Local Assistance Department as a Regional Planner. A Cary, IL native, Alex recently completed his degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State in addition to graduating from the Air Force ROTC. He is married to a Carroll native and is looking forward to helping area communities.



Matt Meiners has joined the Local Assistance Department as a summer intern. Matt is a Templeton native and a 2012 Kuemper graduate currently attending Buena Vista University. Majoring in political science, with a minor in public administration, Matt will be a senior when he returns this fall.



Know your community.
Map your community.

Contact Sam Parker at Region XII, sparker@region12cog.org or (712) 775-7812 to see how the COG can help with any of your mapping needs.

Lisa Smith’s Collaboration Efforts Recognized

Lisa Smith was recognized by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) along with other staff members from workforce entities forum in Creston on April 6, 2015. At the meeting, Lisa discussed her work in the secondary school system and was recognized among her peers and IWD Director Beth Townsend for the positive impact she is having on the business-educator connections in the region.

Lisa’s presentation began with IowaWORKS involvement in the Employer-Educator Summit, sponsored by Western Iowa Advantage, last September. The Employer-Educator Summit worked as a catalyst to begin creating a more collaborative atmosphere between regional employers and schools. The event has enabled more discussions involving liaisons, teachers, guidance counselors, and school administration, with an end result to engage students in the world of career exploration and pathways. Some activities have included: passing information to parents and students at parent-teacher conferences on local labor market information and opportunities for young people who wish to remain in the area, assistance in teaching career exploration and development, collaborative efforts between schools and businesses, organizing career fairs for students and their parents, and gaining National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC).



STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

- Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director rhunsaker@region12cog.org
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- Tami Lehmann, Revolving Loan Fund Administrator..... tlehmann@region12cog.org
- Mollie Scott, De-Cat Coordinator..... mscott@dhs.state.ia.us
- JoAnn Olberding, Executive Secretary jolberding@region12cog.org

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- Jean Blum, FSS Coordinator..... jblum@region12cog.org
- Matt Meiners, Intern..... mmeiners@region12cog.org

WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT

- Tom Feldman, Transit Director tfeldman@region12cog.org
- Mike Rath, Service Manager..... mrath@region12cog.org
- Jill Anthofer, Transit Assistant..... janthofer@region12cog.org

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Beth Winquist, Workforce Director..... Beth.Winquist@iwd.iowa.gov
- Lisa Smith, Career Development Specialist..... Lisa.Smith@iwd.iowa.gov

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