

August 8, 2019

Board of Directors,

This report is a transcript of activities, projects, and meetings the Executive Director of Economic Development, Mike Posson, has been involved with since the last board meeting. Please do not consider it a complete and exhaustive list of all services and community involvement by the Economic Development office over said time period.

1. Housing

a. Ryan Addition - Northwest Kansas Housing (NWKH) – West Side of Reagan Avenue

Two homes still need to be built on this site to meet the required number of moderate-income housing units to satisfy the KHRC grant award. Construction pending NWKPDC arrangements.

b. Norton County Housing Study

The community-wide survey closed on May 31. Highlights of data from the survey and the county housing inventory FIVE RULE Rural Planning conducted in April were discussed at the public Discovery Meeting on June 7. *A more detailed review of data and inventory for NCCED Board of Directors by Bobbi Petit is planned for the August 13 monthly board meeting. Selecting a timeline for housing strategy session(s) and selecting a housing strategy committee will be part of the meeting objective.*

2. Business Retention and Expansion

a. Business Assistance

The office is currently involved with 25 projects in the following areas:

- 11-Start-ups
- 5-Relocation / development within Norton County
- 0-Product or business model assistance
- 0-Workforce recruitment
- 9-Succession planning

3. Business Development

a. Corrections Industrial Site

NCCED and NCF Staff continue efforts with resource partners to develop skilled trade training and work centers.

4. Downtown Development

a. Vacant Buildings

NCCED Staff plan to create portfolios for non-utilized retail/business space to support marketing efforts with potential investors. The 2018 Norton County Community Foundation summer intern assisted in starting this project and staff hopes to use an intern to continue with this project this summer.

5. Other

a. Norton County Relocation Guide

The Relocation Guide has been completed and will be sent for printing when the new website's URL has been confirmed.

b. ChamberMaster Website Services

The website platform has been created. Chamber and NCCED staff are in the process of updating the business listings and other data pulled from the current website pages. The new website is scheduled to go live August 16.

c. Storefront Renewal Project

NCCED did receive the \$15,000 grant from NCCF and a press release was distributed with an application deadline of July 31, 2019. Casey Ambrosier, NCCF summer intern, consulted with many businesses on their projects. A total of 14 applications were received. The review committee met on August 2 and selected 12 projects to receive funding. The need for an additional \$11,019 will be required to complete suggested projects and funding is requested to be met by NCCED via the Capital Outlay fund.

6. Upcoming Events and Meetings

Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center board meeting	Norton	August 21
Pioneer Country Development monthly board meeting	Hill City	August 21
Labor Day Holiday		September 2
wKREDA Quarterly Conference	Hays	September 4-5
Norton City/County Economic Development board meeting		September 10

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Posson
Executive Director