

# Director's Report

February 20, 2018

Respectfully submitted to the Phillips County Economic Development Board of Directors, this report highlights the key activity of the organization since the previous board meeting and the Director's Report dated January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## **Business: Recruitment, Retention and Expansion**

### **Recruitment:**

Regional business in application to corporate office for local dealership approval.

Responded to development RFP for distribution project (6-10 jobs)

Local individual beginning due diligence for commercial/processing unit.

Assisting local business owner with startup prep for permanent location. (Phillipsburg)

### **Retention:**

Local individual working on business plan/financial review to purchase/expand an existing Phillipsburg business. Referral to KSBDC for assistance with financial planning.

PCED/Bank offer/incentive to retain business was declined based on location of property and decision to utilize one of their existing properties for their move.

### **Expansion:**

In consultancy with capital campaign firm to fund future development projects.

Local business looking at a downtown development opportunity in Phillipsburg.

Local business owner looking at additional business location in secondary community. Financial review in progress. (SCORE/PCED)

### **Default (over 60 days past due):**

PCED: None

E-Community/StartUp Kansas: None

## **Development Projects**

### **Phillips County E-Community**

Local Businesses applications reviewed/approved by Phillips County E-Community board to send local businesses owners/managers to participate in the business "Destination Bootcamp" offered by John Schallert in Longmont, CO. Class dates are confirmed for March 13-15, 2018.

Phillips County E-Community offered partial scholarship to a local individual to attend the Kansas Leadership Center's "Intensive Teach Leadership" program, bringing an additional leadership training resource to the immediate community.

Phillips County (E-Community) to receive a Development Opportunity Profile/Evaluation from Don Macke, economist with the Center for Entrepreneurship.

Received additional grant from NetWork Kansas for Schallert based activity.

### **Housing Project**

Working with outside investor on feasibility of additional housing development project in Phillipsburg. (on hold).

## **Community Projects**

### **Community Daycare:**

Volunteer based demolition underway.  
All Tax Credits now allocated and all donations received.  
Still waiting on 501(c)(3) approval and SFM approval.  
Phase II Brownfield in progress on soil sampling.

### **Strategic Doing – Hansen Initiative**

Millennial taskforce group met as a result of the SD meeting – designed to give community development input from youth perspective .

## **Local Updates/Misc.**

### **Internships**

PCED/Nex-Gen providing 12 internships within Phillips County this summer. Applications for interns now available and being promoted within area schools.

### **366 State Street**

Commissioners not in favor of PCED owning property for renovation/rehabilitation. Approached the Phillipsburg City Council to postpone the proposed demolition based on four interested, independent entities looking at property for a rehabilitation project. Was given until March 5<sup>th</sup> (4 weeks) to find a solution and then to approach the City Council again with details. Still looking at alternatives in case the current four decide against the project.

### **ROZ**

Commissioners signed new resolution for 2018 funding.  
Conducting a Phillips County participant survey to determine benefit analysis for legislative testimony.

### **Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge**

All instructional sessions now complete. Final competition next week.

### **Phillips County Unemployment Rate**

December 2017: 2.7%  
Labor Force: 2,755  
Employed: 2,681  
Unemployed: 74      *\*KS Dept. of Labor*

### **E-Center**

Contacted MDC at FHSU to organize relevant training sessions to utilize the updated E-Center. Tentative agreements for a Grant Writing class and a Business Promotion through Social Media class.

## **March Events – At a Glance**

February 28: YEC Competition  
March 7: WeKan Conference – Newton, KS  
March 12-15: Schallert DBC – Longmont, CO (Bethany)  
March 14-15: wKREDA Conference – Wichita, KS (Nick)  
March 26: PCED Board Meeting  
March 28: E-Community Regional Meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Nick Poels – Executive Director, Phillips County Economic Development.