



# NORTHWEST NEBRASKA

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
CHADRON AND CRAWFORD

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## from the Director's Desk

**C**hange is hard! While some folks may think there is little to be thankful for this year, given the divisive political season, we have to keep in mind that the previous 44 presidential elections left many folks feeling the same way. As a nation I think we will not only 'survive', but we will grow and become more compassionate in the process.



The pendulum will begin to swing back to the middle ground and life will be more 'normal', whatever that is. I choose to believe and work toward that instead of continuing to wring my hands over things I cannot control. We welcome new faces at the State Legislative level with Senator-elect Brewer, new council-elect members George Klein and Keith Crofutt and look forward to working with them. We also say farewell and a big thank you the Senator Al Davis who has been a champion of transportation funding for the Heartland Expressway. We also thank Mayor Paris Fisher and

Dr. John Gamby for a combined many, many years of dedicated service to the City of Chadron. We wish each of them all the best on their next ventures! Change is always hard, and this year there seems to be more changes than usual.

Speaking of changes, I hope you noticed the new banner heading on this quarterly newsletter. NNDC has recently gone through some changes as well. We had been planning to redesign the website and thought after 12 years (or better) it may be time to update our logo as well! As many of you know, the name Nebraska Northwest Development Corporation has long had its challenges as most people think it is Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation.

So, we have bowed to the ongoing 'mistake' in perception of the name and have legally changed the name of the Corporation to Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation. It will take some time to get all the documents, printed matter, mailing references, etc. changed, so have patience! And, when I am still answering the phone the other way around, remember my first comment in the column - change is hard. It's a good thing the acronym (NNDC) didn't change!

Have a good holiday season.

## Progress on Major Projects

NNDC has been working on a couple of projects that will lay some ground work for the future. First, we are cooperatively financing infrastructure extension to our business park on the south side of the cemetery, east of Stockade Road. NNDC has 20+ acres zoned for industrial use. The problem has been the utilities were not close enough to our lots to feasibly market the property to potential businesses.

With the assistance of Nebraska Department of Roads and Fuller Construction (Continued on Page 2)





## DELTA Launches 2016-17 Class

Nine participants have signed up to take the leadership development class known as DELTA, which stands for the Dawes County Entrepreneur and Leadership Training Academy.

Cesar Barraza from Wahlstrom Ford, Tena Cook from CSC, Kelly Garza from OHD, Kristina Harter from Northwest Nebraska Tourism, Amy Hawk from First National Bank-North Platte, Emily Hinman from First National Bank-Chadron, Sharon Housh from OHD, TJ Rutledge from NPPD and Tyler Woodard from Northwest Community Action Partnership participated in an orientation session in October and held their first monthly session on Entrepreneurism Nov. 30.

The curriculum is designed to introduce young leaders to community activities, role models, organizations and issues that make Dawes County a viable place to live, work and raise a family. We intentionally immerse the participants in the planning of sessions, investigation of who the experts are in various subjects. Each month two



**DELTA class learns about Entrepreneurs. Gary Dusek, Director of the Nebraska Business Development Center and CSC professor presents to the class regarding traits of entrepreneurs.**

agency directors and staff from the State Chamber of Commerce.

It's a whirlwind trip, but gives them the appreciation for the hectic schedule it takes to be a state Senator (and for just how far we are located from the state capital). Ultimately, we hope this training gives them the flavor and the encouragement for sticking their tow in the water when it comes to leadership positions in their job, volunteer life, church and civic organizations.

of the participants are responsible for all aspects of the day's activities (with assistance and ideas from the director).

The highlight of the six session class is the two day trip to Lincoln, NE in February. The group travels with other leadership classes (Scottsbluff-Gering, Alliance and Sidney) and has meetings and presentations scheduled with the Governor, State Senators, state

## Projects Progress--

(Continued from Page 1)

(neighbors to our property), we will be bringing the water service to the corner of our lot(s) early next year. With this finished, there will be water, sewer and power on the northwest corner of the property.

Stockade Road is paved to within a few hundred feet, and Fuller Constructions property to the west will be annexed into the city limits. All these critical actions bring us closer to having a marketable 'business park'. NNDC has plans to more aggressively advertise this land, which can be subdivided as needed. There is more work to be done, and preparing prospective lots for sale is not easy or cheap to do. NNDC is asking your help identifying if there is anyone looking for this type of space, knowing there is better infrastructure in place. Please let us know if you have any interest in further investigating this area.

The other major project for 2017 is the construction of the Holiday Inn Express motel which is being built on the northwest corner of the Hwy 20 & 385 intersection. The building is mostly enclosed so work may proceed throughout the winter. It is on track to open sometime in the spring of 2017. Look for exciting additional developments in the coming months! Chadron is growing and businesses are seeing the advantages of locating here.

The not-so-glamorous efforts to improve streets (Downtown and Highway 20 through town), creation of the Aquatics Center, improvements at Chadron State College, and future efforts to identify and create new housing areas have all combined to send the unmistakable signal that Chadron is place where people want to live and visit. We are a progressive, modern city that works hard to keep up with expected and necessary improvements.

## Heartland Expressway Association asks State for help with additional signage

The Ports to Plains Alliance, which is the umbrella organization to which HEA belongs has begun the effort of getting the entire corridor (Ports to Plains in Mexico, TX, NM, OK, and CO; Heartland Expressway in CO, NE, WY and SD; and the Teddy Roosevelt Expressway in SD, ND, MT and Canada) consistently signed with similar images. Each segment of the overall corridor is a federally designated (and named) high priority corridor, and as such is referred to within the Federal Highway Administration as such.



Colorado and North Dakota have already begun to place the signs. We are asking our NDOR to allow the signs to be placed on existing sign posts within the corridor in Nebraska. It differs from the ceremonial naming of a roadway or portion of a roadway after some national, state or local person or historic person or organization (such as the Tom Osborne or VFW or Crazy Horse Memorial designations in Nebraska).

The request to put up HEA signs on the route will lead to internet search organizations (specifically Google) also recognizing that name and adding it to their maps. This is the best type of marketing you can get, and it costs nothing more than the cost of the signs. We are hopeful the Governor, State Senators and NDOR director will also see the benefit of such recognition of federal names and agree to put up the signs. We believe the federal representatives would agree.

Be watching for this next activity to further define the route as the preferred north-south corridor the trade. Hold us to our pledge to get this done, and we will gather enough voices to convince Lincoln it needs to happen.

Work continues on the next phase from Alliance to the L62A junction (turn off to Bayard) on US Highway 385. With the recent announcements of the inclusion of L62A and US Highway 26 from the turn off to Minatare as a Transportation Innovation project.



### “Like Us” on Facebook!

Address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!pages/Nebraska-Northwest-Development-Corporation/168528639830938>

Or Visit Our Website at:

[www.nndc.chadron-nebraska.com](http://www.nndc.chadron-nebraska.com)

## Annual Meeting Set for January 2017

Each year the corporation holds its annual meeting in January. It is scheduled for Jan. 20, 2017. It will be held at noon. The location will be announced closer to the event.

Each year we try to feature what has happened the previous year and celebrate a little bit with those who have given their time and expertise to the organization. Right now the Membership Committee is looking for nominees to serve on the board of directors. Please don't be shy if you are interested. You don't have to wait to be asked.

Call the office if this is something you have considered in the past, or something you feel you have the time and interest to do. The only requirement is that you are a member of the organization or are employed by one.

Not a member? We are happy to visit with you about that as well. The current Board of Directors is listed in this newsletter, contact anyone of them if you want to know what it really takes, in terms of your time, to serve on the board.

### NNDC Board of Directors 2016

Larry Yates	.....President
• <i>First National Bank of Chadron</i>	
Clint Lecher	.....Vice President
• <i>Eagle Chevrolet</i>	
Philip Jensen	.....Treasurer
• <i>Great Plains Communications</i>	
Kerry Bailey	.....Secretary
• <i>Edward Jones</i>	
Mark Werner	.....Board Member
• <i>City of Chadron</i>	
Jake Stewart	.....Board Member
• <i>Dawes County Commission</i>	
Bryce Landen	.....Board Member
• <i>NPPD</i>	
Courtney Terrell	.....Board Member
• <i>The Grind</i>	
Rick Koza	.....Board Member
• <i>Chadron State College</i>	
Steve Behrends	.....Board Member
• <i>Chadron Lumber Co.</i>	
Ed Kuhnel	.....Board Member
• <i>City of Crawford</i>	
Matt Reeves	.....Ex Officio,
• <i>Outlaw Printers</i> Past President	
Wayne Anderson	.....Ex-Officio

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