



NORTHWEST NEBRASKA

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

CHADRON AND CRAWFORD

September
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Newsletter
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from the Director's Desk

As I begin my 14th year as the Economic Developer for Dawes County, I'm proud of many things. One of my favorite activities has been the annual VIP event where we are blessed to host 35-40 hunters in the beautiful Pine Ridge region each fall. After a hot, dry summer, it's time to start thinking about fall events here at NNDC. Most of you know that we have hosted the Governor's Pine Ridge Wild Turkey Hunt for a number of years. It actually began about 30 years ago, when a group of local hunting enthusiasts approached then NNDC Director Kevin Wilkins about hosting a VIP event. Since then, we've been through a hiatus when we did not have the needed interest (from either the Governor at the time, or the NNDC director) to plan the event, a year off due to COVID – and now, the hunt is scheduled again for 2022 on October 5-6. It has become a real labor of love, and we have hosted Governors, Senators, State and federal agency folks, business men and women who have attended and/or sponsored the event, and local landowners who make it all possible.



While I believe the value is as important today as the first effort in 1994, the time has come to again, give the event a rest. The faithful committee members who have assisted with this project since we brought it back in 2009 have indicated they are done. I can't blame them, as several are retired and have been giving this little project a month of the time every year for more than a decade.

At the risk of forgetting some folks, I want to par-

ticularly thank Carl and Fawn Larsen, Larry Teahon, Gregg Galbreath, Kristie Roes and Philip Jensen, who are the current committee members. I'd also include in that thank you several past members who helped for a lot of years – Kelly Hepper, Don Blausey, Cy Hartman, Matt Reeves and Harold Krueger. In addition, there are many, many members of the Chadron State Park staff, Game & Parks employees, Commission members, and the nearly 20 business sponsors over the years (from across the state) who helped host, fund and carry out the 2-day event.

But the real stars of this show are the land owners. They provide the land (free of charge) for the hunt, provide the personal guiding on their property, and likely as not, treat our guests to home cooking, additional touring opportunities and in general play host to the visitors. The exact list varies a little each year, the core group of current, faithful participants include: the Vahrenkamp's (Marc, Judy, Bobby, and Kristy), the Scherbarth's (Bruce, Laura and Phyllis), Cody Brinton, Dale Chasek, Bill and Jon Cogdill, Bob Galey, Chip Hartman, Larry Johnson, April Knode, Dan Kreitman, Ed & Renee Mann, Chris Nerud, Sharon Rickenbach, Marilyn Robinson, Randy Schommer, Tamara & Taylor Wohlers and Doug Wolleson.

If there is a group interested in taking this event on, permanently, NNDC will be happy to share contacts, ideas, past vendors and sponsors, processes – all the things that are needed to host this event each year. We hope someone will step up and take it on, as it is a worthwhile effort to stay connected with folks who can assist Dawes County in days and years to come. Thanks for the support, it's been a great ride.

**NNDC
Committee
and
Governor**



Data Collection for EDCC Recertification

Time flies when you're busy trying to make things better in your community. NNDC has long been the entity that looks at preparedness for business recruitment and retention in the region. We have been an Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC) for 10 full years, and it is once again time to apply for continuing certification. This process is essential to keep up with changing needs expressed by business location experts, keep current on listings, data and other things needed to attract business. Just as importantly, it creates a great 'look back' at the past five years. In the process of documenting what we have accomplished since our last recertification, a few things stand out.

While we saw the closing (according to my research, memory and involvement) of 13 businesses, totaling 24 jobs, We more than 'replaced' that number with 23 businesses either retained by new ownership, or new business openings. This created or retained 75 new jobs. And still to come are a couple new retail businesses scheduled to be built and/or open yet this fall. And this has happened during the unprecedented economic crunch created by the COVID pandemic.

WE SPENT A good deal of the past 5 years helping our businesses survive. We provided assistance with grants, programs for generating revenue, assistance in applying for federal and state funding, and in general, hunkered down with everyone else to get through the fear and unknown outcomes of a world- wide pandemic. That is no small feat, and every business in the region deserves a high-five just for still being here!!

Businesses have invested in our community. Existing businesses used the slow times during the pandemic to do work on their businesses. We've seen an increase in business activity recently in interior improvements to businesses and on store fronts, different lines of products being offered, new businesses opening and good local businesses being sold to new owners. We've seen folks moving in from other areas to buy businesses. All this points to a vibrant economy and a place where people want to live and raise their families.

We continue to look for ways to further outfit the Downtown Plaza. While there are many functions held there now, it is still not finished in a way that was promised to the citizens, including more structures for holding events and handicap accessible public rest rooms. We hope to have some news on the next phase very soon.

We are in the middle of conducting our annual business visits to gauge the health, status and needs of our existing businesses. We have conducted approximately 10 visits and will do 15 more before the end of the year. This data is then compiled by the state and added to its database. We can ask for reports on the local businesses, compare them to other across the state or the



region. It is the best way I know of to hear firsthand what the challenges are for businesses operating in our community.

From a digital standpoint, NNDC continues to maintain several online databases of available properties, businesses for sale and prospective land. When we sold the property we called our business park to Fuller Construction, we gained a new business investment in their headquarters building, but also gained infrastructure improvements to the remainder of that property, which helps it be a better option for expansion or new business recruitment.

WE ALSO PARTICIPATE in the Rural Prosperity project, which is a joint effort with UNL Extension, Northwest Nebraska Tourism and the Heartland Center for Leadership Development. We are focusing on what needs to be provided to existing and potential businesses to better take advantage of the visitors coming to & through our community. This grant has provided several thousand dollars in grants from projects including marketing, research, event creation and ongoing hospitality training. It also allowed for several interns over the past 2 years. NNDC has been the pass through for this funding and sits on the advisory committee overseeing the project. And, not so coincidentally, Dawes County set a record this past year for lodging tax collections – in part due to additional projects and marketing efforts made possible through this grant. NNDC will once again be advertising the opportunities for business expansion and relocation in Northwest Nebraska by advertising in the publication Discover Northwest Nebraska.

We have seen great strides in the effort to address the housing shortage. We have renewed our existing housing survey, have developed a plan to build some new market rate houses, have approved a redevelopment plan for an \$11 million apartment complex, along with the highest number of residential building permits in at least a 30 year history.



Scottsbluff

MEET THE BUYERS

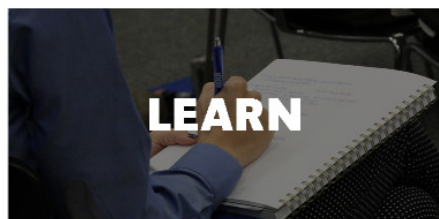
GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING CONFERENCE

October 18 - 20



nbdc
PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER

October 18-20 | Hampton Inn & Suites Scottsbluff (301 US-26, Scottsbluff, NE 69361) | FREE Admission



LEARN

OCTOBER 18

Programming To Be Announced Soon!



STRATEGIZE

OCTOBER 19

Government Contracting Training Workshops

Option #1: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Quality Management Course

In cooperation with the construction industry, the Corps developed this training course to familiarize personnel with the Corps construction quality management policies and procedures. It details the requirements of the government and contractor personnel assigned to the project and the reasons for those requirements. The certificate issued upon successful completion of the CQM class is good for 5 years and is valid for Corps, Navy and other federal agency projects.

Option #2: Government Contracting Workshops

8:30 - 10:00 AM	CMMC Overview
10:15 - 11:45 AM	Subcontracting
1:15 - 2:45 PM	Capability Briefings
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Bonding



ENGAGE

OCTOBER 20

Meet the Buyers

8:00 - 9:00 AM	Check-In, Coffee, and Contacts
9:00 - 11:30 AM	Agency Presentations
1:00 - 4:00 PM	Networking

Participating Agencies:

FE Warren Air Force Base
Ellsworth Air Force Base
Offutt Air Force Base
Northrop Grumman
National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
General Services Administration
Small Business Administration
Society of American Military Engineers
MORE TBA SOON!

REGISTER TODAY AT

mtb.eventbrite.com



www.harvestmoonfallfestival.org

Oct. 1, 2022 | 10th Annual Event

**Food & Craft
Vendors
Games
Health Fair
Food Court
& More!**

Are you a non-profit looking for a way to offer community service opportunities to your members or trying to raise funds and/or awareness for your group?

Contact us about the possibilities at lawrenceadventures@yahoo.com.

Sponsorship & Vendor Opportunities

<https://www.harvestmoonfallfestival.org/>



*Support Our
Hometown
Teams!!*



Happy Fall y'all!

“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

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NNDC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.