



South Central Dakota Regional Council

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With the exception of last winter, it has been one seemingly short year since being hired by the council. What a year it has been too!

In every sense, my exposure to North Dakota has been impactful: A non-stop procession of solid gains and minor setbacks. Some of the standouts:

Leadership: From the Executive Board to staffing, this is a new South Central Dakota Regional Council. McIntosh County Commissioner Perry Turner, President of the Executive Board, capitalizing on the years of dedication from Vice President, Joe Neis, brings a primary focus to service and assisting our 59 communities. Your staff, Traci, LeAnn and I, have overlapping skill sets and a common commitment to SCDRC. We are a solid team!

Work Program: Being of service requires a shift in focus. Communication, being aware of the needs of our constituents, is paramount. We have stepped up our outreach through our monthly news letter and burst that are distributed to over 300 people monthly. Travel throughout the region has allowed people to “see” their staff. CDBG remains a significant source of accomplishment for us. We have refined our Scoring and Ranking Committee and our utilization of this scarce, flexible financing. Our management of the program continues to evolve: We expect to fully complete a total of ten (10) projects by year end. This is a total investment of \$3,319,541.41 of which \$1,951,250.43 was made possible through SCDRC.

These projects include:

Verona – Water Main

Edgeley – Water Tower Control Panels

Cooperstown – Water and Sewer

Wimbledon – Water Tank and Stand Pipe

Jamestown – James River Tree Snagging

Streeter – Senior Housing Rehabilitation

Verona – Roof Replacement

Sanborn – Water System Improvements

Valley City – Bridge Repair

Jamestown – Assisted Living

Jamestown – Domestic Violence Shelter

Litchville – Housing Rehabilitation

Zeeland – Water Tower, Hydrants and Water Main



We respond directly, swiftly and thoroughly to needs within the region. Our Child Care Initiative is an excellent example. In recognition of the urgent role played by quality child care reducing unemployment and improving the quality of life. The council established a “forgivable” loan program aimed at creating jobs and ensuring the long-term successful operation of child care providers within our region.

Emergency Funds (Urgent Needs) are available, on a case-by-case basis, to deal with emergency situations (i.e. water main break). Deferred maintenance is not considered an urgent need. Immediately contact SCDRC. Emergency projects are approved by the Governor’s office. Do not undertake the project without prior approval through SCDRC and the State of North Dakota.

Commitment: Your present staff team is ideal: tremendous talent; a wealth of experience; a living, functioning, understanding of “team” and an over arching commitment to excellence through service.

Management: Virtually every aspect of council operation has been analyzed with an eye to increased efficiency and reduced costs. We have upgraded our copier and replaced our phone system; we are exploring a new location for the council. Our internal controls have been strengthened significantly with the adoption of the project numbering system that tracks every expense, direct or indirect.

Next Steps: We continue our efforts to resolve dues and participation issues with Stutsman County. It is our sincere expectation that this fragmentation will be put to rest and that the Council’s support of the Small Business Development Center addition to the JSDC will serve as the catalyst for this resolution.

SCORE: We host an office for SCORE – Service Corp of Retired Executives is a National non-profit organization that is made up mostly of retired business owners who offer their confidential advice on establishing and running a business. They have met with over 20 potential business owners so far this year. The chapter chair is Dave Smette who can be reached at smette@daktel.com.

We remain diligent in our commitment to provide the highest level of service in a timely and cost-efficient manner. We are optimistic that we will reach a mutually acceptable accommodation with LSS, our landlord, that will allow us to continue our tenancy in the Legacy Center.

We strive to generate “deal flow” for our members and funders. We have accomplished much. There is much to be done. We are committed to the task.

Let us know how to be of service to you.

Finally, “THANK YOU” for the opportunity to be a member of the SCDRC family.