



Growth Update

Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition

A county-wide initiative dedicated to growing the population of Reno County to 80,000 by the year 2020.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

Jim Davis

President, Realty Executives 4Results, Inc.

Board Members

Edward Berger

President, Hutchinson Community College

David Brax

Superintendent, Buhler USD 313

Jon Daveline

President/CEO,
Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce

John Deardoff

City Manager, City of Hutchinson

Virginia Elliott

Vice President for Programs,
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

Dan Ledebor

Director, Quest Center for Entrepreneurs

Daniel Friesen

President, IdeaTek Systems

Curt Miller

Mayor, City of Pretty Prairie

Phil Neufeldt

President, Neufeldt's Flooring

Harland Priddle

Executive Vice President,
Haven Chamber of Commerce

Gene Schmidt

President/CEO, Hutchinson Hospital

Nancy Scott

Director of Planning & Development,
City of Hutchinson

Martha Slater

President, First Generation Video

Bobbi Stewart

Mayor, City of South Hutchinson

Mark Vonachen

County Planner, Reno County

Ex-Officio Member

Francis Schoepf

Commissioner, Reno County

Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition, Inc.

Executive Director, Kris Doswell
PO Box 1372
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-1372
620.662.2126

How to Write a Grant to Capture the Elusive Dollar

In January, RCGC and the planning departments of the City of Hutchinson and Reno County jointly sponsored a workshop "Capturing the Elusive Dollar." The workshop brought grant-awarding organizations to Reno County to provide an overview of funding opportunities. Feedback from workshop participants indicated the desire for more specific training on actually writing grants. To accommodate this need, once again RCGC and the planning departments will jointly sponsor a workshop "How to Write a Grant to Capture the Elusive Dollar."

How to Write a Grant to Capture the Elusive Dollar
Thursday, October 19, 6 to 8:30 p.m.
Hutchinson Community College
Shears Technology Center

Attendees are encouraged to bring examples of actual or proposed project ideas from their communities. Representatives from three organizations including the Community Development Block Grant Programs with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing; the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the Kansas State Historic Society will be available to give feedback on the feasibility of the project ideas to qualify for grant dollars. They will also provide specifics on writing an appropriate grant to apply for the funding.

The workshop is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. For more information on the workshop, contact the City of Hutchinson Planning Department at 694-2639.

Implementation Matrix

The guideline for the development of the Reno County 2020 Growth Coalition, Inc. is the *Blueprint for Growth*. This study, funded by Reno County, identified 68 initiatives that Reno County must work on in order to reach its goal of growing Reno County to a population of 80,000 by the year 2020. Some of the initiatives will be highlighted in each issue of this newsletter.

Provide facilitation services for municipality vision/strategic planning sessions

Shortly after the Growth Coalition was formally established in 2005 and coordination began on the 68 initiatives identified in the *Blueprint for Growth* it became evident that many of the county's municipalities desired to establish similar plans. In recent months Haven, Nickerson, Pretty Prairie, and South Hutchinson have each sponsored community-wide "Visioning Sessions." RCGC Executive Director Kris Doswell served as the facilitator for the sessions.

In Haven, the sessions were jointly sponsored by the Haven Chamber of Commerce, the City of Haven, and the PRIDE Committee. The community recently drafted (and will soon adopt) "Haven 2016 – Visioning, Growth and Development Plan." At its most recent meeting, community members decided to establish a committee to be responsible for plan implementation in order to avoid the plan "sitting on a shelf and collecting dust." The committee (tentatively named the Haven Strategic Plan Committee) will be officially organized at a late October meeting. Some of the broad vision areas the committee will oversee include: Youth & Education; Housing; Community Beautification & Marketing; Health Services & Facilities; Business Development; and Community Infrastructure & Facilities.

Continued on page 2



**Reno County
2020 Growth Coalition, Inc.**
Executive Director, Kris Doswell
PO Box 1372
Hutchinson, Kansas 67504-1372
620.662.2126

From the Executive Director

This newsletter is available at no charge to any citizen of and to others interested in growing Reno County. Do you know of someone who should receive this newsletter... co-workers, colleagues? If so, please send their email address to me at kdoswell@cox.net and I will be happy to add them to the distribution list.

Do you have an idea for growing Reno County? Members of the Growth Coalition Board and I would welcome your input and ideas.

Thank you for your interest in growing Reno County.

—Kris Doswell

Implementation Matrix *from page 1*

Living Choices: Provide Development of Affordable Housing...

In order for Reno County to grow, access to affordable housing was identified as a means of assisting growth. In addition to initiatives in the City of Hutchinson, Interfaith Housing Services (IHS) continues to work to provide affordable housing in all corners of Reno County. A briefing on the IHS program was given at a Mayors' Forum in 2005. Following the meeting, several of the mayors contacted IHS President John Scott about expanding the program in their respective communities. Since then there have been multiple projects county-wide.

Interfaith Housing Services has conducted Needs Assessments in several communities and has established community groups to coordinate the program locally. Recently several projects have been implemented including two new homes in Nickerson; one new home in Arlington; and a complete remodel of a house is underway in Pretty Prairie. Also, three lots were recently donated in Pretty Prairie for the development of homes for first time home buyers. Once a family is identified for the lots, IHS will coordinate construction of the home with Hutchinson Correctional Facility and will assist the family in applying for financing with local lending institutions. The families will assist in helping design the homes to fit their needs and budget and will help in selection of features and colors of the property. IHS also offers a program to assist homeowners to keep their homes livable by making needed repairs or accessibility modifications.

For more information about Interfaith Housing Services, call John Scott or Janell Mendenhall at 620-662-8370.

Image and Attitude: Establish an Active and Effective "Welcoming" Program

NewComers Update—The newly established NewComers organization was successfully launched in mid-September. Hosts for the evening reported that five "newcomers" held a lively discussion about their new discoveries in Reno County. This welcoming group will meet the third Thursday of each month between 6 and 8 p.m. at the Grand Slam Restaurant in the Grand Prairie Hotel and Convention Center. The program is designed to be an informal means of both welcoming new (and nearly new) citizens to Reno County and to help them make a connection. The next gathering will be Thursday, October 19. For more information on the program, or to host a meeting, contact Kris Doswell.

Growth Calendar

Mayors' Forum

Tuesday, October 10
Pretty Prairie
Contact: Kris Doswell

Regional Leadership Summit "Our Economic Future"

Friday, October 13
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(lunch provided)
Wichita Airport Hilton
Contact: Kris Doswell

How to write a grant to... Capture the Elusive Dollar

Thursday, October 19
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Hutchinson Community College
Shears Technology Center
694-2639

NewComers

Thursday, October 19
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Grand Slam Restaurant
Grand Prairie Hotel and
Convention Center