



'HTC: The Real Deal.
A come-back, give-back
approach community
to development!'



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Rawlins County HTC Meeting – July 2006 Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2006 @ 8:00 P.M. Midwest Energy Room

The meeting was called to order by Rawlins County Economic Development Director Chris Sramek. Those present included Mary Holle, Kevin Holle, Joe Cabrinha, Peggy Cabrinha, Mary Sramek, Twila Miller, Bob Garrison, Simone Cahoj, Jeff Reinert and Jeremy Downing.

Treasurer Report - \$781.86 checking / \$3487.40 A.C.E.

Entrepreneurial Task Force Report:

- Have reserved domain name www.highplainsfood.org for the local food cooperative. Will also put up a coming soon webpage explaining the COOP. "The High Plains Food COOP is a Commonwealth of Ogallala Commons." Shopping cart software from the Oklahoma Food Coop is in the debugging stage and share-ware version will be released soon. The next step will be to form committees to establish by laws and develop a business plan and develop a website.
- Reviewed and corrected completed EDS business surveys. Chris Sramek will coordinate with Lori Colgan and chamber director Gary Fisher on distribution of surveys to county businesses. Bob Garrison made the suggestion to develop a list of County website links that can be placed on all of the sites in the County to make a continual link and ease of navigation to all that the County has to offer.
- As soon as school calendars are released an April date needs to be selected for the Rawlins County High Plains Entrepreneurial Fair & Water Festival. Wendy Fields has agreed to coordinate the fair and Darryl Birkenfeld, Director of Ogallala Commons will supply further details on the water festival. Easter is the first weekend and prom the third, so it most likely will be the second week.
- Kevin Holle made a suggestion to have a formal business training workshop for established businesses, farmers and ranchers that provided information and speakers on how to write business plans, plan expansion projects and address business ownership transfers. He will go to the local banks to see if they would support such a workshop and Chris Sramek will coordinate with Ogallala Commons for possible assistance.

Youth Attraction Task Force Report:

- Atwood Rotary Club will be sending Rawlins County Juniors Laura Wolters and Josiah Jones to RYLA Leadership Camp in Great Bend July 28-30.
- Reviewed Youth Venture www.youthventure.org information for an option to fund any youth community service projects.
- Peggy Cabrinha reported that the Oakley Theatre project group did a presentation for the Jayhawk Theatre Board. The board thought that it would be an excellent opportunity for a FFA or business class to do a similar project at the Jayhawk.
- Joe Cabrinha shared information on the KU Scholars for Rural Health Program. He wanted HTC to be aware that Nick Cahoj received this honor last year and that Andrea

Sis was a finalist this year. Recipients of this scholarship will receive assistance with medical school with the agreement that they will practice in a rural community for a specific period of time after graduation.

Leadership Task Force Report:

- Conclusions from the June 8th Community Futures meetings were reported by Marry Holle in the Square Deal and copies were emailed and mailed to participants. Copies can also be downloaded at www.rawlinscounty.info/htc.htm
- Chris Sramek, Kurt Dillion, Chris Schmidt and Dawn Hampton attended the June 8th L.I.F.T. training workshop and will head organizing and implement a L.I.F.T. leadership training program for Rawlins County to be offered this fall and next spring.
- Need to select 10 candidates to send to the Regional HTC Academy in Chadron, NE September 12-14. The registration deadline is August 11. Cenex will provide one youth scholarship and Ogallala Commons/RCED will provide a community scholarship. With ten registrations HTC will get two free, so funding for six more \$500 registrations is needed. Chris Sramek will visit with the school district, cities, county, hospital and good sam to see if they would be interested in sending a representative and see if the school will provide transportation. Mary Holle and Dawn Hampton will visit downtown businesses and the prevention board.
- Darryl Birkenfeld has invited Chris Sramek and Simone Cahoj to be guest speakers at the Ogallala Commons Fall Conference in Chadron, NE October 12th. Topic to be covered will be what entrepreneurship, leadership, youth attraction and charitable asset opportunities have the Ogallala Commons/HTC programs brought to Rawlins County.

Charitable Assets Task Force Report:

- Chris Sramek will explore using the ACE Foundation 501C3 status for grant opportunities.
- Chris Sramek reported that a group continues to explore a Northwest Kansas regional foundation and that Susann Mickelson will be sending information about a Northeast Colorado or High Plains effort the Rocky Mountain Farmers Union is working on.

Western Prairie RC & D Advisory Council Report:

- No Report. Chris Sramek will attend their next meeting August 6 in Colby.

Upcoming Dates:

- July 18th – 23rd – Rawlins County Fair
- July 27th – Spotlight on the USDA in Northwest Kansas conference @ Hill City
- July 28-30th – RYLA Leadership Camp @ Camp Aldridge in Great bend, KS
- September 12, 13, & 14 – HTC Regional Academy @ Chadron, NE
- September 15, 16 & 17 – Highway 36 Association "Treasure Hunt"
- October 7th – Smokin' on the Beaver / Lion's Drag Races
- October 11-13th – 7th Annual Ogallala Fall Conference @ Chadron, NE

The meeting was officially adjourned by Chris Sramek

Chris Sramek, Director
Rawlins County Economic Development