



Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation Newsletter

105 North Hall, Algona, Iowa 50511 515-295-7979 Fax. 515-295-8873
 kcedc@ncn.net www.kossuth-edc.com

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Letter from the President

by Vicki Mallory

What is KCEDC and how does it work? Since our office staff and board members continue to hear those questions, here is a brief glimpse of “what we are” and “are not.”

KCEDC is a resource for the communities and businesses it serves. KCEDC is the link between the need of the contacts to KCEDC and the individual, agency or organization that may be able to satisfy that need.

KCEDC is also a first point of contact for prospective businesses. The office is the logical place for that first contact. We have a dedicated staff led by a trained economic development professional representing Kossuth County on a full-time basis. This is a crucial component in our past successes and for future endeavors.

KCEDC is the most effective way for our county to channel the resources for economic

development. Those resources include money, staff time and the countless hours of time and talent from the volunteers involved on the board of directors and numerous committees.

KCEDC is not a source for “free” or “cheap” money. There seems at times to be a misconception that we have access to unlimited funds. The truth is KCEDC does not administer any type of grant or revolving loan programs. What we can do is provide information for programs that may fit the particular needs of the individual or business seeking assistance. We do not make the contacts for anyone – we simply provide the resources. Also keep in mind that these programs have very specific criteria and guidelines for applicants to follow.

KCEDC does not write grants – we do assist in identifying programs that fit a situation.

Businesses, individuals or communities will then proceed on their own as appropriate.

Much has changed since we were “born” in 1996.

To conclude – what we “are” is a professional organization with qualified trained staff working to establish our county as a viable force in economic growth. We have had many successes. We will continue to enjoy successes as we work together to make it happen.

“KCEDC is the most effective way to the resources for economic development.”

Committee Explores Ag Industrial Park and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) By Larry Sterk

Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation has been discussing the need for a County Ag Industrial Park and a Revolving Loan Fund for some time.

For the county to attract industry, the Ag Committee decided it is imperative that Kossuth County have these type of tools available to attract and assist industry to this county. It is equally important to provide assistance for existing businesses to expand and grow. Establishing a Revolving Loan Fund is just one of many tools that are needed for this county to grow so we can maintain our schools, medical services and the quality of life we enjoy.



Growth does not come by accident or chance, it is planned.

A year ago a sub-committee of the Kossuth County Economic Development Corporation Agricultural Committee was established. Members appointed to this sub committee: Craig Diem, Swea City, Conley Nelson, Algona, Todd Schwartz, Titonka and Larry Sterk, Burt. The committee has four goals/actions regarding an Ag Industrial Park and a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

1. Identify partners that can assist with financial programs.
2. Define the steps needed to establish the Kossuth County Ag Industrial Park.
3. Create a network pool of individuals to use as an economic development resource.
4. Establish the timeline within the sub committee.

The sub-committee’s first priority was to prepare written recommendations to the Ag Committee for review and forward to the KCEDC Board of Directors for final approval.

The sub-committee has completed the Revolving Loan Fund Program Guidelines, a Revolving Loan Fund Application, and just recently completed the Loan Agreement document and a sample of a promissory note. Our next step with the RLF is to research funding possibilities to get the program started.

We have been in contact with the Iowa Area Development Group and other individuals who have been involved with the formation of industrial parks to give us some direction. This discussion involved infrastructure, attracting complimenting businesses, environmental concerns, community involvement, and timing of having the land available.

We still have much work to do. This process of creating these tools for county growth is not new to the industry, but it is new to Kossuth County. Thank you for the privilege of serving on the KCEDC Ag Committee.

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