

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, March 17, 2014

Regular Meeting

Item Reports4

Council to receive a presentation from Kristin Wiebe on the Call to Action Effort.

Staff Contact: Nathan Johnson, Assistant City Manager



308-632-4136
2525 Circle Drive
Scottsbluff, NE 69361

March 17, 2014

Mr. Jerome Deichert
108 CPACS
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Omaha, NE 68182

Dear Mr. Deichert,

I am pleased to support the Energy, Economy, and Environment (E3) proposal to the Rural Futures Institute. A representative appointed by the Scottsbluff City Manager will participate and assist in local planning meetings to help craft a project that will be most beneficial to Scottsbluff area and local food processing manufacturing. We know that to compete in today's global marketplace, manufacturers need to be smart, innovative, and sustainable. We think that E3 provides an excellent framework to bring together federal and local resources to make a positive collective impact on our community.

The project will emphasize efficiency and process improvements in food manufacturing that will reduce the burden on our electric and water utilities. Reduced consumption of water and electricity along with cleaner waste water will allow our current infrastructure to support growth and new businesses. As a result, we will not be forced to spend money on capital improvements to current infrastructure.

The project should result in better employment opportunities for our residents and help us retain and attract new residents. We expect training opportunities from this project will improve skills of the labor force allowing them to achieve higher wages.

We expect this to be an example of what can be accomplished in other communities through managed collaboration and technical assistance. The networking opportunities and understanding we achieve of the six federal programs participating in E3 will help us connect more local businesses with these agencies and their programs. This allows us to keep our economy growing while conserving resources.

Sincerely,

Randy Meininger, Mayor
City of Scottsbluff



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Mr. Jerome Deichert
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Omaha, NE 68182

Dear Mr. Deichert,

We are pleased to support the "Catalyzing the Role of Micropolitan America in the Future of RuralAmerica: Why Not Begin this New Frontier for Research and Engagement in Nebraska?" proposal to the Rural Futures Institute.

A representative appointed by the Scottsbluff City Manager will work with your team and will help to find meeting space, help to promote meetings, and provide technical assistance to the community organizations that may be created during this project. In addition, we will offer our assistance with the compilation and documentation of the activities associated with the project. We think that this project provides an excellent framework to understand the importance of micropolitan areas in the development of rural Nebraska.

We know that understanding and promoting the linkages between micropolitan cities like Scottsbluff and its surrounding rural areas will help to strengthen rural Nebraska. The current lack of understanding/research may result in a missed opportunity to promote and sustain growth in Nebraska's nine micro areas—and, by extension, micro areas across the country.

We believe that this project will help to develop future visions and strategies for individual micro areas such as ours and will create a stateside learning and support network for micro areas.

By meeting its objectives, this project has the ability to fulfill a prototype role and will result in a "how to" and best practices that other states can use to undertake research and engagement that links to and supports micro areas.

We look forward to working with you and your team on this important project for the future of rural Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Randy Meininger, Mayor
City of Scottsbluff