



The

Spring 2007

Inside This Issue:

HSOC funding.....1

MKDI loans.....1

CEDS update.....2

Kansas CDBG.....2

Plattsburg Comp Plan.....3

CDBG update.....3

Mo-Kan GIS/GPS.....4

Upcoming events.....4

This newsletter was prepared in part through a planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, and from local membership dues and contracts for services. Questions or comments should be directed to:

Editor
1302 Faraon Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501
Phone: 816-233-3144
Fax: 816-233-8498
Email: tom@mo-kan.org



Mo-Kan
An Economic and Community Development Organization

Regional Forum

A publication of Mo-Kan Regional Council and Mo-Kan Development, Inc.

HSOC RECOMMENDS OVER \$892,000 IN PROJECTS FOR REGION



The newly-formed group responsible for promoting a regional, seamless approach to emergency planning and response in northwest Missouri has made the first funding recommendations to Governor Matt Blunt for new equipment purchases, training, and other security assets. The Region H Homeland Security Oversight Committee (HSOC), one of nine committees covering the entire state, serves the northwest Missouri counties of Andrew, Atchison, Buchanan, Caldwell, Clinton, Daviess, DeKalb, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Livingston, Mercer, Nodaway, and Worth. Last September, Governor Blunt charged the Region H HSOC with distributing just over \$892,000 in federal homeland security funds to local jurisdictions, with the expressed aim of addressing the preparedness and response of the region as a whole. A regional approach to homeland security not only eliminates unnecessary duplication of services, but also provides the greatest return

on investment for limited federal funding.

The Region H HSOC received 60 requests for funding from local jurisdictions around northwest Missouri, totaling more than \$2.5 million. Of those requests, the committee selected 42 projects to be recommended for at least partial funding. The selections, which were made at the HSOC's December meeting, were based



State Homeland Security Coordinator Paul Fennewald discusses statewide issues with the Region H HSOC at the January meeting held in Bethany.

on four funding priorities set by the Missouri Office of Homeland Security: Agriculture Risk Mitigation, Volunteer and

(Continued on page 3)

MKDI RECEIVES STEADY STREAM OF LOAN REQUESTS

Many new and existing entrepreneurs have contacted Mo-Kan Development, Inc. (MKDI) since 1982 for assistance in developing/expanding their businesses. MKDI strives to do everything within their power to assist these business enthusiasts.



Magpie Designs in downtown Plattsburg.

Recently, MKDI has worked with several start-up businesses, business purchases, and business expansions throughout the Mo-Kan region.

Magpie Designs, a retail home décor store, opened in mid February, 2007 with assistance from MKDI. This store, owned and operated by Mrs. Lambeth Zachary, is located in Plattsburg, MO directly across from City Hall on Main Street. MKDI assisted Magpie Designs with the purchase and renovation of the building through use of a SBA 504 Loan. The store specializes

in home decorating products and is a unique addition to the City of Plattsburg.

Deluxe Truck Stop recently expanded

(Continued on page 3)

RUTH ROSS, Chair
Mo-Kan Regional Council

DAVID LAURIE, Chair
Mo-Kan Development, Inc.

MICHAEL JOHNSON, Chair
ABCD Planning
Commission

MO-KAN STAFF

TOM BLISS
Executive Director
tom@mo-kan.org

JACKIE SPAINHOWER
Community Development
Director
jwilson@mo-kan.org

NAOMI YOUNG
Bookkeeper/Printer/Secretary
naomi@mo-kan.org

JACKIE WOLF
Grant Administrator
jackie@mo-kan.org

MARK SANDER
Cartographer/GIS
Specialist
mark@mo-kan.org

JOHN PERRINO
Business Development
Director
john@mo-kan.org

GARY MILLER
Loan Officer
gary@mo-kan.org

JON ECKER
Loan Officer
jecker@mo-kan.org

MO-KAN BEGINS COMMUNITY PLANNING FOR CEDS UPDATE

In 2001 Mo-Kan Regional Council (MKRC) completed a six-county Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is a document created as part of a region-wide effort to assess, define, and accomplish the economic development goals of the region. In turn, the CEDS helps to serve as a guide for regional economic/community development efforts by outlining goals, objectives, and

policies, formulated by the community leaders.

Every five years MKRC is required by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to facilitate the revision of the CEDS. EDA may then provide grants (EDA funds) to local and multi-jurisdictional entities that support the implementation of the goals identified in the plan. For instance, if the region determines bio-science or bio-fuels are important then EDA may provide grant dollars for future bio-science projects. Mo-Kan Regional Council adopts an Annual Program of Work, which, in effect, guides the staff in accomplishing the goals adopted in the CEDS.

In accordance with EDA requirements, Mo-Kan staff has been working on revising the CEDS. On March 13, 2007, Mo-Kan held a meeting of economic development professionals and elected offices to begin formulating a plan on how to address regional issues. Jack Briggs facilitated the meeting. Mo-Kan anticipates holding similar meetings in every member county in the near future.

Funding Alert . . .

Is your electric company AmerenUE?

Do you have an idea for economic growth at your business or in your community?

If you answered YES to these two questions, grant funding may be available from AmerenUE CDC.

For more information visit
www.ameren.com or contact
Jackie Spainhower at 816-233-3144
or jwilson@mo-kan.org.

KANSAS CDBG GEARING UP FOR 2008 FUNDING CYCLE

If your Kansas community is interested in pursuing a Community Development Block Grant project, knowing the following deadlines is essential. The CDBG Program offers grants to Kansas communities to improve local facilities, address critical health and safety concerns, and develop a greater capacity for growth. It offers funding options for projects ranging from housing and street repairs to industrial loans and job training. Examples of how CDBG funds have been used in northeast Kansas include the Vernon Road economic development project in Elwood, and the completion of the Doniphan County Water District Number Five.

The CDBG Annual Application Conference for Housing, Community Facilities, and Water and Sewer is scheduled for April 24 & 25, 2007 in Junction City. The workshop will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott, 316 Hammons Drive, Junction City, KS 66441.

Additionally, the State of Kansas and the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) offer other resources. These alternative-funding

streams can be used to complement CDBG projects, thus allowing your community to stretch its limited budget even further.

If your community is interested in pursuing CDBG or any of the other funding options for fiscal year 2008, please call Tom Bliss at 816-233-3144 or E-mail tom@mo-kan.org.

Important Deadlines

September 1, 2007

Housing/Neighborhood Development

October 1, 2007

Water and Wastewater

November 1, 2007

Community Facilities

Open Application

Urgent Needs

KAN-STEP

Downtown Revitalization

Economic Development (applications due on the first Friday of each month)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IN THE WORKS FOR CITY OF PLATTSBURG



Mo-Kan Regional Council recently started writing a city-wide comprehensive plan for the City of Plattsburg. This year-long process started in late 2006 when staff began meeting with city staff to compile background information and traffic count data for the community. A Town Hall Meeting took place on March 14, 2007 to introduce the concept of comprehensive

planning and designate citizen committees to address specific issues within the community. Mo-Kan staff created both community and business-wide surveys that asked residents their thoughts on how the community should shape future growth. Results from these surveys are currently being tabulated. In addition, utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Mo-Kan developed several maps of Plattsburg and the surrounding

areas and completed three traffic studies. The plan will be presented to the city council later this year.

A city comprehensive plan is a document designed to guide municipal development, help a community effectively plan for future population growth, allows a community to gauge its strengths and weaknesses, and identifies the goals of the community by examining key areas.

(Continued from page 1)

their services by purchasing an additional building located across the street from the current location. Three additional truck bays were constructed at this site. Located in the stockyard area



Deluxe Truck Stop, located in St. Joseph, Missouri.

of St. Joseph, Deluxe Truck Stop has seen an increasing need for livestock washouts; and therefore, this new facility is designed mainly for meeting this need. MKDI assisted this company with a SBA 504 Loan, and the expansion will create an estimated eight new jobs for the area.

MKDI recently received approval to expand services throughout the entire state of Missouri, and a recent example

is the purchase of a Ramada Limited in Branson, Missouri. This business was



Ramada Inn, located in Branson, Missouri.

purchased in late February and is currently being converted to a Ramada Inn. Previously, MKDI had to redirect business owners to other lenders due to project location. With the new expanded service area, MKDI will be able to

personally assist a wider variety of businesses such as the owners of the Ramada Inn in Branson.

For more information please contact John Perrino, Gary Miller or Jon Ecker at

(Continued from page 1)

Donations, Mass Care, and Interoperable Communications. Recommended projects include mass care trailers to be used throughout the region, hiring an agro-terrorism expert for northwest Missouri, and a wide range of portable and mobile radios that improve communications not only within a local jurisdiction, but also between jurisdictions and departments at a regional level. The majority of funds are recommended to be used to improve interoperable communications throughout northwest Missouri.

The recommendations of the Region H HSOC will be presented to the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Council in April, which will then make the final approval for the homeland security projects. For more information regarding the HSOC or future homeland security grant funds, contact Corey Sloan at cdpsloan@centurytel.net or Jackie Spainhower, at jwilson@mo-kan.org.

CDBG ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Community Development Block Grants are keeping the Mo-Kan staff busy on both sides of the river. Along with grant preparation, it is also the time of year when new regulations and guidelines are reviewed. This year, Jackie Spainhower and Jackie Wolf spent a week in Topeka to become certified with the Kansas CDBG program; and Tom Bliss, who received his certification in 2005, attended continuing education classes for Kansas environmental review. In Missouri, Bliss, Wolf and Spainhower attended the application workshop in Pattonsburg on January 25 to learn about changes to the 2007 guidelines and application.

PROJECT UPDATE

- Amazonia, MO**—Waste Water System.....Closed
- Andrew County, MO**—ADA Elevator.....Close out process
- Cosby, MO**—Waste Water System.....Obtaining easement
- Plattsburg, MO**—Downtown Revitalization.....95% Complete
- Cameron, MO**—Industrial Infrastructure.....Final specs and design
- Cameron, MO**—Valleybrook Housing.....75% complete
- Highland, KS**—Community Bldg/Fire House.....Application submitted

MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL AND MO-KAN DEVELOPMENT, INC.

GIS/GPS TECHNOLOGY AT MO-KAN



Mo-Kan's GIS program continues to expand on an annual basis. With the constant changing technology and equipment it is imperative to keep the Mo-Kan staff up-to-date with the newest information. To further the capacity of Mo-Kan's program, Mark

Sander, Mo-Kan's GIS Specialist enrolled in a three-day course at Missouri Western State University titled, *Introduction to GPS for Mapping and Navigation*. This technical course fostered Sander's professional development and strengthened the skills he needs to properly conduct GPS projects for Mo-Kan's member communities.

Beginning in March, Mo-Kan kicked-off a project for the Missouri Department of Transportation which involves collecting point data for Missouri county and city bridges located within Mo-Kan's region. The skills needed for such a project utilize Mo-Kan staff's understanding of GPS principles. With these skills and the experience gained by completing a project of this magnitude, Mo-Kan staff hopes to expand similar GPS projects in all communities within the region. For more information about GIS/GPS projects please contact Mark Sander at 816-233-3144 or email mark@mo-kan.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

USDA Energy Program Workshop

April 5, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Highland Community College, Highland, Kansas

MKDI Board Meeting

April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Mo-Kan Office

Region H Homeland Security Meeting

April 16, 11:30 a.m.

Ketcham Community Center, Trenton, Missouri

Mobility Planning Service Meeting

April 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Pony Express Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri

Mo-Kan Regional Council Board Meeting

April 25, 7 p.m.

Mo-Kan Office

Kansas CDBG Annual Application Conference

April 24 & 25

Courtyard by Marriot, Junction City, Kansas