

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LANCASTER COUNTY VILLAGES
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2014
9:30 A.M.

County Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair; Deb Schorr; and Jane Raybould

County Commissioners Absent: Roma Amundson and Brent Smoyer

Village Representatives: Vicky Polak, Hallam Village Clerk; Kelly Oelke, Hickman City Clerk; Nancy Niemann, Raymond Village Clerk; Joe Dalton, Waverly City Councilman; John Hestermann, Waverly City Councilman; and Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk

Others Present: Eric Rasmussen, Camp Creek Threshers; Kerry Eagan, County Chief Administrative Officer; Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Chief Administrative Officer; Dan Nolte, County Clerk; and Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

Larry Hudkins, County Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1) INTRODUCTION OF PAMELA DINGMAN, LANCASTER COUNTY ENGINEER

Larry Hudkins, County Board Chair, introduced Pamela Dingman, the new County Engineer.

Dingman discussed her background, noting she has practiced civil engineering since 1991, and in Nebraska since 1995, and has experience in major street design, paving and construction. She said she has spent a lot of time in the County's rural communities and looks forward to attending some of the village meetings.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Dingman said a number of the County's bridges have issues and said six bridges are being closely monitored. She added there are serious maintenance issues, not just with roads and bridges, but with the County's shops and maintenance facilities.

2) HARD SURFACING BLUFF ROAD FROM 148TH STREET TO 176TH STREET - Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk

Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk, said the City of Waverly would like Bluff Road hard surfaced from 148th Street to 190th Street (the county line), explaining that Waverly receives numerous complaints about dust along Bluff Road when the Camp Creek Threshers holds events on their grounds east of Waverly. He said 148th Street to 152nd is within Waverly's corporate limits so Waverly would possibly look at paving that portion with curb and gutter.

Schorr inquired about traffic counts on the road. Dingman said County Engineering recorded 344 vehicles per day from 148th Street to 168th Street; 265 vehicles per day from 162nd Street to 176th Street; and 213 vehicles per day for the last mile in 2013 but said she is not sure when the counts were taken. Hudkins said it is his understanding the counts were taken during the summer months when school was out.

Eric Rasmussen, Camp Creek Threshers, said his organization has recorded 2,000-4,000 paid attendees at their Annual Antique Machinery and Threshing Show which is held in July. He said that number does not include the exhibitors and other vehicles that are involved in the event. Rasmussen agreed that dust is always an issue, particularly when there are dry, windy conditions. Hudkins noted other events are also held on the grounds during the year which draw sizable crowds.

Schorr asked whether Waverly has tried applying magnesium chloride to the road to control the dust, noting Roca Berry Farm has used that product to control dust from heavy traffic during peak seasons. Joe Dalton, Waverly City Councilman, said Waverly hasn't used that product but has watered the road within its corporate limits on occasion. He added it is fortunate the dust problem hasn't caused a serious accident.

Hudkins noted the Village of Malcolm has regularly asked since 2005 for 0.5 mile of blacktop so its school buses can have another entrance into its high school.

3) DESIGNATING ALVO ROAD FROM NORTH 98TH STREET TO NORTH 148TH STREET AS A DESIGNATED TRUCK BYPASS - Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk

Doug Rix, Waverly City Administrator/Clerk, said when Amberly Road was constructed in the early 1990's it was intended to be a truck bypass. He noted Hamlow Elementary School and Waverly's Middle and High Schools, which are located on Amberly Road, and a housing development on the south side of the road were not in existence at that time and children crossing the road with the truck traffic can be dangerous. Rix suggested it would be better to designate Alvo Road as the truck bypass and move the traffic light at the Novartis plant on Nebraska Highway 6, east of Lincoln, over to North 98th Street so it could also serve Garner Industries.

Rasmussen said the only other alternative would be Fletcher Avenue. Dalton said Fletcher Avenue is a better road to handle that kind of traffic but said truck drivers will want to be able to access the Paver's Inc. plant on Highway 6. John Hestermann, Waverly City Councilman, said designating either Alvo Road or Fletcher Avenue as the truck bypass would eliminate truck traffic traveling from Nebraska Highway 2 to U.S. Interstate 80 (I-80) and trucks could turn right onto Nebraska Highway 6, instead of crossing the highway twice to get to I-80. Trucks coming off Nebraska Highway 6, going to Nebraska Highway 2 to get to Nebraska Highway 29, could come right off onto North 98th Street instead of going through the stop lights.

Dingman said the County doesn't have a policy for designating truck routes at this time. She noted the State has "Safe Routes to School" grant monies available (projects must be at least \$500,000) and said she is researching the possibility of a grant for both Malcolm and Waverly.

4) CITIZEN'S INSTITUTE FOR RURAL DESIGN GRANT OPPORTUNITY -

Sara Hartzell, Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department

Sara Hartzell, Planner, Lincoln-Lancaster County Planning Department, discussed an opportunity for Lancaster County to apply for a Citizen's Institute for Rural Design (CIRD) grant to assist rural communities with design and planning efforts (Exhibit A). She said CIRD works with communities with populations of 50,000 or less, or metropolitan counties on the urban fringe, to identify interests and provide access to resources to increase communities' long-term vitality. Hartzell said CIRD will provide \$30,000 worth of consulting work for an intensive, two-and-a half day design workshop which will involve individuals with strong interest in their communities. Local match of \$7,000, cash or in-kind, is required and could be used to rent space for workshop, materials, food for participants, stipends for speakers, etc. Possible partners include County Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Southeast Community College (SCC), Center for Rural Affairs, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Program and Lancaster County's cities and villages. She said projects can vary widely, citing downtown revitalization, trail development, comprehensive plans and zoning, design standards, and economic development as examples. Hartzell added she would like to come to city council or village board meetings to discuss the program.

5) OPEN DISCUSSION

Kelly Oelke, Hickman City Clerk, thanked the County Board for its support of Hickman's "quiet zone" (a railroad grade crossing at which trains are prohibited from sounding their horns in order to decrease the noise level for nearby residential communities), an interlocal agreement for crack sealing on South 68th Street, and including widening of South 68th Street in the County's One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program.

Hudkins inquired about growth. Oelke said it is doing well, noting Hickman issued 45 single family, residential building permits in 2013.

Oelke also reported that Hickman has been approved for a special mail-in election for a 1.5 cent sales tax. Schorr asked whether Hickman has designated use of the funds. Oelke said yes, Hickman hopes to build a new city hall/community center in the downtown area.

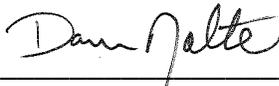
Vicky Polak, Hallam Village Clerk, reported on replacement of the railroad track in Hallam, noting debris has been an issue in the past. She said Hallam is interested in connecting the trails along the Hallam Road with the Homestead Trail and has also had interest in building permits.

Nancy Niemann, Raymond Village Clerk, said the Raymond Village Board has three new members.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Niemann said Raymond's water contamination issue has been addressed and is at the maintenance stage. She also reported that Raymond's sewer system is at capacity, which limits growth.

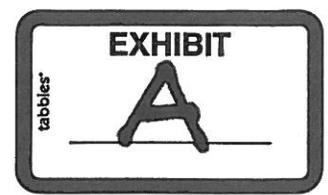
6) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk





Citizen's Institute on Rural Design

<http://www.rural-design.org/>

Residents in America's small towns and rural communities care deeply about the future of their towns and value their uniqueness, strong sense of community, and special places. However, they increasingly face urgent challenges: How can they add jobs and support local businesses? How do they create a positive future for their kids? How can they honor and protect local character and history? How do they use limited financial, human, and natural resources wisely?

Developing locally-driven solutions to these challenges is critical to the long-term vitality of these communities, and the arts and design can play a powerful role in this process. Across the country, community leaders and residents are coming together to tackle these challenges and to find creative strategies that address:

- How to build strong economies and grow jobs;
- Where to locate new growth or redevelop older areas;
- How to design efficient transportation systems;
- How to protect the community's historic and culturally significant resources

Rural Design is an important tool for rural communities to build upon existing assets and improve the way a community looks, its quality of life, and its economic viability. However, few rural communities have access to design assistance or the expertise to tackle these challenges on their own.

The Citizens' Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) provides communities access to the resources they need to convert their own good ideas into reality. CIRD offers annual competitive funding to as many as four small towns or rural communities to host a two-and-a-half day community design workshop. With support from a wide range of design, planning and creative place-making professionals, the workshops bring together local leaders from non-profits, community organizations, and government to develop actionable solutions to the community's pressing design challenges. The community receives additional support through webinars, conference calls, and web-based resources.

CIRD works with communities with populations of 50,000 or less. This includes communities located in a non-metropolitan county or in a metropolitan county on the urban fringe.

Established in 1991 as Your Town: the Citizen's Institute on Rural Design. CIRD has conducted more than 60 workshops in all regions of the country, empowering residents to leverage local assets for the future in order to build better places to live, work, and play. Initially a partnership among National Endowment for the Arts, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the State University of New York at Syracuse. CIRD remains one of the NEA's key design leadership initiatives and is currently conducted with the US Department of Agriculture and Project for Public Spaces, along with the Orton Family Foundation and Community Matters Partnership.

CIRD Workshops are generally two and a half days long, with speakers from all over the country who are experts in their fields bring information tailored to the communities' needs, interactive work sessions that address the particular challenges and opportunities of the community, and the participation of local

experts. There is strong emphasis on bringing information about local resources that are available to continue moving forward. CIRDC has a strong preference for workshops that will lead to further activity in the community. The workshops generally wrap up with a community wide activity that brings the work of the participants to the larger community and engages others who are interested in community design.

Grants provide up to \$7,000 in funding for materials, speaker stipend, conference supplies, facility rental, etc.. and up to \$35,000 in professional staff assistance provided by design professionals with expertise in rural design issues and rural economic development. Applicant are asked to provide about \$7,000 in matching funds which may be in-kind support and a firm commitment for participation.

Examples of CIRDC Workshops:

2013

Live Oak, Florida, a community of just under 7,000, hosted a workshop on rebuilding their downtown which was devastated by Hurricane Debby in 2010. The workshop provided a forum for local government officials, realtors, artists, entrepreneurs and other residents to create and share ideas of what they want for the community. Each participant began by creating a model of their ideal Live Oak. There was a discussion on branding Live Oak and participants worked with artists to create different logos for Live Oak. National speakers shared information on economic development, a transportation engineer discussed possible changes to downtown streets and how to make them more walkable and connected. Participants learned about strategies for marketing their town, improving downtown parking, successful strategies other small towns have used, and local resources available.

Sommerset in eastern Kentucky held a workshop to try to better integrate the local arts and culture into community plans, raising awareness about the potential of artisans and craft industries to contribute to the economy of the region. National speakers presented strategies for promoting arts and crafts, branding a community to improve its economy, incorporating arts within the community's school districts, and strategies for rural collaboration.

Seguin, TX, a city of about 26,000, held a workshop that centered around the design and public health benefits of a new waterfront trail for a low-income community suffering from high rates of obesity and limited options for walking, biking or transit. The workshop involved government officials and citizens from many sectors concerned with public health, recreation and equity. Speakers were brought in to discuss the relationship between design and recreation, the potential for trail amenities, benefits of connecting the trail into a larger grid of bike routes, and how public art could enhance the trail.

What about Lancaster County?

Lancaster County has a population of nearly 300,000 people. The majority of these live within the city limits of Lincoln, but about 10% live in the rural area and other small towns in the County. The tables below show the populations for the County as a whole, Lincoln, the small towns as a whole, and "Other" being those who do not live inside the corporate limits of any village or city.

Population	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Annual % Change	Total Change
Lancaster Co.	155,272	167,972	192,884	213,641	250,291	293,407	1.28%	88.96%
Lincoln	128,521	149,518	171,932	191,172	225,581	265,389	1.46%	106.49%
Small Towns	2,673	3,687	4,956	5,582	6,502	7,967	2.21%	198.05%
Other	24,078	14,767	15,996	16,887	18,208	20,051	-0.37%	-16.72%

Percent Total	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Total County	155,272	167,972	192,884	213,641	250,291	293,407
Lincoln	82.8%	89.0%	89.1%	89.5%	90.1%	90.5%
Small Towns	1.7%	2.2%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.7%
Other	15.5%	8.8%	8.3%	7.9%	7.3%	6.8%

As you can see, the small towns as a whole have enjoyed healthy growth rates over the past 50 years, while the areas outside of any town saw a sharp drop in the 60s and have seen a slower rate of growth since then. However, Lincoln has consistently been the dominant municipality in the County. Growth has not been equal among the small towns; some have seen population declines while others have seen sharp rises. Most of the small towns though have a similar challenge: How do we maintain our identity, grow our economy, and be the kind of place people want to visit and live in? Many of the small towns have a population that works somewhere else and it can be difficult to engage these people in the day-to-day life of the community. How does a small town, in a county dominated by a much larger city, remain true to its identity and continue to thrive?

Possible topics:

- Economic Development
- Growth and acreage development
- Community Character and Identity
- Creating a Vision for the Future
- Comprehensive Plans and Zoning
- Design Standards
- Boosting Public Participation

The County Board has determined that an application for grant funding through the CIRD program could be of great use to the small towns in rural Lancaster County. The Lincoln and Lancaster County Planning Department will act as the coordinating partner in the grant application and possible workshop process. Some possible partners are the County Extension Office, University of Nebraska, Center for Rural Affairs, US Department of Agriculture Rural Development program, and the cities and villages of Lancaster County.

Without the participation of the villages and cities of Lancaster County, this effort cannot go forward.

What are we asking you for? We would like a commitment to find at least 3 individuals from your community who would be willing to spend 2 and a half days of their time next fall to attend a CIRD workshop. These individuals could be on your village boards, city councils, planning commissions, boosters, American legion, or any other already established committees you have or they could simply be those people in your community that make things happen. Think of the person who organizes the fun run every year, or puts together the softball team, or got everyone together for a park clean-up day. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic, care about their community, and get things done! We would particularly like to engage the youth of the community in this process. A multi-generational group would be wonderful to see! We want the workshop participants to walk away with ideas for their town and the resources and tools to make those ideas live.

The Planning Department would like the opportunity to speak to your Village Board or City Council about this project. We would very much like to see every community in Lancaster County participate. I am confident that we can design a workshop that will provide tools and ideas to everyone from our fastest growing city to our smallest village.

Please contact

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