Meet NODA's Newest Board Member

With the retirement of Kelly Wahl from Major County, Kent Schlotthauer was elected to serve as District 2 Commissioner. He praises Wahl and all he was able to accomplish for the community. He hopes to continue that success as he settles into his new position stating "Kelly really took great care of Major County, he hired great people and I really enjoy feeling part of the team." Being a local business owner has benefited Schlotthauer as a new commissioner. "You must be smart with your finances and surround yourself with good working people," says Schlotthauer.

As our newest NODA board member, Kent enjoys hearing about the projects the other communities are doing, networking with other commissioners, and seeing the hard work of the NODA staff. "It is great being a part of a diverse group working together for the same common good."

Transportation Planning Advances

With the completion of three NODA counties' Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP) (Kay, Noble and Grant), 2017 started at full steam for our transportation staff. Two LRTP will be completed this year: Alfalfa County and Major County. With stakeholder meetings for both counties complete Payton Herron is hard at work using the data he gathered to write the Alfalfa County plan.

LRTPs are being funded through NODA with a grant provided by Federal Highway Administration through Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Deadline approaches for CDBG Applications

Oklahoma Department of Commerce opened applications for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) in January. CDBG-REAP, and Community Revitalization project application deadlines were in February and March, respectively. Water/Wastewater Engineering and Construction applications deadline is May 2, 2017. These grants assist with engineering costs, administration costs, permit costs as well as construction costs for your water and waste-water projects. If interested contact Jennifer Firgard for assistance.

Remember, NODA does not charge you to write your application. This is part of your membership.
State Budget Cuts Strike Again with REAP Fund Reduction

REAP funds see a second year of reduction from the Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) as they declared a revenue failure for FY 2017. NODA received a 7% reduction March 1, 2017. "We prepared for this possibility," stated Vicki Eggers, Economic Development Director. Revisions to the 2017 REAP Program plan were instituted so every applicant did not have to experience the reduction, which occurred with the FY16 budget cuts.

There has been some talk that if Oklahoma's economy does not turn around soon some programs, such as REAP, could be reduced, or possibly eliminated, from the FY18 budget. Because of the recent turnover in legislators not all legislators understand what REAP means to the rural communities it serves. Please consider, and urge your staff and board members to contact your legislators to let them know how important the REAP program is to your rural community. To find out who your legislators are go to:

Grant Co. Commissioner Represents Rural Counties in DC

Full story featured in Enid News & Eagle, Feb. 15, 2017

Representing Oklahoma on a national scale, Oklahoma Board of Commissioners Grant County Chairperson Cindy Bobbitt testified before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in February. She was invited to speak by Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., who has served as chairman of the committee. Bobbitt said county infrastructure plays an important role in transporting freight, crops and marketable goods, which creates stress on rural roads. Well-maintained infrastructure is needed to remain competitive in an increasing global market. "We must prepare for the future, not the present," says Bobbitt. She also encouraged the committee to invite more counties to the table.

"Counties stand ready to work with our federal partners to achieve our shared goals - improving transportation, increasing public safety and boosting our economy." - Cindy Bobbitt, Grant County District 2

Photo Provided by Enid News & Eagle
OARC Legislative Reception

On Feb. 15 legislators and sub-state directors gathered to discuss key issues at the Faculty House, OU Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. The event was hosted by Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils (OARC). NODA thanks Sen. AJ Griffin (Dist. 20), Rep. Steve Vaughan (Dist. 37), Rep. Carl Newton (Dist. 58) and Rep. Mike Sanders (Dist. 59) for spending time with us.


Left to right: Rep. Carl Newton and Rep. Rande Worthen (Dist. 64)

Steve Hobson Retires from NODA Board

With 13 years under his belt, Steve Hobson decided to retire from the NODA Board due to scheduling conflicts. Hobson has served the great state of Oklahoma in many ways including Mayor of Covington and Garfield County Commissioner. Steve please accept our sincere appreciation for your many years of commitment and dedication.
Fire Departments Benefit From Equipment Conversion

Cecil Michael, NODA Rural Fire Coordinator, worked with both Cherokee and Sumner Volunteer Fire Departments with vehicle conversions through the USDA Forest Service Fire Fighter Property Program (FFP). Cherokee Fire Chief Troy Eschleman now has a 2006 Sterling 5 ton with 3,000 gal. skid unit and Kabota diesel power pump. This is quite an addition to the fleet that serves Alfalfa County.

Sumner VFD adds a Stewart Stevenson 2.5 ton heavy brush rig to their fire house. Chief Tim Taylor and his crew have an amazing piece of equipment to take care of Noble County.

Have a project idea? Contact Cecil at cecil@nodanet.org

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA)

is accepting resumes for the position of Executive Director

For additional information and/or a copy of the job description, please email your request to:
admin@nodanet.org

Resumes will be accepted until April 30, 2017. You may submit your resume in person to 2901 N. Van Buren, Enid, OK 73703 or via email to admin@nodanet.org
NODA is an equal opportunity employer

ATTENTION FIRE DEPARTMENTS!
A NOTE FROM CECIL
Coming soon! Keep an eye out for Annual Certification for Operational Funding.

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority
2901 N Van Buren
Enid, OK 73703

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