



2022 Community Contributions

Diann successfully received a one-year extension on completion of the Downtown Revitalization program. Additionally, I have requested reallocation of the \$41,000 remaining from the lighting program and place those dollars in façade improvement. This was approved later in the year.

Diann worked with Blue Ox and DED on a Site & Building Development grant for their expansion. This grant was awarded and will be reimbursed once expenditures including match have been met. This grant was awarded/spent/and reimbursed in 2022.

Diann reached out to Rose Baker at the Department of Economic Development regarding Customized Job Training for the Blue Ox expansion. As a result, Blue Ox was invited to participate in this grant funded program. Nathan from Blue Ox will work with DED on the program opportunities.

The 2021 Annual reporting was completed for the NIFA and DED housing grants that were awarded last year. (\$250,000 and \$600,000 respectively)

In early spring the sale of 26 acres of land from William Benson to Pender Community Development, Inc. was finalized. This land is south of Whitney Street west of the ball fields. PCD has begun working with ACES in West Point to get this land platted and have the engineering studies completed.

I (Diann) completed the Lower Elkhorn NRD Recreation Area Development Grant for matching funds for the toddler equipment for the Village Park. (In 2021 PCD was given a substantial donation for toddler equipment for the Village Park from a Pender alum.) The LENRD grant was completed and dropped off at the Village Office for signature and was mailed on March 1, 2022. This grant was awarded – play equipment is here waiting to be installed by Village Maintenance.

Diann worked with Gabe Perez and Jason Dolliver to try to get murals on the Heyne field grandstand. Ultimately the School Board denied this request.

I (Diann) attended Community Health Conferences in Wayne multiple times throughout the year. These meetings were hosted by the Northeast Nebraska Rural Health Network with the focus of the meeting to be identifying health needs for this region to be the focus of their work in the coming years. The identified needs were Mental Health, education and transportation for area residents to obtain mental health assistance, and focusing on area deficiencies – housing; employees; and food insecurities.

I met with Ann regarding the CCCFF grant for Community Centers / Libraries multiple times throughout the year. She would like to do a planning grant in January 2023. Prior to this we need to do a survey of the community needs. I have reached out to Andrea regarding this survey. I reviewed the multiple surveys that were provided as samples and compiled a list of items that I would like to include in the survey. Ann is taking these surveys to her Board for their opinions – then we will work with NENED on completing and providing a survey to the community.

I completed a draft of the Pender Thurston Community Education Foundation grant for development expenses related to the new housing addition. Approximately \$29,000 was requested. I forwarded data to Derwin to review/tweak and then forward on to the Foundation Board. This grant was awarded later in 2022.

Diann worked with the new owners of the Legacy Gardens on potential grants and other new business opportunities. She connected Tim Keelan with the owners for assistance in remapping the blighted area to allow the building to utilize Tax Increment Financing.

I worked with USDA / DED / NENED on assistance for the Village of Thurston for emergency water repairs. They had significant well issues and were hopeful there would be some funding available for assistance – unfortunately, we have found nothing thus far.

The community survey was created and disseminated throughout the community both in paper copy and electronically. We received 187 responses to the survey with results being shared with the community at a later date.

Diann worked with the Thurston County Tourism Committee awarding grants for Tourism Improvement and Promotion grants in Thurston County amounting to \$4,850. All dollars stay in Thurston County.

In the fall of 2022 construction began on Roberts Addition on the land west on Whitney and south of the ball fields. Some of the infrastructure will be completed to allow for townhomes to be built as soon as 2023.

The Community Reinvestment Authority (CRA) voted to authorize the bucket TIF dollars to be used for the lift station needed for the Roberts Addition – housing development. These dollars exceeded \$190,000.

Diann assisted NENED in the preparation of the Letter of intent for a Land Development grant offered by DED requesting \$1,000,000 for infrastructure for the new development. The grant application is actually due in January so we should hear pretty quickly if the LOI was accepted, and the invitation was extended to apply.