

8-25-2022 Executive Director's Report

Housing: The full housing report has been distributed. A few highlights that I want to point out is that we have filled our open grants specialist position. Aaron Koontz will start with us on September 6. He'll work closely on income verifications, contractor paperwork, and building/rental inspection administration. Also, we have our first 3 qualified participants for our HUD lead based paint remediation program and Matthew will start inspecting those soon. This has been a gigantic task administratively to get to this point, and great credit to Nicole Rhodes, Ann Anstey, and the whole team for working through mounds of HUD paperwork.

Planning: Planning is as busy as ever. We recently were contracted by Red Oak to complete a comprehensive plan for the city and look forward to that project. We also recently had staff attend a brownfields training (rehabbing old industrial sites, etc.) that I believe will be helpful in the future. Completing the CEDS update is also a major accomplishment. We completed the final review and payments to our economic development partners through our Covid recovery planning grant. In the end those amounted to CADCO: \$30,000, HCDC: \$30,000, SCCDI: \$30,000, MCDC: \$25,208, Clarinda E.D.: \$15,000, SCIA: \$45,000. We hope that you saw increased impact in your communities covered by these entities.

RLF: All active loans are in the green. I have no active applications. I have been contacted repeatedly by an individual in Stanton regarding starting a business but each time I request a business plan and nothing has been forthcoming.

Agency Wide: Obviously we have discussed already at great length the building project but that has clearly taken a decent amount of my time. I was also fortunate enough to get away on vacation in early August for a little more than a week. Also the flurry of hiring that we have done recently has been a challenge and I want to especially thank the staff who sat in on interviews and very much thank our HR coordinator Daurine Petersen who makes the process run very well. I received 3 solid applications for communications coordinator and interviewed 2 outstanding candidates. As of press time I have made an offer and believe it will be accepted but do not know yet. If it is not accepted I have no reservations at all going to the number 2 candidate.

Rhonda has also been putting extra work not just closing out FY22 and beginning FY23, but updating our cost allocation plan, which is a very important document—especially related to our EDA and DOT planning grants. She's also about to start audit season so her hard work is very much appreciated. Karen and Rhonda are also working diligently to get the information to our new payroll system so that can stay on timeline and get rolled out for our October driver's meeting.

Finally, I want to strongly encourage all the board to attend our annual meeting on September 22 in Clarinda. We will start the day at the Lied Library at 9am, then depart via SWITA at 9:30 to tour the Carnegie Art Museum, downtown businesses assisted with building improvements by SWIPCO, and the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum. Lunch will be back at the Lied Library at noon, followed by awards and the presentation of the annual report. We typically have a short business meeting as well, depending on current needs.