

simpco Update

Volume II Issue VI

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council

November 2008



Meetings and Events:

Thursday, November 13

7:30 a.m.

SIMPCO Executive/Finance Committee

Kahill's/Marina Inn

4 & B, South Sioux City, Nebraska

Thursday, November 13

5:30 p.m.

SIMPCO Board of Directors

1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

Thursday, November 20

10:00 a.m.

Siouxland Regional Transportation

Planning Association

Policy Board

1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

Thursday, November 20

11:00 a.m.

Siouxland Regional Transit System

Board of Directors

1122 Pierce Street, Sioux City, Iowa

Watch for our next update which will highlight SIMPCO staff's recent grant writing successes.

SIMPCO

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"Planning Professionalism and Partnership for the Siouxland Region"

This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

NADO 2008 Innovation Awards

SIMPCO is the recipient of a 2008 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its program **"Community Beautification and Economic Development: You Can't Have One Without the Other!"** This recognition only further emphasizes the continued need for regional development organizations and our critical role in promoting economic development for rural and small metropolitan communities.

Award winners were showcased during NADO's 2008 Annual Training Conference, October 3-7 in Anchorage, Alaska. Co-Executive Director Jane Gilbert attended the training conference on behalf of SIMPCO and presented the award winning program during the Innovations Awards Reception.

The basis for the program was the 2008-2009 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG).

Community Development Director Kristi Quinn spearheaded the writing of the grant application. SIMPCO received \$150,000 in RBOG funds to provide assistance to communities of 50,000 or less for beautification and economic development services. This program has been very successful with assistance being provided to communities in Cherokee, Ida, Monona, Plymouth and Woodbury Counties in Iowa; Dakota, Dixon, and Thurston Counties in Nebraska; and Clay and Union Counties in South Dakota.

DATE CHANGE

The **Siouxland Regional Legislative Forum** hosted by SIMPCO and Western Iowa Tech Community College was changed to **Friday, December 12, 2008** from 9:00 a.m. until NOON at WITCC, 4647 Stone Avenue in Sioux City.

Economic Development in Northwest Iowa

Maple River Energy, LLC is constructing a 3 million bushel soybean crush facility and 5 million gallon biodiesel manufacturing refinery south of Galva in Ida County. Soybeans will be purchased from area growers.

The soybean crush facility expects to be in production by mid-December. Over 75,000 tons of SYNERGY (soybean meal) will be manufactured and distributed to local elevators and livestock producers for inclusion in swine, dairy and beef rations.

The biodiesel refinery should be up and running in late January / early February. The company plans to become BQ9000 certified and produce high quality, clean-burning biodiesel that meets ASTM D 6751 specifications.

Approximately 15 new jobs will be created in Ida County. Interviews are currently being conducted for various positions. Employee training is scheduled for the week of November 13th.

Maple River Energy, LLC received \$300,000 in rural development funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These grant funds are for working capital expenses associated with marketing biodiesel from soybeans.



Maple River Energy, LLC

Taking the Lead

from Co-Executive Directors Jane Gilbert and Dwight Lang



Total Community Development:

Grant funds are now available through SIMPCO's Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) funds from USDA Rural Development for products and services to achieve **TOTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**.

Total community development includes economic development work products that benefit everyone. We recommend that cities and counties first apply for funds to develop and adopt sections of strategic or comprehensive plans. Secondly, the goals and objectives in the plans must be accomplished within stated timelines. Examples of well-defined goals and objectives to include in a plan are:

Goal 1: Actively pursue grants to provide additional resources to fund capital projects and improve services to the community.

Objective: 1) Continue to research and identify grants applicable to the implementation of the city's or county's development plans.

Goal 2: Develop, review and enforce codes as they relate to sound promotion of community and economic development.

Objectives: 1) Inform residents of the code requirements and promote compliance. **2)** Work with one of SIMPCO's professionally trained code enforcement officers to *increase* strategic code enforcement activities. **3)** Provide support to SIMPCO to monitor compliance with code requirements and provide a mechanism for enforcement action when necessary.

Focus areas for the grant funds could incorporate municipal codes, commercial corridors, business and industry, and the downtown districts, among other targeted areas and sites in urban and rural areas. Specific services could address housing needs, job creation and retention, brownfields redevelopment, and community reinvestment through established partnerships in the community. **Call (712) 279.6286 to discuss how the USDA grant funds can be used in your 2009 – 2010 budgets.**

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