

NODA

news

Newsletter of the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority

(Spring/2022) Volume 1



The Northwest Oklahoma Alliance held its quarterly networking luncheon on February 22, 2022 in Woodward Oklahoma at the Woodward Conference Center. The meeting focused on funding opportunities for Northwest Oklahoma through grants and financial programs to help cities and towns improve both job opportunities and economic development for the rural areas of Northwest Oklahoma.

The guest speakers were Jessica Jantzen (Economic Development Coordinator), Jennifer Firdard (Community Development Specialist), and Vicki Eggers (Economic Development Director) from the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority and the Oklahoma Economic Development Authority. The Northwest Oklahoma Alliance is dedicated to coordinating, developing, and promoting regional resources.



Jennifer spoke on the REAP program that allows communities to improve general economic conditions in rural Oklahoma through three funding sources for water, sewer, street, bridges, and other miscellaneous economic development projects. She also went over the CDBG program, CDBG application opened as of February 2022 and Jennifer will be traveling to various communities to promote and assist with these applications and funding opportunities.

For information or assistance, contact Jennifer at jennifer@noda-oeda.org

Vicki discussed the funding opportunities offered by the federal government. The Paul Brauhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program, requires that the communities be certified as local government which can take up to six months to become qualified as such, but is a great opportunity to preserve historic buildings in communities. She also spoke about the funding through the Jobs Act and the Infrastructure Investment Bill that will authorize funds to build transportation, address climate change, support energy infrastructure, and supply broadband internet in the communities.

For more information, contact Vicki at vicki@noda-ok.org



Jessica presented information about the Rural Housing Initiative that seeks to help revitalize and grow Oklahoma's rural communities by making funds available for citizens who wish to build a new home. This program is set up for rural communities with less than 20,000 residents and applicants that make less than \$91,900 for a 4 member household and less than \$121,300 for 5+ member households. These funds can be used to acquire new permanent residences, essential household equipment, and miscellaneous site preparation costs.

For more information, contact Jessica at jessica@noda-ok.org



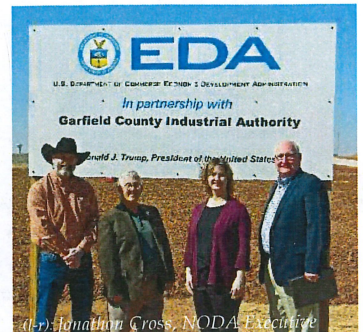
For more information about the Northwest Oklahoma Alliance, to become a member, or attend a luncheon visit www.nwoka.com or call (580) 233-4232.



EDA Grant Provides Funding for New Industrial Park Infrastructure

On June 15, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the Garfield County Industrial Park as a recipient of an EDA Grant for \$800,000 for infrastructure improvements. The EDA grant will be matched with \$225,394 in local funds and is expected to create 30 jobs. The \$800,000 award is one of the largest economic development grants awarded in our area, said Don Roberts, chairman of the GCIA board of directors.

NODA assisted with the application and administration of the grant. Lisa Powell, executive director of Enid Regional Development Alliance, said "It was truly a team effort."



(l-r) Jonathon Cross, NODA Executive Director; George Pankonin, Enid Mayor; Lisa Powell, ERDA Executive Director; and Don Roberts, GCIA Chair.



With assistance from NODA, Garfield County Industrial Authority (GCIA) received an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant to install water, sewer, and road infrastructure in the Garfield County Industrial Park, located on North 54th Street in Enid. The \$800,000 federal grant, with matching funds from GCIA and the City of Enid, totaled over \$1,087,000 plus the City's staff time and expertise with the design, engineering, and inspection work.

Pictured: Jonathon Cross reading letter from EDA Regional Director Jorge Ayala who was unable to attend the ceremony.

City and economic development officials were present as the newest road at Garfield Industrial Park, Venture Road, was officially opened March 2 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and creates space for at least six new businesses in the remaining 65 acres of the industrial park.

The grant funds will be used to construct a new road to Enterprise Drive along with constructing water and wastewater infrastructure. The industrial park is managed by the Garfield County Industrial Authority and is located on Enterprise Drive & 54th Street. There are four businesses currently in the park, including Tyson Foods, Nextlink Internet, Winfield United, and Cogent.



REVIEW

RLF For Review



Pictured Above l-r: Phillip Schrahl, Dea Mandevill, Vicki Eggers, Toby Walker, and Jessica Jantzen of the RLF Committee

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program was designed to provide funds to businesses that cannot get traditional bank financing. These funds allow these businesses to grow which leads to additional employment opportunities in the region. NODA staff assists qualified applicants, reviews, and helps process these applications for the RLF Committee and NODA board reviews. The RLF Committee gathers in person and via Zoom to review a loan application that had been submitted.

To find out more about the RLF program, who may apply, what qualifies, etc. please contact either Vicki Eggers at vicki@noda-ok.org or Jessica Jantzen at jessica@noda-ok.org

THE Spotlight

Get to Know Our Board



Max Hess took the oath of office to become the current Grant County Commissioner for District 1 on January 01, 2003 and has continued to work hard to provide services for and improve his district in Grant County. Max started his county work career in Alfalfa County where he worked for 14 years before transferring to Grant County.

He started off as a "hand" before becoming the Bridge Foreman under Ted Moore. When Ted decided to retire Max got his support to run for Commissioner. He is very proud of the bridge and highway repairs and revitalization he has been able to accomplish as Commissioner. His work with NODA helps to invigorate him as he enjoys working with different people and getting alternative views to how they handle things within their communities as well as their various jobs and issues. As a retired firefighter Max is fond of the Rural Fire Program in NODA, and finds the Cherokee Strip Transit program to be an almost invaluable asset to members of the senior community that need assistance with rides. Max is proud to be a part of an organization that works with city officials to help the public. Max has one son named Michael that works as a road foreman for District 1 in Alfalfa County. He says the best advice he could've told his younger-self to make sure to prepare for the future, don't waste money on frivolous things and to live within his means.

While he says he thinks you never truly get a day off, completely free from responsibility his favorite way to spend any downtime is enjoying the outdoors in nice weather, hunting, fishing, or just getting away from it all to relax.

Max was appointed to the NODA Board of Trustees as the Grant County representative in January of 2005, and has been a valued member of the NODA organization ever since. We all appreciate Max's hard work and dedication to not only NODA but the counties and people we serve.

Receptive Stitt-uation

On March 28 the annual Northwest Oklahoma Legislative Reception was held at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Guest speakers included Rep John Pfeiffer, Sen Roland Pederson, NWOA Chair Lisa Powell, who is also executive director of the Enid Regional Development Alliance, and was highlighted by Governor Kevin Stitt. The reception gave the people of Northwest Oklahoma the opportunity to speak with the representatives and legislators that serve them.



Governor Stitt has been a major proponent for making Oklahoma a "Top Ten" state in tourism by highlighting the many great attractions and unique experiences the state has to offer.



For future events visit www.nwoka.org



NORTHERN OKLAHOMA
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(580) 237-4810

2901 N Van Buren • Enid, OK 73703

**Making a Difference in
Northern Oklahoma**

We provide opportunities to improve the quality of life in our eight-county region - Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major and Noble.

For more information about NODA services, contact us at
(580) 237-4810 or
www.noda-ok.org

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Make Transportation a Smooth Ride



NORTPO hosted the first of 19 planned public meetings for the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan in Cherokee on March 10. The presentation was given by Payton Herron (NORTPO GIS) and Devon Westbrook (NORTPO Transportation Planner) to discuss the goals and concerns of the public. NORTPO will be holding meetings in all 16 counties to receive feedback and local knowledge from the residents on the transportation system.



Devon Westbrook (left) and Payton Herron (right)



Visit www.nortpo.org to take the most recent transportation survey, as well as view results from previous surveys. You can review other long range transportation plans, public participation plans, and view public notices for meetings and other events.

A full schedule of meetings will be posted online once all dates and locations have been finalized.

If you know of any community events in your county, especially ones that NORTPO staff can attend, or a good date for a meeting, please contact Devon Westbrook at devon@noda-ok.org or (580) 798-0500.

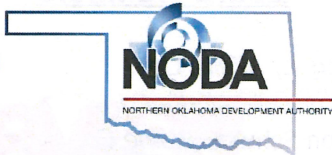
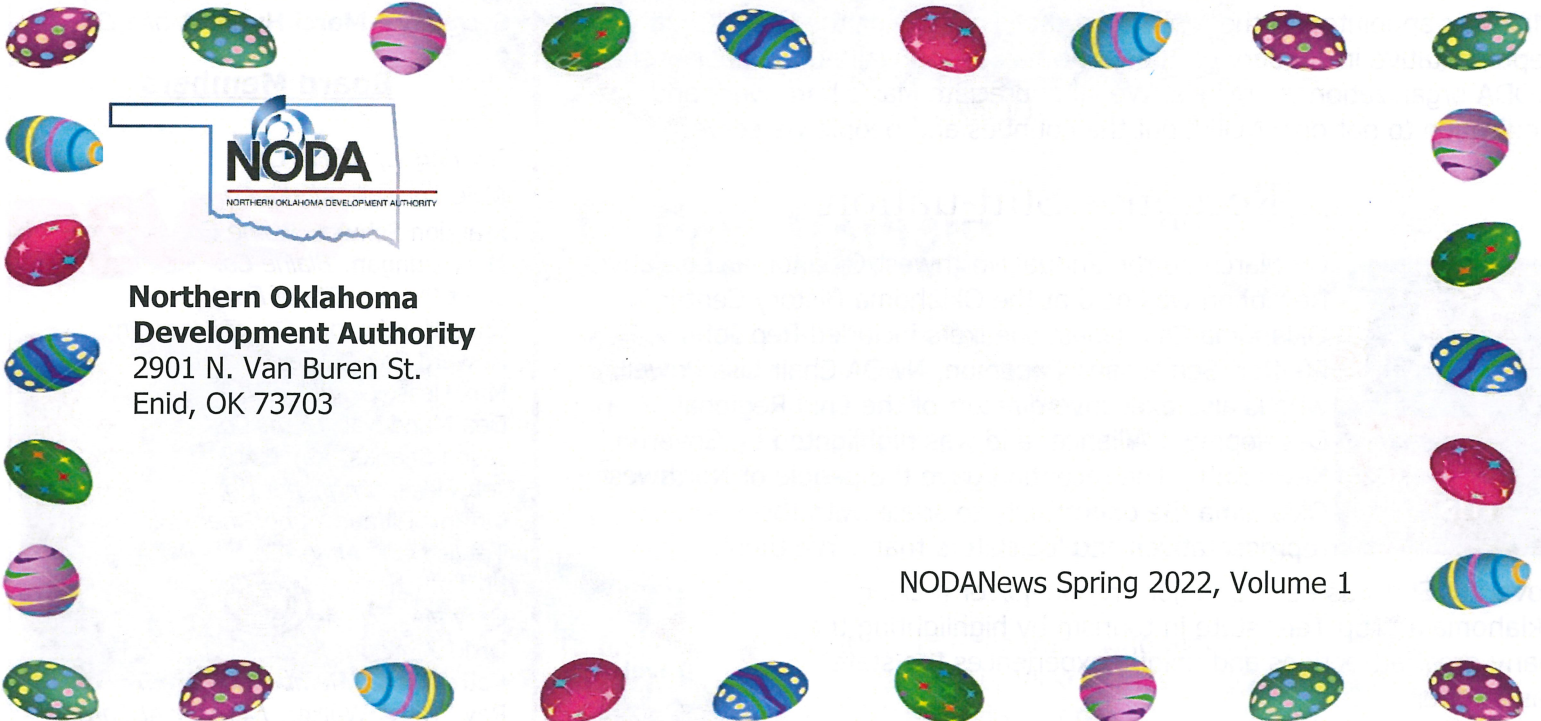
Attendees of the public meeting, pictured left to right, included Jay Hague, Alfalfa County Commissioner; Michael Jones, Cherokee City Manager; Lanita Schwerdtfeger, Alfalfa County Clerk, and Amber Wilhite, Cherokee City Clerk.



Cherokee Strip Transit (CST) offers transportation to area residents and operates in Garfield, Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Noble, Kingfisher and Blaine counties. Its main office is located in Garber, Ok.

CST has been in operation since 1991, and is still going strong today. You can get information on fare prices and routes by going to www.noda-ok.org under the Cherokee Strip Transit tab. To speak with someone for information; or scheduling, contact CST at (580) 863-2279.

CST recently upgraded their navigation and trip monitoring systems by replacing all the drivers' cell phones with 5g capable smartphones! Several of the old cell phones were donated to the YWCA to help with emergency communications.



**Northern Oklahoma
Development Authority**
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