



# Audubon County Economic Development Corporation

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## ACED TIDBITS

December 2009

### YEAR END CHANGES

Already the calendar year is coming to a close. January will be my opportunity to start drawing out of the social security pool. This retirement date for me has been on the ACED agenda for many months. Much effort has gone into the planning strategy for the future of Audubon County, including the replacement of the Executive Director position with our joining a development cluster. This has been an exciting and productive year.

### CLUSTER/MIDWEST PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Effective January 1, 2010 Audubon County Economic Development will join the Midwest Partnership Development Corporation, making it a four county partnership. Midwest Partnership is currently a three county development group made up of Greene, Guthrie, and Adair counties. All counties including Audubon are members of the state Regional Marketing Group, Western Iowa Advantage.

Jason White is the Executive Director of the Midwest Partnership. Jason has several years experience in the economic development field and has also held political positions in the Iowa House of Representatives, Iowa Senate, and as a campaign consultant. White has also worked as a redevelopment specialist for the City of Coralville, Iowa. He is the current President of the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) for 2009-2010. Jason received his B.A. from Loras College and M.A. from the University of Iowa with concentrations in Economic Development and Transportation. Jason is completing advanced course work to become a certified economic developer.

Ashley Feick serves as the Economic Development Coordinator for the Midwest Partnership. Ashley has worked as a legal secretary in Greenfield, Iowa and is a graduate of North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa with an Associate of Arts degree in Social Sciences.

Sarah Gomez is the Staff/Marketing Assistant and performs a variety of administrative duties. Sarah is a graduate of AIB College of Business in Accounting. She completed her bachelor's degree in June 2009. Additional information about Midwest Partnership is on their website; [www.midwestpartnership.com](http://www.midwestpartnership.com).

### MEET JASON WHITE / SAVE THE DATE

Jason will be at the Community Banquet January 9, 2010. I know he is looking forward to meeting everyone and to have an opportunity to visit with you one on one.

### ACED Board of Directors

President  
Troy Wessel

Vice President  
Todd Nelsen

Secretary  
Jason Hocker DVM

Treasurer  
Brett Irlmeier

Directors  
Larry Beckendorf  
Lyle Hansen Jr.  
Sam Kauffman  
Alan Kearney  
LaVerne Lansman  
Jay Nelson  
Bryan Olson

Executive Director  
Thomas R. Nielsen

### ACT Board of Directors

President  
Pat Curtis

Vice President  
Lila Jean Jensen

WITR Representative  
LaVerne Lansman

Tourism Coordinator  
Marge Shaffer

### ACED BOARD

The Audubon Economic Development Board will stay in tact and will have a point person to work with Jason. It appears likely that person will be me, as the plans are for me to be on the board after we go through our transition period. Our local board will stay hands on with the Valley Business Park project and local businesses; however Jason will be a great asset to assist with marketing and prospect proposals. It is exciting to have this all come together to strengthen Audubon County's position in its development efforts. We now have development sites available in the Audubon Industrial Park and the Valley Business Park for current business expansion or new business recruitment. Our Virtual Building project is also now complete. These projects will help Audubon County's potential for new jobs.

### COUNTY STRATEGIC PLANNING SEMINARS

In 1989 and again in 1993 Audubon County Strategic Planning seminars were held. In both sessions two top priorities were determined; job creation and unity. In both of those years there was also discussion between the Audubon Chamber and the previous Audubon Industrial Development (AID), to have a joint organization and strategic plan. AID and ACED merged in 1989 to form the current Audubon County Economic Development Corporation.

### COORDINATION

Unity is the other positive progress being made. We have tagged the project "Coordination". This is a joint effort of the Audubon County Economic Development (ACED), Audubon County Tourism (ACT), and the Audubon Chamber of Commerce. Staff and office will be shared between the groups. It is hoped that all community promotion organizations in Audubon County will jump on board when this is fully established. The major goals of this effort is to be as seamless as possible with all county organizations, share leadership and volunteers, and achieve greater impact by planning and working together, and to gain efficiencies and savings. This Coordination group has developed an Audubon Community Development Plan, which takes all of Audubon County into consideration and includes benefits for all towns. The committee is currently working on the high priority Objectives. We will share more details on this project as this comes together.

### ADVANTAGE

All of these efforts are fun, exciting, challenging and a huge benefit. They will be good for the community and bring advantages to the members of each organization. I will remain part time for the first part of 2010 while we go through this transition period, to help Jason White get familiar with our local businesses and to help with the Audubon Community Development Plan.

### AUDUBON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND

The Audubon Endowment program has awarded approximately \$150,000 to our county not-for-profit organizations in 2009. This is a fantastic benefit for all of Audubon County. The Southwest Iowa Foundation has modified the county challenge grant. An additional new endowment dollar for dollar match up to \$10,000 is now available for the Audubon Community Foundation up to December 31, 2009. A new endowment dollar for dollar match up to \$25,000 is

available for the Audubon Community Foundation through 2010. If you or someone you know has interest in investing and promoting Audubon County, this would be a good philanthropy choice.



Thomas R. Nielsen  
Executive Director

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

“There are times in the life of any human community when change is the only course of action that will permit continuity”

*Thomas R. Rochon*

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.”

*Corrie Ten Boom*

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Audubon County Tourism

Margee Shaffer Coordinator

**Send us your town's and organization's events to [audubontourism@iowatelcom.net](mailto:audubontourism@iowatelcom.net). We will add them to the Calendar on [www.auduboncounty.com](http://www.auduboncounty.com)**

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**Legislative Briefing in Audubon**

Save the dates: January 30, February 20<sup>th</sup>, & March 20<sup>th</sup> 2010

Your chance to visit with Senator Nancy Baudler and Representative Clel Baudler at Audubon County Economic Development Community Room at 800 Market Street in Audubon

**Audubon Community Banquet and Auction**

**Saturday, January 9, 2010**

Saint Patrick's Parish Center in Audubon  
The whole community is encouraged to attend!  
Tickets \$15.00

For more information contact Barb at 712-563-3780

## **TIME TO ROLLER SKATE:**

**DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, & FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**SKATING WILL RUN FROM 6 TO 8:30 PM AT THE AGRI HALL ~ SPONSORED BY THE AUDUBON COUNTY FAIR BOARD ~ REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

**Audubon Chamber of Commerce**

## **New Year's Eve Bash - December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**8:00 PM to 1:30 AM at the Agri Hall**

**New Year's Eve comes but once a year.  
Join the Chamber Party & have good cheer!**

- **Knights of Columbus with Black Jack**
- **Music by Complete Music DJ**
- **Snack all Evening**
- **Countdown to Midnight**
- **Ring in the New Year - With Horns, Hats, Beads and Tiaras!**
- **Breakfast at 12:15 by Jan's Catering**
- **Cash Bar Available**
- **Lots of Prizes**

**Tickets \$20 per Person**  
**\*Must be 21 to Attend**

**Tickets available from Chamber Office**

**For more information call 712-563-3780**