

Pulaski County Community Development Commission
Pulaski County, Indiana

Achievements 2010

Direct Involvement. Activities in which the CDC board and / or director were involved as originator and executor. Results and outcomes solely the result of CDC action with or without subcontractors.

Completed the county-wide *economic development strategic plan* for which a \$50,000 state grant was awarded. The plan provides the CDC and county with a detailed timeline for goal-oriented action steps. The plan identifies specific industries to pursue, workforce development activities, and mechanisms for achievement. The plan was unveiled at a well-attended public hearing on October 5th at the Pulaski Co. Public Library in Winamac. Several aspects of the plan, expansion of assisted living facilities and workforce development, have begun ahead of schedule.

The CDC board voted to commit up to \$7,000 from its Donation Fund to fund the drafting of detailed land use maps for the County's plan commission. This is in furtherance of the CDC's commitment to comprehensive land use planning for Pulaski County. The CDC Donation Fund comes from non-tax sources, mainly donations from out-of-county organizations that promote economic development.

The CDC successfully completed its participation in the Star City sewer development project upon the establishment of a regional sewer district and secured funding for construction.

Wrote and received approval for a number of small grants in support of:

- Monterey Band Shell Renovation
- Star City Park Project
- P.C. GED Program

As Local Public Agency (LPA) representative oversaw the construction inspection portion of the Panhandle Pathway's trail completion project (\$3.7 million). As LPA the CDC worked with the engineering firm overseeing construction. Responsibilities included review and approval of invoices and change orders, participation in biweekly progress meetings, and status reporting to the county commissioners and trail owners.

Coordinated with Indiana Farm Bureau and Purdue Extension to make a wind energy workshop available to the residents of the Star City area. Connected with a wind farm developer to act as county liaison for the proposed project.

Matched a social service agency with a local employer enabling two special needs citizens to gain employment.

Collaborative Involvements. Efforts undertaken by the CDC with partner agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Coordinated the application for funds from the County *Revolving Loan Fund* for a west side employer. The loan allowed the employer to expand an already thriving business and add two professional-level employees (both recruited from out of state).

The CDC continued to partner with PACE and the Extension in *welder training* for County and area residents. Thirty seven (32 basic, 5 advanced) individuals completed the program in 2010. To date 256 students have graduated from the program. The local program is becoming a “feeder” to the welder certificate program underway at IVTC – Logansport.

Following the termination of the GED (General Equivalency Diploma) program in Pulaski County by an area education provider, the CDC along with the P.C. Library and P.C. Community Foundation found a solution. Working with the Center of Workforce Innovation the GED program was revived under new administration and began classes in September (ninety days after the original provider pulled out). To cover a \$10,000 start-up cost, the CDC and partners wrote grants and solicited donations. These efforts were successful within 45-days.

Serving as the Pulaski County representative to the Regional Development Company (a certified SBA 504 Loan Program company) the CDC director serves on the Company’s loan committee. Servicing the financial needs of northwest and west central Indiana businesses the committee approved 28 loans totaling \$10,145,00 during fiscal year 2010. Though none of these loans were made to local businesses during this period, local banks have participated in the 504 program in the past and are eligible to do so at this time. The CDC’s participation on the RDC’s board and loan committee gives Pulaski County access to this substantial resource.

Support. Activities involving often intangible effort to help another achieve an end.

Provided financial assistance (from CDC Donation Fund) to the Indian Trails Career Cooperative’s *Wider Opportunities for Women* workshop. This one day workshop brings together high school students with representatives from industry and business that may not be seen as “traditional” for young women. Presenters included fire fighter, carpenter, aviation instructor and commercial airline pilot.

Supported County tourism effort through advertising support for festivals and other activities.

As a member of MidWest Indiana Economic Development gained publicity for county agriculture sector during a state trade mission in China.