

Jason Tuller

Extension Board Report

January/February 2024

In January most of my time was consumed by preparing for the Healthy Communities Grant. We got it finished and submitted to NRCCRD. We found out there are 14 grant applications submitted and only 3 grants available. Nebraska also won one last year. I continue to write newspaper articles each month. One of which got me invited to speak to the Rotary in Crete. The meeting had a good turnout and several city council members were there. I have followed up with them and provided some information on Marketing Hometown America. There was also a newspaper editor in attendance that I have spoken further with about First Impressions Online. In other travel news, I took advantage of some of the nice days and traveled to visit several communities and had some good conversations.

I am happy to announce that Glenwood was selected for a Bridge grant for broadband in Thayer County. I was a member of the Broadband Action Team that worked with Glenwood and the County Commissioners. I have continued to attend broadband meetings and provide broadband information to my communities and my RPN colleagues.

In the Thayer County office it is time for a new copier. It was ordered, and Eakes has already been by to get the information off the old copier. Our old office copier will be moved to the fairgrounds and the fairground copier will be disposed of. The new copier will have the same capabilities as our current copier. It is Tammy's turn for a new computer, and it has been ordered.

I plan to travel to three conferences in the next several months. I'll attend the IAP2 conference in Omaha. It is a conference about public participation. Several of my RPN colleagues are presenting. I also plan to go to Omaha for the Community Development Society annual conference. These are conferences that I normally wouldn't attend, but since they are in Omaha they are within driving distance. The last conference that I plan to attend is the NACDEP Conference in Houston. That is the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals. It will be interesting to attend and listen to how other Extension programs are faring through budget cuts. It seems that many long time Extension Educators in other states are retiring rather than deal with reorganizations in their Extension programs.