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December 2006

News from Clinton Regional Development Corp. Happy New Year!

CRDC ANNUAL MEETING

Our 53rd Annual Meeting and luncheon was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, in the Tuscany Special Events Center at Rastrelli's Restaurant. About 115 stakeholders were in attendance, one of the largest numbers ever hosted. Sponsors of the event were ADM, Ashford University, Determann Industries, and Nestlé-Purina.

Mike Blouin, Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) was our guest speaker. Mr. Blouin talked about the concept of regional economic development and the benefits of marketing our whole, rather than individual parts. He commented on our local burgeoning bio-fuels industry and the need for the state to continue its drive to be a lead producer in ethanol and biodiesel. We thanked Mike for his leadership at IDED and his advocacy of the Greater Clinton Region.

For the remainder of the program, President & CEO, Steven Ames, discussed goals met during the year and provided a forecast for the future. One goal reached was assembling the new CRDC "team" consisting of: Karen Mooney, Marketing Research Coordinator; Ed O'Neill, Infrastructure Development Specialist; Mary B. Paul, Administrative Assistant / Receptionist; and Kent Royster, Business Retention Manager. We have a great staff in place to market the region externally, work with existing companies, and develop a pathway for infrastructure improvements that impact economic development efforts.

Mr. Ames commented that CRDC has been responsible for creating over 500 new jobs and 100 retained jobs in the Greater Clinton Region over the last year from projects such as the Metabolix project with ADM, the Centerleaf/Ashford University On-line Services Center, Clinton County Bioenergy and Hawkeye Bio Energy, and Nestlé Purina. Over \$400 million in new investment has been garnered for our region during the last year which was leveraged from about \$20 million in local and state assistance that CRDC secured for these companies.

Ames ended his presentation by mentioning that CRDC is currently working 30 projects that have a potential for creating almost 1,000 of jobs in the Region, 19 of which involve local companies. Staff is now putting the final touches on the 2007 Marketing Calendar which will be available to members and investors via our website www.clintondevelopment.com. (User Name: crdcnbr Password: crdcweb)

CRDC RECIEVES ADDITIONAL IDOT FUNDING

Clinton's LINCOLNWAY RAILPORT has been awarded \$489,000 by the Iowa Railway Finance Authority, an independent board staffed by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). The funds will be used to cover engineering and construction costs for getting rail access into the Railport. To date, CRDC has secured over \$800,000 in assistance from for rail infrastructure improvements.

The competition for loan and grant funds was fierce. 26 applications requested more than \$11.4 million in funding assistance, including 11 bio-energy development projects. The Railport was one of only 6 rail improvement projects across the state selected for funding. Combined they received a total of \$1.63 million in assistance.

The Lincolnway Railport award was the largest of the group (see table), evidence that the state sees significant merit and economic benefit in getting rail into Lincolnway. We are excited by the state's interest in our project, as each level of support moves us closer to realizing our goal of establishing a world class, rail-served industrial park, with location and operational advantages unmatched in the Midwest.

- Project * Grant * Loan * Total Award
- BJR Burlington * \$0 * \$163,000 * \$163,000
- Siemens Wind Power (Keokuk) * \$326,000 * \$40,010 * \$366,010
- Southern Iowa Bio(Osceola) * \$100,000 * \$150,000 * \$250,000
- Alt. Energy Sources (Ogden) * \$144,500 * \$94,500 * \$239,000
- Lincoln Way Railport (Clinton) * \$244,500 * \$244,500 * \$489,000
- Red Oak Industrial Park * \$0 * \$122,990 * \$122,990
- PROGRAM TOTAL * \$815,000 * \$815,000 * \$1,630,000

IOWA TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) are sponsoring the "Moving Iowa Forward Conference" on January 18, 2007, at the Embassy Suites, Des Moines. The conference will focus on the interaction of rail and trucking transportation systems and ways users can maximize them to grow their businesses and strengthen Iowa's economy.

John B. Ficker, President of the National Transportation League, will discuss how expected future freight transportation increases will challenge our ability to move goods and materials in the volume and time frames that will be required and how this challenge could impact Iowa's economic growth.

Hugh LaMont, past President of CRDC; Pete Rickerhauser, Senior VP of BNSF Railway Company; Tim Hughs, Manager North American Transportation, Deere & Co.; and Murry Fitzer, CEO of Florilli Corporation will lead a panel discussion regarding transportation and how it impacts their respective industries.

The conference's afternoon agenda will feature break-out sessions highlighting specific issues. Some topics include infrastructure innovations, custom and port issues, inter-modal companies and ramps, containers, warehousing and logistics, information technology, new ideas in recruiting employees, and options and technology in freight handling.

SAN ANTONIO SITE SELECTORS FORUM

CRDC President & CEO, Steven Ames, recently attended site selection consultants' forum in San Antonio, TX. The forum hosted economic developers from state, regional, and local organizations responsible for marketing their respective jurisdictions and included presentations by the leading senior associates from major location consulting firms.

Topics ranged from making regions more competitive for emerging industries in technology-based manufacturing, to calculating the true value of development incentives. Each session ended with a panel discussion that allowed attendees to ask questions and get more detail about certain site selection practices. The States of Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Missouri, Nebraska, and Texas all had representatives in attendance, as did about 50 regional economic development organizations and utility companies.

The forum provided a great opportunity to network with peers in economic development and a venue in which to solidify or develop new relationships with site selection professionals. Several of the consultants at the forum were from the Dallas area, the destination for CRDC's first marketing trip of 2007.

DALLAS IN JANUARY

CRDC is contacting around 200 companies in the Dallas Metro Area for an upcoming marketing trip scheduled for the last week in January 2007. We have targeted manufacturers that we can offer advantages to and businesses that typically require rail and barge access to move raw materials and finished goods.

In addition, over 60 developers, site selection consultants, and commercial industrial brokers will be invited to meet with us while we are in Dallas. Our telemarketer will be following up on our invitations to set appointments for sales presentations.

CRDC Members and Quality Jobs Investors are invited to give your feedback as well. Please feel free to contact Steve Ames regarding any specific contacts you would like him to make in the Dallas area. If you have suppliers, subsidiaries, or other organizations there that impact your local business, we would be happy to talk to them.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Load:

- 30 - Active Projects
- 0 - Projects Closed Since November Newsletter

Source of Lead:

- 4 - IDED
- 2 - DCEO
- 4 - Direct
- 1 - Local Partners
- 19 - Regional Projects / Projects Within CRDC Bi-State Region

Lead by Target Industry:

- 3 - Services
- 22 - Manufacturing
- 5 - Valued-Added Agriculture / Bio-Life Sciences

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A "Scorecard" tracking our monthly sales- marketing activities is available to investors on our Web Site. If investors would like more details about our current project mix, please check out our Membership page at **www.clintondevelopment.com**

To log in, enter the following user name: crdcmb The password is: crdcweb

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