

# Clinton Regional Development Corp.

Happy Valentine's Day  
Celebrate Presidents' Day

February 3, 2009

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Mary B. Paul - Administrative Assistant:

[mpaul@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:mpaul@clintondevelopment.com)

**FEB 17, 2009 - Clinton County "Des Moines Day"**

Steve Ames (CRDC President & CEO), Tom Determann (CRDC Board Chair), and Ed O'Neill and Mary B. Paul (CRDC staff members) are part of a group from Clinton County who will be attending the 2009 Annual State Legislative Trip to Des Moines on February 17, 2009. This annual "Des Moines Day" trip encourages the public to meet with key contacts and legislators at the State Capitol and State Agencies to discuss, and request funding for current community issues. CRDC has scheduled a visit with the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) to give an update on progress made with the Lincolnway Railport and other regional initiatives. Look for a recap of the "Des Moines Day" trip in our March Newsletter.

**FEB 19, 2009 - F.T.Z. Info Mtg @ CCC Tech Center**

Doug Plank, Consultant with the Point Trade Services, Inc., will be presenting information about the formation of a Foreign Trade Zone (F.T.Z.) for regional companies. The meeting will be held at the Clinton Community College Technology Center, 1951 Manufacturing Drive, Clinton, Iowa. The F.T.Z. Info Meeting starts promptly at 8 AM and a complimentary continental breakfast will be served. The meeting is hosted by CRDC. For more information or to make a reservation to attend, please contact Sylvia Banes (563-242-4536) at the CRDC office by February 17.

**MAR 4-6, 2009 - Annual Washington, D.C. Trip**

The 2009 Annual Legislative Trip to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for March 4-6, 2009. CRDC staff along with other representatives from Clinton County and the region will be meeting with State and House Representatives and Staff to discuss federal funding for community concerns and issues. The Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce is organizing the trip.

## TIME-21 Lobbying Day 1-28-09

Steve Ames - President & CEO:

[sames@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:sames@clintondevelopment.com)

On Wednesday, January 28, 2009, CRDC President Steve Ames and CRDC Board Chair Tom Determann, accompanied Chamber President Julie Allesee, and individuals representing chambers, economic development agencies, local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, highway coalitions and other public/private entities across the state to Des Moines to advocate complete funding of the TIME-21 Legislation. The visiting group called upon Governor Culver and our State of Iowa Legislative Senators and Representatives to insure the long-term solvency of the Road Use Tax Funding by considering a gas tax increase as part of the program.

TIME-21 (Transportation Investment Moves the Economy in the 21st Century) was established because of a dramatic need to improve the condition of Iowa's bridges, highways, roads, railway systems and structures. The Iowa law establishing the TIME-21 Fund was passed by the Iowa Legislature in 2007, but there was no funding mechanism put in place. In the fall of 2007, the Iowa Legislature approved a \$161 million budget for TIME-21, which does not come close to addressing current transportation and related infrastructure needs.

The TIME-21 Lobbying Day in Des Moines started with morning presentations by David Scott (Iowa Good Roads Association) and Joe Johnson (Farm Bureau) on strategies about how to increase funding for TIME-21. Both promoted raising the gas tax as an efficient and effective means of increasing revenue. The cost would be proportional to how many miles are driven, and almost 20% of the fee will be paid by travelers from out of state.

The group met with Senator Tom Reilly, Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and Senator Mike Gronstal, Majority Leader, who are very much in favor of the gas tax. Representative Brian Quirk, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, Senator Paul McKinley, Minority Leader, and Representative Kraig Paulsen of the Minority Leaders Office, each cautioned the group that a legislative approval of the gas tax is contingent upon non-partisanship and support from the Governor.

For every \$100 million invested in the state's highway and road infrastructure, approximately 5,000 new jobs are created. In addition, the nation-wide average gas tax is \$48.4 cents per gallon; Iowa is currently at \$40.4 cents and has been since 1989. Increasing the tax to the national average would increase average household expenses by about \$22 annually. A one percent (1%) sales tax on fuel would generate approximately \$43 million per year based on fuel prices in November 2006.

IDOT Director, Nancy Richardson, echoed the group, calling for additional funding, which would provide resources necessary to maintain the state's roads and highways and enhance the state's ability to compete for quality jobs in a global economy.

## H.S. WELDING PROGRAM UPDATES

Sylvia Banes - Business Relations Manager:  
[sbanes@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:sbanes@clintondevelopment.com)

The future goal of the schools is to create a vocational training very cost effective and provide quality programs for students and adults. Superintendents thought it best to do a pilot program to begin working together. Welding was selected because there is a shortage of welders in the area and the Community College can assist with instruction.

Companies and contractors who hire welders met with Clinton County superintendents and college representatives on January 21. The enthusiastic company representatives who attended are willing to pool resources to make welding training available for high schools in the County. A lab for 12 students will be established. Companies are checking to learn if they can contribute supplies or equipment; the high schools will be taking inventory of equipment from past programs and contacting suppliers for their assistance.

The group is working quickly to insure the program can be offered in fall 2009. Registration for fall semester begins the end of February. CRDC is facilitating the meetings and developing the partnerships needed for the program to be a reality.

For more information, offer assistance, or if you would like to be part of this group in any capacity, please contact Sylvia Banes at the CRDC office (563-242-4536).

## TREADING WATER?

Karen Mooney - Marketing / Research Specialist:  
[kmooney@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:kmooney@clintondevelopment.com)

On January 20, CRDC staff took part in a webinar hosted by Blane, Canada Ltd. entitled *Treading Water? Economic Development in a Down Economy*. The main message: "Any bozo can succeed in a booming economy. It takes effort to succeed in a tough economy." Blane Canada is a consulting firm which provides insight to economic development professionals and organizations regarding best practices and strategies.

As a staff, we were pleased to learn that the strategies suggested for successfully riding out the current economic downturn are things we are already doing. We strive to communicate with local business and industry and to help you stay on top of events, legislation, and programs which will benefit your business.

In a down economy, Economic Development needs to become even more active--to provide support, connect to necessary resources, and help our community stay vital. CRDC would like to emphasize our long-standing commitment to "enhance the regional business climate, attract new investment, expand existing industry, and encourage quality new jobs." Please feel free to contact us and find out what services we can provide.

## CRDC PLANS NEW 2010 CAMPAIGN

Mary B. Paul - Administrative Assistant:  
[mpaul@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:mpaul@clintondevelopment.com)

It is never too soon to plan for the future, and CRDC did just that at a Strategic Planning Session held on January 7th. Twenty staff and board members assembled to discuss strategic planning and goal-setting for the upcoming fundraising campaign which runs from 2010-2015. CRDC is currently in the 4th year of a 5-year campaign (2005-2010). Planning Session attendees reviewed and updated previous campaign goals and action plans, and CRDC staff is working on refining text for final CRDC Board approval. The new campaign steering committee is hoping to give the region a preview of the 2010-2015 campaign sometime this year.

CRDC is extremely aware of the current economic situation. But we are also working harder than ever to promote economic growth and stability in the Greater Clinton Region on the Mississippi River, and to strengthen our collective communities of Clinton, Camanche, and Low Moore on the Iowa side, and Fulton, Albany, and Thomson across the main channel in Illinois. Clinton Regional Development Corporation is here for YOU!

*Together we can make good things happen!*

## Activity Score Card



Since 1953, the Clinton Regional Development Corp. has offered professional, client-driven site selection services. Our goals are to enhance the regional business climate, attract new investment, expand existing industry, and encourage quality new jobs.

A "scorecard" tracking our sales and marketing activities is available to our investor on our website: [www.clintondevelopment.com](http://www.clintondevelopment.com)

User ID: crdcnbr

Password: crdcweb

Investors who would like more details about our current project mix, please contact Steve Ames at 563-242-4536 or

[sames@clintondevelopment.com](mailto:sames@clintondevelopment.com)

[See the Scorecard...](#)

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