

Goal 1: Sustain the Work of CONAC

1. Define the value of CONAC to the individual member
 - a. Ask each member what their need(s) are
 - i. If CONAC could do one thing for you or your group this year, what would that be?
2. Strategy
 - a. Explore separate vs combined organizations with SW REAP and the REAP Investment Fund, Inc.
 - i. Pros
 - ii. Cons
 - b. Meet with SW REAP
3. Explore additional funding sources
 - a. USDA Rural Development Funding
 - b. Foundational funding
 - i. Foundations focused on poverty
4. Design marketing and membership
 - a. website

Goal 2: Assist CONAC communities in efforts to enhance their quality of life through infrastructure development.

1. Support community efforts to address housing needs.
 - a. Support completion of a housing study for CONAC region.
 - b. Support projects that create affordable housing.
2. Support healthcare projects inside and outside of CONAC region.
 - a. Support retention of emergency services.
 - b. Support retention/development of adequate medical facilities.
3. Support communities in the development of water systems, public services, public utilities, and other infrastructure needs.
 - a. Attend meetings to gain information on funding sources for infrastructure projects.
4. Promote multi-jurisdictional efforts to reach infrastructure financing goals and ensure information is available on REAP website (i.e. cooperative formation, contractor availability lists, Request for Proposals, sample funding packages for successful projects, funding sources).

Goal 3: Increase the diversity and quality of economic opportunities.

1. Increase quality employment opportunities.
 - a. Encourage and support entrepreneurship.
 - b. Encourage expansion, retention and attraction of businesses that offer quality jobs
2. Retain and enhance REAP business development programs
 - a. **Sustain and Market Micro-Loan Program**

3. Promote financial education such as: Neighbor Works
4. Increase opportunities/support business succession planning
 - a. Create/support mentoring opportunities for new business professionals.
 - b. Develop a skills bank or interest inventory to match mentors with potential business owners.
5. Support Agriculture and Agribusiness
 1. Support local foods systems

Goal 4: Enhance networks with partnering organizations

1. Partnership with educational institutions, Extension Service, etc.
 - a. Invite “at large” board membership from institutions and Extension personnel offering regular or quarterly attendance options or attendance by invitation of the Board.
 - b. Explore “exchange” opportunities, e. g., CONAC Board representatives to present at Extension Service personnel training venues, Lake Region State College, Dakota College at Bottineau, Turtle Mountain Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, County Commissioners meetings, City council meetings, League of Cities meetings, Economic Developers of North Dakota meetings, and Association of Counties meetings, for example, on its vision, mission, history, and goals; likewise, those same entities could be invited to make a presentation to the CONAC Board with an eye toward collaboration, sharing of best practices, and leveraging resources, all in the interests of advocating for rural residents in the CONAC multi-county area .
2. Market to “like” organizations and political subdivisions such as city/county governing members, JDA/EDC boards.
 - a. Request invitation to address organizations for networking, sharing of resource potential, education of goals and strategies.
 - b. Submit articles in local and regional newspapers, magazines such as REC and City Scan, and REAP and Developer Station websites.
3. Explore “like” mission areas throughout state to leverage/share information and networking opportunities to sustain CONAC
 - a. Query county non-profit organization for input.
 - b. Encourage cities/counties to join forces to strengthen case for funding for projects such as housing and infrastructure.