

SOUTHWEST REAP BOARD MEMBERS



**Melana Howe, Chair
Adams County Representative**

- Born in Towner, ND and grew up on a ranch in the Black Hills
- Degrees in Human Resource Management and Business Administration with a specialty in the healthcare industry
- Owns consulting business Howe Enterprises LLC which specializes in Resource Development
- Serves as Operations Officer at West River Veterinary Clinic
- Married, has four children, and currently resides in Hettinger



**Troy Mosbrucker, Vice Chair
Hettinger County Representative**

- Native of Mott, ND
- Mayor of Mott for 14 years
- Past and present service on the Park Board, Rural Housing Board, Job Development Board, Roosevelt Custer Regional Board, Mott Housing Authority, County Zoning Board and Mott Lions
- Serves as EMT and Fire Chief of the Mott Fire Department
- Shares three children with wife Lisa



**Ralph Weisenberger, Secretary/Treasurer
Stark County Representative**

- Born and raised on a farm northeast of Halliday, ND
- Graduated from Dickinson State College
- Worked as a Business Education Instructor in Tappen, ND before working at Bremer Bank in Richardton, ND for 37 years.
- Served in the US Army for six years during the Vietnam War Era
- Married with three sons and six grandsons



**Beth Criswell
Bowman County Representative**

- Native of Bowman, ND
- Degree in Animal Science from NDSU
- Worked at SW Grain in Lemmon, SD for three years before accepting current position as Loan Officer at Dakota Western Bank in Bowman
- Married in fall of 2017
- Enjoys working out, raising cattle with dad, and spending time with husband and two cats



Shelby Hewson
Slope County Representative

- Grew up south of New England, ND
- Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from VCSU
- Serves as Slope County Agent
- Farms and ranches on the side with husband Shannon
- Resides on a farm southeast of Amidon



Kim Gaugler
Golden Valley County Representative

- Grew up on a dairy farm in Medford, WI but Beach has been home for almost 30 years
- Has served as Beach City Auditor since 1994
- Has served on Municipal Finance Officers Association of ND, Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, Prairie West Development Foundation, and North Dakota League of Cities
- Current President of Beach School District and Communications Director for Rural Leadership North Dakota Alumni Association
- Blessed with three children and one grandson



Cliff Ferebee
Dunn County Representative

- Resides on a farm north of Halliday, ND
- Continues to farm and ranch with sons and grandsons
- Retired rural mail carrier and stockholder/director of Western Livestock Company
- Has served on Church Council, Halliday School PTA, Halliday Farmer's Elevator Board, Dunn County Commission, Farm Credit Board, and all levels of the Farm Credit Council Boards
- Serves on the Dunn County JDA Board and Weed Board
- Shares with wife Marion four children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren



Emily Klym
Billings County Representative

- Native of Edgeley, ND
- Degrees in Accounting and Business Administration with Leadership Studies Minor from Dickinson State University
- CPA with Brady, Martz & Associates working in the areas of tax and controllership advisory services
- Resides northwest of Belfield with husband and two children
- Enjoys traveling and spending time with family



Mark Resner
Co-Executive Director

- Life-long resident of southwest ND
- Business experience includes involvement in wholesale sales, retail sales, property management, and publishing
- Retired Hettinger County Economic Developer
- Enjoys traveling with wife Cyndi



Cyndi Resner
Co-Executive Director

- Originally from northcentral ND
- Resides in southwest ND with husband Mark
- Background in legal and loan documentation and accounting
- Worked 28 years in credit analysis

SOUTHWEST REAP PARTNERS



Melanie Bauer-Dukart
USDA Rural Development Support Staff

- Grew up in Golden Valley, ND
- Bachelor's Degree in Business and Associate's Degree in Agriculture from Dickinson State College
- Has worked 31 years for USDA
- Shares three children with husband and resides south of Dickinson
- Raises Registered Rambouillet Sheep and enjoys gardening



Natalie Moen
Medora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director

- Born and raised in Great Falls, MT
- Dual degree in Marketing & Management from University of Montana
- Played Division I golf for U of M
- Serves as Director of Tourism for the City of Medora (North Dakota's #1 Vacation Destination) and head golf coach for Beach High School
- Resides in Medora, ND with husband Casey who is the head golf professional at Bully Pulpit Golf Course



Judy Kirschmann
Hettinger County JDA Director

- Raised in southwest ND
- Degree in Administration Secretary from Rapid City College of Business and majored in music at SAU in Collegedale, Tennessee
- Has served as the President of the Regent Development Corporation
- Serves as Hettinger County JDA Director and community volunteer
- Shares two sons, Dusty and Brooks, with husband Rod



Carie Boster
Dunn County JDA Director

- Degree in Public Relations from Carroll College in Helena, MT
- Over twenty years professional experience in the business sector including Editor of Dunn County Herald, Consumer Advocate at BCBS of MT, and Associate Director for the Helena Montana Business Improvement District and Helena Downtown Merchants Association
- Serves as the Dunn County JDA Director
- Serves on REAP Investment board, ND Opportunity Fund Loan Committee, and the Killdeer Area Community Foundation Development Board
- Resides in Halliday, ND with husband



Shirley Brentrup

Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Investment Fund, Inc. Executive Director

- Resides in Dickinson, ND
- Operates SJB Consulting which provides business writing and research in addition to serving as the REAP Investment Fund Director since July 2016
- Has served as Executive Director of the SW REAP Zone, Executive Assistant for Charmark International (biofuel development), and Project Director and Administrator of federal block grant funding for cities and counties area Regional Council
- Has facilitated numerous strategic planning sessions for local communities



Laura Weber

Bowman County Development Corporation

- Raised in Ralph, SD on a farm and ranch and graduated from Scranton Public High School
- Degree in Art History and Business Management from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN
- Has worked with a variety of non-profits and truly enjoys assisting people
- Serves as Business Assistant to Bowman County Development Corporation which entails working with Bowman County through a variety of initiatives including serving as Business Advisor for the ND SBDC
- Resides in Scranton with husband and four children



Danita Tysver
Stark Development Corporation

- Grew up and currently resides in Dickinson, ND
- Associate Vice President at Stark Development Corporation (the economic development office for Stark County and the surrounding area)
- Board member of the Dickinson Area Community Foundation
- Married with two children
- Enjoys the outdoors