



Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc.

635 Oak Street
Dickinson, ND 58601

March 20, 2015

**Final Project Report - Instrument Number NDRIP0060-11
Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc. (Vision West North Dakota)**

Naomi E. Friedman

HUD Office of Economic Reliance Room 10180
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Ms Friedman,

It is my pleasure to provide to you with the final report for the REAP/Vision West ND Regional Sustainability Project for western North Dakota.

My board of directors is extremely pleased to have had this opportunity to participate in such an important project for our region. I am sure this is true for all of the participating cities and regions throughout the nation. We have become part of an elite group and we thank you and all of the wonderful people at HUD, DOT, and EPA who came together to get Sustainable Communities funded and implemented.

Please accept our many thanks for your work and guidance. We share ownership of Vision West ND with you given the three years of collaboration, mentorship and support you have provided.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Nunberg", is written over a horizontal line. Below the signature, the name and title are printed in a serif font.

Kim Nunberg, Project AOR
Chair Person, REAP Investment Fund, Inc.

REAP Investment Fund Members:

CONAC Representatives – Sandy Shively, Bonnie Helm, LaVonne Cameron, Ila Ray McKray
SW REAP Representatives – Art Wanner, Ralph Weisenberger, Gene Buresh, Kim Nunberg - Chairperson
Member at Large - Melana Howe

Staffing: Executive Director – Shirley Brentrup

Fiscal Management - Connie Schaff, Roosevelt Custer Regional Council



Final Project Report

2011-2015 NDRIP0060-11

Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc.

Table of Contents

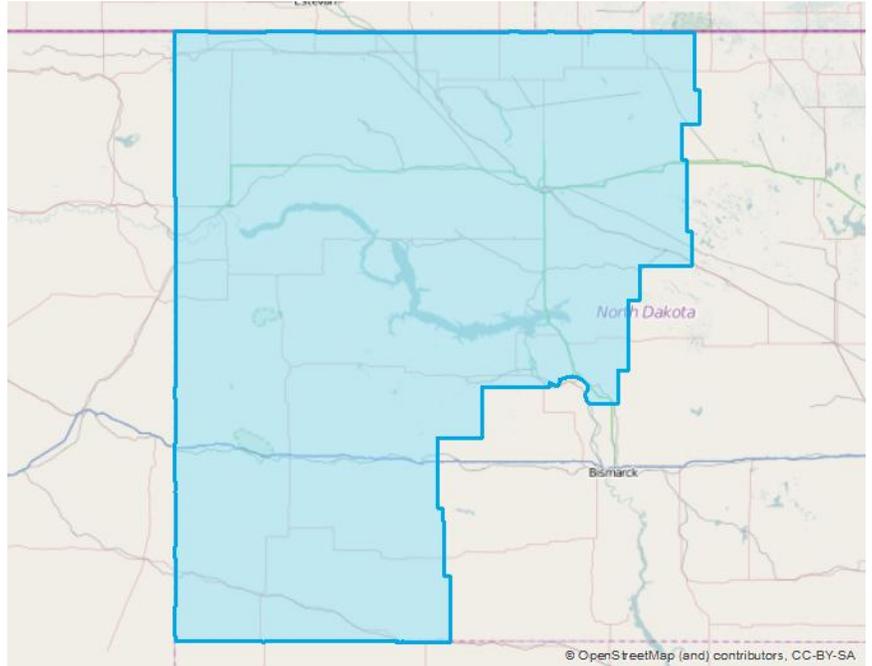
HUD VWND Dashboard	Page 2
Contributing Organizations	Page 3
Executive Summary	Page 4
The Future (HUD's Questions	Page 6
Workplan & Results Summary	Page 10
Documents Listing & Web Listing	Page 14
VWND Road Map Document	Page 17



Grantee Dashboard | Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc.

Project Vision West North Dakota
 Project Website <http://www.visionwestnd.com/>

Location Minot
 State ND
 HUD Region 8
 Fiscal Year 2011
 Grant Program Regional Planning
 HUD Award \$1,500,000
 DOT Award
 Leveraged Funds \$932,180
 Period Start 2/1/2012
 Period End 1/31/2015
 GTR Naomi Friedman
 GTR Email Naomi.E.Friedman@hud.gov



Summary

Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund was awarded \$1,500,000 to develop a Western North Dakota Sustainability Plan. Western North Dakota is seeking to conduct a regional sustainability planning process to address unprecedented growth dynamics resulting from the dramatic expansion of the oil production industry. The Region is proposing a seven-fold initiative designed to address immediate needs resulting from emerging growth challenges. It is the aim of this regional sustainability planning effort to conduct a series of initiatives, all designed to support a sustainable future and diversified economy for the region.

Project Benefits

- >Addressing the immediate, short term needs of communities and counties to meet growth management challenges.
- >Capitalization on one of America’s strongest rural economies for entrepreneurial development.
- >Set the stage for economic diversification based on the strengths of the oil and agriculture industries.

Core Partners

Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership; ND Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties

Congressional Districts

ND-01



Vision West ND

Contributing Organizations and Consultants

Awardee **Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc.**, a 501c3
Chairman Kim Nunberg
Executive Director/Project Director Shirley Brentrup
635 Oak Street, Dickinson, ND 58601 701-483-1447
brentrup@ndsupernet.com

Core Partners

Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership
Executive Director Deb Walworth

North Dakota Association of Oil & Gas Producing Counties
Executive Director Vicky Steiner

Funding Supports

North Dakota Department of Trust Lands, Energy Impact Program
Director Lance Gaebe, Assistant Director Gerry Fisher

The Bush Foundation
Maggie Arzdorf-Schubbe

Primary Consultants & Staffing

Building Communities Inc.
Project Planners - Brian Cole, Karalea Cox
Design by Kevin Bradford

DLN Consulting
Project Management - Deb Nelson, Lydia DeJesus

Strom Center for Entrepreneurship
Strom Center Director Ray Ann Kilen

Western North Dakota Energy Project
Dickinson State University, Strom Center for Entrepreneurship
Center for Rural Entrepreneurship - Don Macke
Senior Fellow Dr. Dick Gardner
North Dakota State University Center for Agribusiness & Applied
Economics – Dean Bangsund, Dr. Nancy Hodur
ND Department of Mineral Resources – Director Lynn Helms

AE2S Public Relations & Outreach Andrea Boe
Infrastructure Assessments Loren Hoffman

SRF Consulting – Cindy Grey and Gregg Greenquist



Executive Summary

Support and interest in Vision West ND was immediate. The 2011 HUD Regional Sustainable Communities award was timely in addressing local and regional issues in regard to rapid growth. The participation and commitment was wonderful. Together, we have created a body of work that we can all be proud of.

With continued collaboration, we all will make important and lasting contributions to our communities, region, state and nation.

It is not the reams of paper - agendas, reports, plans and research that are the lasting contributions of Vision West ND. The most important achievement is a new and fragile base towards a regionalism of some sort – persons with many different associations & backgrounds acting together to address mutual challenges and opportunity.

In reference to the region's 2010 Census population, one of our Consortium members stated "172,000 people isn't even the size of a small city compared to the rest of the nation". *Unfortunately, it comes down to that - too few people in an extremely large rural area lacking one strong voice without the control of the resources needed to meet immediate needs, capture new opportunities or find long term reliance.*

For now, the work at hand is imminent - to be safe in our communities and safer on our roadways, to create housing people can afford, to protect our land and water resources and to live in proximity but not in conflict with the industries around us.

We cannot do this alone or as islands of commerce and government. Cities and counties must continue to plan together and stand together. Though there are many areas of collaboration, two areas stand out. We desperately need the state legislature to provide for a realistic distribution of oil and gas revenue to the region to meet rapid growth and the impacts of oil & gas development. We need the US Congress to build real and safe solutions for the transcontinental distribution of goods, resources and products.

The opportunity in North Dakota remains unprecedented. This is a great agricultural region and oil & gas production in North Dakota is a long term mining operation expected to last for over forty years. Unfortunately, both industries are commodity industries whose prices are prone to dramatic fluctuations dependent on many global factors and the rise and fall of the US dollar.

On behalf of the Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, we thank the Consortium Membership - past and present, county commissioners, city councils and auditors. We are indebted to the HUD Office of Economic Resilience and their national partners in the Regional Sustainability Program, the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of

Transportation, for giving us this opportunity and for remaining steadfast in their beliefs in the program and in their support to us.

There are many others who provided valuable contributions along the way including the USDA North Dakota Rural Development Offices, HUD Denver Region 8, and the North Dakota HUD Office. We couldn't have had the regional success if not for the work of our local media, federal legislators and their staff, local legislators and many state agencies including the Department of Commerce, the Energy Impact Office, the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the Department of Mineral Resources. And finally, for their participation and many contributions, we thank Dickinson State University, Minot State University, MSU Dakota College at Bottineau, Williston State College and North Dakota State University.



The Future – Answers to HUD’s Questions

What lessons were learned during the period of performance that will improve the implementation of the plan developed during your grant process? *What assumptions about planning for sustainability are being confirmed and which are being challenged as you move forward?*

Our planning identified areas of challenge and need due to the rapid growth in western North Dakota with the primary deliverables a regional plan and county and tribal plans. The Regional Plan has been quoted at this year’s legislature and has been used to document need. It was important and timely and expresses a unified voice. This work legitimized the information in a way that is as real to those that read it as those of us who live it.

This validity to the region’s challenges is one of the primary reasons to plan. In that respect, we have been hugely successful. Our assumption that planning would tell our story was confirmed.

The next assumption would be for our planning to lead to action. Each of the 74 Regional Plan recommendations should have a committee, a leader, a defined goal, a plan on how to move and then to actually move - forward. In some areas, this happened as we planned. Emergency services made positive additions. Highways were improved. Housing for essential workers was established. Data for population and housing projections was provided for planning efforts.

However, the bottom line is it takes people and funds to move forward. That is our challenge. We are a resource abundant area but the one resource we don’t have is people. And the ironic twist is that of the billions and billions of dollars generated by this energy boom, there is no funding to facilitate a regional housing coordinator or a regional planning and zoning office, or regional homeless coordinator or the other necessary positions that would assist individuals and small communities. This would require a paradigm shift to move funding and control to the region’s cities and counties. It can be done. How it can be done remains a mystery. Telling our story, showing our needs, offering our partnership seems to have fallen short in this year’s legislative session amid fears of low oil prices and low tax revenues.

What evidence do you have that this plan will translate to concrete impact and actual implementation in the months and years to come? *Has the quality of the implementation taken on a different character because of the approach that you have taken in the planning process (e.g., emphasis on engagement and equity, sustainability framework, etc.)?*

The **Vision West ND Consortium** has committed to continue to meet as a consortium and maintain their website. They will seek and renew the county support of the Consortium. They will retain the name. The **North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties** is providing \$37,000 for this. The Consortium applied to the North Dakota Energy Impact Fund for organizational supports and to provide updates for a 2015-16 Shale Projection Series. The Vision West ND Consortium also has made Plans. Pages 17 to 20 of this document are from the **Vision West ND Consortium Road Map** which identifies future actions in regards to the VWND Regional Plan Level I, Level II, and Level III Recommendations.

The **Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund** has received two **USDA Rural Development** grants that implement VWND Regional Plan Recommendations; (1) a pilot project for employer-owned cooperative child care in two rural communities, and (2) provide a feasibility study for a marine highway or ferry system on Lake Sakakawea. In 2013, REAP received a \$199,000 grant from the **Bush Foundation** to provide technical assistance to the county and tribal VWND Plan Directors. This project will run through October of 2015.

The **North Dakota Legislature** is now in session. We are aware of several pieces of legislation similar to the Vision West ND Regional Plan recommendations. The 2015 Legislature did provide funding for the backlog of infrastructure projects in the region, committing \$1.1 billion in an effort called the Surge Bill. This funding will immediately be released to engage in spring bidding and the summer construction season in western North Dakota.

There are pieces of legislation to redistribute the oil & gas production tax giving a larger share to the region's cities, townships and counties. One state-wide health group added all three Public Health Chapter recommendations to their legislative piece. Some of the Planning & Zoning recommendations have seen inclusion in a piece from a state-wide group of energy providers.

What compelling stories encapsulate the work of our grant? *Which successes, innovations, milestones, and other anecdotes that demonstrate the importance of the work?*

A Dickinson non-profit, **Able, Inc.** has applied for a **Bush Foundation Innovation Grant** to pilot a housing technical assistance position to assist non-energy Dickinson businesses to buddy up their hiring practices to attract both spouses & their families to the area. This project would also address the housing needs of non-energy employees and possibly collaborate to build or provide housing these people can afford.

The **Strom Center** has applied to this same competition to complete an assessment of southwest North Dakota businesses to identify and research needs, better align resources to those needs and create inclusion among those regional businesses to address downtown development and economic diversity.

Dickinson State University is researching barriers and opportunities in regards to employer provided worksites for child care and to identify supports and information needed by interested businesses. They are also providing opportunities for business leadership and keeping leaders informed.

The state-wide **Small Business Development Center** website is hosting the ND Childcare Professionals web pages created through the Strom Center and Vision West ND. They are working to include all North Dakota county licensing contacts to that web site.

On the Fort Berthold Reservation, the **MHA Nation**, through their transit planning is working towards a new busing system and establishment of a marine highway or ferry system on Lake Sakakawea. They received a \$1 million Department of Transportation **TIGER Transit Planning Grant** in 2014. The **Wilson Health Care Planning Cooperative** will work to implement the health care goals of the recent Health Care Design Summit provided through the collaboration of the MHA Nation and Vision West ND.

Local steering groups are on the move as well. The **Divide County** planning committee is working towards business retention and expansion issues beginning with a local survey. The **Golden Valley County** group has been working diligently the past two years to build a new clinic and wellness center (see schematic). The **city of Minot** is working on their application for the National Disaster Resiliency

Competition. **McHenry County** is looking to do individual community strategic planning in all their cities. **Adams County** is working on child care and housing projects. The **city of Dickinson** is working on the first two miles of their renovations to the Crooked Crane Walking Trail (see schematic Stark County) and recently received a \$975,000 grant from the state Outdoor Heritage Fund. **Burke County** has seen to it that all of their cities have and use the Planning & Zoning Workbook.

How did the federal partnership support or advance your planning effort: *What opportunities were missed? What more could be done? How can federal agencies be helpful in implementation?*

One of the opportunities we missed were the many national workshops and conferences provided during the grant period. We were absolutely consumed in the county and tribal planning efforts and didn't really understand the purpose of the Capacity Builder engine within the HUD Sustainable Communities program. We did eventually catch on but missed some opportunities.

HUD had proposed to Congress a multi-grant effort to assist beyond the initial Sustainable Communities effort. Had this been funded, it would have provided the transitional track for a regional program like Vision West ND. As stated in the FHEA, it would be extremely helpful if HUD could make changes to increase Fair Market Rents and address eligibility and income limits to assist rent burdened households without reducing the number of households assisted.

Federal agencies were very helpful during the grant period. A Federal Partners Team met monthly and provided out working team with encouragement, ideas and support. It has been helpful to meet and know people within HUD, EPA, and USDA. These relationships will carry forward in our work.

What do you think it will take to succeed in effective implementation of your plan? *If money, please be specific about the type of money that would be most helpful. If other resources, please describe how they could support your work. What are the key milestones that should be tracked as your plan moves to implementation?*

Funding for the administration of Vision West ND Consortium will be important. Keeping this group together and functioning at its current level isn't a volunteer effort. Staffing will provide for meetings, leadership and progress. The graphic below outlines the goals of the Vision West ND Consortium Road Map Document.



2015: First 30 Days	2015: First 60 Days	2015: First 90 Days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set Mission, Vision, Values • Establish Organizational Structure (Operational, Strategic Communications, Strategic Partnership, and Mission) • Complete inventory of accomplishments to date • Set priorities for 3-5 issues to tackle in 2015 • Establish committees for each organizational issue • Establish Task Forces for each mission issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committees meet and set objectives for 2015 • Task forces meet and set objectives for 2015 • All objectives are communicated to the entire group • Dashboard is created to measure progress against objectives using lead and lag measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard is reviewed for status of objectives. • Successes are communicated internally and externally. • Planning begins to address second level set of priorities.

Other important milestones for the Consortium are found within the Road Map pages beginning on Page 17 of this document.



HUD Work Plan and Results Summary 2012-2014

Western North Dakota is experiencing explosive population growth due to oil & natural gas exploration and extraction activities. This growth is beyond the local capacity and the ability to respond in a manner that contributes to short-term livability and long-term economic diversification. This regional sustainability planning effort conducted a series of initiatives, all designed to support a sustainable future for the region.

Vision West North Dakota used a seven-initiative approach to address emerging growth challenges in 19 counties in western North Dakota. Combined, this seven-fold initiative was designed to:

- Address immediate, short-term needs of communities and counties to meet growth management challenges
- Capitalize on one of America's strongest rural economies
- Set the stage for economic diversification based on oil and agricultural industries

Planning Deliverables – Goals and Results

1. Locally-based Economic Development Strategic Plans – 20 Projected, 23 Completed
 - 18 County Plans
 - 4 Plans for Segments of the Three Affiliated Tribes
 - 1 City Plan
2. One Regional Sustainability Plan – Completed
3. Development of Infrastructure Assessments - 20 Projected, 26 Completed
4. Two workshops on Local Planning Policy and Codes - Completed plus provided a reference manual and one webinar on enforcement
5. Entrepreneurship Initiatives & Partnership in the Western North Dakota Energy Project
 - Business Mentorship – 300 persons
 - Boom Town Webinar Series – five planned, 12 completed, with 26 webinars in the Shale Projection Series
 - Electronic Library – one completed
6. Five to Ten Project Based Schematics – Completed 10 Schematics
7. Plan Implementations - Website, List Serve, Newsletter – Completed and distributed with 508 person on our distribution list with 18,231 sessions documented for the website.



Results by the Numbers

Administrative Deliverables	2012	2013	2014
HUD Award & Project Budget	1		
Work Plan	1		
HUD eLogic Model & Final	1		X
Fair Housing Equity Assessment			X
Consortium Formation & Memorandum of Agreement	1		
Housing Authorities Notified	7		
Planning Deliverables	Original Goal	Added	Final Count
1. County/Tribal/City Economic Development Strategic Plans	20	3	23
2. Regional Sustainability Plan	1		1
Summary of the Regional Plan	0	1	1
3. Infrastructure Assessments - Small Cities	20	6	26
4. Workshops on Local Planning Policy & Codes	2		2
Workbook/Manual	1	0	1
Enforcement Webinar		1	1
5. Entrepreneurship Initiatives & WNDEP			
Business Mentorship (persons)	18		18
Residents at training opportunities (Strom Center)	100		300
Boom Town Webinar Series (number of webinars)	5	7	12
Shale Projection Webinar Series (number of webinars)	0	26	26
Electronic Library	1		1
6. Project Schematics for Local Plans	10		10
7. Plan Implementations - Communications & Training			
Website www.visionwestnd.com	1		1
List Serve/Newsletter (Persons)			508
HUD Annual Convening in DC (2 events)	6		6
Capacity Builder Convening (3 events)	5	6	11



Results By The Numbers Continued

Consortium <u>Added</u> Planning Products/Projects	2012	2013	2014	
Child Care - ND Professionals Portal			➤	
Exploring the Future Needs of Child Care, Summit & Report	➤			
Child Care White Paper			➤	
Housing - Crew Camp Workshop Video	➤			
VWND Consortium Road Map for the Future			➤	
Wilson Health Care Design Summit - MHA Nation			➤	
Housing Solutions Webinars (2)			➤	
Coffee & the Bakken– Eastern ND Speaking Tours			➤	
Outreach & Community Engagement Project			➤	
Lake Sakakawea Marine Highway Planning Project			➤	
Policy Education White Paper North Dakota Regional Legacy Trust		➤		
HUD Capacity Builder Contributions	2012	2013	2014	
Memorandum on Child Care with Resources <i>Minnesota Housing Partnership</i>			➤	
ND Housing Models for Energy Impact Areas <i>Rural Community Assistance Corporation</i>			➤	
Environmental Chapter Resources <i>Minnesota Housing Partnership</i>			➤	
Make Your Case Workshop - <i>Envision Utah</i>		➤		
Participation Numbers	2012	2013	2014	Totals
Steering Committees (unduplicated #)	311	60	37	408
Town Hall Meeting Attendance	417	87	0	504
Consortium Meetings – some duplicated	178	407	200	785
Other Events	114	83	121	318
Webinar Participation/Views		3,314	919	4,233
Webinars Participation not otherwise reported		308	0	308
Implementation Meeting Attendance		45	121	166
REAP Investment Board (unduplicated)	9	9	9	27
Total Participation	1,029	4,313	1,407	6,749
Website Views				
Website www.visionwestnd.com - all sessions	4,634	6,877	6,720	18,231
Vision West ND Newsletter Subscribers			508	508



Results By The Numbers Continued

All Vision West ND Project Match 2-1-2011 to 1-31-2015

Documented Cash Match		
ND Dept. of Trust Lands - EIO grants	\$300,000.00	
<i>Total Cash Match</i>		\$300,000.00
Documented In-kind Contractor Match		
Strom Center/WNDEP	\$50,150.00	
Building Communities Contractor Match	\$351,000.00	
<i>Total Contractor In-kind Match</i>		\$401,150.00
Documented In-kind Participation Match		
REAP Investment Board Attendance	\$3,777.93	
Consortium Attendance & Travel	\$149,205.19	
Steering Committee Attendance	\$111,375.15	
Town Hall Meeting Attendance	\$27,347.04	
Implementation Meeting Participation /Donations	\$102,920.46	
Other- Inkind Cash provided by Project Partnerships, Supports or Volunteer Time	\$93,175.58	
<i>Total Participation Match</i>		\$487,801.36
All Cash and In-kind Match		\$888,951.36



Vision West ND Documents & Web Locations

Planning Deliverables

1. County & Tribal Plans <http://www.visionwestnd.com/strategicPlans.php>
2. Regional Plan
 - 2015 Updated Regional Plan
 - 2014 Regional Plan
 - Fair Housing Equity Assessment
 - Legislative Snapshot<http://www.visionwestnd.com/regionalPlans.php>
3. Infrastructure Assessments – 26 Small Cities <http://www.visionwestnd.com/infrastructureAssessments.php>
4. Planning & Zoning Manuals & Enforcement Webinar <http://www.visionwestnd.com/pz.php>
5. Entrepreneurship Initiatives/Most Webinars - Western North Dakota Energy Project
 - Boom Town Series <http://www.visionwestnd.com/webinars.php>
 - Shale Project Series on Employment, Regional Population & Housing plus Projection Handouts 2014 (found with each individual webinar) <http://www.visionwestnd.com/webinars.php>
 - Electronic Library <http://www.visionwestnd.com/researchReports.php>
 - Policy Education White Paper, Western North Dakota Regional Legacy Trust <http://www.visionwestnd.com/documents/DraftRegionalTrustWhitePaper111713.pdf>
6. Project Schematics <http://www.visionwestnd.com/projectSchematics.php>
7. Plan Implementation
 - Website www.visionwestnd.com

Consortium Added Planning Products

- a. ND Child Care Professionals Portal www.childcarend.com
 - i. North Dakota Child Care Professionals Final Report <http://www.visionwestnd.com/childCare.php>
- b. Exploring the Future Needs of Child Care in North Dakota 2012
 - i. <http://www.ndchildcare.org/data-pub/child-care-summit.html>
- c. Child Care White Paper, Western North Dakota Energy Project 2014 <http://www.visionwestnd.com/childCare.php>
- d. Crew Camp Workshop 2012 - Go to <http://www.ndenergy.org/Resources.aspx>
- e. Housing Solutions Webinar Series 2014 <http://www.visionwestnd.com/webinars.php>
- f. VWND Road Map Project Final Report 2014 <http://www.visionwestnd.com/January2015.php>
- g. Final Reports - <http://www.visionwestnd.com/researchReports.php>
 - i. Wilson Health Care Planning Cooperative Final Report – 2014 Summit
 - ii. Outreach & Community Engagement Project Final Report 2014
 - iii. Lake Sakakawea Marine Highway Planning Project – Power Point

HUD Capacity Builder Contributions

- h. Memorandum on Child Care Recommendations with Additional Resources
Minnesota Housing
Partnership http://www.visionwestnd.com/documents/VWND_CCPlan_Recommendations_8_2014MHP.pdf
- i. North Dakota Housing Models in Energy Impact Areas
Rural Community Assistance
Corporation <http://www.visionwestnd.com/documents/FinalNorthDakotaHousingModels.pdf>

These documents or information about these items are available by contacting the Project Director - 1. 2014 Bakken Speaking Engagements , 2. Environmental Chapter Resources, Minnesota Housing Partnership, 3. Make Your Case Workshop, HUD Capacity Builder - Envision Utah

Boomtown Webinar Series <http://www.visionwestnd.com/webinars.php>

Community Prospects from Shale Oil: December 2011
Headwaters Economics of Bozeman, MT

Community & Economic Implications of Marcellus Shale Development; January 2012
Penn State University

Marcellus Shale Policy & Revenue Implications for Pennsylvania: January 2012: Center for Rural Pennsylvania

The Boomtown Impact Model from Oil & Gas Drilling - Lessons Learned from Wyoming: February 2012: Jeffrey Jacquet, Cornell Marcellus Shale Team

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board: February 2014: Tony Sertich, IRRRB

Benefiting from Unconventional Oil: March 2012: Headwaters Economics

Landowner Rights in Oil & Gas Leasing: November 2012:
Nathan M. Bouray –Ebeltoft, Sickler, Killing, Grosz, Bouray, PLLS

Oil & Gas Development and the Challenges it brings to surface owners: November 2012:
Daryl Dukart, Dunn County Landowners Association & Dunn County Commissioner

Natural Gas Well Development and Emergency Response & Management: December 2012: Lycoming County Department of Public Safety

Oil & Gas Partnerships: December 2012: Wilmer Gay III

Responding to Resource Development – Alberta’s Oil Sands Experience: November 2013: Jason Thorne, Maarten Ingen-Housz and Jason Petrunia

Adopting & Adapting the Permanent Fund Model – Western North Dakota Regional Legacy Trust: December 2013: Center for Rural Entrepreneurship

Housing Webinar I – Mortgage & Rent Calculator Worksheet – Finding the Match for HIF: November 2014: Milt Hoyt, Mohall Housing Authority & Mary Anderson, ABLE, Inc.

Housing Webinar II – Affordable Housing 101: Development Finance Basics – Packaging the Deal: December 2014: Bill Hourigan, NDHFA & Keith Olson, ND SBDC.

Shale Projection Webinar Series – Population, Employment and Housing Projections

2014

Dickinson Regional Updates

Williston Regional Updates

Minot Regional Updates

2012

Dickinson Regional Webinar (Department of Mineral Resources, Lynn Helms)

Adams County Webinar

Billings County Webinar

Bowman County Webinar

Dunn County Webinar

Golden Valley County Webinar

Hettinger County Webinar

Slope County Webinar

Stark County Webinar

Minot Regional Webinar (Department of Mineral Resources, Lynn Helms)

Bottineau County Webinar

Burke County Webinar

McHenry County Webinar

McLean County Webinar

Mountrail County Webinar

Renville County Webinar

Ward County Webinar

Williston Region Webinar (Department of Mineral Resources, Lynn Helms)

Divide County Webinar

McKenzie County Webinar

Williams County Webinar

North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources Overview (Lynn Helms)

Williston Basin 2012 Projections of Future Employment and Population,
North Dakota State University, Nancy Hodur & Dean Bangsund

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level 1							
Plan Section	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Organizational Structure	#1	Approach the North Dakota Association of Oil & Gas Producing Counties for the sponsorship needed to continue the administrative function of Vision West ND.	Fund	Vision West ND	North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties have committed support Administrative needs of Vision West ND through 2014.		
	#2	Fund additional staffing for VisionWest ND.	Fund	Vision West ND Current Local, State & Federal Supporters	North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties have committed support Administrative needs of Vision West ND through 2014.	Seek additional funding for Administrative support, staffing and additional efforts as identified today. Possible sources include: Energy Impact Funds, North Dakota Oil and Gas Producing Counties, Bush Foundation. Seek funding beyond 2015.	
	#3	Collaborate with the oil industry to achieve large-scale, long-term solutions.	Convene meeting, Advocate	Vision West ND			Meet with ND Petroleum Council – develop partnership.
	#4	Create agenda content for the ND legislature, in coordination with the North Dakota Association of Oil & Gas Exchange.	Advocate	Vision West ND ND Association of Oil & Gas Producing Counties	Legislative Agenda complete.	Support North Dakota Oil & Gas Producing Counties to advance agenda.	
	#1	Continue the supportive relationship with the ND Dept. of Commerce, USDA-RD, and the ND Congressional Delegation, as well as the liaison role with Vision West ND.	Monitor	Vision West ND ND Department of Commerce USDA Rural Development	Relationships good.	Maintain relationships.	Maintain relationships.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level 1							
Plan Section	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Child Care	#2	Promote the use of increased state subsidy for low income families needing child care.	Advocate	Vision West ND			Advocate for legislative action.
	#4	Promote community-based collaborative solutions for child care.	Advocate	Vision West ND	<p>www.childcarend.com now hosted and maintained by ND SBDC – expanding to statewide resource.</p> <p>Child Care Partners Convening & Collateral Materials – funded by Bush Foundation</p> <p>Dakota College at Bottineau child care curriculum.</p> <p>Centers completed: Killdeer, Bowman, Watford City, Dickinson.</p>	<p>Continue support convening Child Care Partners</p> <p>Continued local advocacy</p>	
	#10	Study the challenges of existing state child care programs to determine effectiveness and viability.	Study	Vision West ND, ND Legislature	Child Care review by Minnesota Housing Partnership	<p>Child Care Policy White Paper by The Strom Center</p> <p>Distribute MHP and White Paper to Legislators and others</p>	
Emergency Services	#4	Foster Intra-county collaboration to promote efficient and effective deployment of emergency services.	Advocate, Convene through NDAOGCP	Vision West ND	North Dakota Oil & Gas Producing Counties studies – EMS in Vulnerable Areas & McKenzie County collaboration with Watford City Hospital/McKenzie County EMS		

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level 1							
Plan Section	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Housing	#1	Reauthorize and capitalize the housing incentive fund at a level that sufficiently meets the needs.	Advocate with local communities for legislation	Vision West ND, Political subdivisions, Legislature	Collaboration with North Dakota Housing Finance Agency Housing Webinars 1 & 2	Continued Collaboration between NDHFA and VWND. Support advocacy for legislation.	
	#4	Encourage the Bank of ND to be more proactive in promoting its mortgage lending programs and in developing creative incentives for home ownership.	Convene, Monitor	Vision West ND			Present thoughts to BND leadership.
	#6	Enhance community-based and region based capacity and advocacy for housing	Convene, Monitor	Vision West ND	Minnesota resource at VWND meetings. Colorado resource at VWND meetings. Housing webinars.	Explore convening efforts that would support capacity building, training/education.	Explore convening efforts that would support capacity building, training/education. Identify a partner who could contract with a housing advocate for the region. Present concept, identify supports needed.
Transportation	#1	Conduct VWND/NDDOT work session on north-south routes.	Convene, Advocate	Vision West ND, ND Dept. of Transportation, and counties	Planning meeting in Watford City.	Ongoing discussion – counties and NDDOT facilitated by Consortium members.	Support Theodore Roosevelt Expressway effort to 4-lane from Bowman to Williston.
	#2	Study and promote the feasibility of the Elbowoods Ferry.	Study, Monitor	Vision West ND, NDDOT	MHA Nation’s Transportation Plan		
	#4	Review future rail transportation needs in the Vision West ND territory.	Convene, Monitor	Vision West ND, NDDOT, Federal Railroad Admin			Request inclusion in the State Transportation Plan. Facilitate discussions with Federal RR Administration and other key individuals.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level 1							
Plan Section	Recommendation		Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities
Water	#1	Maintain and enhance communication among federal and state agencies, and local communities to support the continued growth of each community.	Advocate	Vision West ND, State Water Commission, USDA			Provide advocacy support for continued and enhanced development of regional water systems.
	#2	Develop a long-term strategic plan for the management of and improved access to Lake Sakakawea	Convene	Vision West ND, Friend of the Lake, ND State Water Commission, Army Corps of Engineers			Convene partners and facilitate discussion.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level II							
Plan Section	Plan Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Education	#2	Convene an education funding task force, which includes legislative leadership and the ND Department of Public Instruction to propose legislative solutions that address to unique infrastructure needs of oil-impacted counties	Convene, Advocate for legislation	Vision West ND			Identify partners to facilitate discussion to identify solutions.
	#3	Convene the five higher education institutions to develop a regional higher education strategic plan	Convene, Advocate for legislation	Vision West ND, ND University System, NDAOGPC ND Petroleum Council	NDUS has updated their statewide strategic plan.		VWND Higher Ed consortium members encourage university participation in an exploratory convening session. Invite ND Petroleum Council to join as a potential partner.
	#4	Research the potential benefits of the legacy fund on higher education in the region	Advocate	Vision West ND			Recommendation inclusion in #3 above.
	#5	Enhance leadership training opportunities for community members	Advocate	Vision West ND, Dept. of Commerce	Rural Leadership Short Courses held in Bowman and Beach 2013.	Strom Center facilitating Rural Leadership ND short courses in Dickinson Spring 2015.	Collaborate with NDSU to expand RLND short courses to additional communities. Encourage counties and communities to set aside funding to support local participation in RLND.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level II							
Plan Section	Plan Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Health Care	#1	Collaborate with the ND Hospital Association and other health care providers to formulate legislative recommendations	Advocate, Convene	Vision West ND, North Dakota Hospital Association			Convene a meeting of health care experts, NDHA, VWND to facilitation collaboration to support legislative awareness of identified needs.
	#2	Extend certainty of incentives and funding programs for hospitals and health care facilities	Advocate	Vision West ND, North Dakota Hospital Association			Identify current incentives requiring legislative extension with #1 above.
	#3	Create an incentive/scholarship program to help recruit students in the medical and health care fields in exchange for a commitment to service	Advocate at local level	Vision West ND, Medical & healthcare providers			Convene community health provider outreach to encourage fund development.
	#4	Research the feasibility of mobile health clinics for wellness screenings, vision, dental, and other non-emergency health services	Seek funding, Study	Vision West ND	North Dakota Oil & Gas Producing Counties have completed two studies/model business plans of EMS in vulnerable areas.	McKenzie County and Watford City Hospital exploring collaboration to meet need with hospital expansion for expanded EMS services.	Follow up with North Dakota Oil & Gas Producing Counties to understand and support additional funding efforts.
Human Services	#3	Assure local communities provide input to Dept. of Human Services regional directors to assist in meeting local needs	Advocate at local level	Vision West ND		Governor proposes state funding for county Social Service programs.	Collaborate with local Human Service Centers to support identified needs.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level II						
Plan Section	Plan Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities
Municipal Infrastructure	No recommendations with Vision West ND lead			No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.
Natural Gas Availability	#1 Study the provision of natural gas to communities throughout western ND utilizing oil impact grant funding	Seek funding, Study	Vision West ND			Seek funding, identify partner to study feasibility of expanding natural gas to rural communities.
	#2 Build a relationship with the state's flaring task force	Convene, Advocate	Vision West ND			Request education for Consortium members on flaring.
	#3 Collaborate with the ND Industrial Commission in requiring companies to submit a flaring reduction plan by January 15	Completed monitor	Vision West ND & North Dakota Industrial Commission	ND Industrial Commission has implemented a plan for reduction in flaring.		Include with #2 above.
Pipelines	#1 Create a regulatory system, including easements, that is fair and equitable for private landowners, local governments and business in order to efficiently and safely provide services	Seek legislation	Vision West ND			Advocate with Public Service Commission to seek legislation. Request education for Consortium members and public.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendations by Plan Section-Level II							
Plan Section	Plan Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities	
Planning & Zoning	#1	Create a "circuit rider" planning and zoning program	Seek funding	Vision West ND, Political Sub-divisions	Bowman/Richardton and Dickinson/Stark County currently sharing a planning and zoning professional.		Consortium update current need, seek funding and a partner to fulfill this role.
	#2	Make enforcement of planning and zoning regulations a top priority and a matter of public safety by creating and empowering an enforcement task force to assist cities and counties in addressing enforcement issues	Convene, Advocate	Vision West ND, Secretary of State, Area Experts			Collaborate with ND Secretary of State, local experts to identify solutions and proposals for enforcement.
	#3	Proactively advocate for increased planning and zoning resources to the ND Legislature	Requires funding for study; Advocate	Vision West ND, Political sub-divisions			Seek funding and a partner to study. Share findings with Consortium and legislators.
	#4	Develop ways to increase the number of building inspectors to be trained, certified and responsive to building code enforcement, especially in rural areas; consider increased penalties for unpermitted work	Find funding, Study	Vision West ND		South Central Dakota Regional Council USDA RBEG/RBOG funded pilot underway.	Seek funding and a partner to study. Invite SCDRC to share pilot findings with Consortium. Seek funding and build a model based on local study results and SCDRC findings
Public Health	No recommendations with Vision West ND lead			No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.	
Public Safety	No recommendations with Vision West ND lead			No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.	No recommendations with VWND lead.	

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendation by Plan Section-Level III						
Plan Section	Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities
Crowding Out Effect	#2 Identify and implement large-scale, "value-added: energy initiatives."	Convene, Advocate	Vision West ND and Dept. of Commerce	ND Department of Commerce budget increase to support entrepreneurial centers, targeting economic diversification.	Governor's budget reduced budget allocated to support ND Department of Commerce request. Entrepreneurial Centers met and strategizing legislative message to reinstate funding level requested.	Convene meeting and collaborate with Commerce to strengthen legislative awareness of need and North Dakota's current investment position in entrepreneurship. Resource: Dr. Jeff Stamp research on national comparable statistics.
Economic Diversification	#1 Empower communities with real time market data	Find funding, Study	Vision West ND	"Economy at a Glance" available in some counties and distributed monthly.	The local plan TA team is in process of developing a template and resources for local counties to develop this tool if they choose	Seek funding and a partner to develop a routine and consistent real time market data report for subdivisions.
	#3 Organize a working committee consisting of the 15 counties that identified downtown development as a strategy to share lessons, collaborate on incentive programs, secure leadership, messaging and partnership	Convene, Monitor	Vision West ND	Strom Center partnered with Lake Agassiz Development Corporation to provide a Downtown Development loan package for VWND counties.		Convene a task force to focus on these issues.
	#5 Communities should continue and encourage strong relationships with the state for tourism leadership, messaging and partnership	Convene	Cities, counties, & Tribal Segments, Working with Vision West ND			Invite ND Tourism to education VWND on methods to promote North Dakota "Legendary" campaign.
Environmental Impacts	No recommendations with Vision West ND lead (at this time)			No recommendations with VW lead.	No recommendations with VW lead.	No recommendations with VW lead.

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendation from Fair Housing Equity Assessment as provided by Minnesota Housing Partnership					
Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities
Create capacity and advocacy for housing.	Capacity Building Advocacy	Vision West ND NDHFA Money Follows the People Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO)	Mary Anderson, ABLE, Inc. Dickinson has applied for a Bush Community Innovation Grant to support community collaboration on affordable housing in the region.	Region VIII Supportive Housing Development Collaborative (SHDC) coordinated by Money Follows the People has held numerous meetings in the Region to address Supportive Housing.	Continued collaboration with Money Follows the People. Convene housing developers, investment groups and service providers to spur housing development and lower housing costs. Support Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) efforts to develop affordable housing.
Meet demand for temporary housing and home ownership.	Convene Advocacy	Vision West ND			Create affordable housing for rent-burdened middle class/middle income worker households.
Create housing options for low income and elderly populations.	Convene Advocacy	Vision West ND	Senator Heitkamp efforts to adjust federal HUD income qualifying guidelines.	Additional support of adjusting federal guidelines for housing assistance (HUD Fair Market Rents) to recognize high cost of living and rent burdened households. Support USDA federal guidelines adjustment for home ownership programs. Increase existing FHA home values for North Dakota FHA insured Mortgage loans.	
Meet the needs of homeless population.	Monitor Advocacy	Vision West ND	Temporary shelters in communities provided by churches.	Governor's budget allocation of funding proposed to support homeless shelters.	Support collaboration with homeless shelter advocates to provide shelter solutions to communities for the working homeless.

<p>Create coordinated county housing plans.</p>	<p>Convene Advocacy</p>	<p>Vision West ND County Housing Authorities NDHFA</p>			<p>Survey population (permanent, commuter, transient, elderly and homeless). Identify housing types available and need by type. Establish housing goals.</p>
<p>Clarify barriers to home ownership</p>	<p>Study</p>	<p>Vision West ND County Housing Authorities NDHFA ND Association of Realtors</p>			<p>Identify barriers to home ownership. Identify solutions to propose to remove barriers to home ownership.</p>

Vision West ND Regional Plan Recommendation from Child Care Plan Review as provided by Minnesota Housing Partnership					
Recommendation	Action	Lead	Work Done	Partially Done Need to do more	Nothing Done Yet Possibilities
Educate child care workers, business leaders, parents and policy makers.	Coalition Building Advocacy	Vision West ND Child Care Aware of ND ND Department of Health & Human Services ND League of Cities ND Association of Counties		2013 Legislature expanded group licenses to 30 in commercial settings. State Fire Marshall adopting 2012 Fire Code in 2014 (currently operating under 1997 Fire Code).	Reconcile local regulations with state regulations throughout the region. Promote community based collaborative solutions for child care. Encourage inclusion of Child Care needs in local land-use planning. Support capacity enhancements to improve the efficiency of existing state child care programs. Evaluate barriers to parents seeking state subsidies for child care. Develop solutions to overcome barriers.
Support development of programs that successfully prepare and retain child care workforce. Secure multiyear funding for programs.	Advocacy	Vision West ND Child Care Aware of ND ND Department of Health & Human Services		Governor's 2015 biennium budget allocates funding to support pre-school expansion.	Understand the process and recommend improvements to decrease state reimbursement time for providers.
Research and promote public/private financing and real estate strategies to increase number of licensed child care facilities.	Research Advocacy Convene	Vision West ND Child Care Aware of ND ND Department of Health & Human Services ND Association of Realtors	2013 legislative budget allocation of child care center facility grants. Bank of North Dakota FlexPACE for child care facilities. Bowman Tot Lot Child Care Center. Dunn County Mama Bears Child Care.	2015 Governor's budget proposal includes grants for child care facilities. Ex. Stark Development Corporation announced child care facility grants 2014.	Determine other community incentives available to support child care facilities. Share best practices within communities to provide incentives to support child care facilities. Identify child care facilities receiving incentives through state grant, FlexPACE and

			Dickinson Kinderkidz Child Care Center.		<p>other community incentives. Identify impact of incentives (added capacity).</p> <p>Share best practices to encourage additional access by providers to take advantage of incentives to increase capacity.</p> <p>Utilize Quality Rating Improvement Standards through quality design incentives.</p> <p>Explore financing tools used in other states. Analyze viable options for implementation in North Dakota.</p>
Incentives that inspire employers to invest in employee child care.	Research Advocate Convene	Vision West ND Child Care Aware of ND ND Department of Health & Human Services		Child Care Convening sessions identified workforce provided onsite child care facilities unlicensed allowed up to 10 children.	Develop models to guide employer provided onsite child care facilities. Convene employers to collaborate on solutions.