

## SEWARD COUNTY CHAMBER & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership Created**  
*Board of Directors, Officers and President/CEO named*

SEWARD, NE – After months of work to create a shared, common vision for all of Seward County among non-profit organizations, and now being adopted by local government entities, a new partnership organization has been created to provide leadership, execution and oversight of the Seward County vision. The Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership (SCCDP), which intends to be a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization, held its organizational meeting with an initial board of directors, approved the articles of incorporation and bylaws, elected officers, and selected its first President/CEO.

The initial board of directors and their terms are:

| <b>Director</b>                                      | <b>Term Expires</b> |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Seward County – Diana Garske</b>                  | 12/31/16            |
| <b>City of Milford – Jeff Baker</b>                  | 12/31/16            |
| <b>City of Utica – Marci Fehlhafer</b>               | 12/31/17            |
| <b>City of Seward – Ellen Beck</b>                   | 12/31/17            |
| <b>Southeast Community College – Ed Koster</b>       | 12/31/18            |
| <b>Concordia University – David Kumm</b>             | 12/31/16            |
| <b>Seward Co. Visitors Committee – Jeanne Weimer</b> | 12/31/18            |
| Ryne Seaman – The Cattle National Bank               | 12/31/18            |
| Max Wake – Jones National Bank                       | 12/31/17            |
| Shane Baack – Principal Financial Group              | 12/31/17            |
| Melissa Grantski – M&G Leasing                       | 12/31/17            |
| Jessica Kolterman – JK Consulting                    | 12/31/18            |
| Roger Reamer – Memorial Health Care Systems          | 12/31/18            |
| John Hughes – Hughes Brothers                        | 12/31/16            |
| Denny Hentzen – Agriculture                          | 12/31/16            |

Officers for 2016 are: Chair, Max Wake; Vice Chair, Shane Baack; Secretary, Jeff Baker; and Treasurer, Ed Koster. Max Wake, Chair, said, “We have an excellent group of individuals representing all of Seward County serving on the board and ensuring we achieve the common vision now adopted by so many organizations and governmental entities in the County.”

The SCCDP Board of Directors has selected Jonathan Jank as its first President/CEO. Jonathan was among a group of candidates considered and determined to be best equipped and the best fit for the position. "I am very humbled and honored to serve in this role on behalf of Seward County," said Jank. "I am excited to work with all existing businesses to help Seward County grow."

Jank has served as the Executive Director of the Seward County Economic Development Corporation (SCEDC) since 2012 and was the Executive Director of Seward County CASA from 2008-2012. He has an MBA from Concordia University. He and his wife Rachel live in Seward.

The SCCDP will office in the Seward Civic Center. The organization will be working through several more transition steps with the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce, Seward County Economic Development Corporation, and the Seward Area Development Corporation. "This process will take a few more months to work through all of the approvals and transfers," said Kathy Evert, Interim Executive Director of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce and consultant who helped facilitate the vision working group. "There is a very dedicated group of individuals who have worked diligently on this process for six months and have what's best for the future of all Seward County in their minds and hearts." Evert said members and stakeholders will begin to see the new name of the organization used in the next few weeks as the official transition takes place. She asks for everyone's patience and support as many details are completed, but more work needs to done. Evert asks everyone to continue to use the same email addresses and phone numbers as are currently being used until further notice.

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