



Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation

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The MAEDC Region Expands to Include Howard County

Moberly, MO – Corey Mehaffy, President of Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation announced today that Howard County will join the partnership bringing the number of counties in the MAEDC Region to four. Mehaffy indicated that he and current MAEDC Board Chair Russ Freed attended a meeting of the Howard County Economic Development Council Board of Directors today where among other agenda items the contract between the two entities was executed. The multi-year agreement sets forth the terms by which MAEDC will represent Howard County for economic development activities.

Located along the banks of the Missouri River, Howard County had previously been working alone to assist local business in expansion but will now become the fourth county represented by Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation. “We are extremely pleased that Howard County and the communities of Fayette, Glasgow and New Franklin have joined this regional collaboration,” said Russ Freed, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation. “As a regional partnership working together we can achieve so much more for our communities.”

Over the past several years the Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation has grown from a one county operation in Randolph County to representing four counties in Central and Northeastern Missouri. “Having Cooper County, Monroe County, Randolph County and now Howard County as key members of this partnership shows the vision of the local leadership,” said Corey Mehaffy, President of the not-for-profit group. “When businesses are successful in our region it benefits the entire central portion of the State of Missouri.”

Howard County brings key assets to the partnership strengthening the message of why businesses want to locate operations in North-Central Missouri. With the addition of the industrial park in Fayette, rail access in Glasgow and the river port in New Franklin, the number of business parks in the four-county region has grown to nearly a dozen different options. In addition the river access through the Howard-Cooper County Port Authority on the Missouri River at Boonville is an important benefit for the entire region.

“This is a great partnership for all of Howard County,” said Richard Fowler, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Howard County Economic Development Council. “Being a part of a much larger economic development effort will benefit everyone involved.”

Known for the high level of education, Fayette, the county seat of Howard County has been home to Central Methodist University for nearly 160 years. “We have a long tradition of producing highly educated young people,” commented Mr. Fowler. “We also have a tradition of strong work ethic which is seen in the quality of the products manufactured in Howard County.”

The multi-year agreement with Howard County is effective immediately and will continue for a three year initial term. Howard County will contribute \$80,000 annually to participate in the partnership. In turn, MAEDC will provide economic development representation to include business attraction and marketing efforts, business retention and entrepreneurship development. Like current partner counties Cooper and Monroe, Howard County will receive one voting seat on the MAEDC Board of Directors during the term of the agreement. The representative will be selected by the Howard County Economic Development Council Board of Directors with final approval by the MAEDC Board of Directors.

According to Mehaffy a media event is being planned at a future date for execution of the contract. Mehaffy indicated that representatives from the MAEDC Board of Directors, City of Moberly, Randolph County, Monroe County and Cooper County will be on hand at the event to welcome the Howard County to the MAEDC partnership.

Moberly Area Economic Development Corporation works to promote financial investment in Randolph, Monroe, Cooper and Howard Counties. For more information on the organization, please visit their website at <http://www.moberly-edc.com>.