

Photo: Tom Skubal

The Kewaunee Economic Development Corporation (KCEDC) works pro-actively to retain, expand, develop and attract businesses that strengthen the economy of Kewaunee County. As the economy and markets transition, KCEDC helps business and local communities prepare and partner for adaptation and improvement.

Our Mission: We help CREATE!

Cooperation, Retention, Expansion, Attraction, Training & Encouragement.

About the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation: Since 2009, this grass-roots economic development organization has steadily grown its value-added programs and services. Through committed volunteers, community leaders and collaborative partnerships, the Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation has consistently delivered projects that educate, show-case and promote the business community. These projects are focused on strengthening and growing local businesses, creating jobs and improving overall quality of life.





Inside

Economic Action Plan Kewaunee Harbor Revitalization Ag Career Days Taste of The County

A Vision and a Plan For Our Future

In 2014, KCEDC celebrates five years of the brand and logo "Everything Grows Better Here". Meaning simply that KCEDC is committed to growing business and community. KCEDC is proud to report on the organization's five-year impact;

- Leveraged economic development partners to help facilitate projects in existing manufacturing companies for total investments of approximately \$195M capital investment. In addition, to the creation and/or retention of approximately 300 jobs.
- Established an Agriculture Committee which launched Ag Career Days serving over 1,900 students and educators from 5 school districts beyond Kewaunee County borders.
- Facilitated a \$50,000 WEDC Capacity Building Grant in response to the closure of the Kewaunee Power Station (largest employer). Developed a Regional Economic Action Plan.
- Launched the Buy Local Initiative focused on strengthening the local business community, improving the quality of life and growing the local economy by educating consumers and keeping dollars local. www.buylocalkewauneecounty.org.
- Collaborated with community partners and launched VisitKewauneeCounty.org. The sole county-wide tourism promotion effort. Secured two grants from the Department of Tourism projects totaled \$140,000. Results included a 19% increase in visitor spending from 2010 to 2011.

Economic Action Plan:

Aligning the Region for Economic Success

The Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation and Progress Lakeshore (formerly the Eco-

nomic Development Corporation – Manitowoc County) - in collaboration with Advance of Brown County – presents the Action Plan "Aligning the Region for Economic Success," which was developed in response to the closure of Kewaunee Nuclear Power Station.

The Action Plan development included extensive engagement with key regional stakeholders and community groups over a three-month long planning process to address the economic future of the tri-county region.

"Aligning the Region for Economic Success" is an opportunity to build a shared regional economic development vision for a prosperous future. The robust Action Plan is structured to drive change through a focused process of economic innovation and leadership enhancement. With the input of regional stakeholders, the Action Plan recommends the following seven themes for regional economic development focus:

- Regional Leadership and Capacity Building
- Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development
 - Business Expeditor Team
 - World Class Tourism Potential
 - Energy new industries and technology
 - Agricultural Industry
 - Water Resources

These themes are further developed by specific action items, community partners and potential vehicles for implementation. Ideally, the fully-implemented, two-year plan will position the regional economy for economic success.

The Action Plan "Aligning the Region for Economic Success" was completed with the assistance of a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and David Beurle, Future iQ Partners.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Brown at 920.255.1661 or via email at brownjk@kcedc.org or visit www.kcedc.org for the full report.



Kewaunee County lost nearly 650 high wage jobs with an estimated \$50,000 average annual wage. The Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation developed an aggressive economic recovery plan to begin to replace these significant losses.

Revitalizing Kewaunee's harbor is a critical component of the county's economic recovery and future vibrancy. Restoring the harbor infrastructure will not only jump start tourism, but will create a safe environment for residents. Harbor res-

toration will be the catalyst to grow an already successful sport fishing industry, as well as significantly increase visitor spending. Most importantly, the successful restoration of the harbor will support the redevelopment of waterfront property (Hamacheck site).

If you support the revitalization of the Kewaunee Harbor in order to grow the econ-

omy, please send an email with your name and address to Brownjk@kcedc.org or mail to KCEDC PO Box 361 Luxemburg WI, 54217. For more information visit WWW.KCEDC.ORG.



Ag Career Days 2014

Area students learn about the career opportunities in the area's growing agriculture-related fields.



The Kewaunee County Economic Development Corporation (KCEDC) introduced youth to the agriculture industry at one of the largest onfarm "Ag" career events in the state of Wisconsin on April 10 and 11, 2014 at Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy.

Over 1,200 students, educators and volunteers from five school districts visited Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy to gain a better understanding of the critical role the agriculture industry plays in our regional, national and global economy.

Seventh and eighth grade students from Algoma, Denmark, Kewaunee, Luxemburg-Casco, and Southern Door school districts participated in the career exploration opportunity which showcased the numerous career opportunities available in agriculture.

Ag Career Days highlighted a wide range of careers including; agronomy, milk testing, cheese making, cropping, animal nutrition, agriculture support services, robotics and technology and many more.





"The agriculture industry is extremely innovative, technologically advanced and continually growing. KCEDC was pleased to engage our young people and showcase careers available in agriculture"

- Toni Sorenson GreenStone Farm Credit Services Co-Chair of KCEDC Ag Committee

More Folks Get a Taste!

Taste of the County Huge Success at New Venue







Approximately 300 people from a four-county region came out to celebrate the local flavors of Kewaunee County at the 6th Annual Taste of the County on October 22nd at the Kewaunee County Fair-grounds!

Twenty-five participating food and beverage businesses offered an enormous selection of palette pleasing samples from chicken enchilada soup to frozen custard. As an added treat, Chef Chris Wiltfang from Skaliwags showcased his culinary genius with an onsite demonstration and of course, a savory tasting.

The Tasting Challenge finished the evening with some fun, friendly competition. Attendees voted Skaliwags winner of "Most Unique Flavors", North Water Bakery & Deli winner of "Sweetest Treat" and Ahnapee Brewery winner of "Best Beverage".

It was a true celebration of the diverse culinary and beverage offerings in Kewaunee County. The Kewaunee County Economic Development extends congratulations to the winners and to all the talented local business who participated. Thanks to the sponsors who made the event possible.



Skaliwags - Algoma







North Water Street Bakery & Deli - Algoma



von Stiehl Winery - Algoma



Thank You to all who volunteered!

A Special Thank You to Our Major Sponsors:





