

Economic Development Activities YTD in the Great River Region

The counties within the Great River Region (Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa) continue to work together to improve the local business climate. The chambers of commerce and economic development groups within the region have been busy and below is just a quick snapshot of some of the activities so far this year:

Great River Region Days, Des Moines – A delegation from Southeast Iowa traveled to Des Moines in February to speak with area legislators and various state department heads regarding concerns and opportunities for our region.

Great River Region Days, Washington – Members of the region embarked on the annual trip to the nation's capital and held meetings with Congressman Loeb sack, Senator Grassley, Senator Harkin, and the head of the Department of Agriculture, Secretary Vilsack. Concerns and opportunities related to business and community were addressed.

Existing Industry Calls – The area's existing industry will continue to play a key role in future job creation efforts. The region's economic development groups call on existing companies to identify opportunities for growth and spot challenges early.

Entrepreneurship Activity – Multiple counties organized business plan competitions this spring, and the region is continuing to work on a strategic plan related to entrepreneurship development.

Minneapolis and Chicago Sell Trips – Every other month, members of the region travel to both Minneapolis and Chicago to meet with emerging companies that are looking to relocate out of the high-cost metropolitan areas.

Attendance at WindPower 2010 – Representation was sent to the nation's largest wind energy trade show. The wind energy supply chain will continue to be a targeted industry for the region.

Hosting New Business Prospects in Region – New business prospects continue to travel to the region, and they are warmly received.

The Great River Region Partnership has been busy and will continue to work collaboratively to enhance opportunities for existing business, foster entrepreneurship, and aggressively recruit new businesses to the area.