

Community Center Receives Funding

A community center in Miller was a dream that became reality with a little help from the Rural Economic Development Fund (REED). A place to hold events in the city of Miller has been sought after for over a decade.

When the Miller School District donated the former elementary school building to On Hand Economic Development Corporation (On Hand) for a new community center, the possibilities were within reach. A community fund drive began to raise the money to renovate the old elementary school into a community center which includes providing a new home for the Senior Center.

The donations and money from On Hand Economic Development Corporation was short by \$300,000. Amy Howard, Executive Director of On Hand contacted Dakota Energy about the REED Fund and a possible loan to cover the needed funds.

On December 10, 2014, DEC's General Manager Daniel Webster and Manager of Finance & Administration Mike Moncur presented a check for the \$300,000 REED loan to Bryan Breitling, President and Howard of On Hand.

REED Fund

The REED Fund is a non profit organization, incorporated in 1997 by the SD rural electric cooperatives. It is governed by

a board of directors of 22 cooperative managers appointed by their cooperative. The mission of the REED Fund is to provide financing and leverage investment in small communities and rural areas needed to keep the rural economy viable.

It provides loans for:

- **Community development** to enhance community facilities, services and quality of life (i.e. Miller Community Center and Hand County Community Hospital, Huron School District),
- **Business and Industry** to support local business growth, development and provide employment (Greater Huron Development industrial shell building),
- **Agriculture** to provide capital to add value to agriculture products, services and marketing activities (i.e. .

Here are some statistics about the REED Fund as of November 2014:

- 257 loans
- \$59.1 million loaned
- Over 7,100 jobs created and retained
- \$480 million total investment
- 83% of loans in towns of 4,000 or fewer
- 95% of projects locally owned

For more information on the REED Fund, please contact Dakota Energy at 605-352-8591.



DEC's Moncur and Webster presented check to On Hand's Howard and Breitling for the Miller Community Center.



Howard shows off the new kitchen facilities available in the community center.



Howard explains the large meeting room can be rented for a variety of events in the community center.



Miller Community Center Floor Plan