

## **Interview with John Wellens, New e-economies Cluster member**

**Q. Why or how do you think working on the New e-economies cluster team makes a difference – in business, retail, tourism and quality of life?**

A. Within the next year, and especially over the next two years, it will stimulate a great deal of economic development by way of attracting new business and industry, as well as increasing retail and tourism activity.

- a. Our infrastructure for high tech companies is very marketable and we have access to rail, Interstate and offer excellent and diverse offerings in education in the local area.
- b. The website will offer an excellent showcase of our community and should be able to attract people from outside our area.

**Q. In what ways do the members ‘come together’ to create the objectives?**

A. We conceptualize somewhat lofty, but realistic goals by offering expertise from our diverse backgrounds and knowledge base. A synergy is created with these attributes.

**Q. How will they get implemented?**

A. By ongoing commitment to progress on a weekly basis, obtaining and maintaining needed funding and by recruiting new people to join in our efforts.

**Q. What have you learned from the process so far?**

A. The degree to which the positive attitude exists and reaches to others in our community. That wasn't real evident to me until I became involved with the Community Progress Initiative. I encourage others to do the same and they will see what I mean. When you surround yourself with people who are driven for positive change, it is easy to perpetuate hope.

**Q. What would others gain from ‘joining in’ with your cluster?**

A. An understanding of the potential for this area. They would be invigorated by the momentum we have just begun to realize.

**Q. What kind of skills/help do you still require to make your objectives as a cluster succeed?**

A. Assistance with technical issues such as web development. Also, anyone who is willing to do research on various topics to identify new opportunities worth exploring or to better explore an existing opportunity would be very helpful.