



A Grand Vision for the Heartland

Grow Grand Island Committee Meeting Report

Please complete and email to Nicki Stoltenberg (nicki@grand-island.com) within one week of the meeting.

**Date \* Time \* Location** 6/10/15 8am Chamber

**Recommendation Number and Name** 1.5 Regional Cluster Councils

**Attending:**  
 Tonia Brown  
 Mary Berlie  
 Harold Rosentatter  
 Brad Bell  
 Bill Hunter  
 Justin Osaka  
 Sharon Hueftle

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION / WHO	WHEN
SEE ATTACHED MINUTES			
Potential clusters	Mfg; Agronomy; Appraiser	Tonia to assign research/questions	by next meeting

Next Meeting, Web site info., Other notes, etc.

TBD... late July/early Aug... we will use email to discuss/share our findings.

## Tonja Brown

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**From:** Tonja Brown <tonja@kdsi.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:10 PM  
**To:** 'hrosenkotter@gmail.com'; 'mberlie@grandisland.org';  
'bradley.bell@greatwesternbank.com'; 'pelcommish@charter.net';  
'karen@heartlandunitedway.org'; 'guarantee.group@me.com';  
'bill.hunter@syngenta.com'; 'charity@cairocommunity.com'; 'sharonh@scedd.us'  
**Cc:** 'Cindy Johnson'  
**Subject:** GrowGI 1.5 Regional Cluster Councils (6/10 meeting notes)

Hello committee members,

After covering foundational information about GrowGI, our committee & our objective, these key points were made to get us started:

**State Dept. of Economic Development already has a manufacturing cluster organized.**

Linda Black is new director. Whitney Bomgartner (sp?) is the contact for this cluster. Larry Johnson is the contact for the cluster for transportation & distribution.

**Sharon:** Will you get information about their scope of work & find out if there are any local/regional people involved? Also, can you get the scoop on any other clusters organized, like Transportation & Distribution?

**Agronomy Academies being arranged with local high schools by Syngenta/Monsanto to spark interest in AG/seed careers.**

This concept has growth/expansion potential. CPI is one of them. Perhaps college programs as well.

**Bill:** Will you pull together some detailed information about what has already been done, what is planned, and what is hoped?

**Appraisers are in short supply without a good pipeline.**

Is this a good 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> career option? There are obstacles in advancing to this career, namely certification options & apprenticeships.

**Tonja** will find out more about the training/education requirements & locations.

**Other workforce issues surfaced that may lead to the need for clusters:**

Financial services/banking used to be viewed as prestigious careers—perceptions have dropped & need regenerated.

**Brad:** Will you find out if there are any movements in the state/area to promote banking careers?

Skilled labor, such as carpentry & plumbing, are difficult to find/keep—work ethic is a bigger challenge.

**Mary:** Will you get some employment statistics for these trade areas from the state Dept of Labor? And, any other information that helps paint the skilled labor picture? May be worthwhile to grab information on the two areas below as well, if easy to distinguish.

Professional/administrative labor are difficult to find/keep as well.

Our area is short on businesses who provide high level marketing/advertising services.

**Notable issues facing Grand Island that need considered:**

Night-life culture.

4-year college campus.

**All:** Share anything else you may know/learn. What is missing from our initial meeting discussion?

Our email group address is: [ggi-1.5@kdsi.com](mailto:ggi-1.5@kdsi.com) (notice the .com vs .net)

**I will be making this group live on 6/19.** When I do, you will receive a subscribe confirmation message. Once you confirm membership to the group, you will be able send messages to the email group address & they will be distributed to all members in the group. **This will allow us to easily dialog via email on time sensitive things you are finding out without everyone having to set up & maintain their own email groups.**

Next meeting date options: <http://doodle.com/tpgcfv4p2rcu5s6e>

Thank you for jumping in & taking on this GrowGI committee work. Recommendations for additional committee members are welcomed.

Enjoy summer!

Tonja

P.S. Pam, Sean & Charity—apologies for not getting the first meeting announcement to you. I have your contact information now. I hope you can join us on this committee going forward. 😊