

Megan Bickel, hired as Economic Development Director

Members of the Tri-community economic enhancement (TREE) committee meeting recently hired Megan Bickel as the Economic Development Director for the communities of Dupree, Isabel and Timber Lake. Bickel will begin her duties on April 2, 2007 with the main office in the NWAS building located in Isabel. She will also be in Dupree with an office on the 3rd floor of the Dupree Courthouse and in Timber Lake with an office in the library. Telephone numbers, e-mail and schedules are not complete at this time.

Bickel is excited with the risk and adventure of this new position. She emphasized that some of the goals projected for the three communities will not happen overnight, but could take 3 to 5 years to accomplish or even more. This position is full time for her compared to a part time position recently held with NWAS under the direction of Erik Person and Joe Lenz. She had been with NWAS for a little over a year, as she began working for NWAS in January of 2006.

Goals for Bickel as the director for TREE are to develop Dupree, Isabel and Timber Lake to their full potential. Three ways Megan intends to accomplish this include: 1.) Expand on the businesses these communities already have; 2.) Attract tourism to these three communities. "West River is a beautiful area with wonderful people and they know how to have a good time with their centennials, we need to get the word out and attract people to this area with the qualities that we have," remarked Megan. 3.) Develop and increase housing. Megan will also be writing grants for the TREE projects.

Bickel was born and raised in Bettendorf, Iowa. Her parents, Phil and Tammy Kieschnick currently reside in Lakeville, MN. She has one brother Weston Kieschnick whom resides in Hamilton Bermuda with his wife Danika and Megan has one sister, Lauren that is currently a senior in Isabel. Megan graduated from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN with a degree in Business Communications and a minor in Intercultural relations.

Bickel is currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Management through the University of Mary in Bismarck. She met her husband Edward Bickel III in Alnwick, England where they were studying for four months. Eddie graduated with a Political Science degree from St. Cloud State University. Shortly after he graduated he moved out to Isabel and started ranching with his grandfather, Ed Bickel at the Bickel ranch. Eddie and Megan were married July 7, 2006 in Minneapolis, MN. Megan's schedule will be announced in the local papers as soon as it is complete along with the office telephone numbers and e-mail. For now, if you have any questions you may call Megan on the cell phone at 1-605-848-1648.