

SE Nebraska Land Bank formed

(KLZA)--Following two years of research and planning, the communities of Falls City and Verdon have formed the Southeast Nebraska Land Bank. A Board of Directors has been appointed and officers have been elected.

Brad Campbell will serve as Chairman of the Board with Clint Sailors elected Vice-Chairman. EDGE Executive Director Lucas Froeschl will serve as the Director of the Land Bank at no cost.

Froeschl provided updates on the project to the Richardson County Commissioners and Falls City Council this week.

This is one of the first regional land banks formed in the state.

Through the land bank program, vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties in both Falls City and the Village of Verdon, held by private landowners can be transitioned into tax revenue-generating community assets.

If a property is a nuisance to the landowner, or the owner can't maintain it, the property can be donated to the land bank. The owners could receive some tax benefits.

The new legislation allowing smaller communities to form land banks and restore neighborhood eyesores was passed in August of 2020. The City of Falls City has pledge \$25,000 of their housing demolition fund for the effort.

Those interested in the program may contact the EDGE office in Falls City for more information.

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