



## Champion Report Template

Theme Area: CORE TEAM UPDATE

Champions: Tim Houle, Dan Frank, Phil Hunsicker, Molly Zins, Stacey Stockdill, Deanna Hemmesch, Cheryal Hills, Tad Erickson, Joe Schulte, Melissa Rademacher, Bob McLean.

Date: From January 14, 2014 to April 15, 2014

### What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?

#### 1. NWAFF Conversations:

Members of the core team are in initial conversations with the Northwest Area Foundation as to how to potentially partner to add value to the Resilient Region implementation efforts through sharing of our implementation processes and project support.

A. Prepare materials to help tell our story (as we are being asked to do - at an overwhelming pace).

*With guidance/support from NWAFF the following questions initially answer by core team listed above, with invitation to the entire list of 50+ Champions to share perspectives as part of a "deeper dive"*

B. Support implantation PROJECTS . Use our learnings to accelerate the high-achieving projects, support the mid-range/stage projects or those projects poised with opportunity for success. Shift stumbling projects to new direction.

Explain how did implementation projects impact the region, jobs, poverty and individual community wealth. How did projects within the \$21 million add value to the other regional assets?

#### 2. Policy Review:

The Resilient Region policies have been mailed to all 65 cities and delivered to the 5 counties. We have all policies and studies posted to the Resilient Region website.

#### 3. Wealthworks Training:

Please see NADO press release below with information regarding upcoming training that will be shared with R5DC team members and Core Team with hopes that additional information adds value to collective action. We have a particular interest in how this type of practice might add value to the Community Asset Profiles being collected and distributed on the RR website.

#### 4. HUD Sustainable Communities invite:

HUD funded the Institute for Sustainable Communities as grantee "capacity builder" a couple of years back. Additional funding from HUD has allowed the Institute to convene rural sustainable community grantees to engage in peer-to-peer exchanges. SEE note below from their office with an invitation for our Resilient Region to participate. No guarantee of participating but if we are invited it is likely that a few from our core team will be engaged.



400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 390, Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: (202) 624-5948 • Email: [info@nado.org](mailto:info@nado.org) • Website: [www.NADO.org](http://www.NADO.org)  
For Immediate Release: March 20, 2014  
Contact: Laurie Thompson, Deputy Executive Director

**Arlene Jones – SPROUT MN & Cheryal Lee Hills – Region Five Development Commission  
Selected for WealthWorks Economic Development Program**

**WASHINGTON, DC – SPROUT & R5DC, based in Brainerd Minnesota have been competitively selected by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation to participate in the 2014 WealthWorks Training through NADO’s Rural Wealth Creation initiative, supported by the Ford Foundation.**

*SPROUT is the regions local food HUB whose mission is to; Promote the health, economy, and self-reliance of Central Minnesota by facilitating the availability of fresh, locally produced food in the region. Arlene Jones and SPROUT team have built a consortium of over 40 growers and distribute locally grown commodities to 5 School districts, Central Lakes College, hospitals and many local premier restaurants. SPROUT works closely with R5DC and this training, along with Arlene’s BUSH Fellowship will add value to building community based food systems.*

*R5DC provides high quality, professional planning and development services to five rural counties of central MN through collaboration, assistance, and coordination with local units of government, organizations, and citizens. This training opportunity will add value to the Community Asset Profiles that tell the story of our unique communities and “Quality of Place”- available for review at [www.resilientregion.org](http://www.resilientregion.org)*

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. WealthWorks is an economic development approach that connects a community’s assets to meet market demand in ways that build livelihoods that last. WealthWorks is supported by a consortium of economic development organizations that received initial support from the Ford Foundation.

“WealthWorks is an important part of any economic development toolbox. I am pleased to announce that **SPROUT and R5DC were one of only five teams nationally to receive a scholarship** to participate in the WealthWorks training program. This training is focused on practical application of new skills and perspectives on economic vitality, which will lead to increased opportunities for people in rural areas,”

said NADO President Peter Gregory, Executive Director of the Two Rivers-Ottauquechee Regional Commission in Woodstock, VT.

For more information, contact Region Five Development Commission at 218.894.3233

###

**Founded in 1967, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.**

---

Dear Cheryal,

On behalf of the [Sustainable Communities Learning Network](#), the Institute for Sustainable Communities is planning a national convening of HUD grantees who are excelling in their work to plan and implement sustainability in smaller towns and rural places. This **“Smaller Places Summit”** will bring together teams from up to 15 grantee communities, along with staff from federal agencies and other capacity-building organizations. The Summit will provide a space for you and your peers to come together and share your unique and valuable successes – the approaches, tools, frameworks, policies, projects, and programs you have developed - in a safe and constructive environment, away from day-to-day office distractions.

**We are reaching out to you because your work has been identified as a leading example of how we can implement the livability principles and build sustainable communities in a rural or smaller town context.**

We know that you likely have a busy schedule in the coming months, so we are asking for your feedback about the best possible time for us to hold this Summit. The 3-day workshop will follow a format similar to ISC’s other [Sustainable Communities Leadership Academies](#), including the [2012 Smaller Places Summit](#).

**We would greatly appreciate if you would provide your availability in our Doodle poll, , to help us narrow down the preferred week. Please respond by Thursday, March 27th, indicating which weeks are preferred and which are possible.**

Providing feedback on your availability does not commit you to attend, but we certainly hope you will strongly consider joining us! We will do our best to schedule the workshop at a time that is most convenient for the most people.

Sincerely,

Becky

**Rebecca Webber** | Program Officer, Climate & Environment Programs

INSTITUTE FOR **Sustainable Communities** | 535 Stone Cutters Way | Montpelier, VT 05602