2035 Vision Statement

Seward County is a pro-active and collaborative area with vibrant, welcoming, family-friendly, and safe communities, recognized for pillars of strength in agriculture, arts and culture, business, education, entrepreneurship, government, and healthcare. We are a destination location for businesses, visitors, and residents within the greater metropolitan area and an active partner in the region. Our residents enjoy picturesque and diverse neighborhoods, viable main streets, outstanding recreational opportunities, active civic life, faith-based living, and quality housing and employment choices. The private and public sectors are united and citizens are engaged for the betterment of all Seward County.

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY
CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Guiding Principles

We are guided by:

INTEGRITY – We are open, honest and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.

RESPECT – We treat everyone with courtesy, equity, and fairness.

LEADERSHIP – We understand the importance of engaged leadership and that leadership must transition to ensure the vision continues for future generations.

GIVING/PHILANTHROPY – We are caring and generous. We encourage giving freely and helping those in need. We champion volunteerism for its powerful contribution to our area.

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE – We acknowledge the importance of a shared vision and being intentional about planning our future. We believe our collective efforts will be sustainable for the long-term betterment of all Seward County.

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Mission Statement

As a public and private partnership, the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership is the caretaker and steward of fulfilling the Seward County Vision Statement 2035, which is daily carried out through chamber of commerce and economic development work.

2026-2028 Strategic Plan

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2026 Budget

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SCCDP Board of Directors
Specific Duties and Responsibilities Policy

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership's (SCCDP) effectiveness and potential is determined through the engagement of the Board of Directors. A member of the SCCDP Board of Directors and its President & CEO works toward SCCDP's goals for the betterment of Seward County. This is done through:

- Regular attendance at the monthly Board meetings, which is expected to maintain continuity.
    - If you are not able to attend a Board meeting, it is expected for the Board member to notify the SCCDP Board Chairperson, the President & CEO, and the Executive Assistant to let them know of the absence.
    - If you are unable to attend in person, consider the option to conference call in to the meeting.

- Participation in at least one Board Working Group.
- Reviewing and carefully considering issues before voting on them.
- Reviewing all information sent out by the President & CEO.
- Responding to questions or requests for information from the President & CEO
- withing 48 hours. Contacting the President & CEO in a timely fashion with questions or informaton requests.

A Board member is expected to commit to at least three years of active participation, and may be renewed for two additional terms based on election of the members. Active participation is defined as 75% of an annual rolling average of attendance to regular Board meetings and participation in at least one Board Working Group. If attendance is nearing 75% for SCCDP Board meetings and/or Board Working Group meetings, the Chairperson will call to determine if there are extenuating circumstances contributing to the absences. If it is determined that continued participation on the SCCDP Board of Directors is not feasible, it will be requested that the Board member resign (refer to Bylaws of the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership Article IV, Sections b & i).

It is noted in the Bylaws, Article IV, Section i, which states, "Absence of a director from three consecutive meetings without a satisfactory explanation to the Chairperson shall be deemed to be the director's resignation from the Board of Directors." The SCCDP Administrative Assistant will include a Board attendance report with their monthly report.

Governance: Volunteer leaders are responsible for the direction of the organization.
The board governs, develops policy and sets a course. The mission statement should frame all discussions – avoid micro-management.

FOUR BOARD FUNCTIONS:

- **Governance**
- **Policy & Position Development**
- **Visionary - Future Focus**
- **Fiduciary**

Management: Staff and consultants are responsible for administration of the organization. Staff partner with the board to advance goals and strategies, while taking care of the daily administrative needs unique to nonprofit organizations.

Board Responsibilities

- Determine and advance the organization's mission and purposes.
- Select the chief paid executive (not staff) as well as CPA and attorney.
- Support the chief executive and assess performance in the organization (i.e. budget, goal achievements, etc.)
- Conduct organizational planning.
- Ensure adequate resources (funds, time, volunteers, staff, etc.).
- Resource and financial oversight.
- Determine, monitor and enhance programs and services.
- Promote the organization.
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity and maintain accountability.
- Recruit and orient new board members, and assess board performance.

(Content adapted from Board Responsibilities by Robert C Harris, CAE)

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

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Board Meetings

THE AGENDA

- The agenda is prepared with the input of the chief elected officer, staff, with consideration of current issues, member needs and pending business.
- If you have input for the agenda, be sure to provide it to the President or Chief elected officer in advance of the meeting.

MINUTES

- Minutes are a legal record of the meetings.
- They are not a record of side conversations or a reminder document for leaders and staff.
- No audio recordings should be maintained once the minutes are approved.
- The minutes are to be approved at the next convened meeting of the board.

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY
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Board Meetings Cont.

THE RULES OF ORDER

- Procedural rules are used to maintain order at meetings. All persons must be recognized by the chair before speaking. Time limits may be set on certain topics.
- Learn the basics of rules of order to be sure motions and procedures are understood to your benefit

2026 SCCDP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

- Monday, February 16 at 4 p.m. in Milford
- Monday, May 18 at 4 p.m. in Utica
- Monday, August 17 in Seward (Extended Strategic Planning Meeting)
- Monday, November 16 at 4 p.m. in TBD

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Thank You!

- The board and working group experience should be a positive one.
- The board speaks as a whole, no board member should have more input or authority than others.
- Working group implement the Chamber's objectives.
- Always ask questions as they arise.

Thank you for serving!

Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership

CULTIVATE SEWARD COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT