

NeCDRA SELECTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In mid-March, the Reuse Authority members met for almost 5 hours one afternoon. Their purpose was to conduct phone interviews with three candidates for the position of Executive Director of the NeCDRA. These three had been selected from the many resumes that had been submitted. They narrowed their selection down to two persons whom they invited for a tour of the Depot a week later. After much discussion they made their decision to hire Bill Laubernds. This was officially done at their meeting on March 26.

Bill currently works with a company in Portland, Oregon that specializes in facility development for behavioral health treatment centers. He previously worked in Brimley, Michigan on community planning and economic development of former military installations. These installations were located in Texas, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Maine, Michigan and Connecticut. He helped develop training materials for community leaders facing base closure under a DoD, OEA contract. He also helped develop training materials for community leaders converting military air fields to civilian air fields under a Dept. of Transportation contract.

After graduation from the University of Michigan with a BA degree, he obtained certification in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and also in Economic Development from the IEDC at the University of Oklahoma. Early in his career, he was a seed grain farmer. Then the need to convert Kincheloe Air Force base in Michigan led to his serving as President of the Development Corporation responsible for that task. He was named Developer of the Year and served as President of NAID, now the ADC. He also received the Michigan Industrial Developers Award, and commendations from the President's Economic Adjustment Committee, the Secretary of Defense, and the Office of Economic Adjustment.

He and his wife will be moving to the area sometime in early May to begin his work with the community, the NeCDRA and the Matrix Design Group.