

NREDA Annual Conference November 5, 2007 Myrtle Beach, SC
Open Space Technology Session –
Economic Development Partnerships –
How to Form a Region From Scratch

Topic: Economic Development Partnerships / How to Form a Region From Scratch

Convener / Moderator: Ron Ebenkamp and Gordon Ipson

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Major Points:

Developing a regional partnership:

- How to initiate
- Hurdles in developing a regional partnership
- Need alliances, common causes
- Need to identify a niche common to the “region”
- Partner with schools, colleges, municipalities, chambers, community development organizations, workforce development providers, economic developers, local governments

Questions Raised:

What are the key issues in forming a successful regional partnership?

Strategies Discussed:

- Need a “driver” to initiate the group
- Asset mapping is needed
- Regional means breaking down the local, regional and state boundaries