

For Immediate Release
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McPherson Main Street Executive Director, Ann Engel, has announced her retirement effective May 31, 2023. Engel has served as Executive Director for 15 years, first assuming the position in March of 2008, after 29 years in her family business, Becker Tire of McPherson.

Engel says she has “been fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of business owners over the years, as well as a committed board and volunteer base.” During her 15 years as Executive Director she has been most excited to see the membership grow by 60% as local businesses became more aware of the value the organization brings to McPherson. “We have not only grown in membership numbers,” Engel said, “but we have drastically increased the use of our local funding program (Incentives Without Walls – IWW). With only 8 loans made prior to 2008, in the years following, we have funded 28 loans to both new and existing businesses who started up or expanded in our downtown area.” Engel also noted that the local Design Grant fund grew from \$500 to \$2500. The Design Grant is awarded annually to member businesses with smaller projects like awnings, signage, lighting or even painting the façade of their building.

When asked what she will miss the most, Engel said it will be the daily interactions with the business owners. “I feel such a sense of responsibility to assist them in every possible way to succeed, because they work so hard to make McPherson the success it is. THEY are the reason we exist.”

A retirement reception will be scheduled in the spring. The open position will be posted in the next few days and applications will be taken until the position is filled. Engel will be available to help with the hiring and training process, and as a consultant as needed.