LEXINGTON—It's not official and likely won't be until June but Dawson County may well be the newest dues-paying member of the West Central Nebraska Developmental District.

Karl Elmshaeuser, executive director of WCNDD, visited county commissioners during their regular bimonthly meeting on March 1.

Commissioners made no formal decision but are leaning toward paying the $2,300 annual dues to join WCNDD at the beginning of the agency's next fiscal year in June.

"He told us it would be in our best interest to wait," said county clerk Karla Zlatkovsky, "but I think they're already signing on as the county's responsible charge."

A responsible charge, Zlatkovsky said, is a person or agency in direct control who offers personal supervision of a federal aid project. In the county's case, that means federal roads projects.

"We have to have someone in charge who can oversee federal projects to make sure they are done correctly and according to federal guidelines," Zlatkovsky said.

The county has not previously used a responsible charge and currently has no federal roads projects in progress, she said, but the position would be required should a federal project come up.

Elmshaeuser said WCNDD could help the county through any federal projects and offer the oversight necessary.

Dawson County has been a non-paying member of WCNDD since last year.

Zlatkovsky said becoming a paying member will allow the county to take advantage of some of the other WCNDD services such as community and business development, nuisance abatement, owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and disaster relief.