

SRDC FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.
Center for Regional Development Office, 2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

AGENDA

| # | <u>Time</u> | | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 1 | 3:30 p.m. | Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance | |
| 2 | 3:30 p.m. | Introductions | |
| 3 | 3:33 p.m. | Additions to & Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda | |
| 4 | 3:35 p.m. | Commissioner Appointments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appointment of Eriann Faris, representing Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (2-year term)• Appointment of Shanda Walker, representing Southwest Center for Independent Living (2-year term) Action Needed: Approve Commissioner Appointments | |
| 5 | 3:40 p.m. | Consent Agenda Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 8, 2018 Full Commission Meeting Minutes• December 13, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes• 2019 NADO Annual Membership Dues Action Needed: Approval of Consent Agenda Items | 1-5 6-10 11 |
| 6 | 3:45 p.m. | Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Gravley & Finance Director Dianne Crowley</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December Receipts & Expenditures Report and Treasurer's Report Action Needed: Approval of December Receipts & Expenditures Report and Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Report through December, 2018 Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report | Handout Handout |
| 7 | 3:50 p.m. | Project Reviews — <i>Staff</i> As of the mailing there are no Project Reviews for Commission consideration. | |
| <u>Committee & Staff Reports</u> | | | |
| 8 | 3:50 p.m. | Audit Committee Report — <i>Committee Chair Gravley & Executive Director Jay Trusty</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRDC FY2018 Audit report Action Needed: Accept Audit Committee's Report | |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Development Report — <i>Staff</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDA Resolution Action Needed: Approval of EDA Resolution | 12-14 15 |

| # | <u>Time</u> | | <u>Page</u> |
|----------|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| | 4:10 p.m. | Legislative Committee Report — <i>Committee Chair Miron Carney</i> | |
| | 4:20 p.m. | Revolving Loan Funds — <i>RLF Committee Chair Byrnes & Economic Development Director Robin Weis</i> | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioners will be updated on current RLF activities. • Commissioners will be updated on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loan program. | 16 17 |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Transportation Report — <i>staff</i> | 18-20 |
| | 4:40 p.m. | Executive Director’s Report — <i>Executive Director Jay Trusty</i> | |
| | 4:50 p.m. | Chairman’s Report — <i>Chairman Mike Kuhle</i> | |
| 9 | 5:00 p.m. | Unfinished Business | |
| 10 | | New Business | |
| 11 | | Other Issues Lincoln, Lyon and Murray County Delegations will need to caucus prior to the March Full Commission Meeting to determine their representative (three year terms) on the SRDC Board of Directors. | |
| 12 | | Announcements SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: Cottonwood County Municipalities, Cottonwood County Townships, Lyon County Municipalities, Murray County Commissioners and Redwood County Municipalities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRDC Office closed on Monday, January 21st in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. • SRDC Orientation for New Commissioners & Newly Elected Officials: Saturday, February 2nd at the Murray County Fairgrounds 4-H Building. • SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, February 14th at 3:30 p.m. at the SRDC Office. • SRDC Office closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President’s Day. | |
| 13 | 5:05 p.m. | Adjournment | |



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Kuhle, Commissioners Larry Anderson, Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Pam Cooreman, Bill Crowley, Keith Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eloise Hauschild, Dennis Klingbile, Myron Koets, Bruce Kooiman, Hartwin Kreft, Gerald Magnus, Richard Peterson, Mic VanDeVere, Don Wachal, and Carol Wagner

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY: Commissioner Jane Steffen and alternate Nora Murphy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Vicky Bauman, Mike Davis, Paul DeBlieck, Stacie Golombiecki, Lori Grant, Daryl Hanenburg, Eric Hartman, Tim Jones, Paul Langseth, Maydra Maas, Ann Orren, Sherri Thompson, Bob VanHee, and Matt Widboom

GUESTS PRESENT: Jerry Wagner

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Dianne Crowley, Annette Fiedler, and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kuhle called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

There were no changes to the meeting agenda.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hauschild and seconded by Commissioner Kreft to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Kuhle announced the following appointments to the Commission: Ron Skjong, representing Region 8 Cultural Diversity public interest group (2-year term); Jane Steffen and alternate Nora Murphy, representing the Lower Sioux Community (2-year term) and Tom Hoff, representing Southwest Minnesota Higher Education.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the appointments of Ron Skjong, Jane Steffen (alternate Nora Murphy), and Tom Hoff as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kreft and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the following consent agenda item: September 13, 2018 Full Commission Meeting Minutes, October 11, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, and October Receipts & Expenditures Report. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

SRDC Treasurer Donna Gravley referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report, showing bank accounts and fund designations. The auditors have been working on putting the SRDC records into their computer software for review. They will be setting a timeline for completion of the audit and the onsite review in the near future.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Cooreman to approve the Treasurer's Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Dianne Crowley referred Commissioners to the Administrative Report through 10/31/18 in their handouts. Crowley informed Commissioners of one correction to the report, noting that equipment reserve usage and PACE reserve changes leaves operations with a decrease of \$(13,593), 10% of the budget.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kreft and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve the Administrative Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Two project reviews for LWECs to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission were presented by staff to Commissioners: Lake Benton II Repowering and Fenton Wind Project Site Permit Amendment Application. Questions regarding project specifications were answered. Discussion followed.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Koets and seconded by Commissioner Hauschild to accept the following Minnesota Public Utilities Commission project reviews as presented: Lake Benton II Repowering Application and Fenton Wind Project Site Permit Amendment Applications. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Report

The Budget & Personnel Committee met earlier in the day. Committee Chair Gravley reported that Communications Specialist Jessica Welu has successfully passed her probationary period and is being recommended to be placed on permanent employment status at the Commission.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the recommendations of the Budget & Personnel Committee to place Communications Specialist Jessica Welu on permanent status at the Commission. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Committee Chair Gravley reported that the Budget & Personnel Committee discussed the health insurance increase received from the Coop of 28%. Due to the high increase, two meetings were held with all affected staff members in order to present information on possible alternatives. Major factors considered were employee access to networks, deductible increases, plan differences and cost. At this time, the Budget & Personnel Committee is recommending that the SRDC discontinue insurance with the Coop but continue with Blue Cross & Blue Shield under the Blue Access network with the SRDC's current agent. Staff members will be offered 2 options, one an HSA plan and one a deductible/copy plan. Under the HSA plan, the deductibles are higher than the SRDC's current

HSA plan; therefore, the Committee recommends that the amount of the HSA be increased to equal 55% of the single and family deductibles. Utilizing these plans and increasing the employer contribution to the HSA would increase the overall cost of health insurance for the SRDC by 4.1% instead of 28%.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Kooiman to approve the recommendations of the Budget & Personnel Committee to discontinue insurance with the Coop but continue with Blue Cross & Blue Shield under the Blue Access network working with the SRDC's current agent as well as increase the amount of HSA contribution to 55% of the single and family deductibles. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

B. Development Report

Executive Director Jay Trusty referred Commissioners to the meeting packet which contained staff summaries/updates. Trusty highlighted the Lower Sioux's EDA investment of \$4,490,615 (total project cost \$5,157,450) for the construction of the Lower Sioux Intergenerational Cultural Incubator. Lower Sioux Commissioner Alternate Nora Murphy provided an update on the project. Executive Director Trusty also highlighted the Blandin Broadband Community Vision meeting held in Rock County, Brownfield Conference, Regional Equity Work, and the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan. All-Hazard Mitigations plan meetings are complete for all projects.

Physical Development Director Annette Fiedler highlighted the following activities: Murray County Ordinance update, the Solid Waste Commission meeting upcoming on November 26, recycling changes in the region, RMEB meeting and updates on CERT seed grants. The SW CERT will be hosting a Swine Energy Efficiency Workshop in Fairmont on November 15 and will hold a Steering Committee meeting on November 29 in Windom.

C. Revolving Loan Fund

Committee Chair Bob Byrnes referred Commissioners to their meeting packet which summarized recent RLF activities. Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$157,200. There are currently 37 active loans. Committee Chair Byrnes provided a brief history of the RLF program. Since the start of the program, there have been 142 RLF loans, 105 of which have been paid off. The RLF Committee is currently in need of a private sector lender to serve on the Committee following a retirement of a Committee member at the end of the year. Any recommendations can be sent to Economic Development Director Robin Weis.

PACE

Executive Director Jay Trusty referred Commissioners to their meeting packet for an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$165,214 (ARRA funds only). Weis has been directed to submit the ARRA 5 year extension by June 30, 2019.

D. Transportation Report

Committee Chair Gerald Magnus provided an update on upcoming ATP meetings. The ATP 7 meeting has been rescheduled for January 4, 2019 in Mankato. Physical Development Director Annette Fiedler referred Commissioners to the meeting packet which summarized current activities, including: Greater Minnesota Regional Transportation Organizational Planning Grant and Letter of Intent for TA and SRTS projects. Discussion of the projects followed. The CAV workshop is scheduled for February 28, 2019 from 1-4 p.m. at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

E. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jay Trusty reported on current activities, including the Broadband Coalition, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities, AMC and CERT. SRDC received an application to continue sponsoring Minnesota Housing Finance's Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) — SRDC reached 284% of its goal in 2018. Trusty also provided an update on election results and provided a report on the NADO Conference attended by Commissioner Koets, Executive Director Trusty and Economic Development Director Weis in October.

F. Chairman's Report

No report.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS

A. Lincoln County Commissioners

Commissioner Mic VanDeVere provided an update on current projects in Lincoln County.

B. Rock County Municipalities

Commissioner Keith Elbers provided an update on current projects in Luverne, Hills, and Beaver Creek.

C. Health & Human Services

Commissioner Ann Orren was unable to attend today's meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion.

OTHER ISSUES

A. SRDC Commissioner Recognition

The following Commissioners were recognized for their years of service on the SRDC: Larry Anderson, Pam Cooreman and Gerald Magnus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Kuhle referred Commissioners to the announcements on the agenda, including a listing of upcoming meetings in 2019. SRDC Commissioner Vacancies exist from the following representation: Cottonwood County Municipalities, Cottonwood County Town Boards, Lyon County Municipalities and Murray County Commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kuhle adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jessica Welu, SRDC Communications Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Hartwin Kreft,
SRDC Secretary

Mike Kuhle,
SRDC Chairman



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Kuhle, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Keith Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eloise Hauschild, Myron Koets, Hartwin Kreft, Paul Langseth and Richard Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Eric Hartman and Gerald Magnus

GUESTS PRESENT: Bob Van Hee (SRDC Commissioner)

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Annette Fiedler, Max Kaufman, Robin Weis and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mike Kuhle called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

Chairman Kuhle announced the following agenda additions. Following the Consent Agenda: Murray County Technical Services Contract Amendment. In Project Reviews: two project reviews for Commissioner consideration.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kreft and seconded by Commissioner Koets to approve the agenda with the additions as noted. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Rick Anderson asked that the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission contract be pulled from the Consent Agenda Items.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the following consent agenda items: November Receipts & Expenditures Report, Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission contract, Rural Minnesota Energy Board contract, Lincoln County contract, Jackson County RLF contract, City of Heron Lake RLF contract, and A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONTRACTS

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Koets to approve the contract with the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission. Upon votes taken; Ayes-9, Nays-0, Abstain-Commissioner Rick Anderson. Motion Carried.

Physical Development Director Annette Fiedler referred Commissioners to their handouts detailing the Contract Amendment for Murray County Technical Services. The amendment extends the original contract term due to a timing delay on behalf of project participants.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Murray County Technical Services Contract Amendment 2. Upon votes taken; Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

SRDC Treasurer Donna Gravley referred Commissioners to the Treasurer’s Report, showing bank accounts and fund designations. Gravley provided a brief update on the status of the SRDC’s FY2018 audit. The Audit Committee will meet next week and will present at the January Full Commission meeting.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kreft and seconded by Commissioner Hauschild to approve the Treasurer’s Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Executive Director Jay Trusty referred Commissioners to the Administrative Report through the end of November 2018.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Koets and seconded by Commissioner Kreft to approve the Administrative Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

There were two project reviews presented for Board consideration. Discussion followed.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Koets to accept the staff reviews completed on the Environmental Assessment Review on Prairie Feeder’s Swine Feedlot in Pipestone County and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Review on the Blazing Star Wind Farm 2’s Transmission Line Route Permit project. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Development Report

Economic Development Director Robin Weis referred Commissioners to the meeting packet which contained staff summaries/updates. An annual update of the CEDS will be submitted by the end of the year. Weis highlighted the November 30th event in Worthington featuring the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo to the USA who was interested in hearing about potential partnerships, including education and job shadowing as well as gap lending and mentoring programs. Chairman Kuhle provided additional information on the event to the Board. Weis also highlighted upcoming LYFT Career Pathways training sessions, the Minnesota Office of Broadband’s launch of a state-wide broadband benchmarking initiative called

CheckSpeedMinnesota, PCs for People, CDL Roundtable held on December 11th, and a Chronic Disease Self-Management program discussed at the November CLT. Discussion regarding Broadband and discussion of child care listening sessions and child care shortages followed.

Development Planner Max Kaufman provide an update on All-Hazard Mitigation Plans for Redwood, Lincoln, Cottonwood, Pipestone and Murray counties. All plans are in the Draft Plan Finalization phase. Once the plans are finalized, they will go into public hearing phase.

Physical Development Director Annette Fiedler provided an update on the Solid Waste Commission and RMEB meetings on November 26th, and the SW CERT Hog Energy Savings Workshop held on November 15th. Staff have been working on encouraging Green Step Cities to submit their reports.

B. Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Miron Carney provided an update on the 2019 Legislative Agenda. The Committee has not met since October 11th. Agenda items include: broadband access, childcare, and workforce housing. The Legislative Committee plans to make visits to St. Paul during the 2019 legislative session. SRDC Chairman Kuhle announced the appointment of Keith Elbers to the Legislative Committee following Commissioner Magnus' retirement. Discussion of agenda topics followed.

C. Revolving Loan Fund

RLF Committee Chair Bob Byrnes referred Commissioners to their meeting packet which summarized recent RLF activities. As of the report, funds were available in the approximate amount of \$171,363, not including an early payoff from a Rock County business at the beginning of December. A payoff is expected from a Redwood County business before January 1st. Byrnes also noted two changes to the RLF Committee effect January 1st: Kurt Richardson from Currie State Bank replacing Daniels and Eric Hartman as the SRDC representative replacing Thompson. Economic Development Director Robin Weis also noted that several MADO Economic Development Planners, including SRDC, assisted the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis with conducting a survey of local businesses on current business conditions. Survey results will be made available on the SRDC website.

PACE

Economic Development Director Weis referred Commissioners to their meeting packet for an update on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program. Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$93,275 (ARRA Funds only). Appropriation requests will go out prior to year-end. Weis noted that outreach requests after 12/31/18 will be referred to the PACE committee or RMEB members unless time and mileage reimbursement is available. Energy audit assistance is still available. Staff encourages members to assist with outreach in this area. If funds are not spent, they will need to be returned.

D. Transportation Report

Physical Development Director Annette Fiedler referred Commissioners to the meeting packet which summarized current activities, including: ATP 7, ATP 8, TA and SRTS projects, District Planning, Greater Minnesota Regional Transportation Organizational Planning Grant, TH 60

ribbon cutting, and upcoming CAV workshops on January 16 in Mankato and February 28 in Marshall. Fiedler referred Commissioners to the registration details in the meeting packet. Fielder also highlighted the Equity in Transportation interview that she, Development Planner Kaufman and Executive Director Trusty participated in.

Development Planner Max Kaufman provided an update on the Active Living Plans and Safe Routes to School Implementation, Toward Zero Deaths/Safe Roads, and Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission.

E. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jay Trusty reported on current activities, including the Regional Sustainable Development Partnership Meeting in Windom which highlighted deep winter greenhouses and a backhaul project, AMC Conference, and Highway 60 Ribbon Cutting. Geronimo Wind sent a letter regarding the Plum Creek Wind Farm Project. If the SRDC would like to meet with them regarding the project, they will. Trusty also informed Commissioners that the SRDC had received an invitation from the McKnight Foundation to apply for funding to assist with financing a new planner position to focus on Energy Planning. McKnight accepted SRDC's pre-application and Trusty completed a site visit this week and was informed to expect a proposal to extend the grant to two years for the final application. Trusty also announced the upcoming SRDC Orientation Workshop on February 2, 2019.

F. Chairman's Report

Chairman Mike Kuhle highlighted two ceremonies for the region: Highway 60 Ribbon Cutting and the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System connection in Worthington. Both projects are important accomplishments for the region. A discussion of the two projects followed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion.

OTHER ISSUES

Commissioner Van Hee discussed the Grow Own Summit which took place on November 8 in Marshall.

Commissioner Byrnes highlighted two new items: Loaves & Fishes in Marshall held an event serving its millionth meal, and Missouri River Energy Services is in works of creating a generation station near Marshall.

Discussion of these topics followed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Kuhle referred Commissioners to the announcements included on the agenda.

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: Cottonwood County Municipalities, Cottonwood County Townships, Murray County Commissioners, and Lyon County Municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Kuhle adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jessica Welu, SRDC Communications Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Hartwin Kreft
SRDC Secretary

Mike Kuhle
SRDC Chairman



Invoice #: INV-13973-ZBXQGV

National Association of Development Organizations
 400 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 388
 Washington, DC 20001
 Phone: 202-624-7806 Fax: 202-624-8813

INVOICE

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------|
| Organization Name | Southwest RDC | Date | 12/10/2018 |
| Address | Jayne I. Trusty | PO No. | |
| City/State/Zip | 2401 Broadway Ave Ste 1 | | |
| | Slayton, MN 56172-1168 | | |

2019 NADO Annual Membership Dues

| Description | Total |
|---|-------------------|
| Yes, I want to renew my current membership. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General, 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019 | \$2,000.00 |
| Invoice Total: | \$2,000.00 |
| Yes, I want to upgrade my membership. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining, 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019 | \$3,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum, 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019 | \$4,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Plus, 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019 | \$6,000.00 |
| <i>Please reference this invoice number with your payment.</i> | |

METHOD OF PAYMENT Write in total amount of dues and any voluntary donation.
 Please charge my credit card for \$ _____ Enclosed find my check for \$ _____
 Card # _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____ Security Code: _____
 (month) (year)
 Card Type: VISA MasterCard American Express Discover (circle one)
 Name on Card: _____
 Billing Address: _____

DEVELOPMENT REPORT

January 2019

A. CEDS REPORT

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

C. COMMUNITY AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Local Assistance / Land Use, Planning and Zoning
- Waste Management / Energy / Natural Resources

A. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

An annual CEDS update was submitted 12/31/18. A few things to note are:

- Social Capital was changed to Equity and Inclusion
- Natural Resources and Water Quality were combined
- Transportation and Active Transportation were combined

B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

EDA Grant—The SRDC was notified that the timing of submitting the EDA grant is significantly earlier than previous years to allow time for the contracts to be fully executed by the project start date (7/1/19). The EDA grant is due 1/11/19. The grant is a 3 year grant. A resolution is required as part of the grant submission. EDA staff are unavailable during the partial federal shut-down.

Southwest ED Pros—ED Pros is a group of economic development professionals that meet occasionally to learn more about new programs, share best practices, etc. If you have a topic and/or speaker in mind for a future meeting, please contact staff. Dates are being tossed around for a February or March meeting date.

Statewide Economic Development Planners—The MADDO Economic Development planners are meeting on January 10th to further review DevelopMN SMART goals connected to each cornerstone component. Our next step being looked into is development of a dashboard to showcase progress and accomplishments.

Local Economic Development—Staff is available to assist with local job fairs, technical assistance, data research, etc. The 2019 career expo in Marshall at SMSU will be held September 24 and in Worthington at Minnesota West on September 25. SRDC staff assists with the game show.

Business Assistance—Staff continues to assist inquiries made regarding business start-ups, retentions, and expansions and financing. Staff assists with 3 additional revolving loan fund programs within the region.

Grant Assistance—Staff continues to relay information in regards to grants to appropriate organizations/businesses. Applications for the Good Food Access Program Equipment & Physical Improvement Grant is Due January 17. The Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant (GFAP) increases the availability of and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food (including produce) for underserved communities in low and moderate income areas by helping grocery stores and small food retailers make physical improvements and purchase equipment (such as coolers and freezers). For-profit and non-profit grocery stores, small food retailers (such as corner stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets and mobile food markets), and retail food outlets operated by an emergency food program or food hub are eligible to apply. Past applicants are encouraged to reapply. Deadline to apply is 4 p.m. on Thursday, January 17. For more details, please visit <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/gfapequipmentgrant>.

Daycare—Staff developed a Child Care Resource Guide to assist with new models and options.

LYFT Career Pathways—Watch for details on a local workshop to be scheduled February 6, February 20 or March 7 in 2019 with a potential location of Balaton. The training will encourage partnerships between schools and industry by showcasing local success stories.

Labor Market Data—Tools can be found at <https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/>.

Broadband—We invite you to visit <https://checkspeedminnesota.com/> and run the speed test from home, work, and/or your mobile phone. By running this test, your voice will help policy-makers better understand where to focus their attention and efforts to support border to border broadband.

PCs for People—As part of Rock County’s Blandin Broadband Community project, they have confirmed their distribution date and time of Tuesday, January 15 at 2pm at the Law Enforcement Center in Luverne. As part of the distribution, they have a training area for PCs for People to show recipients some computer basics. During the event, PCs for People can take computers donated by the community. If any businesses are interested in donating used equipment, here are their guidelines: <https://www.pcsforpeople.org/ewaste-pickup-and-removal/>. PCs for People just needs to know ahead of the event about how much equipment they’ll be picking up for transportation and storage purposes.

C. COMMUNITY AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Local Assistance / Land Use, Planning and Zoning

All-Hazard Mitigation Plans:

- All remaining plans are in the Draft Plan Finalization phase: Cottonwood, Murray, Lincoln, Pipestone, Redwood.
- The SRDC & Emergency Management Directors are in the process of gathering final demographic, geologic, HAZUS, and other background information for the remaining updates. Once the plans are finalized, they will go into public hearing phase for 30 days, after which they will be accepted by HSEM & FEMA and then must be adopted by resolution by each participating jurisdiction. All plans must be complete and approved by August 8, 2019 (end of contract).

Planning and Zoning:

- Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan—has been approved. We will begin update of the Land Use codes in 2019.
- Murray County Ordinance update—Staff continues to work with Murray County staff and the Planning Commission on the update of the Zoning Ordinances. A contract extension was approved at the December SRDC Board of Directors meeting. The completion of the contract has been delayed due to staff commitments on other projects.

Waste Management / Energy / Natural Resources

Waste Management

- The Solid Waste Commission met on November 26th. Topics discussed included: contract with SRDC, dues, tax forfeiture property clean up and funding sources used to do the cleanup; closure of the Renville County Landfill; and potentially applying for a MNTAP intern. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2019 at 10:30 am.

Energy

RMEB—met on November 26. Topics discussed included: 25th PACE loan; legislative issues; a presentation by the SPPA regarding MinnPACE; County reports (status of projects that are moving forward, how production tax

is being used, tower lighting); report by SW CERT; outgoing member recognition; and a report on USDA funded projects in Minnesota. The next meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 1 pm in Slayton. Topics at the January meeting: RUTE, a precast technology for Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems (ALDS) – a speaker from Tenaska.

SW CERT: The Hog Energy Savings workshop was held in Fairmont on November 15th, 35 people attended. The SW CERT Steering Committee met on Nov 29 in Windom as part of the RSDP meeting to update the 2019 work program. Staff has met with UCAP the Wx program they operate.

Seed grants status: Two of the 5 grants have been completed with paperwork completed (Federated and Worthington HRA). Status of remaining: Windom—the new contractor is doing work on the entryway signs, the north sign will be solar and south will be wired to electricity; United Community Action has completed their blower door project, and are in the process of reporting requirements; SW Minnesota Housing Partnership—project will have an amendment in order to address staffing changes and a delay in pre and post blower door testing, the project deadline was extended to June 1, 2019.

Staff has been working on encouraging Green Step Cities (Marshall, St James, Vesta, and Sherburn) to submit their reports and offered to provide technical assistance in moving forward with their initiatives. Staff has developed a more complete list of questions to help other CERT Coordinators with determining status of the projects.

A survey of all the electric utilities was sent out to identify which self-identify as being required to have a conservation Improvement program (CIP), and which choose to have a voluntary program; outreach areas they are looking at in 2019 and if they would like CERT assistance with outreach; and if they would like any peer to peer workshops – with what topic.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The nine counties of Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles, and Jackson located in Southwestern Minnesota, have demonstrated by their actions that they are committed to improving the economic conditions and quality of life of their people, and

WHEREAS, the inherent volatility of the agricultural markets, inadequate workforce housing availability, lack of daycare options and limited availability of capital for investment have adversely affected our economy. In addition, the outmigration and aging of the region’s population is resulting in the decrease of available labor force; and

WHEREAS, the current economic distress requires continuous and direct attention and action to assist area residents in their pursuit of economic independence and to assist area business persons towards successful competition in the business climate of today; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Development Commission has been instrumental in the creation of employment opportunities, the retention of existing opportunities, and the dissemination of information that provides assistance to industry and business in the achievement of these objectives; and

WHEREAS, the continued designation of the Southwest Regional Development Commission as an Economic Development District will expand and enhance the Regions’ opportunities to diversify and strengthen our economy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Regional Development Commission wishes to continue to actively participate in the activities of the economic development district; by applying to the U.S. Department of Commerce for Planning Partnership Assistance under the Economic Development Administration; and that the three year local share in the amount of \$210,000 is committed and in place; and giving authorization to submit, administer and execute the aforementioned agreement to the Executive Director and/or Economic Development Director.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Southwest Regional Development Commission at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 10th day of January, 2019 by the minutes of said meeting.

Mike Kuhle, SRDC Chairman

Jayme Trusty, SRDC Executive Director

Date: _____

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Report- January 2019

A. FUNDS AVAILABLE

Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$240,000 (includes January payments received). Working on potential applications from Cottonwood, Murray and Nobles Counties.

B. RECENT ACTIVITY

RLF Committee—The committee meets as needed. 2019 committee members are Byrnes, Carney and Hartman as SRDC representatives and 2 members from the banking industry. A big thank you goes out to Wanda Daniels from Fulda who retired December 31 (banking industry representative) and to Sherri Thompson (SRDC representative) who served on the committee since early 2017.

Servicing Issues—On-going loan servicing issues continue to be addressed, as well as site visits. These include recent issues such as business succession planning. Our new site visit template is working out well.

New Applicants— The SRDC RLF continues to field calls from potential applicants. Interest rates are as low as 4%. The SRDC RLF Application (fillable) and Requirements Checklist is updated online and can be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/>.

EDA RLF Webinar—The 12/11 EDA RLF webinar was entitled “Development Loan Committees and Monitoring their Involvement.” A conference call with our mentees from South Central Oregon EDD (Oregon) and South Central Ozark Council of Governments (Missouri) will follow.

Federal Reserve Bank on Minneapolis Surveys—Several MADO Economic Development Planners, including SRDC, assisted the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (part of the Federal Reserve System) conduct a survey of local businesses on current business conditions. The Federal Reserve Bank was seeking information about general business demand, labor availability, wages and other economic matters. Survey results are available upon request.

If you have questions about the RLF report, please contact Robin Weis, Economic Development Director, at 507-836-1638 or via e-mail at robin@swrdc.org.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

Revolving Loan Fund Report- January 2019

A. FUNDS AVAILABLE

Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$107,194 (ARRA Funds Only).

25 loans have been approved thus far totaling \$931,892.06. The latest loan was to a Lyon County business in the amount of \$73,400 which includes a walk-out refrigeration/freezer unit, LED lights and windows.

REED and REDG funds are being kept to comply with future loan payment obligations. It is expected that much of the REED loan will be paid back prior to January 2019 month end, based on preliminary feedback received from RMEB members. Appropriation requests have gone out.

B. PACE COMMITTEE

The committee meets as needed or in conjunction with the RMEB. The committee last met on November 26. A big thank you goes out to Gerald Magnus, Bob Fox and Scott Sanders as they go off the PACE committee 12/31/18. 2019 PACE committee members are Gene Metz, Will Purvis, Don Wachal, Mic VanDeVere and Dan Wildermuth.

Weis will submit the ARRA 5 year extension by June 30, 2019.

C. GENERAL INFORMATION

PACE is available to businesses, including agri-business, as well as non-profits, including churches. If you have groups in your area that would benefit from hearing about PACE, please contact Robin. Outreach requests in 2019 will be referred to the PACE committee or RMEB members unless time and mileage reimbursement is available.

Energy audit assistance has been helpful in generating interest for PACE and energy efficiency in general. The USDA Energy Audit Assistance program was extended for one year ending April 2019. Staff encourages members to assist with outreach in this area in particular as if funds are not spent, they will need to be returned.

For the latest Energy Audit Assistance applications or the PACE brochure and application, please go to <http://www.rmeb.org/pace.htm>.

If you have questions about PACE, or about energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Economic Development Director, at 507-836-1638 or via e-mail at robin@swrdc.org.

Transportation Report – January 2019

SRDC Transportation Committee: No meeting scheduled at this time.

Area Transportation Partnerships:

ATP 7 — met on January 4, 2019 in Mankato and is scheduled to meet on March 8.

ATP 8 — is scheduled to meet on March 8. The TA Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 15, 2019.

TA and SRTS projects: The full applications were due January 4, 2019. Staff will update the Commission on applications that were submitted.

Programming Update Workgroup: No report.

District 7 and 8 CHIP outreach: No report.

Transportation Planners Meeting: is scheduled for February 19-20 in St Cloud.

Greater Minnesota Regional Transportation Organizational Planning Grant: Staff at UCAP, SRDC Staff, and representatives from Lyon, Lincoln, Cottonwood, Redwood and Pipestone Counties discussed a modified proposal to MnDOT. UCAP staff is in the process of proposal revision, which is due on February 15, 2019.

District 7 Manufacturers Study: District 7 will be undergoing the development of a Freight Plan with the focus on Manufacturers. Staff is assisting with interviews.

District 8 Freight Plan: In 2019, the District will begin the process to develop a new freight plan.

TH 60 Ribbon Cutting: The Southwest Highway 60 Corporation hosted a celebration of the completed corridor with a ceremonial ribbon cutting on Dec. 14, 2018. The By Laws of the Southwest Minnesota Highway 60 Action Corporation were adopted on August 1, 1984. Article 1 identifies the purpose of the Corporation “to work with and encourage the Minnesota Department of Transportation in reconstruction of Trunk Highway 60 to expressway standards.”

CAV: The Mankato workshop is scheduled for January 16, 2019 at the MnDOT District 7 Office – 2151 Bassett Drive, Mankato, MN 56001 from 1 to 4 p.m. The CAV workshop in Marshall: Southwest Minnesota State University Conference Center – 310 Loop Street, Marshall, MN 56258 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2019. Registration details are on the last page of this report.

Active Living Plans: *Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Community Leadership Team (CLT):* Staff continues to work and connect with SHIP in both Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services’ SHIP region (Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles) and the Southwest Health and Human Services SHIP Region (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock). MDH has stated that SHIP is to work with their Active Living and SRTS Plan communities on a quarterly basis for the next 10 years or so.

DVHHS SHIP (Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles) Update:

- Staff continues to participate in CLT meetings & explore options for collaboration.

SWHHS SHIP (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock) Update:

- Staff continues to participate in the two CLTs in both Marshall and Luverne.
- SRTS & Active Living Facilitation: New contract has begun to work with SRTS and Active Living communities on implementation. Recent/Upcoming Meetings: Tracy Active Living (11/28), Redwood Falls SRTS (12/3), Ivanhoe SRTS (12/19).

TZD/Safe Roads:

- Each MnDOT District will now have its own TZD Coordinator. Annette Larson will remain with the South Central District (D7) and the SW District (D8) is in the process of hiring a new coordinator.
- Cottonwood/Jackson: Coalition is getting started with social media efforts, community outreach efforts, and is planning a Joyride program for the summer of 2019. (Next meeting: January 16, 2019).

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission: Staff is conducting outreach to potential designee applicants. Year-end administrative assistants' meeting was held in St. Cloud 12/12 to discuss how the year went with this new model for the GMRPTC. Contract with GMRPTC was renewed for 2019, and three DPC meetings will be held and a district-wide mapping effort is being undertaken.

To create an application for designation, develop a qualified Unit Master Plan, or (if designated) apply for funding, visit: <http://www.gmrptcommission.org/applications.html>.

SRTS Planning Grants: Parent surveys and student tallies are done. Staff will continue to gather background data.

Round Lake-Brewster is applying for planning assistance for their Elementary/Middle School in Brewster.

Marshall CAV Scenario Workshop Material

The [Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) (MnDOT) would like to invite you to attend the Marshall Connected and Automated Scenario planning workshop to be held at **Southwest Minnesota State University Conference Center – 310 Loop Street, Marshall, MN 56258 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2019.**

During this workshop we'll explore how connected and automated vehicles (CAV) could change transportation and life in Minnesota in the next 20 years. The goal of these workshops is to get insight on how different CAV futures may impact Minnesotans and to develop approaches for the benefit of people across the state. If you'd like to participate, please register here: <https://bit.ly/2BAEEDI>

Target Audience

- City and county engineers and planners
- ATP, RDO, MPO staff and committees
- Local elected officials
- University staff and students
- Consultants
- Auto dealers
- Title VI populations
- Transit operators
- Truckers and trucking companies, freight
- Lyft, Uber, taxi
- Economic development staff
- Private technology companies
- Non-MnDOT people
- Public health, HHS staff
- Bike/ped advocates
- Tribes
- Chamber of Commerce
- Others involved in regulation

RSVP Link: <https://bit.ly/2BAEEDI>