



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 14, 2021
3:30 p.m.



SRDC was in Tyler on September 29, 2021 conducting hazard observations and traffic counts at the new RTR school

Center for Regional Development
2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Commissioner

Rick Anderson
Bob Byrnes
Miron Carney
Keith Elbers
Donna Gravley
Eric Hartman
Dennis Klingbile
Myron Koets
Mike Kuhle
Paul Langseth
Richard Peterson
Bob Van Hee
Dennis Welgraven

Representing

Lyon County
City of Marshall
Murray County
Rock County
Cottonwood County
Region 8 School Boards
Lincoln County
Pipestone County, SRDC Vice Chair
City of Worthington, SRDC Chairman
Nobles County
Jackson County, SRDC Secretary
Redwood County
Murray County, SRDC Treasurer

SRDC Full Commission Membership

- One (1) County member from each of the nine counties.
- One (1) Township member from each of the nine counties.
- One (1) Mayor/Council member from each municipality over 10,000 in population.
- One (1) Mayor/council member for each of the nine counties representing cities under 10,000.
- Two (2) School Board members.
- One (1) Lower Sioux Indian Community member.
- Five (5) Public Interest Groups

SRDC Board of Director Membership

- SRDC Chairman & a regional commissioner from each county elected by the regional commissioners from each county and:
- One (1) Elected commissioner from each city over 10,000 in population.
 - One (1) Elected commissioner from any county with a population of more than 20,000 but without a city over 10,000 in population nominated by the regional commissioners of that county.
 - One (1) School board member selected by the Commission as a whole.



SRDC

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, October 14, 2021
3:30pm

Center for Regional Development
2401 Broad St, Slayton, MN

AGENDA

#	<u>Time</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	3:30pm	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	3:32pm	Introductions	
3	3:35pm	Additions to and Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	
4	3:37pm	Consent Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August Receipts & Expenditures Report Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	5-7
5	3:40pm	Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Welgraven & Finance Director Swart</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approve Treasurer's Report	8
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Report through August 2021 Action Needed: Approve Administrative Report	9
6	3:45pm	Project Reviews — <i>Development Planner Bruce-White</i> As of the mailing there are no Project Reviews for consideration.	
7		<u>Committee & Staff Reports</u>	
7a	3:45pm	Budget & Personnel Committee Report — <i>Committee Chair Welgraven</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review topics discussed by Committee Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations	
7b	3:55pm	Economic Development Report — <i>Deputy Director Weis & Development Planner Bruce-White</i>	10-15
7c	4:05pm	Revolving Loan Funds Report — <i>Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis</i>	16-17
7d	4:15pm	Physical Development Report — <i>Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker</i>	18
7e	4:20pm	Community Development Report — <i>Communications Specialist Welu</i>	19
7f	4:25pm	Transportation Report — <i>Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Trails Plan EDA Proposal—<i>Bruce-White, Walker & Welu</i> • Regional Trails Resolution Action Needed: Approve Resolution	20-21 22-25 26-27
7g	4:40pm	Executive Director's Report — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	
7h	4:50pm	Chairman's Report — <i>Chairman Koets</i>	

8 5:00pm **Unfinished Business**

9 5:00pm **New Business**—*Chairman Koets & Executive Director Trusty*

SRDC Board Retreat: October 28-29 at Arrowwood Resort, Okoboji, IA 28-29

10 **Other Issues**

11 **Announcements**

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation:
Nobles County Municipalities, Pipestone County Townships, Redwood
County Municipalities, and Region 8 Cultural Diversity.

- SRDC Office closed Thursday, November 11th in observation of Veterans Day
- SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, November 18 at 3:30 pm at the Slayton 4-H Building (3rd Thursday due to Veterans Day)

12 5:10pm **Adjourn**

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Unposted General Ledger Transactions - Board Receipts Report - By Month

Document...	Transaction Description	Debit	Credit
8/2/2021	C-RLF Loan Borrowers: Repayment		11,217.97
8/2/2021	East Central RDC: MRBC 2021 Membership		750.00
8/2/2021	Jackson County: MN DNR PILT Funds		529.23
8/2/2021	RLF Loan Borrowers: Repayment		17,534.83
8/2/2021	SW Initiative Foundation: MRBC 2021 Membership		1,000.00
8/2/2021	SWHHS: June 2021 Contract		180.00
8/3/2021	U.S. Treasury: C-RLF Request		38,480.83
8/3/2021	U.S. Treasury: C-RLF Request (Admin Only)		11,519.17
8/6/2021	City of Tracy: June 2021 Contract		405.00
8/6/2021	KDOM/Next Step: RLF Legal Fees		600.00
8/6/2021	KDOM/Next Step: RLF Origination Fees		750.00
8/6/2021	mecatronic Auto Repair: C-RLF Legal Fees		400.00
8/6/2021	mecatronic Auto Repair: C-RLF Origination Fees		975.00
8/6/2021	SWMHP: Financial/Secretarial (July 2021)		228.25
8/6/2021	SWMHP: Lease Payment - Aug 2021 (Addition)		2,044.19
8/6/2021	SWMHP: Lease Payment - Aug 2021 (Original)		705.79
8/9/2021	City of Heron Lake: RLF (June 2021)		15.00
8/9/2021	Iron Horse Riders: MC Xmas Project Donations		400.00
8/9/2021	Lincoln County: Solid Waste (May-June 2021)		450.00
8/9/2021	R.G. Music: C-RLF Legal Fees		500.00
8/9/2021	R.G. Music: C-RLF Origination Fees		750.00
8/9/2021	Women of Today: Labels		16.99
8/9/2021	Women of Today: Sales Tax on Labels		1.17
8/10/2021	The Dance Academy: NSF Bank Fees (C-RLF)		10.00
8/10/2021	The Dance Academy: NSF Check Covered		564.97
8/10/2021	The Dance Academy: NSF SRDC Fees (C-RLF)		20.00
8/16/2021	Casey Jones: June 2021 Contract		301.15
8/16/2021	SWMHP: July 2021 Monthly Costs		3,834.79
8/18/2021	U.S. Treasury: C-EDA Fund Request #4		38,056.05
8/19/2021	U.S. Treasury: EDA Fund Request		35,927.17
8/20/2021	Annette Fiedler: Health Insurance (Sept 2021)		750.37
8/20/2021	Temple Rock/Don Schoenrock - RLF App Fee		150.00
8/23/2021	ACE of SW MN: Copies		140.50
8/23/2021	ACE of SW MN: Phone		0.57
8/23/2021	Rakuten: Office Supplies Rebates		6.25
8/27/2021	The Dance Academy: NSF / Fees (C-RLF) Covered		653.22
8/30/2021	CTC: MRBC 2021 Membership		750.00
8/31/2021	Currie State Bank - Interest Income - 08/31/21		0.22
8/31/2021	First Independent Bank - Interest Income - 08/31/21		6.85
8/31/2021	Jackson Federal/Savings: Interest Income - 08/31/21		31.63
8/31/2021	Knott's Corner: PACE Loan (Principal Only) Extra		419.61
8/31/2021	Minnwest Bank: C-RLF Interest Income - 08/31/21		3.31
8/31/2021	Minnwest Bank: Falcon Dev Interest Income - 08/31/21		4.42
8/31/2021	Minnwest Bank: SEP - Interest Income - 08/31/21		11.66
8/31/2021	United Prairie Bank: Interest Income - 08/31/21		4.23
Report Total		0.00	171,100.39

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 8/1/2021 Through 8/31/2021

Session ID	Check N...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APC22-00009	59173	8/2/2021	Marco A Narez Torres/Maria G...	C-RLF Loan Disbursement - (mecatronic Auto) (...)	65,000.00	8/2/2021
APC22-00010	59174	8/3/2021	Nobles County Auditor/Treasu...	C-RLF Loan: Mortgage Registry Tax (R.G. Music)	115.00	8/3/2021
APC22-00010	59175	8/3/2021	Nobles County Recorder	C-RLF Loan: Assignment Lease/Rents (R.G. Mus...	46.00	8/3/2021
APC22-00010	59176	8/3/2021	Nobles County Recorder	C-RLF Loan: Mortgage Filing Fee (R.G. Music)	46.00	8/3/2021
APC22-00010	59177	8/3/2021	Nobles County Recorder	C-RLF Loan: Request for Notice Filing Fee (R.G....	46.00	8/3/2021
APC22-00010	59178	8/3/2021	Rodolfo Gorra-Ojeda/Maria R. ...	C-RLF Loan Disburse (Rodolfo Gorra-Ojeda/M. G...	50,000.00	8/3/2021
APC22-00013	59179	8/6/2021	City of Slayton	Sewer/Water: 06/17/21 - 07/22/21	27.60	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59179	8/6/2021	City of Slayton	Sewer/Water: 06/17/21 - 07/22/21	18.40	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59180	8/6/2021	City of Wabasso	Rental of Facilities: Commissioner Mtg 09/09/21	135.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59181	8/6/2021	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water/Salt: July 2021	5.15	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59181	8/6/2021	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water/Salt: July 2021	25.44	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59182	8/6/2021	David R. Samuelson	Groundkeeping: July 2021	48.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59182	8/6/2021	David R. Samuelson	Groundkeeping: July 2021	72.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59183	8/6/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Two Cases of Towels	47.38	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59183	8/6/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Two Cases of Towels	71.06	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59184	8/6/2021	Frontier Communications	Monthly Maint Contract (07/25/21 - 08/24/21)	36.39	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59184	8/6/2021	Frontier Communications	Monthly Maint Contract (07/25/21 - 08/24/21)	67.59	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59185	8/6/2021	Grants Management Systems ...	Services: July, 2021	35.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59185	8/6/2021	Grants Management Systems ...	Services: July, 2021	105.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59186	8/6/2021	Hub City Enterprises, LLC	Service: Re-Key for New Tenants; 5 Keys	12.50	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59186	8/6/2021	Hub City Enterprises, LLC	Service: Re-Key for New Tenants; 5 Keys	70.00	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59187	8/6/2021	Northwest Gas	Fuel: 06/26/21 - 07/23/21	7.58	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59187	8/6/2021	Northwest Gas	Fuel: 06/26/21 - 07/23/21	10.90	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59188	8/6/2021	One Office Solution	Contract(Sharp MX 6071) Meter Reading	56.23	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59189	8/6/2021	Quill Corporation	Office Supplies	54.39	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59189	8/6/2021	Quill Corporation	Office Supplies	157.93	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59190	8/6/2021	Slayton EDA	Lease Payment - Aug 2021	4,816.78	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59191	8/6/2021	William P. Landsman	Presenter: Staff Retreat (August 2021)	101.25	8/6/2021
APC22-00013	59191	8/6/2021	William P. Landsman	Presenter: Staff Retreat (August 2021)	1,346.20	8/6/2021
APC22-00014	59192	8/20/2021	AFLAC	AFLAC - 08/12/21	127.79	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59193	8/20/2021	Chandler Co-Op	Fuel: July 2021	22.10	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59194	8/20/2021	Citizen Publishing Co. (Cotton...	Annual Subscription Renewal	54.00	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59195	8/20/2021	Frontier Communications	Telephone: 08/04/21 - 09/03/21	529.41	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59195	8/20/2021	Frontier Communications	Telephone: 08/04/21 - 09/03/21	285.07	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59196	8/20/2021	Jason Nielsen	RLF Contracted Services: 07/22/21	37.50	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59196	8/20/2021	Jason Nielsen	RLF Contracted Services: 07/22/21	12.50	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59197	8/20/2021	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Qtrly Subscription: 8/16/21 - 11/15/21	156.78	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59198	8/20/2021	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project Donations	400.00	8/20/2021

Southwest Regional Development Commission

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From 8/1/2021 Through 8/31/2021

Session ID	Check N...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APC22-00014	59199	8/20/2021	Quill Corporation	WOT: Labels	16.99	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59200	8/20/2021	Schaap Sanitation	Sanitation: 08/01/21 - 08/31/21	43.34	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59200	8/20/2021	Schaap Sanitation	Sanitation: 08/01/21 - 08/31/21	28.89	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59201	8/20/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Backup Software Renewal - 3 years (VEEAM)	701.80	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59201	8/20/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Backup Software Renewal - 3 years (VEEAM)	701.80	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59202	8/20/2021	Verizon Wireless	Tablets: 07/02/21 - 08/01/21	80.40	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59203	8/20/2021	XCEL Energy	Electricity: 07/04/21 - 08/04/21	369.85	8/20/2021
APC22-00014	59203	8/20/2021	XCEL Energy	Electricity: 07/04/21 - 08/04/21	257.02	8/20/2021
APC22-00017	59204	8/27/2021	Abila	MIP - Subscription - Sept 2021	585.90	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59205	8/27/2021	AFLAC	AFLAC - 08/25/21	127.79	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59206	8/27/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 07/16/21 - 08/17/21	20.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59206	8/27/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 07/16/21 - 08/17/21	687.28	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59206	8/27/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 07/16/21 - 08/17/21	104.98	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59206	8/27/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 07/16/21 - 08/17/21	40.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59207	8/27/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	One Case of Towels	24.01	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59207	8/27/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	One Case of Towels	36.02	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59208	8/27/2021	Marilyn Samuelson	Aug 2021 - Janitorial Services	328.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59208	8/27/2021	Marilyn Samuelson	Aug 2021 - Janitorial Services	472.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59209	8/27/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	Aug 2021 Contract (MRBC Government)	750.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59210	8/27/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	Aug 2021 Contract (MRBC Organizational)	1,000.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59211	8/27/2021	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	Pera Life: Aug 2021 Deductions	48.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59212	8/27/2021	River City Eatery	Staff Retreat Lunch 2021	221.23	8/27/2021
APC22-00017	59213	8/27/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Labor: Camera/Jay	40.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00016	813	8/27/2021	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Commissioner Exp: 07/08/21	83.44	8/27/2021
APC22-00016	813	8/27/2021	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Commissioner Exp: 07/08/21	50.00	8/27/2021
APC22-00016	814	8/27/2021	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Commissioner Exp: 03/11/21; 05/13/21	100.00	8/27/2021
Report Total					131,124.66	

TREASURER'S REPORT
MONTH END September 30, 2021

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund

			APY
Bank	Amount	Due Date	Interest Rate
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson	100,669.46	02/10/22	0.75%
Currie State Bank-Currie	109,552.12	09/02/21	0.70%
First Independent Bank-Russell	103,170.73	07/05/22	0.30%
TOTAL	<u>\$ 313,392.31</u>		

NOTE: The security deposit for the office building in the amount of \$50,000 is at the Slayton City Clerk's office at an investment rate of .75% . We currently have extra security at Minnwest Bank-Slayton and United Prairie Bank-Jackson to allow deposits above FDIC limits.

ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts

Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 3,000.00
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	382,485.49
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	8,016.62
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	40,345.97
United Prairie Bank-Jackson	Savings	161,019.00
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	149,008.67
	TOTAL ACCOUNTS	<u>\$ 743,875.75</u>
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>313,392.31</u>

Approximate Designated Funds-Projects

Murray Co. Early Childhood Coalition	\$ (2,159.59)	
Regional Cultural Diversity Coalition	(1,904.27)	
MN Rural Broadband Coalition	(25,015.86)	
Designated Funds	(11,296.85)	
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Equipment	(90,879.26)	
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Building	(243,151.09)	
Committed to: Unemployment Claims	(58,186.06)	
Committed to: Employee Retirement Transition	(33,479.87)	
Compensated Absences Payable	(62,000.00)	
Subtotal Dedicated Funds in bank accounts	\$ (528,072.85)	
SubtotalCashflow amount	\$ 529,195	
	FUNDS FOR CASHFLOW	<u>\$ 529,195</u>

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 50	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	156,301	Total EDA RLF
Currie State Bank-RLF Savings-(business loans only)	2,570	158,871
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	86,169	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	86,259	ST PACE Loan Funds
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only) (Possible Admin.Considerations)	266,070	352,329
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off loans & admin)	14,102	Total PACE
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	366,431
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	<u>\$ 611,521</u>	

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Month End August Fiscal Year 2021

YTD Comparison % of Budget 16.67

	FY21 Budget	July	August	Pending	Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
Revenues								
Taxes	405,650	33,804.17	33,804.17	0.00	67,608.33	338,041.67	16.7%	Taxes earned to date, payments primarily received in Dec and Jun
Contract for Services	119,076	4,196.65	10,598.36	0.00	14,795.01	104,280.99	12.4%	Based on activity earned to date.
MnDOT	75,000	2,569.98	3,827.93	0.00	6,397.91	68,602.09	8.5%	Based on activity earned to date.
Safe Routes to School	15,992		1,305.00	0.00	1,305.00	14,687.00	8.2%	Based on activity earned to date.
Economic Development Adm	70,000	6,656.26	9,036.70	0.00	15,692.96	54,307.04	22.4%	Grant Earned
Covid-EDA (C-EDA)	200,000	10,985.51	12,357.61	0.00	23,343.12	176,656.88	11.7%	Based on activity earned to date.
Covid-RLF (C-RLF)	74,000	723.92	1,224.20	0.00	1,948.12	72,051.88	2.6%	Based on activity earned to date.
CERTs Funds	20,000	2,562.48	4,163.90	0.00	6,726.38	13,273.62	33.6%	Based on activity earned to date.
PACE loan orig/int/misc	29,426	528.67	335.25	0.00	863.92	28,562.08	2.9%	Bank int/loan orig fee
Interest & Miscellaneous	6,800	76.72	156.05	0.00	232.77	6,567.23	3.4%	Bank int/loan orig fee
Total Revenues	1,015,944	62,104.36	76,809.17	0.00	138,913.52	877,030.48	13.7%	
								33,804
Expenditures								
Committee Expenses	34,200	2,911.15	135.00		3,046.15	31,153.85	8.9%	July has annual meeting expenses
Salaries & Fringe	720,836	60,834.74	51,032.85		111,867.59	608,968.41	15.5%	
Travel	39,739	1,008.35	2,378.67		3,387.02	36,351.98	8.5%	
Office Space Costs	34,936	2,736.61	2,384.48		5,121.09	29,814.91	14.7%	
Postage	3,654	281.28	268.07		549.35	3,104.65	15.0%	
Communications	5,367	321.35	321.46		642.81	4,724.19	12.0%	
Printing/Publication	10,145	729.66	933.19		1,662.85	8,482.15	16.4%	
Insurance	4,500	436.91	436.91		873.82	3,626.18	19.4%	
Supplies	13,543	2,336.42	113.59		2,450.01	11,092.99	18.1%	
Computer	17,928	1,327.07	2,062.85		3,389.92	14,538.08	18.9%	
Audits	7,675				0.00	7,675.00	0.0%	
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	2,000		1,447.45		1,447.45	552.55	72.4%	Staff Retreat Facilitator Expense
Dues/Memberships & Other	5,030				0.00	5,030.00	0.0%	
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,000	493.86	493.86		987.72	4,012.28	19.8%	C-RLF fees paid using origination fees received-Tracking separate
Other	500				0.00	500.00	0.0%	
Seed Grants	5,750				0.00	5,750.00	0.0%	
Equipment/Building Updates	2,000				0.00	2,000.00	0.0%	
PACE loan interest paid	508				0.00	508.00	0.0%	Paid in December and June
Debt Service: Prin. & Int.	11,639				0.00	11,639.00	0.0%	Paid in December and June
Building Lease Principal Pymt	19,637	1,604.79	1,604.79		3,209.58	16,427.42	16.3%	
Total Expenditures	944,587	75,022.19	63,613.17	0.00	138,635.36	805,951.64	14.7%	
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	71,357	-12,917.83	13,196.00	0.00	278			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

October 2021

CEDS | EDA PLANNING | CARES ACT EDA (C-EDA)

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

The region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is in the final stages of completion. The CEDS committee discussed the first two cornerstones on Human Capital and Economic Competitiveness on September 27, as well as discussed further actions required to make the CEDS document as academically accurate and up to date as possible. While we are still writing in contributions from various stakeholders and community surveys, the CEDS document is on the right track toward completion and publication. The CEDS committee will meet on October 11 to discuss the final two cornerstones of Community Resources and Foundational Assets.

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) brings together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies and to create an environment for economic resiliency and prosperity. The CEDS analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources.

You can expect the following in the coming months regards CEDS:

October 11	CEDS Committee: Reviewing Community Resources and Foundational Assets
November 1-30	Public Comment Period
Early December	CEDS Committee: Reviewing public comments received and considering a recommendation for approval to the SRDC Board of Directors
December 9	SRDC Board of Directors: Consider resolution regarding CEDS submission
January 31, 2022	Due date to submit CEDS document

Our latest CEDS can be viewed at <http://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CEDS-16-FINAL.pdf>. For more information, or to get involved in our CEDS process, go to <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/ceds/>.

DevelopMN is the template that many of the RDCs still use as a starting point for their respective CEDS to identify collaborative opportunities, showcase potential replication projects, and to pull statewide numbers. The latest revision of DevelopMN can be found at <http://www.mnado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DevelopMN-1.pdf>. The dashboard is available at <http://www.mnado.org/dashboard/>.

EDA PLANNING

EDA Peer Evaluation: Prior to new 3-year grant submissions, EDA is required to hold a Peer Evaluation with each current grantee. This year they included two agencies which worked well. SRDC had our evaluation with Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission on August 26. The agenda included a regional overview and organizational overview, including information on governing boards, program performance, and Economic Development Districts impact and future direction.

Southwest Minnesota Workforce Trends & Economic Impacts Regional Labor Market Reports: Pathway partners and economic development stakeholders will learn more about updated trends and impacts in

Southwest Minnesota on October 14 from 8-9:30 am.

Minnesota Opportunity Zones: Opportunity Zones in Minnesota can be found at <https:// Minnesota.gov/deed/business/financing-business/tax-credits/opp-zones/census-opp-zone-tracts.jsp>.

Friends in the Field: Quarterly, economic and community development professionals in Minnesota get together to learn and collaborate. The October 13 learning collaborative will focus on post-pandemic workforce recovery.

Southwest Business Development Network: This group meets on the 3rd Friday of each month. The next topic is TBD.

Career Expo: The 2021 Southwest Minnesota CareerForce Expo was held on Sept. 28 and 29 at the college campuses of Southwest Minnesota State University and Minnesota West—Worthington. The event provided valuable career and education information to high school students, plus highlighted regional businesses and the type of jobs they provide in our communities. During the two expo events, over 2,400 students from 29 schools attended, which involved teamwork from over 250 volunteers. SRDC was listed as an event sponsor. Almost 100 exhibitors from a large variety of career fields were available to show students what Southwest Minnesota has to offer.

Broadband: Registration is now open for the Blandin Broadband Conference entitled Building on Broadband: Inspiring Progress. This year's annual broadband conference began with eight regional gatherings around the state. The regional gathering for Southwest Minnesota took place on September 16. The purpose of the regional gathering was to share broadband stories, learn about the state of broadband in Minnesota, and learn about plans for Federal funding opportunities in our region. The broadband conference will be a three-morning statewide virtual event October 12-14. You can register for the October conference at [https:// blandinfoundation.tfaforms.net/104](https://blandinfoundation.tfaforms.net/104).

Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC): The coordinating council met September 15. A recap included the following:

- Volunteers: drivers, rider companions and travel trainers. In the 8 counties that UCAP serves, 30 volunteers are active.
- Resource Guide: UCAP is in the process of formatting the document for public use, possibly with the assistance of the SMSU Marketing program through a paid intern.
- Worthington Taxi: Notifications are out indicating a December 31, 2021 service end date. RTCC members offered suggestions to ensure transit options are available in 2022.
- Local Public Transit Human Services Coordination Plan: RTCC will meet next on October 26 at 1 pm to further discuss the plan and possible ways to contribute.

Rail Feasibility Study: Weis and Bruce-White attended the ISG presentation to Nobles County and Rock County on August 3 regarding their findings on the 42 miles of rail line in Nobles & Rock Counties on sites that would potentially serve as industrial rail parks. Buffalo Ridge Regional Rail Authority commissioned the study to assist area economic developers with the necessary background to share with site selectors, businesses, and industries to realize that rail service and potential industrial rail park sites are available in Nobles and Rock Counties.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: It is the vision of the Youth Committee to work in partnership to ensure youth have access to the services they need to become self-sufficient and successful. It is the mission of the Youth Committee to guide the coordination of services that fully develop the employment potential of youth in Southwest Minnesota. The committee meets in February, May, August, and November. Current goals are as follows:

1. Increase awareness of youth employment and partnership opportunities for youth council members and youth staff.

2. Communicate with stakeholders (federal, state and local levels) regarding the value of youth services.
3. Utilize the “Guideposts for Success” to increase awareness of youth employment opportunities and resources.

MN Marketing Partnership: The partnership last met on August 16. DEED continues to work on a marketing campaign, financially supported by the MN Marketing Partnership, called The Future is Bright in MN. JoinUsMN focuses on talent and business attraction to Minnesota and features MN Works, MN Lives and MN Plays. For fact sheets and videos, go to <https://joinusmn.com/>.

NADO Training Conference: The training conference on October 16-19 includes numerous learning labs, mobile workshops, plenary sessions, conversation cafes, concurrent sessions and many opportunities for networking. For a complete schedule, go to <https://www.nado.org/events/2021-annual-training-conference/>.

CARES ACT EDA (C-EDA)

SRDC is available to brainstorm projects, review applications, assist with gathering data, generate surveys, etc. Staff just completed requests for data and resources in Redwood and Nobles Counties and is finishing up on another request from the City of Windom.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic creates a number of new challenges for businesses, workers, and government. For a list of state and federal programs (SBA, Unemployment and DEED) for businesses, visit <https://mn.gov/deed/newscenter/press-releases/?id=425890>. Several e-mails and calls have been received for technical assistance.

EDA Funding Opportunities: There are several grant opportunities now available through the federal EDA. With \$3 billion of American Rescue Plan funding to the EDA recently announced, staff is working hard to make sure our region is aware of these opportunities. More information can be found at <https://eda.gov/arpa/>. Contact staff with project ideas. Staff can assist with application review, project partner facilitation, regional and local data, etc.

Programs within EDA’s Investing in America’s Communities includes:

1. Coal Communities Commitment: \$300 million. Will ensure support for coal communities as they recover from the pandemic and create new jobs and opportunities.
2. Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation: \$750 million. Accelerate communities impacted by COVID-related travel and tourism decline through state grants (\$510 million) and competitive grants (\$240 million).
 - Staff are working on putting together an application for development of a regional trails plan. A conference call on September 30 took place with EDA to discuss the project.
3. Good Jobs Challenge: \$500 million. Establish or strengthen regional systems to train workers with in-demand skills through employer-driven training, supporting participants with wrap-around services and employer commitments to hire.
 - The project narrative for the Good Jobs Challenge – Food Processing has been completed. At this point, we are waiting to hear back from the federal EDA on initial comments. Next steps may include contacting organizations within the sectoral partnership to begin gathering feedback and establish plans. JBS and HyLife Foods Windom are the two major employers in this project with MinnesotaWest Community and Technical College being the source for education and training. SRDC is looking into collaborating with United Community Action Partnership on a community transit program for new employees at JBS and HyLife Foods Windom and Kids-R-It Inc., Hi-Ho Nursery School and We Care Day Care in Worthington for childcare options. SRDC will continue to facilitate discussions and set goals for each sectoral partner.

4. Economic Adjustment Assistance: \$500 million. Invest in infrastructure, technical assistance, planning, and revolving loan programs through competitive grants available to every community.
5. Indigenous Communities: \$100 million. Additional Economic Adjustment Assistance funds to specifically support Indigenous communities.
 - A broadband application is being pursued at Lower Sioux Indian Community.
6. Build Back Better Regional Challenge: \$1 billion. Transform 20-30 economically distressed regions through substantial investment through groups of 3-8 projects, totaling ~\$25-75million per region: open to proposals up to \$100 million.
7. Statewide Planning, Research & Networks: \$90 million. Invest in economic plans, research to assess the effectiveness of EDA's programs, and support for stakeholder communities around key EDA initiatives.

Regional Economic Resiliency Plan: Over the last year, staff have been working on the region's first Economic Resiliency Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort began with a comprehensive review of available planning documents and available data packages, including local and county Comprehensive Plans, One Watershed One Plan Water Management Plans, Census Bureau Data, USDA Census of Agriculture Data, and much more. This review assisted staff in identifying three overall priority issues impacting economic resiliency. Those issues are: the deficit between employment projects and regional population growth; the miss-match of desired skills and the skills of the available workforce; and the delicate balance between land stewardship and agricultural productivity.

After the initial analysis, staff hosted regional workshops using priority issues as guides for each discussion. Workshop participants included family farming operations, business owners, local government officials, first responders, and economic development professionals. During these workshops, participants talked about the successes and resiliency in their communities. During these efforts, four themes rose as foundations of economic resilience. These themes include the importance of community resilience/social capital, business community diversity, access to adequate and diverse workforce, and the importance of having an inviting community for young professionals to live.

During 2021, resiliency planning shifted from technical analysis of available resources to establishing SRDC's role in fostering economic resilience for the region. This effort started in the business community with a COVID-19 Business Response survey. SRDC heard from 56 businesses around the region on the resources they were aware of, technical assistance needed, and how the pandemic has impacted their businesses.

The information and input collected in the first phase of the planning process has been used to establish draft goals and objectives to support economic resilience in Southwest Minnesota. The three goals aim to address the three priority issues, and the objectives are intended to support the foundations noted by workshop participants and survey respondents. Each set of objectives includes opportunities to build upon SRDC's capacity to support each overall goal.

Currently, staff is soliciting feedback on strategies to support each set of goals and objectives in the table below. Fill out the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QYSDR6V> to tell staff how you see SRDC fostering economic resilience in the future.

Goals	Objectives	
Goal 1: Further economic development by advancing quality of life advancements in the region.	Increase awareness of opportunities and benefits of living in the Region.	<p>Social media and formal print communication.</p> <p>Partner with ExploreMN to promote SW Minnesota. There is more than just rocks and cattle down here.</p> <p>It might help to have more input and services from different groups of the population. Both in terms of outreach and general commissioners.</p>
	Promote outdoor recreational opportunities in the region.	<p>Outdoor rec website, interactive map or app for the region. Help various entities use social media to attract more recreational users.</p> <p>Enhancing or working on improvements especially along the water in the region (lakes, river, etc.) - perhaps developments of something new, or advertising what we already have in place</p>
	Support efforts to prioritize local art and artistry for community development and government engagement.	<p>More communities have art centers. Communities are taken the initiative to create art murals that showcase the heritage of their community and SW Minnesota.</p> <p>Connecting with organizations who have a diverse outlook and asking them to coordinate with you to offer these options. For example, increase art in a community by engaging the help of a specific organization or group of organizations to sponsor or produce a mural on the side of a building. Highlighting art from those specific sub groups of people: Elderly, People with disabilities, business owners, etc.</p>
	Develop SRDC as a resource hub for communities that want to adopt environmentally sustainable development practices.	<p>A website that is user-friendly with resource links and how to videos. Perhaps weekly short snippets on what is available and how to apply on Youtube or Facebook live.</p> <p>I think this must begin with some sort of organizing of those professionals who opt to use and promote their efforts in environmentally sustainable development. Not necessarily in a competitive manner, but a complementary manner. Perhaps some sort of professional accreditation or recognition could be a part of this.</p>
Goal 2: Build the resilience of resources that are especially vulnerable to shocks or disturbances.	Support the advancement of best practices in resource protection	<p>Staple crops and cattle are the main industry down here. Work with local, regional, state, and international manufacturers.</p>
		<p>I think have co-operatives is key. If businesses and organizations can band together to share and utilize resources they will have the opportunity to grow and flourish.</p>
	Increase awareness in natural resource preservation/conservation measures being undertaken by other agencies.	<p>Wind turbines are becoming popular, some communities have solar panels, and others have charging stations. Focus on Green Step Cities.</p> <p>Continuing to share information and providing visual aids on the effect it has on the environment and other ways people have saved and still saved money.</p>

	Develop SRDC as a resource hub for community amenities that are in demand.	<p>Redesign SRDC website to add amenities promotion.</p> <p>Study new amenities offered by rural communities.</p>
Goal 3: Promote best practices that support businesses and complement the already present characters	Support communities in economically sustainable and practical business recruitment.	<p>More outreach to city EDAs and Planners.</p> <p>Retention is just as important as recruitment. And then, not "chasing rainbows" but identifying a community strength and focusing on that - focus on what is realistic and practical for the size and location of any given community.</p>
	Promote the regional business community with up-to-date marketing and outreach strategies.	
	Develop SRDC as a resource hub for businesses and entrepreneurs that are interested in partaking in business succession.	<p>mentor/CEO programs in the schools...</p> <p>Provide an online space for businesses that are looking for succession to advertise their business for free. Make it searchable by business type and location.</p>

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT

October 2021

COVID-19 RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF | PACE

RLF COMMITTEE

The committee consists of five members and meets as needed. The committee covers both the COVID-19 RLF and Traditional RLF. The committee met 11 times in FY21 and last met on July 22.

RLF PLANS AND FLEXIBILITIES

EDA provided flexibilities to recipients of EDA-funded Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) awards in light of the impact of COVID-19 on small businesses, the increasing demand for RLF loans, and the need for RLFs to provide credit quickly and efficiently to their communities. These flexibilities, discussed further below, continue to be available under our Traditional RLF through June 30, 2022:

- Establish a minimum interest rate for RLF loans (13 CFR 307.15(b)(1))
- Require RLF loans to leverage additional capital (13 CFR 307.15(c))
- Require evidence demonstrating credit is not otherwise available (13 CFR 307.11(a)(1)(ii)(H))

Application and Checklists: The Application (fillable — same application for both RLF programs) and Requirements Checklist for both SRDC RLF and COVID-19 RLF are online and can be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/>.

COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

Funds Available: Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$86,000 (amount does not include October payments). An application for a Murray County business was approved, but not yet closed, for \$93,190.20, with an anticipated October closing date. At this time, funds are fully committed.

Original funds available to SRDC were \$1.48 million. We've now closed on 100% of our original funds, or 24 loans, totaling \$1,491,519.17. SRDC no longer needs to submit requests to EDA for funds to close approved COVID-19 RLF loans.

Traditional RLF

Funds Available: Funds on hand, and not yet closed, are in the amount of \$156,000 (amount does not include October payments), which includes an early loan pay-off from a Redwood County business in the approximate amount of \$30,000. The committee has approved, but has not yet closed on, one loan in Jackson County totaling \$75,000, which will close in early 2022, leaving \$81,000 of uncommitted funds at this time. Conversations are occurring with multiple potential loan clients.

Site Visits: Since June 1, fourteen site visits have been conducted with current loan clients. The most common issues among local businesses continue to be product shortages, employee retention, and a lack of qualified applicants. Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic, businesses that have adapted to the new norm by utilizing online platforms, ordering systems, and advertising have seen success. One local business in Worthington found success in getting rid of their physical location and used a COVID-19 RLF loan to convert to a mobile and online business model. Another business utilized video content by publishing it on various

streaming platforms that became popular during the pandemic. It is apparent that the RLF loan is vital in supporting the Southwest Region's local businesses. SRDC's role of providing the loan, technical assistance in the application process, and education on other governmental loan opportunities has proved fruitful for local businesses.

Contracted RLFs

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

1. Jackson County RLF: An application in the amount of \$100,000 was approved by the committee and will close early 2022. This is for a business located in Jackson near the 60/71 intersection. There still remains available funds for businesses in Jackson County with gap financing needs.
2. Heron Lake RLF: Focuses on economic development within a 20-mile radius of Heron Lake. These are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. SRDC continues to assist them with GMS entry and amortization schedules as requested. One conversation took place regarding a potential application for the purchase of an existing business in Heron Lake.
3. Falcon Development Corporation (FDC): Information on FDC can be found online at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/falcon-development-corporation/>. FDC focuses on economic development improvements in the Heron Lake area. These funds are de-federalized, therefore Davis Bacon does not apply to construction projects.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Funds Available: Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$86,000 (PACE ARRA Funds), which includes an early payoff from a Redwood County business, and \$266,000 (PACE SEP Funds). Thirty-one loans have closed thus far. Staff has communicated with three potential projects (Nobles, Redwood, Sibley). Please note that Sibley County is no longer a RMEB member; therefore, referrals were made.

PACE Committee: The committee meets as needed or in conjunction with the RMEB. Committee members are Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere and Paap.

General Information: PACE is available to property owners of small businesses, including agri-businesses and some non-profits based on usage.

Energy assessments/audits are informational to property owners and may be the start to cost saving energy improvements. Contractor estimates and the energy assessment/audit are the two first steps to PACE financing. The PACE application and brochure can be found at <http://rmeb.org/pace.htm>.

If you have groups in your area that would benefit from hearing about PACE, please contact Robin.

If you have questions about the RLF, PACE, or about energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at robin@swrdc.org.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT

October 2021

ENERGY | LAND USE, PLANNING & ZONING | SOLID WASTE & NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The board met on September 27 in-person at the SRDC board office with an option to join via Zoom. The board approved revised bylaws for the RMEB and 14 of 18 counties have ratified the revised JPA agreement as of October 4. Member counties gave their updates and discussed a group making the rounds to the counties called Summit Carbon Solutions. At the November meeting, Fryberger will provide a legislative update, and the board will discuss the issue of counties not receiving any additional revenue for solar projects that are under 1 megawatt.

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs): Seed Grants for the next two-year cycle were due on October 8. The SW CERTs Steering committee reviewed the grants on October 14. Staff wrote an article for CERTs on the Balaton seed grant project that can be found on the CERTs website.

For the next 18 months, staff will work with the Great Plains Institute to do events and outreach regarding electric vehicles in Greater Minnesota with a focus on the 12-county SW CERTs region. SRDC signed a contract for \$11,000 to do this work.

Land Use, Planning & Zoning

City of Pipestone Comprehensive Plan Update: The City of Pipestone launched its community Survey August 7 on the Chamber's Facebook page. The survey has 91 responses so far.

City of Tracy Comprehensive Plan Update: The City of Tracy launched a community survey that was active from July 2 to August 13. The survey received 331 total responses. SRDC is working with the city to organize focus groups to discuss issues surrounding economic/population growth, Hwy 14 and downtown Tracy corridor, community facilities and amenities, and open spaces/parks.

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission: The Solid Waste Commission had a hybrid meeting on July 26. SRDC arranged for a retreat between Solid Waste Administrators and State agency staff as a kick-off effort for the regional Solid Waste Management Plan. This retreat took place in the SRDC board room with online attendance available. The next Solid Waste Commission meeting is scheduled for November 22.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

October 2021

LOCAL ASSISTANCE | COMMUNITY PLANNING | COMMUNICATIONS

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: The group's September meeting took place in Walnut Grove and included 10 new attendees.

The Friends has been notified that the Minnesota House Capital Investment Committee Tour will be making a stop in Pipestone at the Casey Jones Trailhead on October 20 at 8:30am. Area legislators have been invited to attend. Representative Schomacker plans to attend. SRDC Legislative Chair Miron Carney will join SRDC staff at the tour. Staff is working on a media kit to attendees. A presentation and brief tour of a portion of the Pipestone segment is planned.

The Friends' next meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 5pm in the SRDC Board Room with a virtual option available. The October and November meetings will be focused on strategic planning. SRDC has been asked to facilitate strategic planning. A contract extension will also be discussed at the meeting to extend SRDC assistance hours for the 2021 contract as hours are running low.

Small Businesses: Staff is still working with SpringBrooke Events, Golf and Grill in Beaver Creek on marketing assistance.

Staff has been asked to complete a Communications Audit for a current RLF client in Wabasso. The audit will be completed and presented to them in October.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ACTIVITIES

MADO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group: The group met on October 6 with Welu and Bruce-White as meeting hosts. The meeting topic was "Representation, the Data We Use, and How We Use It." The next meeting is scheduled for November 3.

SWRSDP Resilient Communities Workgroup: The workgroup met on August 27 at Lower Sioux. The group had a presentation of an RSDP funded project, toured the Intergenerational Cultural Incubator and reviewed recently completed Resilient Communities projects and a project proposal.

SRDC COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: The September issue of the newsletter is out, and the next issue planned for mid-December. If there is information that you would like shared in the SRDC newsletter, please reach out to staff. An archive of SRDC newsletters can be found at: <http://www.swrdc.org/category/newsletter-archive/>.

Communications Plan/Certified Public Communicator Training: The Communications Plan has been approved by the certified Public Communicator (CPC) program at Texas Christian University. This was the final requirement for certification. Welu is now one of only five Certified Public Communicators in the state of Minnesota. Implementation of the Communications Plan is in progress. The plan will be a topic of discussion at the Board Retreat.

If you have questions about the Communications Report, please contact Jessica Welu, Communications Specialist, at 507-836-1644 or via email at jessicaw@swrdc.org.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

October 2021

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | ATPs | TRANSPORTATION PLANNING | ACTIVE LIVING & SRTS

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The SRDC TAC had their annual meeting on July 21. Topics included the draft Capital Highway Investment Plans and the City of Marshall's Functional Classification Change Request. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting with MnDOT attending virtually.

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

ATP 7: MnDOT D7 ATP is scheduled to meet November 12 at 10am via Microsoft Teams.

ATP 8: MnDOT D8 ATP is scheduled to meet October 15.

Stay updated on MnDOT road projects, construction progress, and detours at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadwork/>. The South-Central District (District 7) includes Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, and Rock Counties. The Southwest District (District 8) includes Pipestone, Murray, Lincoln, Lyon, and Redwood Counties.

Currently, MnDOT is not holding in-person meetings, and public-outreach is being conducted online through virtual open houses and project websites. SRDC is available to assist in navigating and disseminating information as needed.

Joint SMTP-MnSHIP Equity Work Group

Staff accepted an invitation to serve on the Joint Statewide Multi-Model Transportation Plan (SMTP)-Statewide Highway Improve Plan (SHIP) Equity Work Group. The work group will advise MnDOT on how to use its plans and investments to advance equity throughout Minnesota. SRDC staff along with other volunteers co-authored the equity review that will be used for all strategies in the SMTP.

District 7 Freight Plan

Staff accepted an invitation to serve on the MnDOT District 7 Freight Plan Advisory Committee. This committee is an opportunity to provide regional input, perspective, and expertise that will be crucial in shaping the strategies and goals of the freight plan. Currently, consultants are identifying needs and issues, reviewing programmed projects, and identifying "gaps" between the freight system needs and programmed projects. Consultants are also currently seeking public input through the following opportunities:

- Open House website: <https://district7freightplan.com/>
- Online Survey: <https://live.metroquestsurvey.com/?u=xo6d6j#!/?p=web&pm=dynamic&s=1&pop-up=WTD>

Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan

Staff has reached out to the RTCC to ask members if they would volunteer to be part of the Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan steering committee. Staff is still looking for volunteers who are interested in providing feedback for local transit providers in the region.

Transportation Planning

Portable Counter Borrowing Program: MnDOT has portable counters that are freely available to partner agencies such as cities, counties, MPOs, RDCs, and active transportation advocacy groups. These counters help collect important pedestrian traffic data that can be used to plan projects, apply for funding, and much more. Counters are available through each MnDOT District Office and can be reserved online. More information can be found at <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike-ped-counting/borrow.html>.

ACTIVE LIVING & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

Active Living: *Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Community Leadership Teams (CLT)*

Staff spoke with members of the Tracy Active Living Committee about upcoming projects/ideas that they have. Some ideas include putting exercise equipment along the Swift Lake Trail and installing a full 9-hole disc golf course at the Swift Lake Park. They were also interested in building a pedestrian/bike connection between the Wheels Across the Prairie Museum and the downtown area.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS): Since the kickoff meeting in Adrian, staff scheduled hazard observations and a walk audit for October 12. Staff plan to do community engagement activities during parent/teacher conferences on November 9 and 11.

The following grant solicitations are open this fall:

- SRTS Planning Grants
- SRTS Non-infrastructure Boost Grants
- SRTS Infrastructure Grants—Letters of Intent due October 29

Regional Trails Planning

Staff held two kickoff meetings on September 21 and 23 with regional stakeholders to discuss reinvigorating trail planning efforts in the region through a regional trails plan. We had 31 attendees between the two meetings, and several interested stakeholders who were unable to attend but are interested in future participation. During the meetings, we reviewed a draft proposal for the EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grant Program that staff are working on and discussed local needs and priorities.

The proposal was submitted to our Chicago EDA contact and a meeting held on October 30 with EDA. The proposal follows this report.



Cottonwood | Jackson | Lincoln | Lyon | Murray | Nobles | Pipestone | Redwood | Rock

Southwest Minnesota Regional Trails Strategic Planning Proposal

Name of Applicant: Southwest Regional Development Commission

Contact Information: Jay Trusty, Executive Director, execdir@swrdc.org, 507-836-1636

Project Title: Regional Trails Strategic Planning

Project Goal & Outcomes: The Southwest Regional Development Commission is applying for EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Program dollars for the development of a strategic plan to establish a regional trail network in Southwest Minnesota. The goal of this planning effort is to regionalize trail network prioritization efforts, establish a shared vision of the overall trails network in Southwest Minnesota, promote and increase outdoor recreation awareness within the region, and leverage trails group success on a regional level.

Outcomes for this project would include increasing cooperation and coordination between trails groups, establishing trail connections that are vital to developing a connected trail network in Southwest Minnesota, and enhancing competitiveness of projects in seeking funding assistance to further trail development.

Project Description: Through continuous conversations with stakeholders from across Southwest Minnesota, it is clear that a more robust and holistic plan for the development of trails in the region can help our trails increase local, regional, and legislative support; and increase access to funding sources. Twenty-one years ago, a regional trails plan was developed. Seven years ago, that plan was updated to include ADA accessibility definitions, a prioritized list of trail projects, and the addition of new local trails plans. These previous regional trail planning efforts, however, were a collaboration between only elected officials and state/local agencies. This proposed planning effort will be an enhanced collaboration between local trails groups, elected officials, state/local agencies, and our national, state, and regional parks. The planning effort will emphasize trail-user engagement and opportunities for local trail collaboration with communities, businesses, and local government to increase outdoor recreational use and tourism within the region.

SRDC plans to develop a regional trails plan that would combine local efforts to find trail connections and develop a holistic view of what is and what could be for trails access in our nine-county region. We view this as an opportunity to not only develop a holistic plan, but also to advance a region-wide support network. We realize that good trail planning and development needs to include a two-level approach:

1. Local: to provide grassroots support and ownership.
2. Regional: to provide a holistic view, connections, and multiple partnerships; and it must also be a well-coordinated effort to maximize utilization of all our resources.

Project Proposal: The Southwest Minnesota Regional Trails Planning process will take place over three main phases: 1. Research, 2. Community Outreach, and 3. Plan Development.

During the research phase, SRDC will conduct a comprehensive review of all local- and state-level trail planning documents, including the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) District 7 Bicycle Plan (2018), MnDOT District 8 Bicycle Plan (2019), Minnesota's Statewide Bicycle System Plans, Active Living Plans in the SRDC region, Transportation Alternatives applications in the region, International Historic Highway 75 "King of Trails" Scenic Byway Corridor Work Plan (2015), Southwest Minnesota Regional Trails Plan (2001 and its 2015 update), and all other local plans from trails groups and local municipalities. This review will aid in assessing trail progress in the region and in identifying potential trail projects with support from multiple stakeholder groups. This phase will also include a primary trail-user assessment of the regional population, as well as an assessment of trails planning efforts in the regions of the states bordering Southwest Minnesota, including those in southeastern South Dakota and the regional hub of Sioux Falls, SD, and northwestern Iowa. Both regions offer opportunities for multi-state collaboration and a potential for a tri-state trails networks. After review of these plans, the findings will provide staff with the general strengths and weaknesses of the trail network in Southwest Minnesota.

The second phase will occur near the end of the review phase. During this phase, input from community members will be solicited through such means as public meetings and events, print and electronic surveys, workshops, and interviews and story collection throughout the region. These activities will allow staff to assess the overall demand for trail infrastructure, trail amenities, and levels of support from communities and the business sector.

In the last phase, regional goals and priorities will be drafted and brought to the stakeholder groups for review. Stakeholder groups will then assist SRDC in the implementation of any trails planning activities noted in the goals drafted in this phase.

CEDS Relevancy: A regional trails plan will support the following 2017-2021 CEDS priorities.

- Create and sustain vibrant and healthy communities that attract and retain residents.
- Increase visitor spending in the southwest region by 5% by 2021.
 - Keep Minnesota travel experiences fresh and current by creating outdoor recreation, arts, and cultural heritage experiences and amenities.
- Increase the number of regionally designated parks and trails by the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission.
- Work with state and local partners, including but not limited to SHIP, to coordinate efforts to develop and enhance regional bicycle and pedestrian systems.
- Work with state and local partners to support the expansion and maintenance of regional trails systems.

Regional Economic Resiliency Plan Relevancy: In addition to supporting priorities outlined in our 2027-2021 CEDS, this work also supports the following priorities from our upcoming Regional Economic Resiliency Plan (to be finalized/adopted 2022).

- Further economic development by advancing quality of life advancements in the region.
 - Increase awareness of opportunities and benefits of living in the region.
 - Promote outdoor recreational opportunities in the region.
- Build the resilience of resources that are especially vulnerable to shocks or disturbances.
- Promote best practices that support businesses and their communities by complementing the already present characteristics.

Regional Collaboration: In order to ensure that this plan is inclusive, comprehensive, and holistic, the planning workgroup will include representatives from the following:

- Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT): Central Office, District 7, and District 8
- Trails/Parks Groups in the Region (including, but not limited to): Blue Mounds State Park, Camden Regional Trail, Camden State Park, Friends of Jackson County Trails, Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail, Friends of the Mound, Garvin Park, Hole in the Mountain, Pipestone National Monument, Shetek State Park, Split Rock Creek State Park, Touch the Sky Prairie Wildlife Refuge, and Wolf Creek Trail
- Museum/Interpretive Centers in the Region (including, but not limited to): End-O-Line Museum, Jeffers Petroglyphs, Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum & Pageant, Murray County Museum, and Wheels Across the Prairie Museum
- Statewide Health Improvement Partners (SHIP): Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services and Southwest Health & Human Services
- Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
- Minnesota Parks and Trails Council
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- County Engineers
- Elected Officials
- King of Trails (Highway 75 Coalition)

Each stakeholder group will be asked to submit their latest version of any planning, construction, and/or engineering documents for inclusion in the regional trails planning efforts.

Timeline: The proposed Regional Trails Planning Timeline is outlined below.

Phase 1: Plan Review/Research	January 2022 – April 2022
Phase 2: Community Outreach	March 2022 – October 2022
Phase 3: Plan Development	October 2022 – January 2023
• Public Comment Period	February 2023
• Public Comment Incorporation	March 2023 – April 2023
Plan Adoption	May/June 2023

Budget:

Personnel (1,400 hours)	\$126,000
Travel	\$10,500
Equipment (\$8,500 each for two pedestrian/bicycle counters)	\$17,000
Supplies	\$17,000
Other	\$38,500
• Print/Publication of Plan	\$6,500
• Communications-phone, internet, postage (\$223x18 mths)	\$4,014
• Office space & utilities (\$638x18 mths)	\$11,484
• Insurance (\$39x18 mths)	\$702

Southwest Minnesota Regional Trails Strategic Planning Proposal

• Marketing/Outreach materials	\$10,400
• Meeting Space Rentals	\$5,400
Total Project Cost	\$209,000



**Resolution in Support of the Southwest Regional Trails Plan
and EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Program Grant Application**

- WHEREAS, The nine counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock, located in Southwest 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 Coronavirus Pandemic has adversely affected the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors of the region's economy, and in addition, the inherent volatility of the agricultural markets, and limited availability of capital for investment have adversely affected our economy, and 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 businesses, parks and trails, and travel/tourism destinations towards successful competition in the tourism climate of today; and
- WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Development Commission has been instrumental in the development and implementation of economic development strategies and the dissemination of information that provides assistance to industry and business in the achievement of these objectives; and
- WHEREAS, the Southwest Regional Development Commission is committed to accelerating the recovery of the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation economy in Southwest Minnesota; and
- WHEREAS the successful completion of a regional trails plan will expand and enhance the region's opportunities to strengthen our travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation economy, and will advance the region's equitable access to a connected trail system that can successfully compete in the outdoor recreation climate of today;
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Southwest Regional Development Commission supports the development and implementation of a Regional Trails Plan to advance recovery efforts in the tourism sector and improve equitable access to a regional trails system by applying to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration under the Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Program; and that the local 20% match, in the amount of \$41,800, none of which are federal funds, is committed and in

place, and giving authorization to submit, administer, and execute the aforementioned agreement to the Executive 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 14th day of October, 2021 by the minutes of said meeting.

Myron Koets, SRDC Chairman

Jayme I. Trusty, SRDC Executive Director

Date

Date

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT
THURSDAY & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28-29, 2021
ARROWWOOD CONFERENCE CENTER
1405 HIGHWAY 71, OKOBOJI, IOWA**

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS: Single Occupancy Rooms Have Been Reserved for SRDC Commissioners and SRDC Planning Staff at Arrowwood Conference Center. You are encouraged to check-in at Arrowwood between 11:30 – 12 p.m. Noon on Thursday, October 28. The Planning Session begins promptly at 12 Noon with lunch. Retreat Agenda and Arrowwood facility map is enclosed.

Commissioners

Myron Koets
Paul Langseth
Dennis Welgraven
Richard Peterson (Thursday only)
Mike Kuhle
Miron Carney
Rick Anderson
Keith Elbers
Eric Hartman
Dennis Klingbale
Donna Gravley
Bob Van Hee

Chair, Pipestone County Municipalities
Vice-Chair, Nobles County Townships
Treasurer, Murray County Commissioner
Secretary, Jackson County Townships
Immediate Past-chair, City of Worthington
Legislative Chair, Murray County Municipalities
Lyon County Commissioner
Rock County Municipalities
Region 8 School Boards
Lincoln County Municipalities
Cottonwood County Commissioner
Redwood County Commissioner

Staff

Jay Trusty
Robin Weis
Brooke Swart
Jessica Welu
Rosemary Bruce-White
Jason Walker
Elling Mann

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Finance Director
Communications Specialist
Development/Transportation Planner
Development/Energy Planner
Development Intern

SRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT

Regional Resiliency, Communications Planning and Strategic Direction Tentative Schedule:

Thursday, St. Andrews Meeting Room

- 11:30 – 12 Noon Check In: Arrowwood will be provided the names of
SRDC Board Retreat Participants
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch served in meeting room
Arrowwood Catering Staff may decide to take orders during this time for
supper.
- 1:30 p.m. First Planning Session (Current Strategic Plan)
↳ Welcome from SRDC Board Chair Myron Koets
↳ Retreat Overview
↳ Introductory Activity
↳ Current Strategic Plan
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:15 p.m. Planning Session, Communications Planning
↳ Interactive Activity
↳ Report by Staff on progress
↳ Discussion on any changes
- 5:30 p.m. Social Hour then Supper (Minerva's Restaurant/Arrowwood)

Friday

- 8:00 a.m. Planning Session 2, Resiliency Planning, St. Andrews
↳ Interactive Activity
↳ Report by Staff on progress
↳ Discussion on any changes
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. Planning Session 3, Strategic Direction
- 11:45 a.m. Session Wrap Up / Adjourn
Box Lunch Served in Brooks Meeting Room
- HOTEL CHECK OUT**



2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1
Slayton, MN 56172

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