

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 13, 2021 3:30 p.m.



Holiday displays in Windom (left) and Luverne (right)

Murray County 4-H Building 3048 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

Southwest Regional Development Commission—Full Commission

* Board of Directors

Commissioner Representing

Rick Anderson Lyon County Commissioners*

JoEllen Benson Rock County Townships

Bob Byrnes City of Marshall & RLF Committee Chair*

Miron Carney Murray County Municipalities & Legislative Committee Chair*

Pam Cooreman Lyon County Municipalities
Bill Crowley Murray County Townships
Keith Elbers Rock County Municipalities*

Eriann Faris Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council

Lori Grant Lyon County Townships

Donna Gravley Cottonwood County Commissioners*

Eric Hartman Region 8 School Boards*

Tom Hoff Southwest Minnesota Higher Education

Chris Hollingsworth Pipestone County Commissioners
Dennis Klingbile Lincoln County Municipalities*
Tiffany Knott Redwood County Townships

Myron Koets Pipestone County Municipalities, SRDC Vice Chair*

Mike Kuhle City of Worthington, SRDC Chairman*

Paul Langseth Nobles County Townships*

Jeff Moen Lincoln County Townships

Nora Murphy Alternate: Lower Sioux Community

Kevin O'Keefe Lower Sioux Community

Bob Paplow Nobles County Commissioners

Richard Peterson Jackson County Townships, SRDC Secretary*

Jenny Quade Cottonwood County Municipalities
Terry Quiring Cottonwood County Townships

Stephen Schnieder Region 8 School Boards
Sherri Thompson Rock County Commissioners

Mic VanDeVere Lincoln County Commissioners, Transportation Committee Chair

Bob Van Hee Redwood County Commissioners*

Don Wachal Jackson County Commissioners

Carol Wagner Jackson County Municipalities

Shanda Walker Southwest Center for Independent Living

Dennis Welgraven Murray County Commissioners, SRDC Treasurer*

Beth Wilms Health and Human Services

SRDC F	ull Con	nmission	Membe	ership
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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
	nonulation

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



Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:30pm

Murray County 4-H Building 3048 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

AGENDA # <u>Time</u> **Page** 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** 3:37pm Consent Agenda Items 4 • November 2021 Full Commission Meeting Minutes 5-10 11-17 • December 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 18-21 November 2021 Receipts & Expenditures Report 22 City of Pipestone Contract Amendment **Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items** 5 3:39pm Finance Reports—Treasurer Welgraven & Finance Director Swart • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Handout **Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report** Handout Administrative Report through November 2021 **Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report** 6 3:44pm **Project Reviews**—Development Planner Bruce-White As of the mailing there are no Project Reviews for consideration **Action Needed: Accept Project Review** 7 3:45pm Guest Speaker 23-24 Galen Kauffman, SW MN Program Manager at Rebuilding Together Minnesota 8 **Committee & Staff Reports** 8a 4:05pm Budget & Personnel Committee Report—Committee Chair Welgraven Mid-Year Budget Revision Handout Handout Job Description **Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations** 8b 4:15pm Legislative Committee Report—Committee Chair Miron Carney 8c 4:25pm Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of **Government & Public Interest Groups** Don Wachal, Jackson County Commissioner Keith Elbers, Rock County Municipalities Kevin O'Keefe/Nora Murphy. Lower Sioux Community

8d	4:40pm	Economic Development Report —Deputy Director Weis & Development Planner Bruce-White	25-27
8e	4:50pm	Revolving Loan Funds Report—Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis	28-29
8f	5:00pm	Physical Development Report—Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker	30
8g	5:05pm	Community Development Report—Communications Specialist Welu	31
8h	5:10pm	Transportation Report —Committee Chair VanDeVere & Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker	32-33
8i	5:20pm	Executive Director's Report—Executive Director Trusty	
8j	5:30pm	Chairman's Report—Chairman Koets	
9	5:40pm	Unfinished Business	
10		New Business	
11		Other Issues Lincoln, Lyon, and Redwood County Delegations will need to caucus prior to the March Full Commission Meeting to determine their representative (three-year term) on the SRDC Board of Directors.	
12		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 Monday, January 17th in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, February 10 at 3:30pm at the SRDC Office
- SRDC Office closed Monday, February 21st in observation of Presidents' Day
- SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, March 10 at 3:30pm at the Murray County 4-H Building

13 5:45pm Adjourn



SRDC FULL COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

MURRAY COUNTY 4-H BUILDING, SLAYTON

NOVEMBER 18, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Myron Koets, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Miron Carney, Bill

Crowley, Donna Gravley, Tom Hoff, Chris Hollingsworth, Dennis Klingbile, Paul Langseth, Richard Peterson, Jenny Quade, Mic VanDeVere, Bob Van Hee,

Don Wachal, Carol Wagner, Dennis Welgraven, and Beth Wilms

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners JoEllen Benson, Bob Byrnes, Pam Cooreman, Keith Elbers,

Eriann Faris, Lori Grant, Eric Hartman, Tiffany Knott, Mike Kuhle, Jeff Moen, Kevin O'Keefe/Nora Murphy, Bob Paplow, Terry Quiring, Stephen Schnieder,

Sherri Thompson, and Shanda Walker

GUESTS PRESENT: Katie Baustian (SW MN CEO), Austin Brooks (Midland Institute), and Jerry

Wagner (resident, Cottonwood County)

STAFF PRESENT: Deputy Director Robin Weis, Rosemary Bruce-White, Elling Mann, Brooke

Swart, Jason Walker, and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Myron Koets called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

Chairman Koets announced the additions noted on the updated agenda.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Carney to

approve the agenda with changes as noted. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion

Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Langseth and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to

approve the following consent agenda items: September 9, 2021 Full Commission Meeting Minutes, October 14, 2021 Board of Directors Minutes, September 2021 Receipts & Expenditures Report, Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail Association Contract Amendment, and A.C.E. of SW Minnesota Contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17,

Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONTRACTS

Development Planner Jason Walker provided information on the SWHHS SHIP 2021-2022 Contract.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the SWHHS SHIP 2021-2022 Contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Deputy Director Robin Weis provided information on the Falcon Development Corporation 2022 Contract.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Wachal and seconded by Commissioner Langseth to approve the Falcon Development Corporation 2022 Contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Deputy Director Robin Weis provided information on the Jackson County RLF 2022 Contract.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Wagner and seconded by Commissioner Wachal to approve the Jackson County RLF 2022 Contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

SRDC Treasurer Dennis Welgraven referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravely and seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the Treasurer's Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Brooke Swart reported on the Administrative Report through the end of September 2021. Swart noted that the SRDC should be around 25% of budget and currently revenues are at 21.5%. Swart highlighted line items. Commissioner questions were answered.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Van Hee to approve the Administrative Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White reported on two project reviews: the Northern Con-Agg Boen Gravel Pit project and a review of the MnDOT Aeronautics Office's possible amendment to the Rules Governing Airport Zoning Standards (Minnesota Rules Pt 8800.2400 and 8800.2500). Discussion followed.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Langseth and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the project reviews as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Economic Development Report

Commissioner Tom Hoff introduced guest speakers Katie Baustian from the SW MN CEO program and Austin Brooks from the Midland Institute who presented on the CEO program, its effect on students, and its effect on the community. Brooks walked Commissioners through the basics of the CEO model and emphasized the importance of the business community in training students to be entrepreneurs. Brooks noted that 47% of the students who were in the first three years of the Midland CEO program have since returned to their communities as adults. Baustian then provided information on the SW MN CEO program which includes students from schools in Pipestone, Edgerton, Luverne, Hills, and Adrian. Baustian highlighted successes of the program. Hoff, Baustian, and Brooks then provided information on how to start a CEO program in communities and answered Commissioner questions.

Deputy Director Robin Weis thanked guest speakers and then turned Commissioner attention to the Economic Development report in their meeting packets. The CEDS is currently in the public comment period and can be found on the website. Weis encouraged Commissioners to review and provide their comments on the CEDS. The comment period runs through November 30th. Weis then provided an update on the Career Expo, held September 28th and 29th, at SMSU and Minnesota West—Worthington. Weis highlighted updated on the Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee, MN Marketing Partnership, Major Madness, and provided an update on EDA funding opportunities. Development Intern Elling Mann updated Commissioners on EDA efforts he has been assisting with.

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White then updated Commissioners on the Regional Economic Resiliency Plan. During the October Board Retreat, Board members helped prioritize strategies and made recommendations on impact and effort for strategies. The next phase of the planning effort will be the development of action steps.

B. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Deputy Director Robin Weis reported that all of the original \$1.48 million of COVID-19 RLF funds have been loaned out and that 25 loans have been closed on thus far. SRDC is now lending out of COVID-19 RLF principle and interest earned. Current funds available are approximately \$10,000. For the traditional RLF, current funds available are \$39,000. The RLF Committee has approved, but not yet closed on, one loan in Jackson County for \$75,000, which is anticipated to close in early 2022—Weis noted that with principle and interest coming in, there should be enough funds available by then to cover the requested amount. SRDC is now utilizing local resources to assist with funding requests. The Jackson County RLF has had two loans go to committee and will close in the next few months. A request for SRDC RLF funding was able to be shifted to the Heron Lake RLF for \$87,500. Falcon Development Corporation met on November 9th and will next meet December 14th.

PACE

Deputy Director Weis reported that funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$86,000 (PACE ARRA Funds) and \$266,000 (PACE SEP Funds). Weis noted that she would like to see more applications and projects for PACE.

C. Physical Development Report

Development Planner Jason Walker reported that the next RMEB meeting will take place November 22nd. At this meeting, Fryberger will provide a legislative update. The federal infrastructure bill and what it means for grid/transmission work will also be a topic of discussion. CERTS approved six Seed Grant projects totaling \$30,000, including \$10,000 for BIPOC led projects. Approved projects include: Electric Co-ops EV event through the Electric Cooperatives in Southwest Minnesota, a Bicycle Business Incentive Program in Jackson, Clean Energy educational programs with the Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Solar Thermal training and instillation in partnership with White Earth and the Lower Sioux Indian Community, a project to improve energy efficiency in mobile homes with North Country Cooperatives, and Energy Justice Pueblitos multi-region project with Unidos MN. CERTs is also working 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. On November 1st, staff conducted intercept surveys in Windom, Worthington, Pipestone, and Marshall.

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White provide an update on the City of Pipestone Comprehensive Plan update. The City received a total of 136 responses on their community survey. An assessment of survey results is currently being conducted. SRDC is working with the City of Tracy to organize focus groups for its Comprehensive Plan update. Focus groups will discuss economic development, Hwy 14 and downtown Tracy corridor, community facilities and amenities, and open spaces/parks. The focus group for the open spaces/parks spoke about wanting to add trail connections to connect the city together and adding a trail to connect to Plum Creek Park. The Solid Waste Commission will next meet on November 22nd.

D. Community Development Report

Communications Specialist Jessica Welu reported on work with the Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail. The House Capital Investment Committee tour stopped in Pipestone to talk about the Casey Jones State Trail on October 20th. Representative Schomacker attended and spoke. Senator Weber asked that time be given for the Friends to speak to the Senate Capital Investment Committee Tour in Worthington on October 27th. Welu was asked to speak on behalf of the Friends. Welu also worked with the Friends to develop a media kit for both Committee Tour groups. On November 4th, Welu and Friends President Mick Meyers were interviewed by the Tracy Herald in regards to the vision of the trail and its impact on economic development in the region. Welu is working with the Friends on the development of a monthly column which will appear in local papers. The next Friends meeting is set for November 19th and will be the second strategic planning session, facilitated by SRDC. Welu met with a current RLF client in Wabasso on November 1st to discuss a completed communications audit and potential communications contract needs. Welu also provided an update on the MADO DEI workgroup. During the Board Retreat, Board members assisted staff with the prioritization of communication strategies.

E. <u>Transportation Report</u>

Transportation Committee Chair Mic VanDeVere provided an update on the October ATP 8 meeting. ATP 8 is scheduled to meet again on December 3rd. VanDeVere noted that this meeting could be interesting with the recent passing of the federal infrastructure bill.

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White noted that the ATPs have officially kicked off their CHIP cycle and MnDOT districts are working on programming for the next five years of projects. Bruce-White updated Commissioners on the Joint SMTP-MnSHIP Equity Workgroup and District 7 Freight Plan Advisory Committee. Bruce-White presented on the Local Human Services Public Transit Coordination Plan (LHSPTCP) at the October RTCC meeting. The RTCC will act as the LHSPTCP steering committee and will next meet in December. Three Transportation Alternatives Letters of Intent were received from the region. One applicant thus far has been recommended to fill out a full TA application. The other two were provided recommendations during the LOI review. The MADO transportation planners met November 16-17th in Saint Cloud. They will meet again in February following the Transportation Conference.

Development Planner Jason Walker provided information on the Active Transportation Program, also referred to as the Safe Routes to Anywhere Program. The plans are to allocate \$3.5 million to infrastructure and \$1.5 million to planning and non-infrastructure projects. SRTS solicitation is ongoing. The City of Tracy has informed staff that they are planning to apply. Walker reminded Commissioners that staff is able to assist if cities are interested. Tyler, Jackson, and Adrian completed letters of intent for the SRTS Infrastructure Grants and have received the green light to submit full applications. Lakefield has informed staff that they plan to apply but have not submitted a letter of intent. Walker will be assisting Ivanhoe with a Boost Grant application. Walker then provided an update on regional trails planning. Staff submitted the revised regional trails plan application to the EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grant program on October 22nd. Staff will be attending county meetings in December to request \$3,000 in match for the planning. Discussion followed.

F. Executive Director's Report

Deputy Director Robin Weis noted that Executive Director Jay Trusty missed today's meeting due the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities conference today and tomorrow. Weis provided information on the conference's agenda. Communications Specialist Jessica Welu provided Commissioners information on the SRDC Self Assessment as found in their mailing. Commissioners were asked to complete the assessment and return them to Welu. Weis then turned Commissioner attention to the Executive Director's NADO Report as found in the meeting packet. Weis then noted that AMC Conference will take place the first part of December, the MADO Executive Directors will be meeting soon in Montevideo, and the Broadband Coalition will be meeting soon. Weis also noted that the Budget and Personnel Committee will be meeting in December.

G. Chairman's Report

No discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion.

OTHER ISSUES

No discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Koets adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to adjourn the meeting. Upon vote taken: Ayes-17, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jessica Welu, SRDC Communications Specialist.

Reviewed by: Approved by:

Richard Peterson Myron Koets
SRDC Secretary SRDC Chairman



SRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SLAYTON

DECEMBER 9, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Myron Koets, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Miron

Carney, Keith Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Dennis Klingbile, Mike Kuhle, Paul Langseth, Richard Peterson, Bob VanHee (via Zoom) and Dennis

Welgraven

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Rosemary Bruce-White, Elling Mann, Kathy

Schreiber, Brooke Swart, Robin Weis, Jason Walker, and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Myron Koets called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

There was one addition to the agenda, discussion and recommendation to the Full Commission the Planning Assistant job description under the Budget & Personnel report.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Carney to

approve the agenda with the addition. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the following consent agenda items: October Receipts and Expenditures, Heron

approve the following consent agenda items: October Receipts and Expenditures, Heror Lake RLF, Rural Minnesota Energy Board and Southwest Solid Waste Commission

contracts. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

SRDC Treasurer Dennis Welgraven referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Peterson to

approve the Treasurer's Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion

Carried.

Finance Director Brooke Swart reported on the Administrative Report through the end of October 2021. Swart highlighted several line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Langseth to approve Administrative Report as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion

Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development Planner Jason Walker presented a Minnesota Public Utilities Commission review for Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC's 150 MW Solar Project located in Murray County. Discussion followed. This was for informational purposes only. More information will be given to the board as it becomes available.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair Dennis Welgraven reported on the Budget & Personnel Committee meeting held December 2nd. The Committee discussed SRDC's FY2022 mid-year budget revision. Finance Director Brooke Swart referred Commissioners to the handout detailing the SRDC's FY2022 mid-year budget revision, which she summarized. Major line item differences were explained. The original budget estimated was a \$71,357 increase of unrestricted reserves. The revised budget is showing an estimated \$142,228 increase in unrestricted reserves. The Committee is recommending approval of the SRDC FY2022 mid-year budget revision to the Full Commission.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve recommending the approval of the SRDC FY2022 mid-year budget revision to the Full Commission as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Committee Chair Dennis Welgraven also reported on the Committee's discussion for a new position. Finance Director Brooke Swart referred Commissioners to the handout detailing the Planning Assistant job description. This will be a part-time position to start with. The Committee is recommending a motion to allow the Executive Director to advertise and interview for the planner assistant position and to recommend that the Full Commission accept the job description as written at the January meeting.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve recommending a motion to allow the Executive Director to advertise and interview for the planner assistant position and to recommend that the Full Commission accept the job description as written at the January Full Commission meeting. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

B. Economic Development Report

Deputy Director Robin Weis provided an update on the CEDS. The CEDS committee met in early December to review any comments received from the CEDS comment period that was November 1-30 with no comments received. The CEDS Committee meet in early December to

approve a resolution indicating they reviewed the document which is in line with our region's goals and objectives. The Board of Directors reviewed the resolution to submit the plan.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Langseth to approve the CEDS resolution as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Deputy Director Robin Weis provided information on the next Friends of the Field zoom meeting. This meeting will focus on housing with a panel discussion. Local members of the panel are Myron Koets (City of Pipestone's mayor) and Chad Adams (SW MN Housing Partnership's CEO).

Updates on the activities of the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council, SW MN Youth Committee and MN Marketing Partnership was given to the Commissioners.

The SRDC was a sponsor for the Major Madness conference put on by SMSU and Minnesota West which incorporated speakers who were BIPOC. This was funded out of the Cultural Diversity funds we have. The SRDC will also sponsor a Cultures on the Prairie conference with these funds.

Follow up discussion from the presentation on the CEO Program at the November Full Commission took place. Marshall and Slayton will start this program in the 2022-2023 school year. Worthington is working on getting this program started for the 2023-2024 school year and hoping to include some of the smaller towns around Worthington. All commissioners were emailed the follow up summary from the presenters.

Planning staff Bruce-White, Walker and Welu submitted a Regional Trails grant application to EDA under the Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation category.

Deputy Director Weis is working with the City of Tracy on an application to EDA to do some remodeling of their Veteran's Memorial Building for a co-working space. She is also working on an application to EDA for Aviation Training at the Redwood Falls airport which would include LYFT and the Lower Sioux as partners.

Planning Intern Elling Mann gave an update on the projects he has been working on.

C. Revolving Loan Fund Report

COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF) original funds have all been lent out. There is approximately \$25,000 in the account. A Nobles County loan has been approved.

The traditional RLF continues to have the COVID flexibilities until June 30, 2022. There is approximately \$90,000 in the account. There is a Jackson County loan that is approved but has not closed yet.

RLF Committee Chair Bob Byrnes explained the difference between the two loan programs.

Discussion was held on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars that the counties have received from the federal government for economic recovery and whether the counties might want to recapitalize these funds at an 80%-20% grant.

Deputy Director Weis updated commissioners on our contracted RLF activities. The SRDC has three loan programs that staff work with. All three have had activity the past couple months with loans closing for Jackson County RLF and Heron Lake RLF. Jackson County will have another loan close in early 2022. Falcon Development has had a couple of inquiries recently.

PACE

Deputy 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 \$86,000(PACE ARRA Funds) and \$266,000 (PACE SEP Funds). Weis continues to have businesses complete energy audits. PACE outreach will focus on energy assessments as there is no cost to the business and staff will be reaching out with information to gas stations and grocery stores.

D. Physical Development Report

Development Planner Jason Walker reported the Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) met in person on November 22nd with the option to join via zoom. The board discussed the federal infrastructure bill that will bring roughly \$5 billion to Minnesota with \$100 million going to broadband and \$68 million going to EV (electric vehicle) charging. The state will have to provide a 20% match for a sizeable portion of the federal funds.

The RMEB's legislative consultant is looking at a House and Senate bill that would bring property tax revenue to counties for solar projects under 1 MW as there is no production tax received by the counties if the project is under 1 MW. The consultant continues to look into the grid infrastructure and resiliency part of the federal infrastructure bill. The board asked the consultant to support waste energy as a viable alternative source. Long time RMEB consultant Kevin Walli will be retiring.

The board would like to have Carbon Solutions (a company that is looking at constructing an underground pipeline through parts of southwest Minnesota on its way to North Dakota for liquid carbon storage) to speak at their next meeting.

Solar for Schools program application opens January 5th. The incentive to use solar has not been worked out yet.

Development Planner Bruce-White updated the commissioners on the City of Pipestone's Comprehensive Plan update. The survey is done so they will meet to go over the surveys and write their goals.

Bruce-White informed the board the Solid Waste Commission met on November 22nd in-person with an option to join by zoom. The Solid Waste Administrators are looking at conducting a study on the waste that comes through their facilities.

E. Community Development Report

Communications Specialist Jessica Welu provided an update on the Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail Association. The Tracy Herald did a story for their December edition of the Southwest Minnesota Sailor on the trail and its impact on economic development in the region. Monthly newspaper articles are being discussed and developed for Casey Jones Trail outreach.

Welu continues to work with RLF clients on a communication audit. Currently she is working with a client from Wabasso. They are looking at contracting with SRDC to update and restructure their website.

The next edition of the SRDC Newsletter will go out in mid-December.

F. Transportation Report

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White reported that the ATPs are talking about how Corridors of Commerce are funded and want to see geographic equity for these dollars. The RDC planners would like to make sure there is communication between MnDOT, Cities/Counties/School Districts, etc. and RDCs so the planners know what is going on in their region so they can support local projects. Planners do not always know when other entities apply for MnDOT dollars so they are unable to assist the entity. The communication with the SRDC and other entities has been very good.

Development Planner Walker updated commissioners on the progress of the Adrian SRTS plan. Staff is at the point of doing analysis and writing the plan.

Walker explained the following grant solicitations are open this fall and due in early January: SRTS Planning Grants (Tracy and RRC are interested), SRTS Non-Infrastructure Boost Grants (Ivanhoe and Jackson are interested), and SRTS Infrastructure Grants Letter of Intent (LOIs) were due October 29th with Tyler, Jackson and Adrian submitting LOIs. The first two categories have \$400,000 available and the last category has \$7.5 million available.

The Regional Trails grant application that staff submitted to EDA under the Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation category was funded at an 80% grant-20% match contingent on EDA receiving a clarification on a couple items in the grant application. The amount of the grant is \$167,200.00 and the match will be \$41,800.00. Planners Bruce-White, Walker and Welu will be visiting county boards over the next several weeks to ask for a \$3,000 contribution from each county towards the match part of this grant and the SRDC will cover the remaining 14,800.00.

G. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Jay Trusty referred Commissioners to their handout for the summary of the SRDC's Self-Assessment which is done every 5 years. Trusty highlighted some points in the assessment and noted that the SRDC brought in approximately \$6.31 for every \$1.00 of local tax money assessed through the General Purpose Tax. This does not include the RLF money used in the region, if it did the amount would be nearly \$11.00 for every \$1.00. The \$6.31 amount is calculated using only local revenues that could be specifically monetized either through funded grants or backed up by the SRDC's audited financials. A copy of the Assessment overview will

be sent to the Legislative Law Library as required in the Regional Development Act. He attended the Coalition of Greater MN Cities conference in Willmar in November. Lots of discussion focused on the opioid settlement. This was also a discussion at the Association of MN Counties (AMC) conference. The AMC conference had about 500 attendees and 20 vendors. The RDCs shared a booth at AMC. Trusty and Murray County Zoning/Environmental Officer Jean Christoffels presented at AMC on the Murray County Solar with about 35 people attending. Broadband continues to be a hot topic. The thought is to give everyone in the state access to broadband to get everyone to the 2026 standard and not just those not served with broadband or those underserved with broadband. Northwest RDC's Executive Director is retiring and their Area Agency on Aging Director, Darla Waldner, will be their new Executive Director. Headwaters RDC will also be naming a new Executive Director in January. Trusty stated that Commissioner Thompson thought that when the SRDC has meetings in counties throughout the region that they should promote the RDC at venues they may frequent while in town. At the upcoming 2022 EDAM winter conference in Bloomington, MN, Trusty will be a speaker and will talk about the BERCEE program. Trusty commented that Cities and Counties should look into updating their Comprehensive Plans more often than every 20 years or so as having access to those plans after so much time has passed is difficult.

H. Chairman's Report

Chairman Myron Koets shared a story of him taking over his brother's trucking company after his brother passed away and how important the transportation corridors are.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No discussion

NEW BUSINESS

No discussion

OTHER ISSUES

No discussion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Myron Koets referred Commissioners to the announcements included on the agenda.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Koets adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Carney to adjourn the meeting. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: Approved by:

Richard Peterson Myron Koets
SRDC Secretary SRDC Chairman

	ADDA AAAU DEGEIDTO GUIMMADV			_
	SRDC CASH RECEIPTS SUMMARY			
ATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM	CHECK#	AMOUNT	В
11/01/21	RLF Borrowers	ACH	17,571.01	F
11/01/21	C-RLF Borrowers	ACH	18,958.30	F
11/02/21	State of MN - Transportation	ACH	37,500.00	F
	Renville County - PACE Payment	ACH	1,524.53	F
	Murray Co Christmas Project-3 Checks	checks	1,450.00	ŀ
	MNRAAA-rent and copies	7292	89.00	ŀ
	Murray Co Christmas Project -1 Checks	check	2,000.00	ŀ
	Meeker Cooperative - 2022 Broadband Dues	164882	750.00	ŀ
	City Heron Lake - RLF admin	50335	15.00	ŀ
	ACE - Aug and Sept Contract/Oct copies	54623	4,227.03	
	Towns Concrete - RLF origination and legal fees	1424	1,300.00	1
	Jeremy Janssen - Falcon Membership Dues	Cash	50.00	E
	John Hay - Falcon Membership Dues	Cash	50.00	
11/16/21	Tracy Freking - Falcon Membership Dues	9886	50.00	[
	Allen Jensen - Falcon Membership Dues	2124	50.00	
	SWMHP: Financial/Secretarial / Lease - Nov / Oct Monthly Costs	33227	5,255.02	_
	Murray Co Christmas Project 4 Checks	Checks	350.00	
	Murray Co Christmas Project 2 Checks	Checks	525.00	
	MCIT - Dividend - RMEB	ACH	115.00	
	MCIT - Dividend - SRDC	ACH	1,671.00	
	Annette Fiedler - Health Insurance	7245	750.37	
	Ray Land - Rent / Costs	1672	6,016.20	
	Rakuten - Rebate Funds	54123362	25.29	
	Falcon - April thru June Contract	59342	40.00	
	Falcon - Jan thru March Contract	59343	255.00	
	Falcon - July - Sept Contract	59344	75.00	
11/29/21	Murray Co-Current & Delinquent taxes	166802	10,688.82	
	Jackson Co-Current & Delinquent taxes/PACE	97284	32,986.70	
	SWHHS-October admin	118798	450.00	
	SRDC-PACE Outreach Oct. 2021	59350	100.00	
	SRDC-RMEB Oct. 2021	59351	1,140.00 510.00	
	SRDC-RMEB Sept. 2021	59352	768.16	
	Casey Jones-Oct. 2021 admin	1281	32.00	
	J.Trusty-refund parking	Cash Checks	615.00	
	Murray Co Christmas Prit-9 checks	Checks	1,480.00	
	Murray Co Christmas Prit-21 checks	Cash	230.00	
11/30/21	Murray Co Christmas Project	Casn	230.00	
11/30/21	Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	11.66	
	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank		-
	Minnwest Bank - CRLF Savings	Per Bank	1.23	
	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	6.63	
	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	0.21	-
	Jackson Savings & Loan - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	32.67	-
	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank	4.24	_
			149,724.48	

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2021 Through 11/30/2021

Session ID	Check N	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS22-00038	59299	11/5/2021	AFLAC	AFLAC - 11/04/21	127.79	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59300	11/5/2021	Arrowwood Resort/Conference	Board Retreat: 2021 (Hotel Reservations)	1,626.84	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59300	11/5/2021	Arrowwood Resort/Conference	Board Retreat: Food/Beverage Costs	808.92	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59300	11/5/2021	Arrowwood Resort/Conference	Board Retreat: Room Rental Fees (2 days) @ 3	749.00	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59301	11/5/2021	Chandler Co-Op	Fuei: Oct 2021	48.35	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59302	11/5/2021	City of Slayton	Sewer/Water: 09/21/21 - 10/20/21	18.40	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59302	11/5/2021	City of Slayton	Sewer/Water: 09/21/21 - 10/20/21	27.60	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59303	11/5/2021	David R. Samuelson	Groundskeeping: Oct 2021	100.00	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59303	11/5/2021	David R. Samuelson	Groundskeeping: Oct 2021	150.00	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59304	11/5/2021	Frontier Communications	Monthly Maint Contract (10/25/21 - 11/24/21)	36.39	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59304	11/5/2021	Frontier Communications	Monthly Maint Contract (10/25/21 - 11/24/21)	67.59	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59305	11/5/2021	Jackson County Pilot	Annual Subscription Renewal	75.00	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59306	11/5/2021	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Otrly Subscription: 11/15/21 - 02/14/22	156.78	11/5/2021
AP\$22-00038	59307	11/5/2021	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project Donations	1,450.00	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59308	11/5/2021	One Office Solution	Contract(Sharp MX 6071) Meter Reading - 09/25	220.57	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59309	11/5/2021	Quil Corporation	Calendars/Planners/B.T/Batteries	32,40	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59309	11/5/2021	Quill Corporation	Calendars/Planners/B.T/Batteries	113,42	11/5/2021
APS22-00038	59310	11/5/2021	Slayton EDA	Lease Payment - Nov 2021	4,817.81	11/5/2021
APC22-00039	59311	11/5/2021	Association of Minnesota Coun	MN Rural Broadband: Qtr 3 2021	3,750.00	11/5/2021
APC22-00039	59312	11/5/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	September 2021 Contract - MRBC Governmental	750.00	11/5/2021
APC22-00039	59313	11/5/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	October 2021 Contract - MRBC-Speed Test Pres	1,000.00	11/5/2021
APC22-00039	59314	11/5/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	October 2021 Contract - MRBC - Governmental	750.00	11/5/2021
APC22-00039	59315	11/5/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	MRBC: Mileage (Kandiyohi Co Broadband Expen	127.98	11/5/2021
APC22-00037	59316	11/8/2021	Nobles County Auditor/Treasu	RLF Loan: Mortgage Registry Fee (Towns Concr	138.00	11/8/2021
APC22-00037	59317	11/8/2021	Nobles County Recorder	RLF Loan: Mortgage Filing Fee (Towns Concrete	46.00	11/8/2021
APC22-00037	59318	11/8/2021	Towns Concrete LLC	RLF Loan Disbursement (Towns Concrete) #2	60,000.00	11/8/2021
APC22-00040	59319	11/12/2021	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water/Salt: Oct 2021	31.58	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59319	11/12/2021	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water/Salt: Oct 2021	5.37	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59320	11/12/2021	Grants Management Systems	Services: Oct 2021	35.00	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59320	11/12/2021	Grants Management Systems	Services: Oct 2021	105.00	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59321	11/12/2021	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project Donations	2,000.00	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59322	11/12/2021	Northwest Gas	Fuel: 09/25/21 - 10/23/21	39.13	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59322	11/12/2021	Northwest Gas	Fuel: 09/25/21 - 10/23/21	27.20	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59323	11/12/2021	Schaap Sanitation	Sanitation: 11/01/21 - 11/30/21	30.77	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59323	11/12/2021	Schaap Sanitation	Sanitation: 11/01/21 - 11/30/21	46.16	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59324	11/12/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Adobe (Brooke)	118.93	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59324	11/12/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Service: Server Hardware Issue	275.00	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59324	11/12/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	Service: Server Hardware Issue	275.00	11/12/2021

Date: 1/4/22 11:05:14 AM

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2021 Through 11/30/2021

Session ID	Check N	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APC22-00040	59325	11/12/2021	Verizon Wireless	Tablets: 10/02/21 - 11/01/21	80.40	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59326	11/12/2021	XCEL Energy	Electricity: 10/02/21 - 10/31/21	192.00	11/12/2021
APC22-00040	59326	11/12/2021	XCEL Energy	Electricity: 10/02/21 - 10/31/21	276.29	11/12/2021
APC22-00042	59327	11/19/2021	AFLAC	AFLAC - 11/17/21	127.79	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59328	11/19/2021	Allen Jensen	Falcon Development: Per Diem (11/09/21)	50.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59329	11/19/2021	Brian D. Kletscher	CEDS Contracted Service: - 09/27/21; 10/11/21	100.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59330	11/19/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	One Case of Towels	37.46	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59330	11/19/2021	Dust Tex Service Inc.	One Case of Towels	24.97	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59331	11/19/2021	Fleet Services Division	Oct 2021 - Lease Payment/Sales Tax	542.31	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59332	11/19/2021	Frontier Communications	Telephone: 11/04/21 - 12/03/21	281.73	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59332	11/19/2021	Frontier Communications	Telephone: 11/04/21 - 12/03/21	523.09	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59333	11/19/2021	Jeremy D. Janssen	Faicon Development: Per Diem (11/09/21)	50.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59334	11/19/2021	John Hay	Faicon Development: Per Diem (11/09/21)	50.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59335	11/19/2021	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project Donations	875.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59336	11/19/2021	Murray County Early Childhoo	Transfer: MCECC Operating Funds (Partial)	5,000.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59337	11/19/2021	Nathan D. Zacharias	Nov 2021 Contract - MRBC	3,975.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59338	11/19/2021	National Print + Promo	MIP Checks (SRDC) - 1000	205.04	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59339	11/19/2021	One Office Solution	Paper/Sheet Protectors/Notes	210.72	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59339	11/19/2021	One Office Solution	Paper (11 x 17)	36.70	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59340	11/19/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	File Server (#2) - S/N- MXQ11710C7	4,880.75	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59340	11/19/2021	The Computer Man, Inc.	File Server (#2) - S/N- MXQ11710C7	4,880.75	11/19/2021
APC22-00042	59341	11/19/2021	Tracy L. Freking	Falcon Development: Per Diem (11/09/21)	50.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00032	59342	11/19/2021	SRDC	Falcon: April - June 2021	40.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00032	59343	11/19/2021	SRDC	Falcon: Jan - Mar 2021	255.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00032	59344	11/19/2021	SRDC	Falcon: July - Sept 2021	75.00	11/19/2021
APC22-00029	59345	11/24/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 11/16/21 - 11/16/21	20.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59345	11/24/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 11/16/21 - 11/16/21	2,580.27	11/24/2 02 1
APC22-00029	59345	11/24/2021	Cardmember Services	Visa: 11/16/21 - 11/16/21	9.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59346	11/24/2021	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	RMEB: Legal - Sept 2021	900.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59346	11/24/2021	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	RMEB - Legal - Oct 2021	900.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59347	11/24/2021	Marilyn Samuelson	Nov 2021 - Janitorial Services	472.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59347	11/24/2021	Marilyn Samuelson	Nov 2021 - Janitorial Services	328.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59348	11/24/2021	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project Donations	615.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59349	11/24/2021	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	Pera Life: Nov 2021 Deductions	48.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59350	11/24/2021	SRDC	PACE Outreach: Oct 2021	100.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59351	11/24/2021	SRDC	RMEB - Oct 2021	1,140.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00029	59352	11/24/2021	SRDC	RMEB - Sept 2021	510.00	11/24/2021
APC22-00043	835	11/30/2021	Carol R. Wagner	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	34.72	11/30/2021

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Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2021 Through 11/30/2021

Session ID	Check N	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APC22-00043	835	11/30/2021	Carol R. Wagner	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	50.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	836	11/30/2021	Dennis A. Klingbile	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	50.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	836	11/30/2021	Dennis A. Klingbile	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	73.92	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	837	11/30/2021	Donald H. Wachal	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	50.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	837	11/30/2021	Donald H. Wachal	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	68.32	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	838	11/30/2021	Eric A. Hartman	Commissioner Exp: 10/22/21 RLF; 10/28/21; 1	100.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	838	11/30/2021	Eric A. Hartman	Commissioner Exp: 10/22/21 RLF; 10/28/21; 1	50.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	838	11/30/2021	Eric A. Hartman	Commissioner Exp: 10/22/21 RLF; 10/28/21; 1	81.76	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	839	11/30/2021	Keith A. Elbers	Commissioner Exp: 10/14/21; 10/28/21; 10/29	146.16	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	839	11/30/2021	Keith A. Elbers	Commissioner Exp: 10/14/21; 10/28/21; 10/29	150.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	840	11/30/2021	Michael L. VanDeVere	Commissioner Exp: 10/15/21 ATP; 11/18/21	100.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	840	11/30/2021	Michael L. VanDeVere	Commissioner Exp: 10/15/21 ATP; 11/18/21	42.56	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	841	11/30/2021	Miron V. Carney	Commissioner Exp: 09/23/21; 10/21/21	100.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	842	11/30/2021	Myron D. Koets	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	150.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	842	11/30/2021	Myron D. Koets	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	60.48	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	843	11/30/2021	Paul Langseth	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	78. 4 0	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	843	11/30/2021	Paul Langseth	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	150.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	844	11/30/2021	Richard Anderson	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	100.24	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	844	11/30/2021	Richard Anderson	Commissioner Exp: 10/28/21; 10/29/21; 11/18	150.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	845	11/30/2021	Robert H. Van Hee	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	50.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	845	11/30/2021	Robert H. Van Hee	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	84.00	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	846	11/30/2021	William R. Crowley	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	12.32	11/30/2021
APC22-00043	846	11/30/2021	William R. Crowley	Commissioner Exp: 11/18/21	50.00	11/30/2021
Report Total					112,603.13	

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SRDC) Contract Amendment With CITY OF PIPESTONE

The following is a contract amendment to the contract with the City of Pipestone for professional services that will require a time extension beyond the original contract term, due to a change in the timeframe of completion.

WHEREAS the Contract Agreement under this Agreement reads:

The Term of this contract commences April, 2021 and shall continue through December 2021.

The contract agreement is amended to read:

The Term of this contract commences January, 2022 and shall continue through April, 2022.

All other areas of the contract will remain the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE SRDC has caused this contract amendment to be duly executed in its behalf and the City has caused the same to be duly executed on its behalf.

City of Pipestone CITY COUNCIL	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
My	
Mayor/ / /	Chairperson
Jan	
City Administrator	Executive Director
Date: 1-3-202Z	Date:



Now Accepting Applications - 2022

If you are interested in applying

for **no cost** home repairs or

Safe at Home modifications,

please review eligibility criteria

and complete an application.

You can find more information and download the applications at https://rtmn.org/apply-for-help/

or call the office at

507-200-2015 to request

an application by mail.

As we begin a new year, Rebuilding Together is accepting applications for a variety of home improvements projects for low-income residents in specific communities throughout the state.

Now more than ever, the ability to stay home in a safe and comfortable environment is a major priority, especially for those that are most at-risk.

From accessibility ramps, home repairs and added safety features, our donated work allows residents to stay in their home longer, improving their overall quality of life.

Home Repair

The Home Repair program provides safe and healthy housing repairs, including interior improvements (i.e. installing flooring, patching and painting), siding, windows, and landscaping. It also provides contractor-delivered repair or replacement of essential systems, such as HVAC, electrical, plumbing and roofs that are critical to healthy, livable homes.

Home Repair services are available throughout the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles and Pipestone.

Safe at Home

The Safe at Home program provides home safety and fall prevention modifications and ramps for older adults or those living with a disability so they can continue to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Modifications for the interior of the home can include grab bars for bathrooms, handrails for basement and upstairs steps, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and other updates that allow seniors to safely age in place.

Dedicated volunteer teams provide ongoing support to design and build quality, tailored ramps to make homes accessible for all.

Safe at Home services are available throughout the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson and Nobles.



Rebuilding Together is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
To learn more, please visit www.RTMN.org.

The work of Rebuilding Together has been proven to improve...

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

PRIDE OF HOME

Almost 90% of neighbors reported a feeling of **pride in their home** after repairs.



COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Sixty percent of neighbors reported an **increased feeling of inclusion within the neighborhood** after repairs.



SAFETY

FALL REDUCTION

The majority of neighbors who had previously (or almost had) fallen **did not fall again** following repairs.



HOME ACCESSIBILITY

Eighty six percent of neighbors who had trouble entering and exiting their home **found it easier** after our repairs.



PHYSICAL HEALTH

GOOD HEALTH

Over six in 10 neighbors either **maintained good/excellent health** after repairs, or experienced improved health after repairs.



OVERALL HEALTH

Among neighbors who reported their physical health was "fair" or "poor" before the repairs, **33**% said **their health improved** after the repairs.



MENTAL HEALTH

STRESS REDUCTION

Among neighbors who felt highly nervous or stressed about their home, 67% said the repairs reduced this level.



WELL-BEING

Half of neighbors said **their mental health improved** after receiving home repairs.



ECONOMIC SECURITY

COST REDUCTION

Home maintenance costs decreased for 27% of neighbors.



INTERGENERATIONAL WEALTH

Nearly 70% of neighbors **plan to pass on their property** to a family member or friend.



INDEPENDENCE

FOOD PREPARATION

A majority of neighbors who found food preparation very difficult said the repairs helped increase their ability.



ABILITY TO AGE IN PLACE

Almost 90% of neighbors who weren't planning on aging in place **now consider it very likely.**





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

November 2021
CEDS| EDA PLANNING | CARES ACT EDA (C-EDA)

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

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.

The region's CEDS is in the final stages prior to its submission before January 2022 month end. November 30 ended the mandatory EDA 30-day public comment period and resolutions from the CEDS committee and SRDC Board of Directors were approved in December. The CEDS committee was very active in reviewing the document to ensure that the document is in line with our region's goals and objectives.

EDA PLANNING

Friends in the Field: Quarterly, economic and community development professionals in Minnesota get together to learn and collaborate. The January 12 Zoom meeting will focus on housing. The City of Pipestone (Myron Koets) and SWMHP will both (Chad Adams) be on the panel.

Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC): The coordinating council met on October 26 to hear about the council's role in the next Local Human Services Public Transit Plan. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 19.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: The committee meets in February, May, August, and November. The November 4 meeting focused on the CEDS Labor Force cornerstone, as well as staff and member updates. 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 mission of this group aligns with many areas within our CEDS. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for February 3.

MN Marketing Partnership: The group last met on December 9. DEED recently launched the Build What Matters campaign designed to promote Minnesota as a world-class destination to build a business and expand careers. It can be found at joinusmn.com. Case studies will be used in 2022 to continue learning from different stakeholders and companies.

Cultures on the Prairie: SRDC will be sponsoring this event on February 15. The event is being held at SMSU and online. More details will be forthcoming.

SMSU Entrepreneurial Advisory Council: SRDC has been asked by Dr. George Taylor to participate on this advisory council. The council next meets on February 18. The SMSU Center of Innovation and Entrepreneurship promotes developing the entrepreneurial mindset through experiential learning and community outreach with a goal to enhance the economic viability of the 18-county area of the Southwest Minnesota Region.

Workforce Solutions Summit: Workforce shortages are affecting every region and industry and are affecting both business sustainability and growth. Staff will be attending this summit on January 20 to learn from other ED professionals.

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.

CARES ACT EDA (C-EDA)

SRDC staff are available to provide support and technical assistance to businesses and local units of government. Contact staff if you need research completed, maps developed, surveys compiled, grant reviewed, etc.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic created a number of new challenges for businesses, workers, and government. For a list of state and federal programs (SBA, Unemployment and DEED) for businesses, visithttps://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. <u>Coal Communities Commitment:</u> \$300 million. Will ensure support for coal communities as they recover from the pandemic and create new jobs and opportunities.
- 2. <u>Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation:</u> \$750 million. Accelerate communities impacted by COVID-related travel and tourism decline through state grants (\$510 million) and competitive grants (\$240 million).
 - Staff have completed and submitted an application for the development of a regional trails plan.
 - SRDC submitted a letter of support for a statewide application being put together by the U of MN
 Extension Tourism Center that will develop, pilot, and deliver three workforce training programs for
 the tourism industry, including basic skill level customer service training, workforce inclusiveness, and
 nurturing future industry leaders.
- 3. <u>Good Jobs Challenge:</u> These applications are now due February 10, 2022. \$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.
- 4. <u>Economic Adjustment Assistance:</u> Includes assistance, planning, and revolving loan programs through competitive grants available to every community.
 - Staff are working with the community of Tracy on a co-working application. This aligns with our CEDS.
- 5. <u>Indigenous Communities:</u> \$100 million. Additional Economic Adjustment Assistance funds to specifically support Indigenous communities.
 - Conversations are in process to develop a workforce development proposal. Many trades, as well as aviation, are possibilities. Four high schools have expressed interest thus far.
- 6. <u>Build Back Better Regional Challenge:</u> Submission for phase 1 applications has already come and gone with phase 2 applications due March 15, 2022. A list of projects selected for phase 1 has been announced. 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. <u>Statewide Planning, Research & Networks:</u> \$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 mismatch 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.

During the Board Retreat, the SRDC Board of Directors assisted staff with the prioritization and assessment of draft strategies. Final strategies and action items will incorporate feedback from the retreat.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT

November 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 intends to meet in-person prior to May 2022 to discuss the future of the C-RLF and Traditional RLF.

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 \$62,952.

Original funds available to SRDC were \$1.48 million. We have closed on 100% of our original funds with 25 C-RLF loans thus far. SRDC no longer needs to submit requests to EDA for funds to close approved COVID-19 RLF loans.

The committee has approved, but has not yet closed on, one loan in Nobles County totaling \$50,000. At this point, the amount of funds available goes up by approximately \$17,000 per month based on principal repaid.

Traditional RLF

Funds Available: Funds on hand, uncommitted, are in the approximate amount of \$90,000. The committee has approved, but has not yet closed on, one loan in Jackson County totaling \$75,000, which will close March 2022. At this point, the amount of funds available goes up by approximately \$13,000 per month based on principal repaid. Conversations are occurring with multiple potential loan clients.

RLF Success Stories

To promote RLF programs, success stories can now be found at http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/rlf-business-spotlights/.

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. <u>Jackson County RLF:</u> JCRLF now has four active loans. An application in the amount of \$100,000 was approved by the committee and county commissioners and will close early 2022. There are still available funds for businesses in Jackson County with gap financing needs.
- 2. <u>Heron Lake RLF:</u> HLRLF now has three active loans. HLRLF 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. The latest loan closed in the amount of \$87,500 for expansion of an aerial spraying business. Staff is currently working with city staff and their council on a loan modification request.
- 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 within a 30-mile radius of Heron Lake. These funds are de-federalized; therefore, Davis Bacon does not apply to construction projects. Approximately \$100,000 is available for lending. Façade programs were discussed at their last meeting on December 14. FDC will next meet on February 1. There is room on the FDC board for two additional members.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Funds Available: Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of \$86,000 (PACE ARRA Funds) and \$266,000 (PACE SEP Funds). Thirty-one loans have closed thus far, totaling \$1,142,192.06. Some businesses chose to pay off their PACE loans early in 2021. We have also had some businesses change hands. PACE loans follow the current owner. Our latest conversation has been with an ag producer with two hog barns in Lincoln County looking at solar.

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.

Upcoming Outreach: Staff is putting together a list of local grocers and gas stations to conduct outreach to. Once complete, other sectors will be targeted. Staff reached out to county administrators with PACE resources for their website.

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 December 2021 KDOM Kaleidoscope focused on energy assessments/audits and 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

November 2021 ENERGY| LAND USE, PLANNING & ZONING | SOLID WASTE & NATURAL RESOURCES

ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The Board will meet on January 24. Summit Carbon Solutions will present about their carbon pipeline project. All counties have ratified the revised Joint Powers Agreement and a fully executed copy has been sent to all members.

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs): Firm priorities for the year:

- Seed grant release
- EV month: weekly sessions with staff and steering committees
- Solar for Schools: provide TA to schools per Commerce contract (through August 2023) and conduct outreach to schools, particularly around underserved schools, via McKnight (through November 2023)
- Storytelling
- Greenstep Cities
- Utility assistance / ECO
- Under 5 campaign efforts
- EVs: Greater Minnesota scaling/adoption and acceptance
- REDA and support for small businesses and farms

Solar for Schools: Presentation for those outside of Xcel territory: https://mn.gov/commerce-stat/pdfs/solar-for-schools-mnseia-presentation.pdf. First steps to apply open on January 5.

Southwest RSDP: Is inviting sustainability project ideas now through February 14. Award decisions will be made by the regional board this spring. RSDP seeks ideas from diverse populations and those who have not previously partnered with the University. For more information, visit Z.umn.edu/RSDPideabrief.

Land Use, Planning & Zoning

City of Pipestone Comprehensive Plan Update: Staff sent city officials a list of issues impacting Pipestone, and their corresponding goals. The City, along with its departments, are tasked with creating their own action plan to achieve each goal and identifying responsible parties/positions. After the City completes this, the plan will be finalized and ready for public comment.

City of Tracy Comprehensive Plan Update: Staff recently conducted a focus group regarding Economic Development and the MN-14/Craig Avenue corridor. The next Focus groups that will take place will discuss overall transportation infrastructure in Tracy and community facilities.

SRDC staff, along with Rosemary Martin (Planning Commission Chair) and Erik Hansen (City Administrator) were recently interviewed by a reporter writing an article about the Comprehensive Plan and the planning process. The article will be featured on the League of Minnesota Cities website.

Northern Con-Agg Boen Pit EAW Update: On December 28, 2021, Rock County Board of Commissioners issued a Positive Declaration for the need for an EIS on the proposed Northern Con-Agg Boen Pit Expansion.

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission: The Solid Waste Commission will meet January 24. During this meeting the SWCOM will discuss potential speakers and tours for the group.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

November 2021 LOCAL ASSISTANCE | COMMUNITY PLANNING | COMMUNICATIONS

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: Staff is working with the Friends on the development of a monthly column in local newspapers. SRDC facilitated the second strategic planning session with the Friends at their November 19 meeting. Continuing efforts will be on setting further action steps for each goal. The Friends' next meeting will be in January.

Communications Assistance: Staff completed a Communications Audit for a current RLF Client in Wabasso. Staff met with the business on November 1 to discuss the audit results and their communication needs. The business has asked about a contract to assist them with updating and restructuring their website and storytelling/content editing. Further discussion on assistance is upcoming.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ACTIVITIES

MADO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group: Met January 5 with a discussion on conflict, discomfort, and effective communication. The next meeting will take place February 2.

SRDC COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: The December newsletter was published mid-December and featured a new spotlight on our website: RLF spotlight. Also featured were two articles from local papers featuring SRDC work. SRDC work has appeared in the Murray County News, Rock County Star Herald, and Marshall Independent regarding the Regional Trails Planning. The next issue of the newsletter is planned for mid-March. 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: During the Board Retreat, the SRDC Board of Directors assisted staff with the prioritization of communication strategies over the next year. Staff will be presenting a final list of priorities and action items at the December Board meeting. This list will then be presented at the March Full Commission meeting.

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

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

November 2021

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

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

ATP 7: MnDOT D7 ATP met November 12 via Microsoft Teams.

ATP 8: ATP 8 met December 3. There was one formal STIP amendment that required action in-between ATP meetings and was approved via email on November 3. The amendment included an increase in cost due to an updated design estimate in a project on CSAH 1 in Redwood County. The increase in cost will be covered by local officials to maintain fiscal constraints.

During the ATP meeting Patrick Weidemann gave a presentation on the Corridors of Commerce Program and options to improve project selection and geographic distribution. The presentation can be found at https://bit.ly/3mW6eSG. Issues regarding 2018 project Scoring and Selection start on slide 19. Regional Balance definition and interpretation begin on slide 28 and proposed changes on slide 28.

ATPs have officially kicked off their CHIP cycle and MnDOT districts are working on programming (scheduling and acquiring funds for) the next five years of projects. Local opportunities such as the TAP, Local HSIP, MnDOT HSIP and some local rail safety projects are part of the CHIP cycle and are used to select projects for the next programable year (2026).

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, coauthored 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 and Technical Advisory Team. 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.

The Technical Advisory Team met January 3 and discussed the results of the gap scoring and prioritization process. The consulting team is working with SEH architects to do some preliminary design/engineering on a final 10-15 projects in the districts.

Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan

Staff presented the LHSPTCP at the October RTCC meeting. Staff presented on the timeline, steering committee events and duties, and planning timeline. Staff will follow up with an evaluation of previous efforts in December. Survey and outreach materials will be available in Spanish, Karen, Hmong, and Somali.

Transportation Planning

Transportation Alternatives Program: Three total Letters of Intent (LOIs) were received from the SRDC Region. Staff immediately reached out to each potential applicant with preliminary notes. So far, one applicant completed an LOI review, and has been recommended to fill out a full TA application.

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.

Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting: Transportation Planners from across MADO (and MnDOT districts not represented by an RDO) met November 16-17. The meeting was offered both in person and virtually and covered topics including Active living, MnSHIP, TZD, and more. The next quarterly meeting will line up with the Minnesota Transportation Planners Conference in March 2022.

ACTIVE LIVING & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

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

Active Transportation Program: The Minnesota legislature established an Active Transportation program in 2018 and funded it with \$5 million in 2021. The plans are to allocate \$3.5 million to infrastructure and the remaining \$1.5 million will go toward planning and non-infrastructure projects.

<u>Planning Assistance (Early 2022):</u> This solicitation will offer funding to communities seeking consultant support to complete an active transportation plan. One consultant proposal will be selected to serve all awarded grantees. Consultant proposals are encouraged to sub-contract with Regional Development Organizations if possible.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS): Most of the data is collected for the Adrian SRTS plan. Staff is drafting the current conditions memo and arranging the remaining meetings. The following grant solicitations closed in early January:

- SRTS Planning Grants: Tracy and Red Rock Central
- SRTS Non-infrastructure Boost Grants: Ivanhoe
- SRTS Infrastructure Grants: Staff are aware of at least three LOIs in our region for Tyler, Jackson, and Adrian. Additionally, Lakefield plans to apply but they did not submit an LOI.

Regional Trails Planning

Staff submitted the revised regional trails plan application on October 22. Staff received a letter from EDA in December notifying us that the application has been reviewed and selected for further consideration. Staff are currently compiling additional information requested by EDA.

Staff have attended 7 of 9 county meetings to request resolutions of support and a \$3,000 match. Pipestone County's meeting is upcoming on January 11. Jackson County's meeting is upcoming on January 18. Of the 7 counties, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, and Rock approved the resolution and \$3,000 match. Cottonwood and Redwood Counties did not.



