FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 9, 2023
3:30pm

Tracy SRTS Team members met in February to discuss SRTS goals.

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*
Carrie Bendix	Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
JoEllen Benson	Rock County Townships
Kristie Blankenship	Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
Bob Byrnes	City of Marshall & RLF Committee Chair*
Miron Carney	Murray County Municipalities, Immediate Past Chair, Legislative Committee Chair*
Elliot Christensen	Lower Sioux Community
(Tabia Goodthunder)	(Alternate: Lower Sioux Community)
Pam Cooreman	Lyon County Municipalities
Bill Crowley	Murray County Townships
Keith Elbers	Rock County Municipalities, SRDC Secretary*
Lori Grant	Lyon County Townships
Donna Gravley	Cottonwood County Commissioners*
Eric Hartman	Region 8 School Boards*
Chris Hollingsworth	Pipestone County Commissioners
Dennis Klingbile	Lincoln County Municipalities*
Tiffany Knott	Redwood County Townships
Paul Langseth	Nobles County Townships, SRDC Chair*
Jeff Moen	Lincoln County Townships
See Moua-Leske	Cultural Diversity
Bob Paplow	Nobles County Commissioners
Richard Peterson	Jackson County Townships, SRDC Treasurer*
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
Dennis Welgraven	Murray County Commissioners, SRDC Vice-Chair*
Justine Wettschreck	Economic Development
Beth Wilms	Health and Human Services

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

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 9, 2023
3:30pm

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

AGENDA

#	Time		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**	
4	3:40pm	**Commissioner Appointments** • Appointment of Rick VonHoldt, representing the City of Worthington • Appointment of Justine Wettschreck, representing Economic Development (2-year term) **Action Needed: Approve Commissioner Appointment**	
5	3:43pm	**Board of Director Appointments** Three Year Board Terms (expires March 2026): • Cottonwood County (currently Donna Gravley) • Murray County (currently Dennis Welgraven) • Rock County (currently Keith Elbers) **Appointment to fill Board Vacancies:** • Rick VonHoldt, representing the City of Worthington • Chris Hollingsworth, representing Pipestone County (term expires March 2024) **Action Needed: Approve Board of Director Appointments**	
6	3:45pm	**Consent Agenda Items** • January 12, 2023 FC Meeting Minutes • February 9, 2023 BOD Meeting Minutes • Receipts & Expenditures Report **Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items**	 6-12 13-16 17-20
7	3:50pm	**Finance Reports**—*Treasurer Peterson & Deputy Director Weis* • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments **Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report** • Administrative Report **Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report** **Committee & Staff Reports**	 *Handout* *Handout*
8a	4:00pm	**Audit Committee Report**—*Committee Chair Peterson* **Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations**	

8b	4:10pm	**Budget & Personnel Committee Report**—*Committee Chair Welgraven* • Review topics discussed by Committee **Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations**	
8c	4:20	**Legislative Committee Report**—*Committee Chair Carney*	
8d	4:30pm	**Deep Dive: SRDC Website**—*Communications Specialist Welu*	
8e	4:40pm	**Economic Development Report**—*Deputy Director Weis*	21-22
8f	4:50pm	**Revolving Loan Funds Report**—*Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis*	23-24
8g	5:00pm	**Physical Development Report**—*Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker*	25-26
8h	5:10pm	**Community Development Report**—*Communications Specialist Welu*	27
8i	5:20pm	**Transportation Report**—*Committee Chair VanDeVere & Development Planners Bruce-White & Walker*	28-29
8j	5:30pm	**Executive Director's Report**—*Executive Director Trusty*	30-31
8k	5:40pm	**Chairman's Report**—*Chairman Langseth*	
9	5:50pm	**Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups** • Dennis Welgraven, Murray County Commissioners • Pam Cooreman, Lyon County Municipalities • Tiffany Knott, Redwood County Townships	
10		**Unfinished Business**	
11	6:05pm	**<u>New Business</u>**	
		Timetable for SRDC's FY2024 Work Program and Budget Preparation • Proposed Timetable for Commission consideration **Action Needed: Approve Timetable**	32
		Annual Meeting • SRDC's Awards Committee will need to be appointed by the Chairman for Project/Program of the Year **Action Needed: Chairman makes Committee Appointments**	
12	6:10pm	**Announcements** SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: Jackson County Municipalities, Jackson County Municipalities, Nobles County Municipalities, Pipestone County Townships, Pipestone County Municipalities, and Redwood County Municipalities	

- SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 13 at 3:30pm at the SRDC Office
- SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 11 at 3:30pm in Lincoln County (location TBD)

13 6:15pm **Adjourn**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Carrie Bendix, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Pam Cooreman, Bill Crowley, Keith Elbers, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Chris Hollingsworth, Dennis Klingbile, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, See Moua-Leske, Richard Peterson, Jenny Quade, Sherri Thompson, Mic VanDeVere, Dennis Welgraven and Beth Wilms

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners JoEllen Benson, Kristie Blankenship (excused), Elliot Christensen, Jeff Moen (excused), Bob Paplow, Terry Quiring, Stephen Schnieder (excused), Bob Van Hee (excused) and Don Wachal (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty (via zoom), Kathy Schreiber, Robin Weis, Jason Walker, and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER
Executive Director Trusty called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS
Executive Director Trusty presented the following appointments to fill out the remainder of the terms for the following offices:

Acting Chair-nominee Paul Langseth

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve Paul Langseth as Acting Chair. Upon vote taken: Ayes-20, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Acting Vice-Chair-nominee Dennis Welgraven

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Langseth and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Dennis Welgraven as Acting Vice-Chair. Upon vote taken: Ayes-20, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Acting Treasurer-nominee Richard Peterson

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Langseth and seconded by Commissioner Elbers to approve Richard Peterson as Acting Treasurer. Upon vote taken: Ayes-20, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Acting Secretary-nominee Keith Elbers

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Langseth and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve Keith Elbers as Acting Secretary. Upon vote taken: Ayes-20, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

The agenda was approved with two additions under Contracts: Added contracts for Explore SW MN Technical Assistance (Planners and Finance) and removal of the Audit Report.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the agenda as revised. Upon vote taken: Ayes 21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the November 10, 2022 Full Commission Meeting Minutes, December 8, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, November Receipts and Expenditures report, 2023 Minnesota City Participation Program (MCPP) Application, the Jackson County RLF 2023 Contract and the A.C.E. of SW MN Joint Powers Agreement Amendment #3. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, 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 Peterson and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the Treasurers Report as given. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Administrative Report was given by Deputy Director Weis for informational purposes only until the finance department has a chance to work on this report after the finance director resigned.

Pay Equity Report-each year the SRDC is required to file a pay equity report. The website has been down so the report will be brought to the February Board meeting for approval.

CONTRACTS

Communications Specialist Welu presented the contracts for Explore SW MN Technical Assistance. The first one is for Welu to provide Website Development, Social Media Management and graphic design/maps. The second contract is for the SRDC finance staff to provide financial services.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Grant to approve both contracts with Explore SW MN. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried. Commissioners Anderson and Hollingsworth abstained.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report
B&P Chair Welgraven presented the resignation of Finance Director Brooke Swart. Her last day was January 6, 2023.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hollingsworth and seconded by Commissioner Byrnes to approve the resignation of Finance Director Swart. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Welgraven recommended advertising for a Finance Director immediately.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve advertising for a Finance Director. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Welgraven recommended contracting with retired Finance Director Dianne Crowley as needed until a new Finance Director is hired. The contract will be on an hourly basis at $50 per hour.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Bendix to approve a contract with Dianne Crowley. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Welgraven also mentioned the SRDC has a proposal for the FY2023-FY2027 Audit. Only one proposal was received. SRDC has to have a single audit because of the RLF funds and not many firms do single audits. The proposal was for $20,000. This will be brought to the Board of Directors meeting in February for approval. The SRDC is working on advertising for one full-time planner and staff is also working with professors for two part-time interns for the summer of 2023. In the absence of Executive Director Trusty, Deputy Director Weis was given authority to sign documents as needed. Development/Transportation Planner Rosemary Bruce-White will be back from maternity leave next week.

B. Legislative Committee Report
Legislative Chair Carney presented the SRDC Legislative Priorities for 2023 as follows:

1. Workforce Development (including Housing, Broadband, Child Care, Regional Recruitment/Amenities/Trails, and the Mayor's Council Proposal)

2. Local Government Aid for all who currently receive it

3. Increase funding for CERTs to $625,000

4. Support efforts by AMC, LMC, CGMC and MAT around transportation funding

5. Support efforts by AMC to address growing concerns with the provision of Mental Health services

6. Support efforts to not change the Wind Energy Production Tax structure, if it should come up

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Byrnes to approve the SRDC 2023 Legislative Priorities. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Carney announced the SRDC Legislative Committee has an opening for one more member. Committee members will attend the CGMC legislative day on January 25. Visits with local legislators have all been set except for a meeting with Senator Weber at this time. SRDC Chair Langseth and Legislative Chair Carney will attend the NADO conference in Washington DC March 12-15.

C. Deep Dive
Executive Director Trusty gave a deep dive into the SRDC by-laws for Commissioners. Explaining the by-laws and what they mean.

D. Economic Development Report
Deputy Director Weis Reported staff wrote a DEED Childcare Economic Development grant proposal for the City of Hills which was funded for $120,000. Friends in the Field meet quarterly and the January meeting will focus on unhoused and homelessness with Justin Vorbach from the SW MN Continuum of Care (Homelessness Response) and soon to be Program Director with HousingLink on the panel. A request for sponsorship for WorldFest 2023 scheduled for April 15 in Marshall was received. This sponsorship will clear out the Cultural Diversity funds. Weis presented a written summary of her trip to the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) Summit in November 2022. Broadband will have a kick-off on January 25 at Mystic Lake Casino (in-person or virtual). There were three DEED border-to-border grants announced in the region. Hanson Communications received $923,918 to provide service to 484 underserved and 45 unserved locations between Lamberton and Revere in Redwood County. Arvig received $1,336,037 to provide service to 15 unserved and 1,855 underserved locations in the cities of Belview, Clements, Morgan, Seaforth, Vesta, Wabasso, Walnut Grove and Wanda in Redwood County. Woodstock Telephone received $1,333,199 to provide service to 287 unserved and 82 underserved locations in Murray County.

E. Revolving Loan Fund Report
RLF Committee Chair Byrnes gave an update on the CRLF and RLF funds. The CRLF has about $138,500 available with 2 loans approved but not closed. The RLF has about $132,800 available. Interest rates are 75% of Prime. As of January 3 Prime was 7.5% making the lowest interest rate available 5.625%.

Weis noted that the three contracted RLFs are active and have funds available for lending.

PACE
Weis reported PACE funds available of approximately $168,400 for SEP and $82,230 for ARRA. One PACE loan will close in early January for $99,789 in Freeborn County. Energy Audits are the first step to applying for a PACE loan. Current interest rate is 3%.

F. Physical Development Report

Development/Energy Planner Walker reported the Rural MN Energy Board (RMEB) met in November. They received a legislative update from Fryberger, NextEra presented about current challenges facing wind/solar developers, and staff reviewed the draft presentation for the Public Utilities meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 23, 2023. On December 13, 2022, Tom Appel and Molly Malone presented to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). This meeting included high level representatives from Xcel Energy, Great River Energy, Otter Tail Energy, MISO, SPP and Commissioners for the PUC.

The SRDC received a $75,000 Energy Foundation grant along with Region 5 to assist at least four organizations to find, write and implement federal grants that are coming available from the Inflation Reduction Act. A deep dive on this program will be given at the February Board of Directors meeting. A training for MADO staff is being planned for April.

2022 SEED Grants have been closed and are waiting for final paperwork to pay out the grants.

G. Community Development Report

Communications Specialist Welu updated commissioners on activities of the Friends of the Casey Jones Trail. The Friends met in December and a news release will go out in January. Next meeting will be January 26.

Explore SW MN met in December and work continues on the development of a website. Staff is still waiting for content from several counties. The group applied for a $5,000 grant from Explore MN to complete marketing between January and June 2023. The grant application was successful and is a matching grant for a total of $10,000 for contracting with the SRDC for marketing. The next meetings will be January 10 and February 14.

The SRDC website redesign is getting closer to approval with a soft launch scheduled for January.

H. Transportation Report

Committee Chair VanDeVere shared ATP 7 met November 4 to kick off their 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) cycle. They are waiting on the legislature for funding amounts.

ATP 8 met December 9 to kick off their 2024-2027 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) cycle. They are waiting on the legislature for funding amounts.

Corridors of Commerce approved 20 outstate MN projects. Highway 19 in Redwood County from the Region was approved.

Walker reported work continues on the Tracy SRTS plan with the next meeting being February 8. The next grant cycle closes on January 11 and Red Rock Central was working on an application.

Staff will hold an in-person meeting for the EDA Trails project on January 26 and a virtual meeting on February 2. This meeting will have participants look at connecting routes and asked about public engagement opportunities for spring/summer trails outreach. The quarterly trails newsletter was sent in December providing trail news and planning updates.

I. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Trusty provided a health update. He is scheduled for an angiogram on February 7 with possible surgery February 9 or 16 to replace a heart valve. He will be in the hospital about 10 days and then 2 months of rehab. Deputy Director Weis will be acting Director during Trusty's recovery.

J. Chairman's Report
No report given due to weather conditions and wanting to get through the meeting and get people back on the road.

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

A. Rock County Commissioners
Commissioner Thompson reported on the following projects in Rock County: New Armory being built, new Logistics Freezer building, Walleye Wind constructed 40 turbines, new 54 unit apartment building (Prairie Loft), MnDOT wanted to put in a round-about but Rock County opposed the idea, Nature Energy is building a bio-gas facility to use dairy manure, Driftless meats building a processing pork plant to provide 100 jobs, Magnolia's old school is being turned into apartments and a steakhouse, Rock County is asking the legislature for help building a rural water tower, Hills is working on a 3-pod day care facility, City of Luverne is working on a day care center to care for 186 children, working on a demolition landfill expansion, a railroad switch being put in to connect Sioux Falls to Worthington, there is a bike trail in Luverne, mail in ballots have been controversial, a new 24 lot housing addition for single family and twin homes being developed in Luverne, the City of Luverne has finished an ordinance on TCH products with 2 licenses to sell being issued-each city in the county makes their own decision on ordinances for THC products.

B. Lyon County Municipalities
Report will be given at next meeting.

C. Public Interest Group-SW Health and Human Services
Executive Director Wilms reported that SWHHS is made up of Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties. Their work and services change according to the needs of people. Workforce is an issue of them with staff shortages in Public Health Nurses, Child Protection and Social Workers. Programming for adults is provided. They monitor assistance to people with the SNAP and WIC programs. Services are provided in the most cultural diverse way. SWHHS will be in charge of handling the money from the opioid settlement for the counties they serve. Mental Health services are provided by Western Mental Health in Lincoln,

Lyon, Murray and Redwood Counties. Issues in HIPPA and Cyber Security are constant. There is concern about the legislature legalizing marijuana. Their website has lots of information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chairman Paul Langseth referred Commissioners to the announcements included on the agenda.

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: City of Worthington, Jackson County Municipalities, Nobles County Municipalities, Pipestone County Townships, Pipestone County Municipalities, and Redwood County Municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT
Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Keith Elbers SRDC Secretary	Paul Langseth SRDC Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Keith Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Dennis Klingbile, Richard Peterson and Dennis Welgraven
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioner Bob Van Hee (excused)
STAFF PRESENT:	Executive Director Jay Trusty (via zoom), Rosemary Bruce-White, Kathy Schreiber, Robin Weis, Jason Walker, and Jessica Welu

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Paul Langseth called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL
The agenda was approved with one addition under Contracts: Added contracts for Heron Lake RLF.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the agenda with the addition. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the January Receipts and Expenditures Report, The 2023 ACE contract, the 2023 Friends of the Casey Jones Trail contract and the audit proposal. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT
Treasurer Richard Peterson referred Commissioners to an updated Treasurer's Report in their handouts, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Welgraven and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to approve the Treasurer's Report as provided in the handout. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Deputy Director Weis went over the Administrative Report for information only at this time. Staff is still working on numbers for this report in the absence of the Finance Director. The March report should have the November thru January numbers on it.

Executive Director Trusty presented the Pay Equity Report. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Byrnes to approve the Pay Equity report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONTRACTS

Deputy Director Robin Weis presented information on the contract for Heron Lake RLF.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the 2023 contract with Heron Lake RLF. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Development Planner Rosemary Bruce-White reported on an Environment Assessment Worksheet for the Pelican Bay Addition on Lake Shetek in Murray County.

Deputy Director Weis reported on a USDA Rural Development project review for the Little Huskies Learning Center in Jackson County for acquisition of a daycare center and equipment in the City of Jackson.

Deputy Director Weis reported on a USDA Rural Development project review for Kids Rock! Child Care Center in Rock County. The City of Luverne is working on purchasing and renovating a building to house a childcare center.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the project reviews as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

Written staff reports were included in the meeting packet for commissioners to read.

A. Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Miron Carney gave an update on the SRDC Legislative visits. Carney, Langseth and Weis attended the CGMC Day on the Hill on January 25th. They were able to visit with all the area legislators except Swedzinski. They also met with Representative Jeff Brands (DFL) from St. Peter. All our area legislators are Republicans, so it was beneficial to meet with a Democrat about our priorities. After lunch Walz spoke, then a panel discussion was held on this year's session.

B. Deep Dive
Development/Energy Planner Walker gave a deep dive into Energy. He reported on Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB), Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) and the Energy Foundation grants.

C. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Trusty referred commissioners to his written report in the packet. He explained the meeting he had with Jessica Barthel from Sherburne County EDA about re-forming a Regional Development Commission in Region 7W.

D. Deputy Director's Report
Deputy Director Weis referred commissioners to her written report in the packet. She explained preparations being made for new staff. She also thought the CGMC Day on the Hill went very well. Weis is now reviewing and signing timesheets and AP in the absence of the Executive Director. Juneteenth was signed into law as a Minnesota State Holiday and will take effect in 2024.

E. Chairman's Report
Chairman Langseth praised the SRDC staff for still being effective even though we are shorted staffed. He also thought the CGMC Day on the Hill went very well. The in-person meeting for the EDA Trails Grant had a representative from each county in attendance and he thought there was good input. Langseth and Legislative Chair Carney will attend the NADO Conference in March in Washington DC. Region 9 is setting up meetings with our Federal Legislators.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
Future Deep Dive topics will be: Communications Specialist Welu on the new SRDC website in March. Weis on the Revolving Loan Funds in April. Carrie Bendix, SW MN Private Industry Council, on workforce in May.

NEW BUSINESS
It was announced that Cottonwood, Murray and Rock County Delegations will need to caucus prior to the March Full Commission meeting to determine their representative (three year term) on the Board of Directors. Rick VonHoldt, Mayor of Worthington, will be on the agenda for approval in March to represent the City of Worthington on the Board of Directors. Pipestone County needs to be filled also.

OTHER ISSUES
None

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Chairman Paul Langseth referred Commissioners to the announcements included on the agenda.

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: Jackson County Municipalities, Nobles County Municipalities, Pipestone County Townships, Pipestone County

Municipalities, and Redwood County Municipalities. A letter, nomination form and a commissioner interest flyer will be sent to these jurisdictions.

ADJOURNMENT
Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Keith Elbers SRDC Secretary	Paul Langseth SRDC Chairman

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SRDC CASH RECEIPTS SUMMARY

DATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM	CHECK #	AMOUNT	BY
01/03/23	RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	21,782.38	MN
01/03/23	CRLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	23,243.50	MN
01/03/23	Falcon RLF Borrowers	ACH	1,510.92	MN
01/03/23	Murray Co Christmas project-20 checks		1,945.00	KS
01/03/23	UMV RDC-AMC booth	22208	100.00	KS
01/03/23	Nobles Co-RMEB dues	20503	2,500.00	KS
01/04/23	Faribault County - RMEB Dues	ACH	2,500.00	MN
01/05/23	Broadway Beauty Salon-CRLF (ACH was incorrect)	2780	19.63	KS
01/05/23	Casey Jones-Admin	1316	180.00	KS
01/05/23	SRDC-HSA transfer for 2023	59910	18,383.36	KS
01/06/23	SWMHP-Dec bldg and Fin/Sec	33898	3,093.23	KS
01/09/23	Mower County-RMEB dues	142603	2,500.00	KS
01/09/23	Lyon County-RMEB dues	170826	2,500.00	KS
01/09/23	City Heron Lake-Admin	51838	315.00	KS
01/09/23	MMB - Local Transit	ACH	267.53	MN
01/12/23	Murray Co-Current & Delinq taxes	170196	676.25	KS
01/12/23	Cottonwood Co-RMEB dues	22946	2,500.00	KS
01/12/23	Lincoln Co-RMEB dues	19859	2,500.00	KS
01/12/23	UofM-CERTs and Seed Grants	1011824411	49,963.72	KS
01/12/23	Friends Casey Jones-admin	1317	90.00	KS
01/13/23	Jackson Co-Current & Delinq taxes	101527	698.28	KS
01/17/23	Cottonwood Co-Current & Delinq taxes and PACE	23007	8,258.35	KS
01/17/23	Pipestone Co-RMEB dues	32714	2,500.00	KS
01/17/23	Renville Co-RMEB dues	214964	2,500.00	KS
01/19/23	411 1st LLC-PACE origination and legal fees	1668	1,293.40	KS
01/19/23	Blue Earth Co-RMEB dues	291589	2,500.00	KS
01/19/23	Nenas Bar & Grill-RLF payment plus NSF fee	548	184.09	KS
01/19/23	Nenas Bar & Grill-FDC payment plus NSF fee	547	284.60	KS
01/20/23	MMB - Local Transit	ACH	568.39	MN
01/23/23	Martin County-RMEB dues	204587	2,500.00	KS
01/23/23	Redwood Co-RMEB dues	82975	2,500.00	KS
01/23/23	Pipestone Co-Current & Delinquent taxes	32779	771.48	KS
01/23/23	ACE-copies	55156	30.35	KS
01/23/23	MNRAAA-storage rent for 2023	7855	144.00	KS
01/25/23	Watonwan Co-RMEB dues	63728	2,500.00	KS
01/25/23	Schramel Law Office-Ford & Lustfield CRLF loan orig and legal fees	4870	730.00	KS
01/25/23	Redwood Cty - Current & Delinquent taxes	ACH	595.92	MN
01/23/23	Lyon Cty - Current & Delinquent taxes	ACH	4,493.31	MN
01/26/23	MMB - SRTS	ACH	6,240.00	MN
01/26/23	Highpoynt Land Service-Invenergy Rent for January	2192	100.00	KS
01/26/23	Lincoln Co-Current and Delinquent Taxes	19997	380.39	KS
01/26/23	Nobles Cty - Current & Delinquent Taxes, PACE	ACH	4,702.61	MN
01/27/23	MMB - Local Transit	ACH	2,379.58	MN
01/30/23	Nicollet Co-RMEB dues	206731	2,500.00	KS
01/30/23	SWMHP-Dec monthly costs	33931	3,006.31	KS
01/30/23	SRDC-RMEB admin Nov & Dec 22	59954	2,110.00	KS
01/30/23	SRDC-RMEB admin PACE Nov 21 thru Dec 22	59953	5,208.13	KS
01/30/23	UofM-CERTs	1011829454	26,255.50	KS
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE Electric - Savings Interest	Per Bank	-	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank	27.34	MN
01/31/23	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	6.87	MN
01/08/23	Jackson Savings & Loan - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	63.48	MN
01/31/23	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank	4.24	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - RMEB Savings interest	Per Bank	-	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	-	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	-	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	141.66	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE ARRA - Savings Interest	Per Bank	0.00	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - CRLF Savings	Per Bank	84.80	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - HSA Checking	Per Bank	0.00	MN
01/31/23	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	0.55	MN
01/31/23	Minnwest Bank - EDA Savings	Per Bank	0.00	MN
			222,834.15	

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 1/1/2023 Through 1/31/2023

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
CD011923 S...	012	1/19/2023		Sales Tax - 4th Qtr 2022	353.00	1/19/2023
CD013123 MN	013	1/31/2023		ACH Fees - Jan 2023	18.67	1/31/2023
CD013123 MN	013	1/31/2023		ACH Fees - Jan 2023	18.67	1/31/2023
CD013123 MN	013	1/31/2023		ACH Fees - Jan 2023	18.66	1/31/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Donald H. Wachal	Don Wachal 12-15-22 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 1-12-23 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 1-12-23 meeting	14.41	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Jenny L. Quade	Jenny Quade 1-12-23 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 12-15-22 to 1-12-23 meetings	100.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 12-15-22 to 1-12-23 meetings	78.60	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 1-12-23 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 1-12-23 meeting	49.78	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 12-9-22 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 12-9-22 meeting	116.25	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 1-12-23 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 1-12-23 meeting	47.16	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 1-12-23 meeting	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 1-12-23 meeting	30.13	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Richard D. Peterson	Richard Peterson 1-12-23 to 1-13-23 meetings	100.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Richard D. Peterson	Richard Peterson 1-12-23 to 1-13-23 meetings	159.82	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 1-3-23 to 1-12-23 meetings	50.00	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 1-3-23 to 1-12-23 meetings	41.92	1/30/2023
APS012623 ...	01302...	1/30/2023	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 1-3-23 to 1-12-23 meetings	50.00	1/30/2023
APS010423 ...	59910	1/4/2023	SRDC - Health Insurance Acco...	HSA 2023 Beginning Transfer	18,383.36	1/4/2023
	59911	1/5/2023			0.00	
APS010323 ...	59911	1/5/2023	AFLAC	Aflac 12-29-22 inv#267489	164.79	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59912	1/5/2023	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 12-24-22 to 1-23-23	60.04	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59912	1/5/2023	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 12-24-22 to 1-23-23	60.05	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59913	1/5/2023	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 11-17-22 to 12-19-22	27.49	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59913	1/5/2023	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 11-17-22 to 12-19-22	25.37	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59914	1/5/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier Maintenance 12-25-22 to 1-24-23	67.59	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59914	1/5/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier Maintenance 12-25-22 to 1-24-23	36.39	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59915	1/5/2023	Jason Nielsen	Jason Nielsen 12-16-22	50.00	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59916	1/5/2023	Kurt Richardson	Kurt Richardson 10-19-22 to 12-16-22	100.00	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59917	1/5/2023	Minnesota Counties Intergove...	MCIT PC Renewal and WC Renewal 1-1-23 to 1-...	7,357.00	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59918	1/5/2023	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Cty Christmas Project donations	1,945.00	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59918	1/5/2023	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Cty Christmas Fund - Pearson check	20.00	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59919	1/5/2023	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 11-23-22 to 12-26-22	476.07	1/5/2023

Southwest Regional Development Commission
Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
From 1/1/2023 Through 1/31/2023

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS010323 ...	59919	1/5/2023	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 11-23-22 to 12-26-22	317.38	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59920	1/5/2023	One Office Solution	One Office Meter Reading 11-25-22 to 12-20-22	54.73	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59921	1/5/2023	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease - Orig and Addn - January 2023	4,848.63	1/5/2023
APS010323 ...	59922	1/5/2023	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	Stoneberg Inv#97882 Atlantic Place - CRLF	79.50	1/5/2023
APS0103202...	59924	1/5/2023	Michael P. Kuhle	Mike Kuhle 7-14-22 to 12-8-22 Mtgs	225.00	1/5/2023
APS0103202...	59924	1/5/2023	Michael P. Kuhle	Mike Kuhle 7-14-22 to 12-8-22 Mtgs	250.00	1/5/2023
APS011223 ...	59925	1/12/2023	Abila	Abila Inv#1050-1000159822 AR Billing Cloud	95.15	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59926	1/12/2023	AFLAC	Aflac Inv#302677	141.54	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59927	1/12/2023	Aflac Inc	Aflac Dental 1-1-23 to 1-31-23	251.95	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59928	1/12/2023	Culligan Water Conditioning	Culligan - Dec 2022	11.40	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59928	1/12/2023	Culligan Water Conditioning	Culligan - Dec 2022	48.65	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59929	1/12/2023	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow Removal - Dec 2022	594.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59929	1/12/2023	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow Removal - Dec 2022	396.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59930	1/12/2023	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Tex paper towels Inv#9591458	40.40	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59930	1/12/2023	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Tex paper towels Inv#9591458	26.94	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59931	1/12/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier 12-2-22 to 1-3-23	294.92	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59931	1/12/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier 12-2-22 to 1-3-23	547.70	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59932	1/12/2023	Jason Nielsen	Jason Nielsen 1-3-23 Meeting	50.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59933	1/12/2023	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Mike's Plbg & Htg - inv#22316	49.22	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59933	1/12/2023	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Mike's Plbg & Htg - inv#22316	73.83	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59933	1/12/2023	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Mike's Plbg & Htg - Inv#22330	30.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59933	1/12/2023	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Mike's Plbg & Htg - Inv#22330	45.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59934	1/12/2023	One Office Solution	One Office - Paper	275.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59935	1/12/2023	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap Sanitation	35.35	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59935	1/12/2023	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap Sanitation	53.02	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59936	1/12/2023	State of Minnesota	Debt Service 2022 Principal/Interest Payment	10,000.00	1/12/2023
APS011223 ...	59937	1/12/2023	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 12-2-22 to 1-1-23	52.12	1/12/2023
APS011723 ...	59938	1/17/2023	Edward Jones - Slayton	Falcon CD	75,000.00	1/17/2023
APS011923 ...	59939	1/19/2023	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS - February 2023	32.00	1/19/2023
APS011923 ...	59940	1/19/2023	One Office Solution	Once Office inv#493337-00 Signature Stamp	42.55	1/19/2023
APS011923 ...	59941	1/19/2023	Schramel Law Office Trust	Schramel Law Office Trust - CRLF Loan Closing	42,000.00	1/19/2023
APS011923 ...	59942	1/19/2023	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 12-3-22 to 1-4-23	188.46	1/19/2023
APS011923 ...	59942	1/19/2023	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 12-3-22 to 1-4-23	271.20	1/19/2023
CD011823 B...	59943	1/20/2023		BCBS - Feb 2023	8,582.10	1/20/2023
APS012623 AP	59943	1/26/2023	Above the Fold	Above the Fold - Tracy Headlight Herald - 13 mo...	66.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59944	1/26/2023	AFLAC	Aflac 1-25-23 inv#500753	141.54	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59945	1/26/2023	Brooke Swart	Brooke - PERA that was deducted from 1-26-23 ...	117.01	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59946	1/26/2023	Cardmember Services	VISA 12-16-22 to 1-17-23	228.68	1/26/2023

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 1/1/2023 Through 1/31/2023

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS012623 AP	59946	1/26/2023	Cardmember Services	VISA 12-16-22 to 1-17-23	9.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59946	1/26/2023	Cardmember Services	VISA 12-16-22 to 1-17-23	20.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59947	1/26/2023	Fleet Services Division	Fleet Services - 12-1-22 to 12-31-22	555.22	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59948	1/26/2023	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &...	Fryberger - December 2022	1,000.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59948	1/26/2023	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &...	Fryberger - November 2022	1,000.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59948	1/26/2023	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &...	Fryberger - October 2022	1,000.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59949	1/26/2023	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson - January 2023	328.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59949	1/26/2023	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson - January 2023	472.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59950	1/26/2023	Minnesota Counties Intergove...	MCIT - RMEB - PC Renewal 1-1-23 to 1-1-24	3,035.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59951	1/26/2023	Region Nine Development Co...	MADO Conference - SRDC's portion	851.97	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59952	1/26/2023	Shetek Lutheran Ministries	Shetek Lutheran - Seed Grant	5,000.00	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59953	1/26/2023	SRDC	SRDC - PACE Outreach Nov 2021 to Dec 2022	5,208.13	1/26/2023
APS012623 AP	59954	1/26/2023	SRDC	SRDC - RMEB - Nov and Dec 2022	2,110.00	1/26/2023
Report Total					196,516.51	

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

March 2023
CEDS| EDA PLANNING | CARES ACT EDA (C-EDA)

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Our current CEDS can be found at http://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CEDS-2022-2027.pdf. CEDS in MN across the EDA (Economic Development Administration) Economic Development Districts (EDDs) generally follow the format of the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) DevelopMN. The latest DevelopMN can be found at http://www.mnado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DevelopMN-1.pdf. The DevelopMN dashboard (http://www.mnado.org/dashboard/) is now being updated to include the latest data, much from 2022.

As part of the two-day MADO Energy/Climate and DevelopMN Planners meeting on April 10-11, DevelopMN components as they relate to energy will be modified, deleted, or added based on new initiatives.

EDA investment priorities can be found at https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/. Priorities include Equity, Recovery & Resilience, Workforce Development, Manufacturing, Technology-Based Economic Development, Environmentally Sustainable Development, and Exports & Foreign Direct Investment.

EDA PLANNING

EDA Quarterly Calls with Economic Development Districts: The February 27 call specifically addressed EDA funding possibilities for coal communities, areas negatively impacted by a disaster, and tech hubs. The next call is on April 26.

Projects within counties identified within FEMA's disaster declarations, within the past two years, are eligible to apply for disaster funding. If coupled with another distress criteria, unemployment or per capita income to name a few, projects are eligible to receive up to 80% grant funding. Projects must show a direct connection to the disaster.

Also, on April 6, grants.gov will no longer be the platform used by EDA for applicants to submit applications. The new platform will be EDGE. EDGE is in beta testing now.

Career Expo: In 2023, MinnesotaWest will host the career expo on September 26 and SMSU (Southwest Minnesota State University) will host it on September 27. SRDC staff have been involved in the "Career is Right."

Childcare Technical Assistance: Staff played an integral role in the submission of the DEED (Department of Employment and Economic Development) Childcare Economic Development grant proposal, due August 30, for a 3-pod family childcare building in Hills. Congratulations to the City of Hills on their successful application which will provide $120,000 towards this project. Their first progress report is due in April.

Friends in the Field: Quarterly, economic and community development professionals in Minnesota get together to learn and collaborate. This group next meets on April 12.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: The committee meets in February, May, August, and November. This group gathers members that support career and technical education programs and educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. A CTE (Career and Technical Education) open house was held in Redwood Falls on February 1. The committee last met on February 2 and will meet next on May

11. There are several student career fairs planned for Spring 2023, including Worthington and Marshall on February 17 and Windom on March 10.

Cultural Diversity Event Sponsorship: There is room for one more sponsorship in the approximate amount of $500. Contact staff if you have ideas.

State of Manufacturing: Staff will attend an event on January 31 to hear about the State of Manufacturing highlights for this region and view a panelist video. Staff will provide the link to the report in a future packet.

Center for Entrepreneurships Advisory Group: This group met on February 14. Members support students with an entrepreneurial mindset. Members heard from three students that are developing their own business from the ground up.

RTCC: The group last met on January 18 and will meet again March 15. SRDC represents economic development on the council.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT

March 2023
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 last met on January 3 and approved one C-RLF loan application of $42,000 to a business in Cottonwood County.

The April Board Deep Dive discussion will focus on RLF.

RLF PLANS

Interest rates for SRDC RLFs can never be below the lesser of 4% or 75% of the WSJ (Wall Street Journal) Prime Rate, according to regulations governing RLF awards. Prime Interest Rate, as of February 27, 2023, is 7.75%.

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

COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of $169,859.85. These funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed.

TRADITIONAL RLF

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of $120,213.24.

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. Jackson County RLF: JCRLF currently has five active loans. There are funds available for businesses in Jackson County with gap financing needs.
2. Heron Lake RLF: 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. There are funds available for businesses in their service area that have gap financing needs.
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. Interest rates can now be as low as 75% of prime. The FDC Board now has 7 members, which is the maximum.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE)

Funds Available: Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of PACE SEP, $160,405.54 (this accounts for the loan not yet closed in the amount of $99,789 for a boiler replacement in Freeborn County), and PACE ARRA, $100,758.62. The latest loan was to a Jackson County business for energy efficiency improvements in the amount of $9,185.28.

PACE Committee: The committee meets as needed, often in conjunction with RMEB (Rural Minnesota Energy Board) meeting dates. RMEB meets next on March 27 of which one agenda item will be PACE 101. Committee members are Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere and Paap. The committee last met on January 23 and February 13. Interest rates for new projects will now be set at 3% under Prime, with a floor of 3%.

C-PACE Statewide Discussions: Staff have been involved in discussions with the MN Department of Commerce as they work on expanding the reach of commercial PACE programs in MN. RDCs (Regional Development Commission) will be eligible to apply under an RFP (Request for Proposals) as soon as Spring 2023.

General Information: PACE is available to property owners of small businesses, including agri-businesses and some non-profits based on usage. Please help spread the word about PACE to property owners looking to make improvements that lower their energy usage.

Energy Audits: 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 that includes a checklist 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

March 2023

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

ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The RMEB met on January 23. Tom Appel and Molly Malone provided a report on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) meeting in December. They felt the PUC understood their concerns about curtailment and transmission constraints and were using the tools at their disposal to address those concerns, including putting pressure on utilities to move faster on their end to get projects built. The PUC plans to invite RMEB members to future meetings. PUC Commissioners also requested that RMEB members serve as wind/solar siting ambassadors to other counties to educate and assist with managing wind/solar developers coming to them. RMEB members agreed that this would be a good use of their time. Stevens County was mentioned as a "hot spot" since it has excess transmission capacity with multiple developers looking to site projects there.

Gene Metz provided an overview of the Clean Energy Bill (HF 7/SF 4) that was moving rapidly at the state legislature. The bill would set a goal of 100% clean energy by 2040. The biggest concern within the bill is that waste-to-energy would no longer qualify as a renewable energy source. Climate bills are also looking to provide match dollar for new federal funding, funds for weatherization, energy apprenticeships, solar-for-schools, and access to EV infrastructure.

Gary Overgaard and Dan Wildermuth updated the board about Nature Energy approaching Rock and Pipestone counties to explore building new biogas facilities in their respective counties. These are $100 - $140 million projects that would convert manure from cattle to natural gas. Staff will request that Nature Energy Present at the next meeting on March 27.

Energy Foundation Grant with Region 5: We received a $75,000 grant to assist at least four organizations to find, write and implement federal grants that are coming available from the Inflation Reduction Act. Please send staff any leads about organizations in the region that are interested in this type of grant writing/administration assistance. As part of this grant, Region 5 and the SRDC are organizing a full day training for MADO members on how to engage their communities in energy and climate work. This training is tentatively planned for April in St. Cloud.

Staff assisted Murray County with the application for MPCA's Level 2 EV Charger grant.

A staff member is working with core CERTs partners on a possible application to the Energizing Rural Communities prize for $100,000 from the Department of Energy.

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs):
RDO Climate and Energy Group: Executive Directors and staff from all the Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) are now meeting monthly to share resources and explore opportunities in clean energy and sustainability. During the February 23 meeting, Representative Emma Green spoke about possible green bank legislation to make funding efficiency and renewable energy projects easier. Kari Moeller from Commerce then spoke about the future of commercial PACE funding and the role of regional development organizations in managing this type of program.

Sustainability Planning—Comfrey: SRDC is looking to provide high level technical assistance and facilitation for planning beginning this Spring in partnership with Region 9. We are waiting to hear back from a grant application to the MN Pollution Control Agency to see if they will help fund this project.

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission: The Solid Waste Commission met January 23 and is scheduled to meet again March 27.

Solid Waste Regional Plan: Solid Waste Administrators have been meeting with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding the upcoming plan, and the contents required. Staff met with the Solid Waste Administrators Chair, and Vice Chair in February to go over these details, and responsibilities between staff and the Administrators.

All counties in Minnesota must submit a solid waste plan to receive SCORE funds and apply for additional grants from the MPCA. Doing this as an 11-county Joint Powers Agreement not only decreases individual county costs, but helps pull together resources, and arrange materials exchange for counties in the Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Commission.

There are several issues and topics that will be addressed in the plan. This includes support for 100% SCORE funding to counties for Solid Waste and Recycling activities, staff constraints on individual counties, Construction and Demolitions landfill capacity and the need for financial support from the state, and the education of the public and policymakers on the importance of sanitation services as a foundation for public health.

Over the next couple of months staff will be working on the demographic profile of the Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Commission region which includes the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Renville, Rock, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

March 2023

LOCAL ASSISTANCE | COMMUNITY PLANNING | COMMUNICATIONS

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: The Friends met March 2. The Friends group is asking Senator Weber and Representative Schomacker to author a bonding for $1,249,000 for development of the Casey Jones State Trail. The group is also working on newspaper columns about land acquisition and winter trail use, along with planning fundraising and outreach opportunities for the Casey Jones and the Highway 75 Pipestone to Luverne trail opportunity. The March 2nd meeting was directly followed by a stakeholder meeting regarding a regional trail opportunity along Hwy 75 between Pipestone and Luverne. This would be separate from the Casey Jones State Trail but would help connect the Casey Jones to Luverne and the Blue Mound Regional Trail. This connection is a priority for the Regional Trails Plan as it connects current trail development, tourism destinations, and offers opportunities to expand tourism and economic development in the region. Pioneer PBS did a feature video on the Casey Jones State Trail: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEB4rJWYrCw&t=86s

Explore SW Minnesota: The group last met on February 14. Work continues on the development of the website, with plans for the website to be launched by the end of March. Website development has been slow. Staff also manages the Explore SW MN Facebook page and collects content from counties on a monthly basis. If you know someone interested in promoting tourism in your county, please connect them with staff. The group received a $5,000 grant from Explore Minnesota to complete marketing between January 1-June 30, 2023. The grant project includes contracted work with SRDC on website development, social media management and development of a pull-off map and additional marketing materials. The total amount of project work is $10,000 with a 50/50 match. The next meeting will be March 29 at the SRDC Board Room and via zoom.

COMMUNITY PLANNING & ACTIVITIES

RSDP Resilient Communities Workgroup: This group meets quarterly. At the February 24 meeting the workgroup reviewed two project ideas. These projects will be presented to the RSDP board.

SRDC COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: The next issue of the newsletter is planned for publishing mid-March. A Regional Trails Newsletter was also started and will be published in 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/.

Personnel Policies: Staff formatted the SRDC Personnel Policies to make them ADA compliant and searchable.

Website Redesign: The new website has been launched and includes a Commissioner Resources page.

Communications Plan: The 50th Anniversary campaign goal has been removed from the SRDC Communications Plan goals following Strategic Planning Committee decisions to only include 50th anniversary celebrations as part of the Annual Meeting. It's recommended that during FY2023 that the organization review strategies and goals and develop the next three years of goals and strategies for FY2024-2026.

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

March 2023

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Staff has reached out to MnDOT to arrange meeting dates for the winter TAC meeting. During this meeting MnDOT, Staff and the TAC will discuss/approve the FY24 MnDOT workplan, draft Area Transportation Improvement Plans from MNDOT districts 7 and 8, and other topics.

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

ATP 7: Three communities applied for Transportation Alternatives Funds.

- Eagle Lake: Requested funds to address current pedestrian and bicycle connectivity barriers. This included installation of a pedestrian crosswalk flasher systems, and the construction of a shared use path and connecting sidewalk segments. The total project cost is estimated to be $917,978.
- Mankato: The City of Mankato requested funds to reconstruct the Minnesota River trail between MN 169 and Main Street.
- Worthington: The city of Worthington requested funds to build a connection to the existing trail around Okabena Lake with the MN 60 trail on the city's south side.

ATP 8: Four communities applied for Transportation Alternative funding.

- Montevideo/Chippewa County: Applied for a HAWK crossing system at Trunk Highway 7 and County Road 15.
- Granite Falls: Applied for funds to reconstruct their Highland Park Trail along County Road 38
- Chippewa County: Applied for reconstruction of the Milan Trail.
- Kandiyohi County: Applied for funds to construct the North Eagle Lake Trail.

Carbon Reduction Program: Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) provides federal funding to reduce carbon from transportation sources. These funds are made available through the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act and distributed through the MnDOTs planning districts. Funds were announced in January 2023 and applications were due the following February. Solicitation for this round of funding was cut short due to the Federal requirement to have funds programmed by the end of FY23. At the time of this report, there is no further guidance on these funds or their solicitation as the state and regional planning districts are still waiting on federal direction for FY 24. Redwood Falls applied for these funds for the installation of electric car charging stations.

LOCAL HUMAN SERVICES TRANSIT COORDINATION PLAN

Staff presented the initial strategies for the updated Local Human Services Public Transit Coordination Plan (LHSPTCP) to the Rural Transit Coordination Council (RTCC) on September 21. Feedback received from the council was used to create action steps that will be incorporated in the implementation grant cycle of the RTCC. The draft LHSPTCP was given to MNDOT for review in December and staff met with MnDOT January 19 to discuss MNDOTs corrections/comment. Staff is working with the RTCC chair to incorporate those comments and to have completed for a 30-day public comment period in March and adoption in late April.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Staff is meeting with lead planners from MnDOT Districts 7 and 8 along with our state contact to discuss the second year of our reoccurring two-year contract. Under this grant, $75,000 (including a 15% match by the RDC) is awarded to the RDC to facilitate transportation planning assistance to the communities in the region along the Trunk Highway system (State Highways, Federal Highways, and County State-Aid Highways). Feel free to reach out to staff for more information on what technical assistance is covered by these funds.

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: The MADO Transportation Planners met February 15 via Teams. The group will be learning about the Carbon Reduction Program and Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT).

ACTIVE LIVING & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

Safe Routes to School (SRTS): Staff held the second planning meeting in Tracy on February 8 at the High School. Red Rock Central School applied for a planning grant for 2023-24, but they did not receive approval this round.

SRTS Boost Grants: Grants for non-infrastructure projects will open this spring (2023) instead of in the fall.

REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING

The Regional Trails Plan Steering Committee met in-person on January 26 at the SRDC office and virtually on February 2. During these meetings, participants marked up maps with preferred routes and notes about opportunities and obstacles. They then brainstormed public engagement opportunities for spring/summer trails outreach. Staff are meeting regularly to plan outreach efforts and work on plan development. Staff started a Regional Trails Newsletter in December to update on trail news and planning updates. The newsletter will go out on a quarterly basis, with expected newsletter release in March. If your community has updates on trail development or enhancements, please let staff know so that it can be included in the planning.

Counters have been secured for the beginning of June to do a Counters in Every County campaign. During this campaign, there will be at least one counter placed along a trail/walking/biking route in each of the nine counties for a two week period. We're coordinating our efforts with MnDOT District 7 & 8 counters and local partners to place counters and collect data. This data will be used in the plan and for our local partners to be able to show user numbers. This campaign aligns with National Trails Day on June 3. Counters will be placed early in Luverne to combine efforts with Luverne's first "Tour De Loop" bike ride event on June 1st.

Funding Partners: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock Counties, and the Cities of Wabasso, Lamberton, Walnut Grove, and Revere.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

March 2023

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Welcome to the new Executive Director Report! Robin and I will both be contributing to this section as we continue to work through the process for her to be able to be the Acting Director while I am out. My surgery is scheduled for March 1, so I will be out for the month of March.

With the changes in personnel and planning for my absence, staff thought it would be good if we had weekly planner's meetings for a while until we get a handle on everything. We have rewritten and reviewed the job descriptions of the open Finance Director and Planner positions, put together the job announcements and done some other planning work.

Region 5 Director Cheryal Hills and I have been working with the Minnesota Department of Commerce to see if the Department of Commerce can sponsor an expansion of a PACE program based on what we are doing. There is quite a bit of interest among the other Regional Development Organizations in Minnesota, and Commerce sent out a survey to gather some preliminary information from the rest of the RDOs.

I also participated in the RDO Climate and Energy Group that was initially convened by Great Plains Institute, under some Energy Foundation funding that they had. That funding has since been used and the Energy Foundation is looking for a new facilitator. The West Central Initiative has stepped forward and offered to be the convener going forward and are meeting with the Energy Foundation to that effect.

On the 23rd of February the second to last Federal Reserve Cohort Training Program was held. The Southwest MN group was put together by Carrie Bendix at the Private Industry Council. It's been an interesting training as much of the programmatic focus has been on and by large single entities and how they can make internal and external changes to promote a more diverse workforce and workplace, but there hasn't been much exploration of how to integrate a group like ours representing a lot of different entities across a pretty good size geographic area.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT

Much of my involvement this past month has been in areas pertaining to new staff. By the time the March Full Commission meets, both finance director and development planner interviews will have been completed. Contacts for open positions have been directed to the SRDC Deputy Director.

The Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC) Legislative Action Day took place on Janaury 25. Legislative Chair Miron Carney, SRDC Chair Paul Langseth, and Deputy Director Weis attended. Legislative visits took place with Senator Weber, Senator Dahms, Representative Jeff Brand (18A), Representative Torkelson, Representative Marj Fogelman and Representative Schomacker. Each conversation started using the SRDC legislative priorities.

Senator Klobuchar's staff (Chuck Ackman and two others) were in Marshall on February 1. Along with the Farm Bill, broadband, energy, meat processing facilities, workforce, and the carbon pipeline was discussed.

Weis will be participating in MADO Executive Director calls and meetings during SRDC Executive Director medical leave. On March 3, a call is scheduled to discuss community-based grant making and potential partners.

The Lincoln County Township meeting is scheduled for March 30. Please let Weis know if you would like

particular topics or projects included.

The following committees have been active as of late: strategic planning, B & P, and Legislative. Depending on the committee, involvement includes agenda, meeting facilitation, minutes, and follow-up.

Much of the SRDC Executive Director signature authority has been shared with SRDC Deputy Director over the past several months.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET AND WORK PLAN PROCESS

2023

March-May 1	SRDC Standing Committees discuss work program and budget requests for FY2024.
May 11, 2:00pm	SRDC Budget and Personnel Committee meets to discuss the SRDC FY2024 Work Program and personnel recommendations.
May 11 FC Mtg	SRDC FY2024 Work Program is presented for full approval to the Full Commission.
June 8 2:30pm	If needed, SRDC Budget and Personnel Committee meets prior to the Board meeting to finalize personnel recommendations and the FY2024 Budget. The Preliminary Indirect Cost Plan is finalized utilizing Budget & Personnel recommendations.
June 8 BD Mtg	SRDC FY2024 Budget is presented to the Board of Directors for approval and referral to the Public Hearing.
June 13	Public Hearing & draft budget notice sent to papers and lugs.
July 13	Public Hearing on SRDC FY2024 Work Program and Budget
July 13 FC Mtg	SRDC FY2024 Work Program and Budget that incorporates any comments received during the Public Hearing is presented to the Full Commission for approval.

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