

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:30 p.m.

Center for Regional Development 2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN



Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference 09/14/2023



Dennis Welgraven

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Commissioner	Representing
Rick Anderson	Lyon County
Bob Byrnes	City of Marshall
Miron Carney	Murray County, Immediate Past Chair
Keith Elbers	Rock County, SRDC Secretary
Donna Gravley	Cottonwood County
Eric Hartman	Region 8 School Boards
Chris Hollingsworth	Pipestone County
Dennis Klingbile	Lincoln County
Paul Langseth	Nobles County, SRDC Chair
Richard Peterson	Jackson County, SRDC Treasurer
Bob Van Hee	Redwood County
Rick VonHoldt	City of Worthington

Murray County, SRDC Vice-Chair

SRDC Fu	III 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 Ch	ard of Director Membership airman & a regional commissioner from each county 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 hoard member selected by the Commission

as a whole.



Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:30 pm

SRDC Board Room 2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton MN

		AGENDA	
<u>#</u>	<u>Time</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	3:30pm	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	3:31pm	Introductions	
3	3:33pm	Additions to and Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	2-3
4	3:35pm	 Consent Agenda Items August Receipts & Expenditures Report Southwest Health & Human Services Technical Services Contract Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items 	4-8 9-10
5	3:40pm	 Finance Reports—Treasurer Peterson & Finance Director Nelson Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report Administrative Report through August 2023 	Handout
		Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report	
6		Project Reviews— No Project Reviews for consideration	
7	3:45pm	Budget & Personnel Committee Report—Committee Chair Peterson Nothing to report	
8	3:50pm	Audit Committee Report—Committee Chair Peterson & Finance Director Nelson	
9	3:55pm	Legislative Committee Report—Committee Chair Carney	
10	4:00pm	Deep Dive: USDA Regional Food Services Center—Dev Planner Murphy	12
11	4:15pm	Executive Director's Report— Executive Director Trusty	13-14
12	4:30pm	Chairman's Report—Chairman Langseth	
13	4:40pm	Unfinished Business	
14	4:45pm	New Business	
15	4:50pm	Other Issues	

16 4:55pm Announcements

- SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the Slayton Pizza Ranch.
- SRDC Office is closed on November 10, 2023, in observance of Veterans Day.
- SRDC Office is closed on November 23 & 24 in observance of Thanksgiving
- SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. at the SRDC Office.

17 5:00pm Adjourn

Written Planners Reports are located on pages 15 – 24 of the meeting packet. For questions or additional information regarding report information, please contact staff.

	SRDC CASH RECEIPTS SUMMARY	 1-	, -	
ATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM	CHECK#	AMOUNT	В
08/01/23	C-RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	19,873.84	J
08/01/23	Falcon Loan Borrowers	ACH	1,510.92	J
08/01/23	RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	21,353.66	J
	Jackson Co-RLF admin	103539	1,991.68	K
	J.Paradis-C&J Construction CRLF orig and legal fees	2089	1,150.00	K
	City Heron Lake-RLF Admin	52429	250,00	ĸ
	State of MN - MNDOT	ACH	7,500.00	<u>, r</u>
	SWMHP-Fin/Sec, lease			
		34268	3,080.98	k
	D.Hayden-coples	1216	73.80	k
08/10/23		ACH	10,120.70	
08/14/23		1011882278	2,049.31	ŀ
08/14/23		1011881609	14,833.99	ř
08/15/23	County of Redwood	ACH	970.01	_
	Broadway Beauty Salon-PACE Orig & Legal fees	2860	142.33	ŀ
	SWMHP-monthly costs	34275	2,621.36	
	SRDC-PACE Outreach admin May & June	60258	1,166,40	
				ŀ
	SRDC-RMEB admin May & June	60257	2,860.00	
08/21/23	Retro 71-RLF loan payment	347	600.00	_
	Pohlman Pallets-RLF legal fees due	1901	25.50	
	UofM-World Mart	1011883923	1,250.00	
08/24/23	St of MN-Explore SW (Grant Reimbursement)	25408802	5,000.00	ŀ
	Rakuten-refund	66838572	7.57	ij
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08/31/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE Electric - Savings Interest	Per Bank		+-
			0= 40	┡
	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank	25.19	<u> </u>
	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	12.04	L
	Jackson Savings & Loan - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	67.77	
08/31/23	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank	1.56	Г
08/31/23	Minnwest Bank - RMEB Savings Interest	Per Bank		Т
	Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank		+
				+
	Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank		╄
	Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	157.66	L
08/31/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE ARRA - Savings Interest	Per Bank		
08/31/23	Minnwest Bank - CRLF Savings	Per Bank	136.37	Γ
	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	1.09	t
U8/34/55	Minnwest Bank - EDA Savings		1.09	+
00/31/23	INITITY OF COME OF SAVINGS	Per Bank		╀
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Southwest Regional Development Commission Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 8/1/2023 Through 8/31/2023

Effective Date	8/25/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/14/2023	8/15/2023	8/21/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023
Check Amount	13.75	22.08	23.92	42.00	63.00	60.46	89.06	36.39	62.29	100.00	40.00	404.27	20.00	727.80	328.64	5,690.00	6.94	10.42	50.42	69.00	35.35	53.02	4,848.63	10.986	156.00	40.50	645.23	4.50	7,593.41	127.13	10.80	340.00	1,071.47	291.68	544.18	2,250,00	1,000.00	150.00
Transaction Description	Admin Fees July 2023	City of Slayton 6/21/23 to 7/25/23	City of Slayton 6/21/23 to 7/25/23	Dave Samuelson - mowing and spraying weeds J	Dave Samuelson - mowing and spraying weeds J	Summer fertilizer & weed control	Summer fertilizer & weed control	Frontier 7/25/23 to 8/24/223	Frontier 7/25/23 to 8/24/223	GMS License/Warranty/Service/Support	GMS License/Warranty/Service/Support	Worthington International Festival 2023	Jason Nielsen 7/31/23 Meeting	Help Wanted Ads - Communications, Transporati	Murray County News - annual mtg invites and he	Murray County Xmas Project Donation	Northwest Gas 6/23/23 to 7/21/23	Northwest Gas 6/23/23 to 7/21/23	Meter reading 6/25/23 to 7/20/23	Redwood Gazette Subscription Renewal	Schaap 8/1/23 to 8/31/23	Schaap 8/1/23 to 8/31/23	Lease - August 2023	Help Wanted Ads	Help wanted ads	Public Hearing Notice	PACE Loan Closing Check - Madeline Robinson	Refund: CRLF Loan Agreement Balance - Atlanti	BCBS August 2023	Chandler Coop July 2023	Cooler Rental 8-1-23 to 8-31-23	Refund: RLF Loan Agreement Balance - The Edg	Help wanted ads	Frontier 8/4/23 to 9/3/23	Frontier 8/4/23 to 9/3/23	Fryberger May 2023 (RMEB)	Fryberger June 2023 (RMEB)	Annual Mtg: Room rental and drum performance
Vendor Name		City of Slayton	City of Slayton	David R. Samuelson	David R. Samuelson	Doug's Lawn & Landscaping S	Doug's Lawn & Landscaping S	Frontier Communications	Frontier Communications	Grants Management Systems	Grants Management Systems	Worthington International Fest	Jason Nielsen	Marshall Independent	Murray County News	Murray County Christmas Fund	Northwest Gas	Northwest Gas	One Office Solution	Redwood Falls Gazette	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap Sanitation	Slayton EDA	The Free Press	Wheel - Herald	Wheel - Herald	Madeline K. Robinson	Atlantic Place, LLC		Chandler Co-Op	Culligan Water Conditioning	The Edgerton Bakery, LLC	Forum Communications Comp	Frontier Communications	Frontier Communications	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	Lower Sioux Indian Community
Document	8/25/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/8/2023	8/14/2023	8/15/2023	8/21/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023
Check	600	60230	60230	60231	60231	60232	60232	60233	60233	60234	60234	60235	60236	60237	60238	60239	60240	60240	60241	60242	60243	60243	60244	60245	60246	60246	60247	60248	60248	60249	60250	60251	60252	60253	60253	60254	60254	60255
Session ID	CD8092023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	- APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8082023	APS8142023	APS8152023	CD8142023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023

Southwest Regional Development Commission Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 8/1/2023 Through 8/31/2023

Check Amount Effective Date	65.96 8/15/2023	36.14 8/15/2023	2,860.00 8/15/2023	1,166.40 8/15/2023	79.50 8/15/2023	272.17 8/15/2023	52.12 8/15/2023	264.29 8/15/2023	396,44 8/15/2023	33,238.29
Transaction Description Che	Quill: Plotter ink and office supplies	Quill: Plotter ink and office supplies	RMEB May/June 2023 Finance & Planner	SRDC - PACE Outreach May & June 2023	C&J Construction - CRLF	Refund: RLF Loan Agreement Balance - The Not	Verizon 8/2/23 to 9/1/23	Xcel 7/5/23 to 8/5/23	Xcel 7/5/23 to 8/5/23	
Vendor Name Tra	_	Ī				The Note gallery Re				
Document	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	8/15/2023	
Check	60256	60256	60257	60258	60259	60260	60261	60262	60262	
Session ID	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	APS8152023	Report Total

2023 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 8/1/2023 Through 8/31/2023

Effective Date	8/25/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023
Check Amount	13.75	122.85	57.00	26.94	40.40	540.12	328.00	472.00	89.99	89,99	229.00	760.53	122,85	59.99	61.53	3,015.24	40.00	10.00	22.08	23.92	26.00	39.00	27.90	51.82	114.40	32.00	00.006	489.76	489.75	41.25	41.25	1,182.23	1,897.48	95.63	1,483.72	1,505.81
Transaction Description	Admin Fees July 2023	AFLAC Inv 945609 Due 9/7/23	Citizen Publishing Subscription Renewal	Dust-Tex Paper Towels	Dust-Tex Paper Towels	Monthly Lease Rent 7/1/23 to 7/31/23	Janitorial services August 2023	Janitorial services August 2023	Quill - Plotter printhead and ink	Quill - Plotter printhead and ink	HP Essential Dock	Abila Multiple Clouds 9/26/2023 to 10/25/2023	Aflac Inv 817445; due 8/23	Bluepeak 8/24/23 to 9/23/23	Bluepeak 8/24/23 to 9/23/23	Visa business card 7/18/2023 to 8/16/2023	Visa business card 7/18/2023 to 8/16/2023	Visa business card 7/18/2023 to 8/16/2023	City of Slayton 7/25/23 to 8/22/23	City of Slayton 7/25/23 to 8/22/23	Dave Samuelson - August 2023 mowing	Dave Samuelson - August 2023 mowing	Frontier 8/25/23 to 9/24/23	Frontier 8/25/23 to 9/24/23	Marco Copier 5/27/2023 to 6/26/2024	NCPERS Group Life 9/1/23 to 9/30/23	SurveyMonkey 9/29/23 to 9/28/24	Synology Network Storage Device DS423+	Synology Network Storage Device DS423+	Server In-House Technical Labor - Upgrade GFI Archiver	Server In-House Technical Labor - Upgrade GFI Archiver	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 8/24/2023
Vendor Name		AFLAC	Citizen Publishing Co. (Cotton	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Fleet Services Division	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson	Quill Corporation	Quill Corporation	The Computer Man, Inc.	Abila	AFLAC	Bluepeak	Bluepeak	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services	City of Slayton	City of Slayton	David R. Samuelson	David R. Samuelson	Frontier Communications	Frontier Communications	Marco	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	SurveyMonkey Inc.	The Computer Man, Inc.	The Computer Man, Inc.	The Computer Man, Inc.	The Computer Man, Inc.	Jodi L. Klein	Melissa Nelson	Melissa Nelson	Kimberly Murphy	Kathleen M. Schreiber
Document	8/25/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/22/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/31/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023	8/24/2023
Check	001	60263	60264	60265	60265	60266	60267	60267	60268	60268	60269	60270	60271	60272	60272	60273	60273	60273	60274	60274	60275	60275	60276	60276	60277	60278	60279	60280	60280	60280	60280	82123 1	82123 2	82123 2	82123 3	82123 4
Session ID	CD8212023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8222023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	APS8312023	PRS8242023	PRS8242023	PRS8242023	PRS8242023	PRS8242023

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2023 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 8/1/2023 Through 8/31/2023

Session ID	Check	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
PRS8242023	82123 4	8/24/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	132.56	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 4	8/24/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	58.34	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 5	8/24/2023	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	3,499.60	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 6	8/24/2023	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	2,463.00	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 7	8/24/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	1,756.16	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 7	8/24/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	547.24	8/24/2023
PRS8242023	82123 7	8/24/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 8/24/2023	10.55	8/24/2023
Report Total					23,011.63	

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

BETWEEN THE

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND SOUTHWEST HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Southwest Regional Development Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "SRDC", and the Southwest Health and Human Services, herein referred to as the "SWHHS".

I. Contract Agreement

- A. The work program shall include:
 - 1. The SRDC will work with SWHHS directors and staff to develop a clear scope of work for a strategic plan for the Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties of SWHHS Public Health.
 - 2. The SRDC will organize and facilitate meetings and conversations with SWWHS stakeholders to define the roles and responsibilities of the contractor in the strategic planning process, the roles and responsibilities of SWHHS staff in the strategic planning process, the timeline for the process, the number of goal areas, the type and frequency of meetings, the types of data gathering required, the general outline of what a completed strategic plan would look like for SWHHS and any other deliverables that are prioritized during the scoping process.
 - 3. The SRDC will deliver a final draft scope of work to complete the contract.
- B. The work elements specified in this contract shall be completed between September 20, 2023 and December 31, 2023 unless the contract period is extended by mutual agreement between the parties of this contract.

II. Financial Participation

- A. The SRDC shall make available a planner with competent training and experience to accomplish the assigned tasks and projects. Professional services are provided at \$90 an hour. Hourly rates include normal support costs. Other charges directly reimbursable to the SRDC by the SWHHS include printing and mileage at the SRDC's established rate of reimbursement.
- B. The total contract cost for the project attributed to SWHHS will not exceed \$4,500 including expenses.

III. Payment for Services Performed

Payment of funds to the SRDC by the SWHHS for services performed shall be made following submission by the SRDC of an invoice requesting funds for costs incurred. SRDC will invoice one time upon completion of the scope of work document. The invoice shall be submitted to:

Carol Biren
Southwest Health and Human Services
607 West Main, Suite 200
Marshall, MN 56258

IV. Records and Documentation

- A. <u>Accounting</u>. The SRDC shall be responsible for keeping records which disclose the time spent on the project along with travel or printing costs.
- B. <u>Hold Harmless</u>: SWHHS agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the SRDC against any legal actions brought by any personal entity whatsoever arising out of or claimed to be arising out of performance of either party under this agreement for services.

V. Miscellaneous

- A. The SWHHS shall review all reports for compliance with its guidelines and requirements.
- B. The contract shall be subject to all pertinent state statutes and regulations.
- C. The contract shall be subject to modification at any time provided there is mutual agreement between the SRDC and the SWHHS on the nature of modification.
- D. Any portion of this contract deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be held severable and shall not affect the remaining portions.

VI. Independent Contractor Status

The SRDC is to be and shall remain an independent contractor with respect to any and all work performed under this Contract. It is agreed that nothing herein contained is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing the relationship of co-partners between the parties hereto or as constituting the SRDC as the agent, representative or employee of the SWHHS or any purpose or in any manner whatsoever. The SRDC acknowledges and agrees that the SRDC is not entitled to receive any of the benefits received by SWHHS employees and is not eligible for worker' or unemployment compensation benefits under the SWHHS. The SRDC also acknowledges and agrees that no withholding or deduction for state or federal income taxes, FICA, FUTA, or otherwise, will be made from the payment due to the SRDC and that it is the SRDC's sole obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of all federal and state tax laws.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, THE SRDC has caused this contract to be duly executed on its behalf and the SWHHS has caused the same to be duly executed on its behalf.

swhis Balmuric	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIO	N
Authorized Official	Authorized Official	
Attested By Attested By	Attested By	
Date: 9/20/23	Date:	



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Month End August 2023 Fiscal Year 2024

YTD Comparison % of Budget 8.33

Based on activity earned to date.- main Certs (not subprojects), includes 17.4% Based on activity earned to date.
Based on Billings (write 2 grants) - **Contract obligation was not met 6.8% seed grants (additional funds for seed grants, which equals more time) When current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec and 0.4% Loan int/loan orig fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4656/4321) |0.0%| Paid in December and June **an amt will be in January 2023** **Explanation/Comments** 0.0% Based on Billings (800 hours at \$75/hr for the year) 39.3% Grant Earned (Our share)
2.2% Based on activity earned to date. (Our share) 0.0% Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000 0.0% Insurance dividend/Building Insurance 14.5% Based on activity earned to date. 15.5% Our portion of lease pymt -100.0% no extension given** 3.4% Bank int/loan orig fee 0.0% Paid in December 21.4% copier/printer too 0.2% Jun 2.6% 1.5% 12.8% 2.5% 0.0% 0.0% %0.0 0.7% 12.7% 23.4% Budget Overall #DIV/0 #DIV/0i #DIV/0i % of 99,951.53 20,488.48 42,702.26 2,750.00 5,460.00 0.0 0.00 0.00 1,013,501.45 443,505.99 102,958.78 75,000.00 1,120,817.34 27,538.76 757,223.10 5,947.13 16,115.02 28,906.94 7,200.00 508.00 Under / Over 75,000.00 42,488.23 60,000.00 6,571.80 4,788.07 5,917.00 16,632.92 20,000.00 10,177.64 11,633.00 19,513.13 146,705.31 49,530.02 Budget 8,843.06 0.00 0.00 40.00 9,029.36 0.00 0.00 17,476.22 0.00 27,511.77 3,294.69 7,298.47 78.32 0.00 29,827.66 9,511.52 970.01 74.93 871.87 0.00 367.08 0.00 0.00 Year to -37,500.00 228.20 106,567.90 4,388.98 3,571.87 147,519.55 10,469.98 2,761.24 Date 9,511.52 367.08 0.00 0.00 0.00 3,294.69 78.32 74.93 871.87 4,388.98 0.00 0.00 40.00 9,029.36 0.00 970.01 0.00 0.00 17,827.66 -37,500.00 7,298.47 228.20 2,761.24 106,567.90 8,843.06 147,519.55 17,476.22 15,511.77 10,469.98 3,571.87 September July 0.00 -37,500.00 -31,500.00 6,000.00 September 4,082.63 1,702.23 78.32 431.69 0.00 340.14 0.00 0.00 40.00 0.00 7,900.64 0.00 9.99 0.00 0.00 970.01 0.0 1,944.09 81.37 22,242.00 288.94 51,476.11 3,223.68 2,519.54 1,790.05 4,431.71 5,133.63 64,978.77 August 5,428.89 26.94 0.00 9,575.58 0.00 440.18 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 64.94 0.0 1,592.46 9.0 5,354.38 146.83 27,085.66 55,091.79 6,323.52 0.0 9,029.36 82,540.78 5,080.06 5,336.35 2,472.30 1,165.30 1,781.82 July 444,476 120,435 70,000 4,863 6,819 20,504 5,917 20,000 2,750 7,200 5,500 10,000 19,207 508 75,000 37,500 19,184 863,791 30,000 000'09 107,250 60,000 1,150,645 30,300 37,750 23,085 6,800 1,161,021 Budget Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb) Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal Expenditures **Building Lease Principal Pymt** Revenues RLF Admin (Covid & Regular) **≣conomic Development Adm** Program Supply (Trails EDA) Equipment/Building Updates Financing Fees & Expenses Dues/Memberships & Other Program Supply (MNDOT) nterest & Miscellaneous PACE loan orig/int/misc PACE loan interest paid Debt Service:Prin. & Int. Program Supply (EDA) Committee Expenses Contract for Services Total Expenditures Printing/Publication Office Space Costs **USDA Food Grant** Salaries & Fringe MnDOT-Regional Total Revenues Communications Region 5 Energy **EDA Trails Grant CERTs Funds** Seed Grants nsurance Computer Supplies Audits Travel

-117,692

-129,691.89

-31,500.00

-42,736.77

-55,455.12

-10,376

Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures

USDA Regional Food Business Center

USDA Regional Food Business Center: In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the recipients of the USDA Regional Food Business Centers grant. Twelve organizations, including the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC), were selected. R5DC will serve as the coordinator for the North Central Regional Food Business Center (Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota). The USDA Regional Food Business Centers have been established to drive economic opportunities across their region creating a more diversified, and resilient, food system. The grant awarded is \$15 million over five years for MN, ND, and SD.

North Central Regional Food Business Center: The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) has partnered with R5DC to provide technical assistance. Robin Weis, Jason Walker, and Kim Murphy attended the RFBC kick-off in St. Paul on August 17, 2023. SRDC is in the public engagement phase of the project and will be setting up sessions to introduce the RFBC, make connections, and seek out ideas and suggestions. This engagement will identify areas in need of technical assistance and investments with the hopes of building additional regional capacity to support a local food system. Ideas could include aggregation/distribution networks and systems, special crop processing, local food hub development, and new markets for local food at area grocery stores, farmers' markets, food shelves, schools, and hospitals.

The goal is to identify value chain gaps — what do is currently in place and what areas can we build on? Emphasis will be on supporting resilient farm and food practices - specifically focusing on the development of critical infrastructure for small and mid-sized producers including, but not limited to, livestock, fruits, and vegetables, as well as warehouse space and storage operations. The SRDC will strive to create new value chain connections, expand supply to, and demand from, new and existing markets along with improving viability. The hope is to increase the market value of products and boost SW Minnesota's food systems in response to supply chain weaknesses, small business challenges, and other difficulties exposed by the recent pandemic.

The Regional Food Centers will target their work to historically underinvested communities in their region. This will mean creating connections among producers, processors, aggregators, distributors, and other businesses within the food supply chain. By strengthening these connections, the RFBC plans to drive economic opportunities across the region, creating a more diversified, resilient, and strong economy.

In addition to raising awareness about the Regional Food Business Center, SRDC is working on creating a press release and social media campaign to build momentum toward producing an action plan that can be executed over the next five years. SRDC will participate in monthly meetings facilitated by a representative from the Minnesota Farmer's Union (MFU). In November, an action plan will be posted for public comment with the final RFBC action plan due by 12/31/2023 or prior.

More information can be found on the Region 5 Development Commission website: https://www.regionfive.org/rfbc

Executive Director's Report

OCTOBER 2023

September was busy with the new staff coming on board. Jason has been doing a good job getting everybody settled and we all have plenty of work to do going forward.

I have been spending a lot of time working on some issues for the City of Adrian. They have a number of projects that they need to have happen, including a new transformer for their public utility, a new water treatment system to remove nitrates, and some shade tree replacements. I spoke with the DNR forester out of Mankato, and she is willing to help with the tree identification and replacement work, so we are aiming for the next funding round of the Shade Tree Program. I passed on some information on possible funding sources for the transformer replacement and Robin and I will be working to assist the city in an EDA Disaster application.

I attended the Workforce Summit in St. Paul and got to hear the new DEED Commissioner's views on the integration of workforce and economic development. As an outsider to the process, it appears that there is some fence mending that needs to be done within the departments at DEED, and with some of their external constituencies.

I also attended Tom Hoff's final official meeting at the LYFT Advisory Committee. As you may recall, Tom retired from the Southwest/West Central Service Co-op and Eriann Faris moved over from the Private Industry Council to take his place. I thought the meeting was very productive, with the new marketing team giving a presentation and much discussion of how to expand the reach of the program.

Towards the end of the month, beginning of October, I spent much time putting together the Board Retreat. I think we've got a good agenda and a good group of outside folks lined up to help us out. There were some conflicts that arose with the original dates, so we shifted the retreat to October 26th and 27th.

After our last MADO Executive Director meeting, we were asked to put in a request to the McKnight Foundation for funding to supplement the possible funding from the Department of Commerce. I put in a request for enough funding so that the two programs will pay for one FTE's worth of time for the next three years. I am not anticipating that we will need to hire anyone, but that we will be able to spread the workload around among the staff.

Kathy and I began working on Committees and Committee structure for the Commission, we have some vacancies that need to be filled and some Commissioners that are on multiple Committees, so we will need to have the discussion around making some opening for the new Commissioners so that they get a chance to serve on a Committee and learn a little more in-depth about some of our work.

I was invited to attend an in-depth discussion with local experts on the climate opportunities contained within the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Inflation Reduction Act. With an eye toward the 2024 legislative session, what are the opportunities and challenges in the implementation of the federal funds? How do we ensure all Minnesotans benefit? I will report on how this meeting went at the Board meeting.

I have scheduled a StrengthsFinders Discovery session for our staff for November 17th. We will be contracting with Darla Waldner, who is the Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Development Commission and a Certified Trainer to conduct the session. With so many new staff and only Kathy and Robin and me being here for our last session, at Darla's suggestion we all took the assessment so we will all start from where we are right now. I haven't re-done mine yet, but I will be interested to see what, if any, changes have occurred since the last time I took it.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

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) 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.

EDA PLANNING

EDA Investment Opportunities: Priorities can be found at https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/.

Priorities include Equity, Recovery and Resilience, Workforce Development, Manufacturing, Technology-Based Economic Development, Environmentally Sustainable Development, and Exports and Foreign Direct Investment.

Grants.gov houses EDA's Notice of Funding Opportunities. EDGE is used to submit applications.

EDA funding opportunities can be found at Home (eda.gov). The latest NOFO is their Recompete Pilot program. Eligible areas for the recompete pilot program in our region include the Lower Sioux Indian Community and our smaller cities including Wilder, Storden, Westbrook, Currie, Avoca, Iona, Jasper, Lucan, Revere, and Balaton. The latest NOFO for disaster funds can be found at Fiscal Year 2023 Disaster
Supplemental | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov). The following counties are eligible under the disaster distress criteria: Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Nobles, Redwood, and Rock. There is no longer a nexus to the disaster required. Staff are working on a potential substation transformer addition EDA grant for the City of Adrian. The following counties are eligible under the per capita distress criteria: Redwood and Rock counties. Contact staff if you have potential infrastructure or planning projects.

Staff has been asked to participate with the State Senate Capital Committee on October 5 in Lamberton.

Virtual EDD Chapter Meet-Up for the Chicago Region: Staff have been invited to participate. NADO facilitates these sessions. The next session will be held on October 19.

Career Expo: The 2023 Southwest Minnesota Career Expo was held on Sept. 26th and 27th at the college campuses of Southwest Minnesota State University–Marshall and Minnesota West-Worthington. The event brought 130 employers and educational programs; they provided valuable career and education information to these high school students (primarily 10th and 11th graders), plus highlighted regional businesses and the type of jobs they provide in our communities. During the two expo events, over 2,122 students from 39 schools participated, which involved teamwork from over 350 volunteers. Murphy and Weis assisted with the "Career is Right", along with Luke Greiner from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

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 for renovations to a main street tax-forfeited building to house three separate family childcare providers in Hills. The City of Hills was awarded \$120,000 for this project. The fifth request for payment was recently submitted.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: The committee meets in February, May, August, and November. This group gathers members who support career and technical education programs and educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. The committee met last on August 10 and will meet again on November 2.

Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC): The group last met on September 20 and will meet again on December 20. SRDC represents economic development on the council.

Friends in the Field: The group last met on July 12 and focused on mental health. The next gathering will be on October 11.

Digital Equity for America: To receive federal funding via the Digital Equity Act that was approved in November 2021, the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) must prepare a statewide digital opportunity plan. DEED conducted two in-person listening sessions in the region. The draft vision statement is "A future where digital access connects all Minnesota residents to opportunities, options, and each other." The public comment period ran through September 29. The full draft of the Digital Opportunity Plan can be viewed at Digital Opportunity / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (mn.gov).

Succession Planning and Transitions: Staff attended a succession planning and transitions workshop on September 6. As an implementation strategy, staff will be meeting with Extension and Small Business Development Center on October 3 to discuss a potential plan to conduct education about succession planning in this region.

Workforce Development: SRDC was asked to participate in the Southwest Minnesota Workforce Development Forum on September 7 in Worthington. The purpose of the forum was to develop workforce development strategies and priorities for southwest Minnesota. DEED presented the current state of our workforce.

Entrepreneurial Conference: SRDC participated on a panel during a session entitled "Financing and Technical Assistance Resources for Entrepreneurs" in New London on September 14. Other panelists included the city of Hutchinson and the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities): SRDC will be host site for the Murray County chapter in October.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

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

RLF

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 July 31 and approved one C-RLF loan application of \$100,000 to a business in Murray County. This loan has closed.

Interest Rates:

EDA's guideline for minimum interest rate is 4% under prime, which equates to 4.5% currently, or 75% of prime, whichever is less. SRDC RLF has been using 75% of the WSJ (Wall Street Journal) Prime Rate for recent loans, which adheres to regulations governing RLF awards.

Application and Checklist: 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/.

EDA Supported RLF Community of Practice: This suggested networking opportunity for EDA-sponsored RLFs has now begun. Staff was accepted into the first cohort. The following were training topics: General RLF Tactics, Marketing Strategies, Credit, Underwriting, Smaller RLF Strategies, Loan Committee, and Board Development.

Financial Software: Staff, along with Region 6E, will be hearing about a potential RLF software on October 4 that assists the RLF management from pre-application to site visits.

COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$202.268.38. These funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Reporting will soon be required twice per year.

Traditional RLF

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$320.814.38. These funds are defederalized.

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, expansions, and financing. Staff assists with three additional revolving loan fund programs within the region.

- 1. <u>Jackson County RLF:</u> There are seven active loans. County commissioners voiced their continued financial support of the program, given funds are minimal. Applications continue to be pursued.
- 2. <u>Heron Lake RLF:</u> 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. One loan was paid off in full on 8/31/23.
- 3. <u>Falcon Development Corporation (FDC):</u> Information on FDC can be found online at https://www.swrdc.org/revolving-loan-funds/. 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. A loan client put an additional \$10,000 towards the principal, and in conjunction with that, a partial mortgage release was filed.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

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.

Funds Available: Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of PACE SEP, \$161,144.89, and PACE ARRA, \$119,803.56

PACE Committee: The committee meets as needed, often in conjunction with RMEB (Rural Minnesota Energy Board) meeting dates. The latest committee meeting was September 25. Committee members are Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere, and Paap. Interest rates for new projects are set at 3% under Prime, with a floor of 3%.

C-PACE Statewide Discussions: Staff has been involved in discussions with the MN Department of Commerce as they work on expanding the reach of commercial PACE programs in MN. Staff provided project data for a recent DOC application submitted. RDCs (Regional Development Commission) will be eligible to apply under an RFP (Request for Proposals). The DOC included within their application non-competitive funds of \$300,000 to expand the financing capacity of the RMEB PACE program.

Participation Agreements: Per the suggestion of DOC, staff has begun initial discussions with lenders about participation agreements. St. Paul Port Authority has seen success in selling its PACE assessments to local lenders. Staff also discussed this with Minnesota Bank which has relationships with community banks throughout the 18 county RMEB service area.

Energy Audits: Energy assessments/audits are informational to property owners and may be the start to cost-saving energy improvements. MN DOC is working on increasing access to energy auditors. 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 questions about the RLF, PACE, or energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at robin@swrdc.org.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

ENERGY | LAND USE, PLANNING & ZONING | SOLID WASTE & NATURAL RESOURCES | USDA REGIONAL FOOD
BUSINESS CENTER

ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The board met on September 25 at 1 P.M. Mike Reese, the Renewable Energy Director at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, presented about Green Hydrogen/Ammonia and the opportunities available for economic development in Minnesota. For the November meeting, members discussed having a joint meeting to focus on addressing the need to keep existing waste-to-energy facilities in operation. That meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2023.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator Cities and Communities Coalition (MISOCCC): On September 25, 2023, the Great Plains Institute hosted a webinar titled, "Transmission 101."

The webinar was part of a series to provide continued education on topics related to the wholesale electricity market and transmission planning. If you've found yourself feeling unclear on what the transmission grid is, how it's planned, and how it affects your community's goals, this webinar is an excellent opportunity to go over the basics. The recording can be found at https://youtu.be/qoUG4Mrnm8Y?si=3Qm DRLRHbsYttZG.

Speakers included: Matt Prorok, Energy Systems, GPI; Jennie Chen, Clean Energy, World Resources Institute; and Gretchen Kershaw, Grid Deployment Office, U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Foundation Grant with Region 5: Staff are applying to the *State Competitiveness Fund Local Capacity Building Grant* for the final grant application. If successful, the SRDC would receive up to \$100,000 per year for three years to provide grant writing assistance, free of charge, to organizations in our region.

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs):

<u>Seed Grants:</u> For community-based projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and energy storage within Minnesota. The deadline has passed, and the application review process will start soon. We have received interest from some organizations and individuals who would like to focus on energy upgrades and documentation of such upgrades and the individuals involved with energy saving practices. There are proposals for small, local projects as well as multiregional ones.

Seed grants are for projects that:

- Help people learn about clean energy and get energized.
- Build community by engaging a variety of partners.
- Remove barriers, making clean energy more accessible for everyone.
- Are highly visible in the community and can be an example for other communities.

<u>Food Shelves</u>: The Minnesota Department of Human Services recently announced \$7 million worth of competitive grants to food shelves for technical assistance, to plan and design, acquire, and renovate/transform facilities. This can be used for improvements like refrigeration equipment, furnishings, or renewable energy projects such as installing solar panels. Up to 100% of project costs can be covered by this grant. With building upgrades and energy efficency projects, food shelves can reduce their operating costs and create a more accessible and welcoming environment for their customers.

SRDC staff has been assisting CERTs with the food shelf outreach in our region, with seven food shelves responding as interested and planning to fill out the application.

<u>World Mart</u> – Work on completing the battery and modular solar panel installations is still under way. The project team has planned a trip to the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) on the Morris U of M campus for mid-December, with Nathalie's business partners and a group of U of M engineering students. The group is going to tour their facilities, which are centered around renewable energy research and education, and include multiple types of solar projects. This tour will help Nathalie and her team with making decisions on the installation process and in their clean energy outreach to other food truck vendors.

<u>Hiring Five Full-Time Regional Coordinators</u>: The new coordinators have been hired and recently started their positions on October 2^{nd.}

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission: The Solid Waste Commission held their regular meeting on September 25, 2023. Several employees from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency joined the meeting to provide clarification to their responses to the SW Commission's July communication in opposition to the proposed rulemaking on demolition landfills. The Commission is scheduled to meet again on November 27th.

Solid Waste Regional Plan:

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 a 12-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.

Staff has been working with the Solid Waste Administrators on collecting and compiling land use and cover statistics for the region. The Solid Waste Administrators met on September 14th to discuss progress and a timetable for completion of the plan. SRDC Executive Director Trusty stated individual county information is needed to proceed with the report. A template will be provided to each county to aid in the compilation of this data.

USDA Regional Food Business Center

USDA Regional Food Business Center: In May 2023, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the recipients of the USDA Regional Food Business Centers grant. Twelve organizations including Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) were selected. R5DC will serve as the coordinator for the North Central Regional Food Business Center which will serve Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The USDA Regional Food Business Centers have been established to drive economic opportunities across their region, creating a more diversified and resilient food system. The grant amount is \$15 million over five years for MN, ND, and SD.

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SRDC will participate in monthly meetings hosted by the Minnesota Farmer's Union. The first meeting was held on September 20, 2023. The Minnesota Department of Ag shared about upcoming grant opportunities and participants discussed ways to collaborate and support each other through this process. In November, an action plan will be posted for public comment. Our SRDC RFBC action plan is due by 12/31/2023 or prior.

More information can be found on the Region 5 Development Commission website: https://www.regionfive.org/rfbc

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

Communications Specialist Sheila Crowley has been working on placing new posts on Facebook. In looking at the statistics, the posts with employees are receiving higher interactions. I've also spoken with other RDC's to see how they generate more traffic to their Facebook and website.

Staff recently had a zoom meeting with Redwood Valley web design team on placing the SRDC Facebook page on the front page of the SRDC website. The idea is to drive more traffic to not only Facebook, but also the website, thus eliminating putting little blubs on the website so it stays more current. Additionally, I've been watching the tutorials on the website to learn how to input information on the SRDC website.

Staff interviews were conducted, and new profiles will be created. Updated staff photos will be taken. These will appear intermittently on the SRDC Facebook page to share with our viewers the employees at the SRDC and what their roles are with the organization.

Staff has also been assisting with design on the recent Lamberton walk audit that staff conducted.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

OCTOBER 2023

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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The Southwest Regional Development Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee's annual meeting was held on Friday, July 21st from 10:00am-12:00pm. Tony Pfau reviewed the District 8 draft Area Transportation Improvement Program, Capital Improvements Plan, and updates on the FY 2024 construction updates. Angela Piltaver provided the same updates for District 7. Robert Clarksen provided a short status update on the State Freight Plan, reviewed final draft materials for the Minnesota Highway Freight Program, application details for the 3rd round of solicitations for the MHFP, changes in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Freight Investment Direction. He also provided a short status update on the State Rail Plan.

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

Transportation Alternatives Grant:

- \$1.26 million available to MnDOT District 8
- \$1.6 million available to MnDOT District 7
- \$750,000 maximum award 20% funding match
- Projects Constructed in 2028
- Open 10/2 for Letters of Intent applications due 1/12/24
- https://www.dot.state.mn.us/ta/index.html
- Next October 2024 will be similar funding available

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Carbon Reduction Strategy: During summer 2023, MnDOT will gather input from partners and the public to identify priorities to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources. MnDOT central office has kicked off this effort by contacting Area Transportation Partnerships (ATPs) and conducting a survey to help develop the Minnesota Carbon Reduction Strategy (CRS). This strategy will be used as a guide into how MnDOT will use/distribute Carbon Reduction Program funds. Minnesota receives approximately \$20.9 million each year and the CRS is a requirement to receive these funds.

The CRS is due to the federal government by November 15, 2023.

Link to the survey: https://bit.ly/3C4p5T4

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 quarterly Transportation Planners meeting was last held in Fergus Falls with a virtual option on August 23 and 24. The next meeting will be held in November at a date and time yet to be determined.

ACTIVE LIVING & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

Lamberton/Red Rock Central Walk Audit: Staff conducted a walk audit in Lamberton on September 20, 2023. A walk audit is an opportunity for community members to develop strategies to improve walkability within their community. The group participated in a classroom session before engaging in a walk around the community where they made observations about the walking conditions in Lamberton. The Red Rock Central district will transition to a new building in October 2024. Their observations were based on the 6 E's of Walkability: Engagement and planning, Equity, Engineering, Encouragement, Education, and Evaluation. Following the walk, they shared these observations and collaborated to identify what they considered to be priority projects to make walking, and biking, comfortable and safe in Lamberton.

Adrian/Adrian School District SRTS Infrastructure Grant: Staff held a meeting with City of Adrian and Adrian School District officials on October 5, 2023, to review their previous grant application from 2021 to find ways that the officials can improve sections of the application to reapply for another infrastructure grant this Fall.

Windom/Windom Area Schools SRTS Infrastructure Grant: Staff held a meeting with City of Windom and SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) officials on September 26, 2023, to walk a proposed route and discuss their application for an infrastructure grant this Fall.

Redwood Falls/Redwood Area School District/St. John's Lutheran School/Centra Care-Redwood SRTS - Active Transportation Infrastructure Grant: Staff attended a meeting with City of Redwood Falls, Redwood Falls Area Schools, St. John's Lutheran School, and Centra-Care Redwood officials to discuss a planned project that would connect a private school, the public high school, the new Centra Care Clinic and a new housing development to the already established City of Redwood Falls trail network. They will pursue multiple grant options to help secure funding for this project.

Southern MN Active Transportation Summit: All the planners attended this summit either virtually or in Mankato on Friday, September 29, 2023. Topics included demographic trends, Complete Street policy and implementation, traffic calming, accessing funding and an introduction to placemaking.

SRTS Infrastructure

- \$10.9 million available
- \$1 million maximum award no funding match
- Constructed in 2024 or 2025
- Open 10/9 for Letters of Intent applications due 2/2/24
- http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/infrastructure-grants.html
- Next October 2024 will be similar funding available

Active Transportation

- Funded \$4.5 million for applications from 2022 eleven high-scoring projects
- \$13.2 million available no match funds required
- Greater MN focused Met Council has its own AT Funding from sales tax
- \$1 million maximum award no funding match
- Constructed in 2024 or 2025

- Open 10/9 for Letters of Intent applications due 2/2/24
- https://www.dot.state.mn.us/active-transportation-program/infrastructure-grants.html
- Next October 2024 will be similar funding available

Active Transportation Safety Education

- Required training for all schools within the first 3 weeks
- K-3 Pedestrian safety education
- 4-8 Bicycle and Pedestrian safety education
- \$500,000 each year for education
- If funds are left over after meeting the needs of 5–14-year-olds, additional funding may support 15–17-year-olds and adult education, and adults learn to ride.

REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING

With new planners hired and working on this project, staff are working to define roles and determine next steps in the trail planning process.

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

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: The Friends were successful in receiving a bonding bill request for \$1.32 million for the development of the Casey Jones State Trail. Thank you to Senators Weber and Dahms and Representative Schomacker for authoring bills in the House and Senate. The Friends has also learned of an opportunity for land acquisition funding through DNR and will be working on speaking to landowners between Woodstock and Lake Wilson to see if a route can be determined and land purchased. A request for bids is currently out for paving the final 2 miles into Woodstock. If there is money left over, work will provide for the development of a trailhead and small parking lot. Construction is expected this summer. Reconstruction of the Currie Loop segments is expected to begin in 2024. The Friends plan to host their Annual Meeting at a date that is yet to be determined.



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