



### 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
Leah Bittner	Redwood County Municipalities
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
Pam Cooreman	Lyon County Municipalities
Bill Crowley	Murray County Townships
Dan Delaney	Pipestone County Municipalities
Keith Elbers	Rock County Municipalities, SRDC Secretary*
Lori Grant	Lyon County Townships
Donna Gravley	Cottonwood County Commissioners*
Mark Haberman	Jackson County Municipalities
Eric Hartman	Region 8 School Boards*
Chris Hollingsworth	Pipestone County Commissioners*
Dennis Klingbile	Lincoln County Municipalities*
Tiffany Knott-Lesmeister	Redwood County Townships
Ronald Kottke	Cottonwood County Townships
Paul Langseth	Nobles County Townships, SRDC Chair*
Steve Kellen	Nobles County Municipalities
Scott Mcclure	Jackson County Commissioners
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
Stephen Schnieder	Region 8 School Boards
Vacant	Pipestone County Townships
Sherri Thompson	Rock County Commissioners
Mic VanDeVere	Lincoln County Commissioners, Transportation Committee Chair
Bob Van Hee	Redwood County Commissioners*
Rick VonHoldt	City of Worthington*
Dennis Welgraven	Murray County Commissioners, SRDC Vice-Chair*
Justine Wettschreck	Economic Development
Beth Wilms	Health and Human Services

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



Thursday, January 11, 2024 3:30 pm

Pizza Ranch Meeting Room 2306 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

### **AGENDA**

<u>#</u>	<u>Time</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	3:30	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	3:31	Introductions	
3	3:35	Additions to and Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	
4	3:37	<ul> <li>Commission Appointment</li> <li>David Sturrock – Higher Education Representative</li> <li>Action Needed:</li> </ul>	
5	3:40	<ul> <li>Consent Agenda Items</li> <li>November 16, 2023, FC Meeting Minutes</li> <li>December 14, 2023, BOD Meeting Minutes</li> <li>November Receipts &amp; Expenditures Report</li> <li>MN City Participation Program (MCPP) Application</li> <li>Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items</li> </ul>	5-10 11-14 15-19 20
6	3:42	Finance Reports—Treasurer Peterson & Finance Director Nelson  • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report  • Administrative Report through November 2023 Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report	H-1 21
7	3:50	Committee Membership - Chairman Langseth and Committee Chairs	
8	4:00	Budget & Personnel Committee Report—Committee Chair Peterson & Finance Director Nelson  • Personnel Policy Update Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations	22
9	4:05	Legislative Report - Chair Miron Carney	
10	4:10	Deep Dive – Executive Director Trusty	
		Committee & Staff Reports	
11	4:30	Economic Development Report—Deputy Director Weis	23
12	4:35	Revolving Loan Funds Report— Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis  3	24-25

### SRDC FULL COMMISSION MEETING | JANUARY 11, 2024 | PAGE 2

13	4:40	Community Development Report—  Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, Webb, Murphy	26-28
14	4:45	Transportation Report— Committee Chair VanDeVere & Development Planners Walker & Webb	29-31
15	4:50	Communications Report - Communications Specialist, Crowley	32
16	4:55	Executive Director's Report—Executive Director Trusty	33
17	5:05	Chairman's Report—Chairman Langseth	
18	5:15	Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups  • Justine Wettschreck, Murray County EDA  • Miron Carney, Murray County Municipalities  • Chris Hollingsworth, Pipestone County Commissioner	
19	5:30	Unfinished Business	
20	5:32	New Business	
21	5:33	Other Issues	
22		<ul> <li>Announcements</li> <li>SRDC Office is closed Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther Day</li> <li>SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, February 8 at 3:30 pm at the SOffice</li> <li>SRDC Office closed February 19th in observation of President's Day SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024</li> </ul>	J
23	5:40	Adjourn	



SRDC FULL COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

PIZZA RANCH, SLAYTON

NOVEMBER 16, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Carrie Bendix,

JoEllen Benson, Leah Bittner, Kristie Blankenship, Pam Cooreman, Bill Crowley, Dan Delaney, Keith Elbers, Lori Grant, Mark Haberman, Eric Hartman, Chris Hollingsworth, Steve Kellen, Dennis Klingbile, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, Scott McClure, Jeff Moen, See Moua-Leske, Richard Peterson, Jenny Quade, Stephen Schnieder, Dennis Welgraven, Justine

Wettschreck and Beth Wilms

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Bob Byrnes (excused), Miron Carney (excused), Elliot

Christensen, Donna Gravley (excused), Ron Kottke (excused), Bob Paplow, Wally Slinger, Sherri Thompson, Mic VanDeVere (excused), Bob Van Hee

(excused), and Rick VonHoldt (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Nadya Bucklin, Sheila Crowley, Kim Murphy,

Melissa Nelson, Kathy Schreiber, Jason Walker, Chris Webb and Robin Weis

### **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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-26, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Peterson to approve the September 14, 2023 Full Commission Minutes, the October 12, 2023 Board of Directors Minutes, the September Receipts and Expenditures Report and the CERTs

contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-26, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Peterson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of October 31, 2023, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-26, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of September 2023 pointing out some line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to approve the September 2023 Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-26, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### PROJECT REVIEWS

Executive Director Trusty reported on the Lake Wilson Solar Energy LLC project review done by Community Development Director Walker. There was a lot of discussion about the footprint of the project. A better map was emailed to members after the meeting.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Cooreman to approve the project review as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-25, Nays-1. Motion Carried.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Executive Director Trusty and Chairman Langseth met to discuss openings on SRDC Committees. The following committees have full membership: CEDS, Audit, RLF and Transportation (ATP 7 representative is now Stephen Schnieder replacing Don Wachal). The following committees had members added or have members needed: B&P-Rick Anderson, Strategic Planning-Kieth Elbers and 1 more member needed, Legislative-needs 2 more members. Langseth asked members to contact him if they are interested in serving on any committee with openings.

### **DEEP DIVE**

Commissioner See Moua-Leske gave a presentation on the Hmong Culture and her journey to the United States and life after arriving in the U.S.

### COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- A. <u>Budget & Personnel Committee Report</u> No report.
- B. <u>Legislative Committee Report</u> No report.
- C. Economic Development Report

Deputy Director Weis has been working with the City of Adrian writing a grant to EDA under the Disaster Declaration for a new Substation. Weis is also working with the City of Lamberton writing a grant to EDA for a Water Project.

The Career Expo was held in September at both Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall and Minnesota West in Worthington. The event had 130 employers and educational

programs with over 2,100 students from 39 schools attending. Staff assisted with the "Career is Right" game.

Hill's Daycare Pod project is moving along and are hoping to have an open house in January 2024.

Weis attended the State of Manufacturing session on November 14. The focus was on Workforce Retention and Recruitment, costs of materials, and inflation and interest rates.

### D. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Traditional RLF has approximately \$333,000 on hand and the CRLF has approximately \$255,500 on hand for lending out. Current interest rate is 75% of Prime.

### **PACE**

Available funds are approximately \$121,000 ARRA funds and approximately \$160,000 SEP funds. One loan was recently closed in Pipestone County. Success stories are on our website and have been sent to local newspapers.

### E. Community Development Report

The Rural Minnesota Energy Board met on September 25. Guest Speaker was Mike Reese, the Renewable Energy Director at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris. Reese presented on Green Hydrogen/Ammonia and the opportunities available for economic development.

Twelve Seed Grant applications were received with 7 being funded. More information will be presented on the funded applications at a future meeting.

Staff attended a meeting in the Cities for CERTs with over 30 staff in attendance. The next day staff attended the RSDP meeting.

A grant application was submitted to the Department of Commerce for \$100,000 each year for 3 years to provide grant writing support for our constituents free of charge.

The grant application was submitted to McKnight for additional funding to supplement the Department of Commerce grant. This funding would provide one FTE's worth of time for the next three years. Current staff will take on the workload. We should hear in January or February if the grant application was funded.

Outreach to local food shelves has been happening as recently the Minnesota Department of Human Services announced \$7 million worth of competitive grants to food shelves for technical assistance, to plan and design, acquire, and renovate/transform facilities. Seven local food shelves responded as interested and are planning to fill out an application.

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission met September 25. Several employees from the MN Pollution Control Agency joined the meeting to provide clarification to their responses to the

Solid Waste Commission's July communication in opposition to the proposed rulemaking on demolition landfills.

Work continues on the 12 County Regional Solid Waste Plan. Staff is gathering information from Solid Waste Administrators to include in the plan.

Outreach is continuing on the USDA Regional Food Business Center grant.

### F. Transportation Report

The Cities of Adrian and Redwood Falls and the Windom Area School District are applying for MnDOT SRTS Infrastructure Grants. These funds would cover costs to construct infrastructure that improves access and safety on prioritized routes to and at school. The City of Tracy will apply for a new Design Assistance grant. The Cities of Windom, Minneota and Lamberton are potential applicants for Planning Assistance Grants. Planning Assistance grants are due in the Spring of 2024.

The Cities of Jackson, Marshall and Redwood Falls are currently applying for MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure grants this fall. Funding would cover construction costs to implement infrastructure improvements to make walking, biking, and rolling better and safer in communities.

Staff has been reaching out to communities to see if there is interest in applying for Planning Assistance Grants for active living.

Transportation Alternative Infrastructure Grants are an 80%/20% grant that covers construction costs to implement infrastructure improvements to make walking, biking and rolling better and safer in your community. Rock County in District 7 is applying for funds for their Blue Mound Trail and the City of Marshall in District 8 is applying for 2 grants for their Park Trail project.

A walk audit was completed by staff with the City of Lamberton and Red Rock Central School staff and community members. Observations were shared and discussion was held on priority projects to make walking and biking safer in Lamberton.

Crowley and Webb attended the Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail annual meeting. This meeting included reorganizing the group and election of new officers. Staff will be helping the group figure out how to utilize the money they received.

A grant extension was approved for the EDA Regional Trails Plan. The Trails newsletter went out the end of October. Mn Extension will do Economic Impact Analysis from surveys.

MADO Transportation planners will meet November 29 and 30 in St. Cloud.

### G. Communications Report

Crowley gave an update on the SRDC website and Facebook page statistics. She is working on getting more engagement on these sites. PACE articles have been done for the last two PACE

loans. The Trails Newsletter was sent the end of October and work is happening on the SRDC quarterly newsletter that should go out the end of November.

### H. Executive Director's Report

Trusty, Weis and SRDC Vice-Chair Welgraven attended the NADO Training Conference in Cleveland in early November. Trusty and Welgraven toured the Cuyahoga County Public Works building's Solar project on their roof. Solar panels were also placed on closed landfills. Welgraven commented he learned that nationwide there are a lot of the same problems and issues.

A meeting with the Department of Commerce took place. The Commerce grant was submitted and we should hear in January if it is funded. The grant is for \$100,000 a year for 3 years to provide grant writing free of charge.

Trusty and Webb met with the Lyon County Planning staff about doing a Comprehensive Plan update. A proposal will be submitted to Lyon County.

Webb is also meeting with the City of Hills for developing a Strategic Plan.

New member orientation was held with Leah Bittner, Ron Kottke and Scott McClure.

MADO will have a booth at the AMC Conference in Minneapolis.

The SRDC has new signage in front of the building and staff painted the wooden sign holder.

### I. Chairman's Report

Langseth thought the SRDC Board Retreat was helpful to start the groundwork for staff moving forward.

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

### A. Jackson County Commissioners

Commissioner McClure reported that Jackson County is building a new jail, opening bids for an addition to the Government Center, approved a 1% sales tax increase to be put on next year's ballot, and adopted a Housing Tax Abatement Program for 3 years. The County is fully staffed. A round-about will be coming to the County next year. The County is replacing about 4 bridges a year. Parks are getting electrical and drain field updates to expand campsites. City of Jackson is doing updates to the airport. Street and alley improvements are happening and the City of Lakefield is finishing up the Highway 86 updates.

### B. Nobles County Municipalities

Commissioner Kellen reported Nobles County has 12 municipalities. The City of Adrian's fire department has a new pumper truck, 12 air packs and gear washing equipment. Bids are being solicited for a new ambulance. SRDC is working with the City on an application to EDA to

replace a transformer. Adrian Public School and the City worked with the SRDC on a Safe Routes to School plan. The City is experiencing water issues that they are dealing with. Eighteen new homes have been approved. Some things that are happening in other cities in Nobles County: Brewster Public School will be demolishing part of the current building and adding an addition and new bus garage. They also have a new fire truck. Dundee is in need of good internet. Ellsworth is working with DGR, the Department of Health and Rural Water on water issues. Lismore has a new fire truck. Wilmont has a new fire truck and remodeled fire station. Worthington is addressing housing shortage and community amenities. The city is asking to extend the .5% increased sales tax for 15 years.

### C. Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council

Commissioner Bendix reported on Workforce Development and provided statistics from a report that followed high school graduates from 2009-2012. 25% were meaningfully employed in SW MN. 25% were meaningfully employed in Minnesota. 15% were not meaningfully employed. 35% they don't know where they are or they are employed in other states, in the military or federal government employees. PIC is trying to get employers to take students as interns, let them job shadow or visit. Showing students what jobs are out there tends to help with retaining students in Southwest Minnesota. SW MN Counties unemployment rates are between 1.7%-3.3% except for Cottonwood County which is at 7.4% due to the recent closing of the HyLife plant in Windom. Bendix provided a handout of upcoming events and a link to take a regional workforce development survey.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from a few Public Interest Groups.

The 2024 SRDC meeting schedule was included in the packet.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by: Approved by:

Keith Elbers Paul Langseth SRDC Secretary SRDC Chairman



SRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SLAYTON

DECEMBER 14, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Keith

Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Dennis Klingbile, Richard Peterson,

Rick VonHoldt and Dennis Welgraven

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Rick Anderson (excused), Chris Hollingsworth, and Bob Van

Hee (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Sheila Crowley, Kim Murphy, Melissa Nelson,

Kathy Schreiber, Jason Walker, Chris Webb and Robin Weis

### **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

Agenda approved with one addition: Under Contracts: SW Health and Human Services Strategic Planning contract.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Carney 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 Welgraven and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to

approve October Receipts and Expenditures report, A.C.E. contract, Casey Jones contract, Explore SW MN contract, Falcon Development Corporation contract, Heron Lake RLF contract, City of Hills Strategic Planning contract, Jackson Co RLF contract, RMEB contract and the Solid Waste Commission contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10,

Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### **CONTRACTS**

Community Development Director Walker reviewed the contract with SW Health and Human Services for strategic planning.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Von Holdt and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to

approve the SW Health and Human Services contract as provided. Upon vote taken:

Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Peterson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of November 30, 2023, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

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

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of October 2023 pointing out some line items. There were no questions.

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

### **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair Richard Peterson recommended approval of moving Account Specialist Jodi Klein to permanent status from probationary status with appropriate salary change.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve moving Account Specialist Jodi Klein to permanent status. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Committee Chair Peterson recommended the updates to the Personnel Policies be approved at the January Full Commission meeting. Major policy updates include adding Juneteenth to the paid holidays; updating the Military Leave section to more specific wording; updating the current sick leave policy to include the new state safe and sick time wording; and with the legalization of recreational marijuana in Minnesota, the Drug Free Workforce policy was updated to include marijuana.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Von Holdt to recommend the updated personal policies be approved by the SRDC Full Commission in January. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson gave the update on the Mid-Year Budget Revision. Nelson reviewed the contracts and amounts for the second half of the fiscal year. Explanation was given to a few line items on the budget and why they changed. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Von Holdt to approve the Mid-Year Budget Revision as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Committee Chair Peterson reviewed the current billable rate for contract work done by the Planners and the Executive Director. Current rate for Planners is \$90 and Executive Director rate is \$100. He recommended increasing rates to \$100 and \$150 starting January 1, 2024.

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

Finance Director Nelson gave an update on the audit and informed members that the health insurance premiums for 2024 went up 4%.

### B. Legislative Committee Report

Legislative Committee Chair Carney reported that the committee met on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The next session of the legislature will be a short one. SRDC priorities for 2024 were discussed. Priorities discussed were: Workforce to include housing, childcare, trails and amenities, and implementation of broadband. Transportation including safe routes to school, active living and the formula for cities under 5,000. Mental health is still a priority. The committee will work with the Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC) on the Local Government Aid (LGA) formula and also work with the Rural MN Energy Board (RMEB) on production tax issues. Other possible priorities discussed were the construction and demolition landfill requirements and waste to energy facilities. If any board member's jurisdiction has any bonding projects, the committee is interested in them so they can support those projects.

Commissioner Byrnes gave an update on the SW MN Mayors Council regarding workforce development and asking the legislature to fund a program where tuition is free for certain programs with the stipulation the student works in Minnesota for 3 years. The Legislature last year passed a bill to provide free tuition for families making under \$80,000 with no stipulations. The Mayors Council will be adjusting their proposal.

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

Transportation Planner Webb provided a deep dive into the Transportation Programs available from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

### C. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Trusty reported he attended the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) conference. There were 530 registrants plus vendors. The MN RDO association had a booth at the vendor show with Trusty and staff from Regions 6E, 6W and 1 helping man the booth.

SRDC received a \$290,000 grant from the Department of Commerce to provide grant writing assistance to local units of government free of charge for those who want to apply for federal grants.

Trusty is working with the McKnight Foundation to secure a grant to match the Commerce grant to write state and foundation grants for local units of government. McKnight has said they will provide half the funding but another funder needs to be found for the other half.

We are waiting to hear if the SRDC will receive an additional \$300,000 in PACE funding. There are two potential projects in our region if these funds are received.

Trusty will be out most of next week. Region 8 is in charge of the next MADO Executive Director's meeting in February. He will be working with Crowley on meeting at Jackpot Junction and touring their incubator space and their hemperete plant.

### D. Chairman's Report

Chairman Langseth updated the members on the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) annual meeting. At the start of the meeting MAT's attorney said that the statute requires a 10% majority of the membership to be present to conduct any business. There were not enough members there so no business was conducted. Any agenda items will be rolled back to the board for approval at their next meeting.

With all the controversy and secrecy over the money that was scammed from the MAT Insurance Trust Fund there have been many questions. Several board members that have questioned the president and board about the missing money have been removed as board members. The process to replace these board members is either to hold an election or the board can appoint someone.

MAT provides training and help to townships.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist for Pipestone County Townships.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schro	
Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Keith Elbers SRDC Secretary	Paul Langseth SRDC Chairman

	SRDC CASH RECEIPTS SUMMARY		
DATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM	CHECK#	AMOÜNT
	C-RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	21,601
11/01/23	Falcon Loan Borrowers	ACH	1,510
	RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	21,071.
	City Heron Lake-RLF admin	52643	180.
	SWMHP-Oct Fin/Sec and Lease	34423	3,171.
11/17/23	MN DOT 1052918	ACH	
11/20/23	Murray Co Christmas Project-1check	9615	2,000
	Sound Credit Union-World Mart Oct & Nov. RLF payment	30442807	1,071
	MCIT - dividend	ACH	441
	Renville County - PACE payment	ACH	1.524
	West Central Initiative-AMC booth	63402	100
	East Central RDC-AMC booth	11725	100
	Northwest RDC-AMC booth	27586	
	SWHHS-Lamberton Walk Audit		
	SWMHP-Oct Monthly Costs	130566 34437	2,075 1,937
11/21/23	Murray Co Christmas Project-10 checks/cash	34437	
11/2//23	Murray Co Christmas Project-10 checks/cash		1,440
	Murray Co Christmas Project-5 checks/cash	400	2,124
	Friends of Casey Jones-Admin	1327	
	Jackson Co-Current/Delinquent taxes and PACE	104599	···
11/30/23	Redwood Co-Current/Delinquent taxes and PACE	ACH	25,047
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11/30/23	Minnwest Bank - PACE Electric - Savings Interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank	
	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	
	Jackson Savings & Loan - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	
	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - RMEB Savings interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	
	Minnwest Bank - PACE ARRA - Savings Interest	Per Bank	i
11/30/23	Minnwest Bank - CRLF Savings	Per Bank	56
11/30/23	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings Interest	Per Bank	
11/30/23 11/30/23	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings Interest		
11/30/23 11/30/23		Per Bank Per Bank	
11/30/23 11/30/23	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings Interest		

2023 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2023 Through 11/30/2023

Session ID	Check	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
CD110823 W	005	11/25/2023		Oct 2023 Admin Fees	22.00	11/25/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,847.87	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,748.46	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	569.85	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,609.90	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Jodí L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,167.45	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	14.78	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,938.09	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,635.08	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	20.10	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,489.93	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	137.85	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	68.93	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: Trusty]; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	3,465.54	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	2,719.76	11/16/2023
PRS11162023	11132	11/16/2023	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 11/16/2023	1,609.29	11/16/2023
PRS11022023	11223 1	11/2/2023	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,847.87	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223	11/2/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,959.74	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223	11/2/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	296.08	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223	11/2/2023	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	9.31	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 2	11/2/2023	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,609.90	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 3	11/2/2023	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,182.23	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 4	11/2/2023	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	2,237.02	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 4	11/2/2023	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	12.12	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 5	11/2/2023	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,607.30	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 6	11/2/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,595.96	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 6	11/2/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	79.53	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 6	11/2/2023	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	21.20	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 7	11/2/2023	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	3,557.24	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	112238	11/2/2023	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	2,463.00	11/2/2023
PRS11022023	11223 9	11/2/2023	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 11/2/2023	1,669.55	11/2/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Eric A. Hartman	Eric Hartman 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meetings	150.00	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Eric A. Hartman	Eric Hartman 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meetings	162.45	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Eric A. Hartman	Eric Hartman 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meetings	20.00	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson	150.00	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson	96.93	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meeting	100.00	11/28/2023
APS112823	11282	11/28/2023	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meeting	133.62	11/28/2023

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ZUZS Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2023 Through 11/30/2023

Effective Date	11/28/2023 11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023
Check Amount	50.00	153.93	150.00	182.09	50.00	45.85	20.00	14.41	20.00	60.39	20.00	48.47	20.00	75.98	150.00	171.61	201.52	20.00	42.58	100.00	229.25	150.00	91.70	1,893.95	2,390.36	156.44	1,510.01	1,354.18	17.14	1,940.28	1,609.84	1,606.56	53.03	37.12	3,941.79	2,506.89	1,514.10
Transaction Description	Robert Byrnes 10/26/23 to 11/20/23 Meeting Scott McClure 9/14/23 to 11/16/23 Meetings	Scott McClure 9/14/23 to 11/16/23 Meetings	Stephen Schnieder 11/17/23 Meeting	Stephen Schnieder 11/17/23 Meeting	Steven Kellen 11/16/23 Meeting	Steven Kellen 11/16/23 Meeting	Bill Crowley 11/16/23 Meeting	Bill Crowley 11/16/23 Meeting	Jeff Moen 11/16/23 Meeting	Jeff Moen 11/16/23 Meeting	Jenny Quade 11/16/23 Meeting	Jenny Quade 11/16/23 Meeting	JoEllen Benson 11/16/23 Meeting	JoEllen Benson 11/16/23 Meeting	Keith Elbers 11/16/23	Keith Elbers 11/16/23	Kristie Blankenship - SWMHP 11/16/23 Meeting	Mark Haberman 11/16/23 Meeting	Mark Haberman 11/16/23 Meeting	Mic VanDeVere 9/14/23 to 11/27/23 Meetings	Mic VanDeVere 9/14/23 to 11/27/23 Meetings	Paul Langseth 11/16/23 Meeting	Paul Langseth 11/16/23 Meeting	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee; TrustyJ; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 11/30/2023	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 11/30/2023
Vendor Name	Robert J. Byrnes Scott McClure	Scott McClure	Stephen P. Schnieder	Stephen P. Schnieder	Steven A Kellen	Steven A Kellen	William R. Crowley	William R. Crowley	Jeffry Moen	Jeffry Moen	Jenny L. Quade	Jenny L. Quade	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen M. Benson	Keith A. Elbers	Keith A. Elbers	SW MN Housing Partnership	Mark A Haberman	Mark A Haberman	Michael L. VanDeVere	Michael L. VanDeVere	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth	Nadya N. Bucklin	Robin R. Weis	Robin R. Weis	Sheila F. Crowley	Jodi L. Klein	Jodí L. Klein	Melissa Nelson	Kimberly Murphy	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Javme I. Trustv	Jason L. Walker	Christopher S. Webb
Document	11/28/2023 11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/28/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023	11/30/2023
Check	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11282	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302	11302
Session ID	APS112823 APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	APS112823	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023	PRS11302023

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2023 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2023 Through 11/30/2023

Session ID	Check	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS110623	60358	11/6/2023	Spring Brooke, LLC	Spring Brooke Nov payment refund due to loan payoff	1,232.76	11/6/2023
APS110923 CD110723 B	60359	11/9/2023	Arrowwood Resort & Conferen	Board Retreat: Hotel reservations 2023 BCBS Dec 2023	1,254.48	11/9/2023 11/20/2023
APS110923	60360	11/9/2023	Atiantic Place, LLC	Atlantic Place: Reissue refund CRLF Loan Agreement Balance	4.50	11/9/2023
APS110923	60361	11/9/2023	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 9/19/23 to 10/23/23	23.52	11/9/2023
APS110923	60361	11/9/2023	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 9/19/23 to 10/23/23	25.48	11/9/2023
APS110923	60362	11/9/2023	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water and cooler rental Nov. 2023	23.90	11/9/2023
APS110923	60363	11/9/2023	Grants Management Systems	GMS license, warranty, service and support	100.00	11/9/2023
APS110923	60363	11/9/2023	Grants Management Systems	GMS license, warranty, service and support	40.00	11/9/2023
APS110923	60364	11/9/2023	Jackson County Pilot	Jackson County Pilot 1 year subscription	83.00	11/9/2023
APS110923	60365	11/9/2023	Luke Greiner	Luke Greiner: DEED; board retreat presentation	241.04	11/9/2023
APS110923	99809	11/9/2023	Nichole Johnson	Nichole Johnson Ind Contractor Explore SW	175.00	11/9/2023
APS110923	60367	11/9/2023	Quill Corporation	Scotch packing tape	22.59	11/9/2023
APS110923	60368	11/9/2023	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 11/1/23 to 11/30/23	37,29	11/9/2023
APS110923	60368	11/9/2023	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 11/1/23 to 11/30/23	55.93	11/9/2023
APS110923	60369	11/9/2023	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Nov 2023	4,848.63	11/9/2023
APS110923	60370	11/9/2023	XCEL Energy	Xcel 10/3/23 to 11/1/23	191.58	11/9/2023
APS110923	60370	11/9/2023	XCEL Energy	Xcel 10/3/23 to 11/1/23	287.38	11/9/2023
APS112023	60371	11/20/2023	AFLAC	Affac 11/14/2023	225.12	11/20/2023
APS112023	60372	11/20/2023	Association of Minnesota Coun	Booth - AMC Annual Conference	1,000.00	11/20/2023
APS112023	60373	11/20/2023	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Oct 2023	92.80	11/20/2023
APS112023	60374	11/20/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier 11/4/23 to 12/3/23	300.29	11/20/2023
APS112023	60374	11/20/2023	Frontier Communications	Frontier 11/4/23 to 12/3/23	557.67	11/20/2023
APS112023	60375	11/20/2023	Kruse Motors	AP Invoices	1,409.82	11/20/2023
APS112023	60376	11/20/2023	Miles Partnership, LLLP	Explore MN Official Travelers Guide 1/3 Page ad	2,425.00	11/20/2023
APS112023	60377	11/20/2023	NADO	NADO Membership Renewal 2024	3,000.00	11/20/2023
APS112023	60378	11/20/2023	Pizza Ranch #7801	Dessert and coffee for Full Commission meeting	45.98	11/20/2023
APS112023	60379	11/20/2023	The Computer Man, Inc.	HP E24 G5 23.8 HD LED LCD Monitor CNK3180YVF	204.00	11/20/2023
APS112023	60380	11/20/2023	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 11/2/23 to 12/1/23	52,12	11/20/2023
APS112023	60381	11/20/2023	Western Print Group	Business cards - Robin and Kim	26.00	11/20/2023
ARS113023	60382	11/30/2023	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 12/26/23 to 1/25/24	760.53	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60383	11/30/2023	AFLAC	Aflac 11/30/2023	225.12	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60384	11/30/2023	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 11/24/23 to 11/23/23	59.99	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60384	11/30/2023	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 11/24/23 to 11/23/23	60.34	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60385	11/30/2023	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 10/17/23 to 11/15/23	4,578.98	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60385	11/30/2023	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 10/17/23 to 11/15/23	10.00	11/30/2023

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Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register From 11/1/2023 Through 11/30/2023

Session ID	Check	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
ARS113023	60385	11/30/2023	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 10/17/23 to 11/15/23	40.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60386	11/30/2023	City of Worthington	City of Worthington Assessments	2,122.02	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60387	11/30/2023	David R. Samuelson	Clean up leaves	14.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60387		David R. Samuelson	Clean up leaves	21.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60388		Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Text paper towels	26.94	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60388		Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Text paper towels	40.40	11/30/2023
ARS113023	68209		Fleet Services Division	Fleet Services 10/1/23 to 10/31/23	540.12	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60390		Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	Fryberger Sept 2023 (RMEB)	1,000.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60391		Grain Exchange	Grain Exchange gift card for Samuelsons Xmas Gift	25.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60392		Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Nov 2023	328.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60392		Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Nov 2023	472.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60393		Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray County Xmas Project from Currie T&C	2,000.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60393		Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	3,564.94	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60394		NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS 12/1/23 to 12/31/23	48.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60395		Rieck Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Rieck Plumbing - Tally Ho PACE loan disbursement	17,202.95	11/30/2023
ARS113023	96209		SRDC	PACE Outreach Sept & Oct 2023	100.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60397		SRDC	RMEB Sept & Oct 2023	3,640.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	86209		SRDC	Transfer from Admin Svgs to 1st Independent Svgs	40,000.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	66209		SRDC	Explore SW Oct 2023 Finance	40.00	11/30/2023
ARS113023	60400	11/30/2023	Tim's Plumbing & Heating, LLC	Tim's Plumbing - Broadway Beauty PACE loan disbursement	6,614.06	11/30/2023

Report Total

175,936.99

### Minnesota Housing 2024 Minnesota City Participation Program (MCPP) Application

### Minnesota Housing must receive your application by email between January 2-15, 2024 at 5:00

Please provide all the information below.

<b>Agency Contact Information</b>	
Agency Name: Southwest Re	egional Development Commission
Contact Person: Jay Trusty	
Mailing Address: 2401 Broa	dway AvePhysical_Address: 2401 Broadway Ave.
<sub>City:</sub> Slayton	State: MN Zip: 56172 Website: www.swrdc.org
Phone #:507-836-1636	E-Mail: execdir@swrdc.org
Administrative Information	
1. Check agency type:	City City HRA/CDA/EDA County HRA/ Port Authority Multi-County HRA: Receive single allocation for all counties within your jurisdiction Consortium of local government units applying jointly by agreement (please ubmit evidence of agreement with this application, even if you provided one in revious years).
applications, only list the	all cities and counties where the funds will be utilized. For county and multicounty counties. incoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock
3. Check the box below t	o confirm this statement: nunity meet an identified housing need and the program is economically viable.
Yes No	sy) offer a down payment program or other homeownership assistance? s (For informational purposes only; does not impact your application status):
Signature	
<del>-</del>	e(s) from the organization submitting this application, including printed or phone number. Scan original and email application to <a href="mailto:mn.housing@state.mn.us">mn.housing@state.mn.us</a>
Signature	
Name (Print) Jayme I. Trusty	Title Executive Director
Phone number or check here if	same as above. E-mail or check here if same as above.
Program and Contact Inform	nation  ower Income Limits and House Purchase Price Limits Minnesota Housing makes

Minnesota Statute sets Borrower Income Limits and House Purchase Price Limits. Minnesota Housing makes final determinations of the total amount of program funds available and individual allotments (in compliance with a per capita distribution method specified in statute).

Questions about MCPP or this application? Contact Greg Krenz at (651)297-3623 or greg.krenz@state.mn.us



# Southwest Regional Development Commission

## Month End November 2023 Fiscal Year 2024

41.67

							Y I D Comparis	YID Comparison % of Budget	41.67	
	FY24 Budget	July - September	October	November	December	October - December	Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
Revenues										
Taxos	444 476	1 022 58	13 337 82	41 090 84		54 428 66	55 451 24	389 024 76	Wh. 12 5% Jun	When current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec and
Contract for Services	120.435	2	13.549.48	13.650.33		27.199.81	53.911.82			44.8% Based on activity earned to date.
MnDOT-Regional	75,000		0.00	37,500.00		37,500.00	37,500.00			50.0% Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000
Economic Development Adm	70,000	14,13	6,009.55	7,132.20		13,141.75				1 -
EDA Trails Grant	150,000		3,231.27	7,640.55		10,871.82		134,208.90		10.5% Based on activity earned to date. (Federal share)
RLF Admin (Covid & Regular)	000'09	16,442.03	7,120.68	4,719.34		11,840.02	28,282.05	31,717.95		47.1% Based on activity earned to date.
CERTs Funds	107,250	15,207.73	13,897.78	17,203.27		31,101.05	46,308.78	60,941.22		Based on activity earned to date main Certs (not subprojects), includes 43.2% seed grants (additional funds for seed grants, which equals more time)
PACE loan orig/int/misc	19,184		0.00	0.00		0.00				0.4% Loan int/loan orig fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4656/4321)
USDA Food Grant	000'09	15,000.00	0.00	00.0		0.00	15,000.00			25.0% Based on Billings (800 hours at \$75/hr for the year)
Interest & Miscellaneous	6,800	2,254.04	43.65	5,653.02		5,696.67	7,950.71	-1,150.71	٦	116.9% Bank int/loan orig fee
Total Revenues	1,113,145	95,769.25	57,190.23	134,589.55	0.00	191,779.78	287,549.03	825,595.97	25.8%	
									Ш	33,804
Expenditures										
Committee Expenses	30,300	6,691.31	2,440.23	6,266.18		8,706.41	15,397.72	14,902.28	20.8%	
Salaries & Fringe	863,791	166,574.63	83,791.92	108,146.33		191,938.25	358,512.88	505,278.12		41.5% October includes unemployment paid
Travel	30,000	12,804.19	4,174.14	6,622.50		10,796.64	23,600.83	6,399.17	78.7%	
Office Space Costs	44,194	2,	844.12	618.29		1,462.41	3,646.62	4		
Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb)	4,863		1,009.99	66.6		1,019.98				
Communications	6,819		412.10	412.40		824.50				
Printing/Publication	20,504	5,2	1,536.34	3,611.05		5,147.39	10,40		۳,	50.7% copier/printer too
Insurance	5,917		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00			0.0% Insurance dividend/Building Insurance
Supplies	17,000	6	2,395.39	146.51		2,541.90	3,448.25	13,5		
Program Supply (EDA)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	- 1	
Program Supply (Trails EDA)		00.0	040.00	0.00	1	040.00			היאום #	
Computer	37.750	11.39	3.444.86	1.063.53		4.508.39	15.90	21.84		
Audits	20,000		0.00	0.00		0.00				
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	2,750	1/2	654.72	215.00		869.72	1,61		Ľ	
Dues/Memberships & Other	7,200	1,000.00	00.0	3,000.00		3,000.00	4,000.00		25.6%	
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,500	174.87	15.25	24.67		39.92	214.79		3.9%	
Equipment/Building Updates	19,207	9,029.36	258.26	00.00		258.26	9,287.62	9,919.38	48.4%	
PACE loan interest paid	508		00.00	0.00		0.00				0.0% Paid in December and June **an amt will be in January 2023**
Debt Service:Prin. & Int.	11,633		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00			0.0% Paid in December
Building Lease Principal Pymt	23,085	5,370.01	1,806.65	1,815.00		3,621.65	8,991.66	14,093.34		39.0% Our portion of lease pymt
Total Expenditures	1,151,021	223,501.59	103,623.97	131,951.45	0.00	235,575.42	4	691,943.99	39.9%	
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	37 876	107 730 34	16 433 74	2 638 40			474 528			
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### PERSONNEL POLICY AND OFFICE REGULATIONS

Effective January 311, 20243

### Revised:

### <del>April 14, 2011</del>

November 10, 2011 November 14, 2013 uly 16, 2014 September 11, 2014 September 10, 2015 May 12, 2016 September 8, 2016 September 9, 2021 anuary 31, 2023 anuary 1, 2024

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### **Economic Development Report**

JANUARY 2024

### **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. Every five years, EDA requires an updated CEDS for the region.

### **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. EDA Funding opportunities can be found at Home (eda.gov).

The latest NOFO for disaster funds can be found at <u>Funding Opportunity: FY 2023 Disaster Supplemental (eda.gov)</u>. The following counties are eligible under the disaster distress criteria: Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Nobles, Redwood, and Rock.

### Staff submitted the following FY2023 disaster supplemental applications on December 1.

- Energy Resiliency Project- substation transformer addition- City of Adrian \$3,258,900 Project Cost- 80% Grant request/20% Match
- Water Resiliency Project- water source- City of Lamberton \$1,384,000 Project Cost- 80% Grant request/20% Match

**Project exploration with City of Pipestone:** SRDC recently met with city staff to discuss an improvement to Industrial Road. At this time, this particular project may not be a good fit for EDA funding; however, they are considering an industrial park expansion in the future which often fits nicely with EDA priorities. In addition, SRDC will be providing technical assistance in early 2024 as the city considers creating a Local Development Organization (LDO) to get their CDBG funds de-federalized.

Childcare Technical Assistance: Staff continue to assist the City of Hills Childcare project. SRDC initially assisted with 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 final request for funds was submitted by 2023-year end. The project is near completion. Two childcare providers are anxiously awaiting its opening. An Open House is tentatively planned for Friday January 19.

**Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee:** The committee meets quarterly. The new coordinator for this group is Maria Peters from SW PIC. This group gathers members who support career and technical education programs and educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. The committee will next meet on 2/1.

**Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC):** The group last met on December 20 and will next meet on March 20. UCAP recently worked with SWHHS to write a successful grant to PrimeWest creating a program for protected transportation. More details on this grant will follow. SRDC represents economic development on the council.

**Friends in the Field:** The group last met on October 11 with a focus on the public and economic value of community events and festivals. Speakers were from the Tourism Center at the U of M and Community Growth, Equity, and Inclusion at the City of Willmar. The group next meets on January 10 with a focus on Shared Power in the Community.

**Transfer of Wealth:** The University of Minnesota Extension, Department of Community Development, recently worked with Aiden Opatz, a University of Minnesota graduate student, to assist in transferring the Transfer of Wealth (TOW) model to Minnesota and begin completing our initial studies. U of MN then worked with their partner, Steve Joul and those at CommunityGiving (central Minnesota), to complete a study that covered 10 counties and a state-wide review of Minnesota. This Minnesota state summary report can be found at this link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LY0YIvTeXmsRCRLMvH5evxuRBBDo3UNQ/view?usp=sharing. SRDC initially was involved in initial discussion prior to the study. The U of M is opening their door to offer this study to communities (states, counties, regions) more broadly across both Minnesota and the nation. If you are interested in learning more about this study opportunity, contact staff if you'd like to participate in an exploratory webinar on January 18.

### **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Report**

### JANUARY 2024

### 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 December 13. Two loan considerations were approved.

### 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/.

### COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$190,772.86 (as of 12/21/23). These funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Reporting is required twice per year. The latest loan in the amount of \$100,000 for a business expanding within Jackson County closed 12/22.

### **Traditional RLF**

<u>Funds Available:</u> Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$386,723.36 (as of 12/21/23). These funds are defederalized. A loan, yet to close, was approved for a business acquisition in Cottonwood County in the amount of \$150,000.

### 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.

**Jackson County RLF:** There are six active loans. One loan client recently paid off. County commissioners continue to voice their continued financial support of the program. After the payoff, approximately \$120,000 is available for lending.

**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. The HLRLF committee last met on December 13 to consider one loan request.

**Falcon Development Corporation (FDC):** 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. The FDC committee last met on December 13 at 9 a.m. and approved one loan consideration in the amount of \$100,000 for a business acquisition. After the latest loan closing, approximately \$25,000 is available for lending.



Shannon and Joel LaCanne are pictured with Robin Weis, SRDC, upon closing their RLF loan for purchasing the Osterberg Funeral Home, Inc.



Joel and Shannon LaCanne are pictured with Jeremy Janssen, Falcon Development Corporation President, upon closing their loan for purchasing the Osterberg Funeral Home, Inc.

### **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 ARRA \$123,519.87 And PACE SEP \$136,666.20.

**PACE Committee:** The committee meets as needed, often in conjunction with RMEB (Rural Minnesota Energy Board) meeting dates. 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:** The MN Department of Commerce is working to expand commercial PACE programs in MN. The DOC included within their application non-competitive funds of \$300,000 to expand the financing capacity of the RMEB PACE program.

**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. There has been an increase in the number of recent referrals made to RETAP.

**PACE Loan Board Energy Lending Training in Region 5:** Via contract, SRDC will conduct a training for Region 5 staff and committee members as they roll out PACE in their region. The training is 1/31.

### **PACE Success Stories**

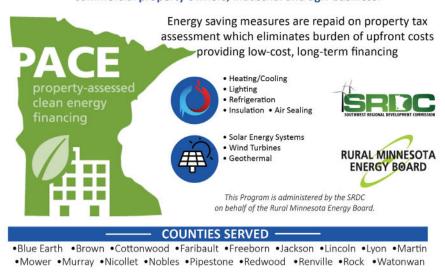
To promote PACE, a success story on Broadway Beauty in Slayton can be found at https://www.swrdc.org/broadway-beauty-salon/. Tally Ho Koffie in Edgerton can be found at https://www.swrdc.org/tally-ho-koffiee/. These stories were also submitted to the local papers with several publishing them.

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.

### Are you looking to cut your energy bill?

PACE Loans are a new way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to buildings of commercial property owners, industrial and agri-business.



### **Community Development Report**

JANUARY 2024

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

### **ENERGY**

**Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB):** The next meeting will be on January 22, 2024, at 1 P.M. The November meeting had panelists focused on the issue of waste-to-energy facilities.

### Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs):

Seed Grants: For community-based projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, electric vehicles, and energy storage within Minnesota. Our region received 12 applications representing various cities and organizations, including five multiregional projects. The steering committee met on October 30 to review these proposals, and decided to fund seven of these projects, with varying amounts of the \$43,000 available. Part of the criteria is that \$23,000 needs to go to projects that are "from, led by, and/or include meaningful participation by historically underserved populations."

The projects funded include: three lighting upgrade projects – two in Slayton (at the library/senior center and in the 4-H building) and one in the Comfrey municipal building, a manufactured home building basics training project by Slipstream, an air-source heat pump feasibility assessments project by SWMHP, a home education and energy saving program by UCAP, and an energy efficiency video storytelling project by Erika Gilsdorf.

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.

**World Mart** – On December 14, I (Nadya) had the opportunity to travel to WCROC (The West Central Research and Outreach Center) and the U of M campus in Morris, MN. This was a visit coordinated by Southwest RSDP (Regional Sustainable Development Partnership) staff, to help the World Mart food truck project gather ideas for their solar panel installation. Nathalie, World Mart's founder, was also able to make the trip to Morris for the tour. We started the day at the WCROC facilities, with a tour of the





grounds including the windmills, the renewable hydrogen and ammonia pilot plant, numerous solar panel arrays and solar thermal generation and storage, reports vehicles for agricultural use, and two solar trailers. The

and storage, robotic vehicles for agricultural use, and two solar trailers. The second part of the tour took place at the U of M Morris campus, with a look at a battery storage project, a biomass heating plant, and some of their green building projects such as building with insulated concrete foam. The solar trailers were a highlight for the World Mart project team, as they gave the team lots of ideas and information on how to install solar onto their own trailer. The WCROC and U of M Morris Campuses are truly inspiring when it comes to innovative sustainability and renewable energy projects.

Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) \$2 million Grant Proposal: Co-Director Melissa Birch submitted this grant proposal, which includes SRDC, in November. The proposal made it to the interview stage, with a 30-minute interview scheduled with the Department of Energy in early January. Should the Minnesota Siting Collaborative get funded, we anticipate working with other project partners on the following activities as detailed in the proposal: contribute content for new and updated resources for local governments and review and comment on resources for other audiences; assist with outreach and resource sharing; co-host 1-2 events strengthening dialogue between developers and local governments; co-host training sessions with regional development organization and other organizations; and provide technical assistance and/or facilitation in at least two jurisdictions.

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) Idea Briefs: Southwest RSDP is calling for idea brief proposals in the four RSDP focus areas: agriculture and food systems, clean energy, natural resources, and resilient communities. Idea briefs are ideas for projects that will improve sustainability in communities. The Idea Brief forms can be found on the RSDP website. The CERTs steering committee will meet over Zoom for an Idea Brief review on the clean energy projects, on February 22, 2024, at 9-10:30am.

**SWHHS Strategic Plan:** Staff held a second scoping meeting on November 14 with public health leaders serving Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock Counties at Southwest Health and Human Services. During that meeting, participants finalized a scope for a full strategic plan and made an action plan to address staffing shortages. Staff submitted a full proposal to conduct the planning process in 2024 and agreed to assist with planning for how new funding streams could be spent in the near term. Staff conducted that meeting on December 19. As a result, they brainstormed a list of items and software to purchase and created a 4-month action plan.



Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota One Watershed, One Plan: Planner Webb is representing the SRDC on the Advisory Committee for the Cottonwood-Middle MN One Watershed Plan. The next advisory committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21 in Springfield.

City Pool Planning Webinar: Planner Webb is organizing a 3-person panel discussion on the topic of future planning for municipal pools that are nearing the end of their life cycles. Planning for city pool improvements, or replacements can be a large undertaking with not a lot of grant funding opportunities available. The webinar will take place on Wednesday, January 24 at 2 pm. The panelists include:

- Ken Ondich Community Development Director, City of New Prague
   Over 20 years' experience in city planning/community development
   A key member of the transition team in New Prague that led to a new indoor aquatic facility in 2017
- Tom Schaeffer President & Founder, USAquatics, Inc.
   Over 40 years' experience in construction management and consulting on aquatic facilities
   Worked on many city-owned facilities in Greater Minnesota
- George Eilertson Managing Director of Public Finance, Northland Securities
   Worked in Public Finance since the early 1990's
   Provided recommendations on different approaches to finance large city projects

### **Solid Waste & Natural Resource**

### **Solid Waste Commission:**

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission held its regular meeting on November 27, 2023. In addition to county reports, conversation continued among the Commission about the MPCA proposed rulemaking on demolition landfills. Following the regular meeting, several members of the Southwest Solid Waste Commission attended the start of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board to hear three panelists who joined the meeting to discuss waste-to-energy facilities. Panelists included; Tony Hill, Olmsted County Environmental Services/MRRA; Brian Martinson, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Analyst- Association of Minnesota Counties; and Jared Grahm, Director of Plant Operations of Xcel Energy's Refuse Derived Fuel Plants in Red Wing & Mankato.

Regarding the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) proposed Construction & Demolition (C&D) rule changes, Heidi Ringhofer (MPCA), has no knowledge of a ruling by December 31, 2023, and it is possible there will be a deadline delay.

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission is scheduled to meet again on January 22, 2024.

### **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.

The full group of Solid Waste Administrators has not met. The sub-committee met to talk about the 10-year plan. A draft plan is due June 1, 2024. The sub-committee acknowledges that our newer staff may not be as experienced as they need to be and agrees that we may need to work with a consultant on writing the plan. We can subcontract under SEH under SRDC's contract. Administrator Hartman has a contact person with SEH. We are looking at a re-write not a new plan necessarily. With the issues at hand, we are not ready to determine where we will be in 10 years. SRDC Executive Director Trusty is going to go through the solid waste contract checklist and identify the things we can do. He will send a draft out to the sub-committee for mark-up within the next two weeks.



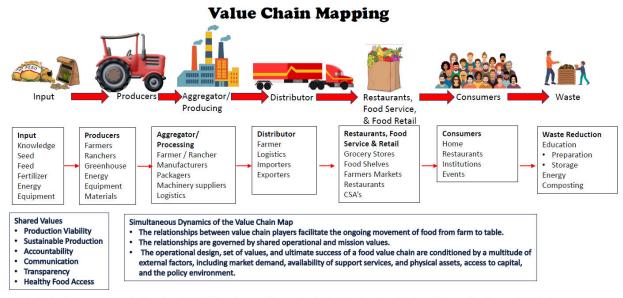
The USDA Regional Food Business Centers have been established to drive economic opportunities across their regions creating a more diversified and resilient food system. Out of this, the North Central Food Business Center (NCFBC) was formed to include MN, ND, and SD with a grant amount of \$15 million over five years. The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) will be compensated \$60K per year for providing technical assistance in our region.

### **North Central Regional Food Business Center:**

The SRDC continues to reach out and meet with various groups and individuals seeking ideas and suggestions. The Southwest Development Commission North Central RFBC (Regional Food Business Centers) Action Plan was developed and written to provide room for growth and enhancement over the next 5 years. Ideas and suggestions gathered through a comprehensive and inclusive approach include but are not limited to:

- Strengthening sustainability for local meat processors and small local grocery stores
- Increasing capabilities and efficiencies in providing meals to families
- Creating new markets to get local food to grocery stores, food shelves, and other institutions.
- Education for producers, sellers, and consumers
- Local commercial kitchen access for local producers
- Mobile meat processing
- Development of deep winter greenhouses for non-traditional producers
- Food delivery or transportation for residents to travel to local grocery stores, farmer's markets, and food shelves.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission is committed to working to boost Southwest Minnesota's food systems in response to supply chain weaknesses, small business challenges, and other difficulties exposed by the recent pandemic. The SRDC will begin publishing RFBC updates and opportunities via local newsletters (Farm Service Agency & Other Ag-related), the SRDC Website, and on social media.



This food value chain map represents a broad model in which producers and buyers of agricultural goods and services form alliances with other supply chain players such as aggregators, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers. The model illustrates the importance of interdependence, collaboration, and mutual support. This food value chain map describes the structure for implementing the North Central Regional Food Business Center grant in Southwest Minnesota. The specific projects and activities will vary as discoveries are identified over the next five years.

### **Transportation Report**

JANUARY 2024

### TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | ATPs | TRANSPORTATION PLANNING | ACTIVE TRANPORTATION & SRTS

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Planner Webb attended the TAC meeting held on December 12 at the MnDOT District 8 headquarters in Willmar. This is the next meeting to discuss the Urban Highway Prioritization Study.

### AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

Planner Webb attended the ATP Meeting held on December 8 in Marshall. This meeting discussed the Transportation Alternative Projects for solicitation year 2028. The next ATP-8 meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 1 in Granite Falls. The next ATP-7 meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8 in Mankato.

### 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 was submitted to the federal government on November 14, 2023.

**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:** Planner Webb and Community Development Director Walker attended the quarterly Transportation Planners meeting held in St. Cloud on Nov. 29 and 30. Planner Webb attended in person and Community Development Director Walker attended virtually. The 2024 meeting scheduled was finalized.

February - Virtual Only

May – St. Cloud, held in conjunction along with the 2024 MN Transportation Conference

August – Bemidji

November - St. Cloud

### **Active Transportation & Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**

### **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

SRTS continued from page 25

Next October 2024 will be similar funding available

This 100% funded grant covers costs to construct infrastructure that improves access and safety on prioritized routes to and at schools.

Adrian, Windom, Pipestone, Lakefield, and Redwood Falls are making full applications for MnDOT SRTS Infrastructure Grants.

### **SRTS Planning Assistance Grant**

This 100% funded grant will include technical assistance to provide an analysis of existing conditions, public outreach and identification of potential infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions to help more children walk and bicycle safely to school.

The application deadline is February 21.

### TRANSPORTATION REPORT CONTINUED

\*\*\*Attend an informational webinar\*\*\*

Learn about the program's goals, application process, and ask questions.

### Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024 (1 - 2 pm)

Email Planner Webb for more information on how to attend.

### **SRTS Boost Grant**

This 100% funded grant supports communities with existing plans or other comprehensive SRTS approaches to promote non-infrastructure projects for schools to keep walking and bicycling to school safe, easy, and fun for students.

### The application deadline is February 21.

\*\*\*Attend an informational webinar\*\*\*

Learn about the program's goals, application process, and ask questions.

### Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024 (11 am - Noon)

Email Planner Webb for more information on how to attend.

### **SRTS District Coordinator Grant**

This 100% funded grant will support coordinator positions in individual school districts. Coordinators will help communities with existing SRTS plans or other comprehensive approaches to promote non-infrastructure projects to keep students walking and bicycling to school. Funding for the coordinators will support three full school years starting in the summer of 2024 and going through June 2027. **The application deadline is February 21.** 

\*\*\*Attend an informational webinar\*\*\*

Learn about the program's goals, application process, and ask questions.

### Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2024 (2 - 3 pm)

Email Planner Webb for more information on how to attend.

### **SRTS Design Assistance Grant**

Design assistance is a new form of engineering studies. It intends to bridge the gap between safe routes to school plan strategies and implementation. Design assistance reports will verify existing methods and identify new engineering strategies to improve walking and bicycling routes to and from schools. The resulting document will include project summary sheets with concept-level drawings and a list of potential infrastructure projects prioritized by effectiveness in addressing safety risks, possible usage, and cost.

### Applications are due by January 12.

Tracy is planning to apply for this Design Assistance Grant Opportunity.

### **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

This 100% funded grant covers construction costs to implement infrastructure improvements to make walking, biking, and rolling better and safer in your community.

Jackson, Marshall, and Redwood Falls are making full applications for MnDOT Active Transportation Infrastructure Grants.

### **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.

### TRANSPORTATION REPORT CONTINUED

### **Transportation Alternative Infrastructure Grant (Federal)**

This 80%/20% funded grant covers construction costs to implement infrastructure improvements to make walking, biking, and rolling better and safer in your community.

City of Marshall (District 8) is currently applying for 2 TAP Infrastructure Grants for solicitation year 2028.

Rock County was awarded \$573,902 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete rehab of the Blue Mounds County Trail that connects the City of Luverne's Trail Loop to the Blue Mounds State Park. The rehab project also includes 3.2 miles of trail inside of the Blue Mounds State Park. The county will coordinate with the DNR to complete this project in 2025.

### **REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING**

Planners Webb and Bucklin are spearheading this project. Communications Specialist Crowley produced a new Quarterly Newsletter that went out at the end of October. A stakeholder meeting was held at the SRDC Board Room on Tuesday, December 5 at 2 pm to discuss the latest updates and to determine focus groups and interviews to conduct this winter.

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

### 2024 Project Timeline

Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
	MTG			MTG			MTG	
Complete Trail Scoring								
Focus Groups & Interviews								
			Intercepts & Economic Surveys					
				Trail Counters				

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: The Friends of Casey Jones met on December 14 in the SRDC Board Room.

The Friends were successful in receiving a bonding bill request for \$1.32 million for the development of the Casey Jones State Trail last spring. Thank you to Senators Weber and Dahms and Representative Schomacker for authoring bills in the House and Senate. They have sent an additional request in for 2024 bonding in hopes of securing funds to revitalize the first few miles going west from the trail head in Pipestone as well as the final loop at Currie.

The Friends 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.

Their next meeting will be held in the SRDC Board Room on Thursday, January 11 at 11:30 am.

### **Communications Report**

### JANUARY 2024

The holiday season brought decorations to the SRDC building both inside and out. Additionally, a door decorating contest was held amongst the staff at both the SRDC as well as SW Housing Partnership. Voting took place on Facebook asking visitors to place a like on the door of their choice. It was quite successful in drawing visitors to our page notching 3,667 post impressions with 712 engagements.

First place went to Sheila Crowley Second place to Kim Murphy Third place to Jodi Klein

Thank you to each and everyone who participated. It was fun to see all the creativity.

At the end of November a newsletter was sent out that summarized the year for the SRDC. The next one is set to go out in February again with plans to get back to doing them quarterly.



showcase their business expansion, which officially launched in August

of this year. Sarah Willhite, the owner of the pet resort, has always had a passion for animals. Growing up on a farm, she spent most of her time with animals, including rabbits, cows, chickens, pigs, and any other animal that needed extra attention. Her love for animals led her to open Sarah Paws Resort in 2014, where she offers professional boarding and grooming services.

Expanding a business is never an easy task, and Sarah's journey was filled with numerous obstacles. However, she was lucky to have financial partners

who believed in her expansion and helped her make it a reality. The Southwest Regional Development Commission was one of those partners, providing a time sensitive COVID disaster loan of \$93,190.20. During this time, COVID delayed product and supply expenses came in higher than expected.

Sarah's journey started in 2014 when she began providing dog grooming on a parttime basis at her personal residence. She also extended her knowledge of grooming

by taking online training classes. Sarah's love for pets, and the continued growth in requests, motivated her to find a business setting in downtown Tracy. The business quickly outgrew this location also which led to their business expansion at their current acreage. Despite the several transitions of their business, the couple forged ahead and tackled each as motivated entrepreneurs. Recently, the expansion was ready to be launched. Additional services and retail options are now available. "We really wanted the facility to feel like a home and I believe that we've accomplished," commented Sarah. "I feel like I could move my house down here and just be with the dogs 24/7."

### **Board Members' photos**

Prior to the December board meeting, a photo session was set up to capture pictures of each of the board members. They will be featured, much like the SRDC employees, from week-to-week starting shortly.









### **Executive Director's Report**

### JANUARY 2024

December was kick-started by the annual Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Conference in Minneapolis the first week of December. Once again, the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations had a booth in the Vendor Fair, and a number of the RDCs were represented including us, Mid-Minnesota, Upper Minnesota Valley, and Northwest. The Vendor Fair went well, with lots of traffic by the booth. We are starting to work on updating some of our materials for the conference as our banner is getting a little dated.

Also that first week, I attended a meeting put together by the McKnight Foundation to discuss the delivery of technical assistance in the rural areas of Minnesota as we try to bring in federal dollars to our smaller and harder to serve areas. Many of the RDCs were present, as well as the Department of Commerce, the Great Plains Institute, and other partners we have worked with in the past on renewable energy issues. The day concluded with a mapping exercise that attempted to identify where there are gaps in technical assistance coverage. Dawn Hegland, the Executive Director from Upper Minnesota Valley RDC agreed to serve on a committee with McKnight to work on the final report development.

The RDCs received notice the next day that we had all received funding from the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Competitiveness Fund. The SRDC received \$290,000 of the \$300,000 that we applied for, to be used over the next three years. The grant is to pay for staff time to research and write grants for communities that otherwise might not have the resources to submit for federal funding opportunities. The kick-off meeting with Commerce is scheduled for January 5th, so I will know of the details concerning this program by the Commission meeting.

I met with representatives from the Solid Waste Administrators to talk about the Solid Waste Plan. I am putting together a list of what is needed from the counties to proceed with the planning effort. Engineering firm SEH will be consulted for some of the technical aspects of the document. There is much debate about how to write a ten-year plan when the state rules governing construction and demolition waste are in the process of being changed. Many of the administrators feel that the plan itself is largely a waste of time and effort unless it addresses the real policy issues that are facing the counties as we go forward, and that many of the issues in the MPCA checklist are hopelessly outdated for the present reality.

The SRDC has been approached about the possibility of partnering with Region 9 and some others on a solar on Municipal or possibly county owned buildings grant application. This is still in the early discussion phases, so stay tuned for updates as the process goes forward.

The MADO Executive Directors held their monthly Zoom meeting. Darrick Moe from the Minnesota Rural Electric Association asked to speak with the RDC Directors as they have several members who also received Competitiveness Funds from Commerce and he wanted to meet us all and have a general discussion about making sure we didn't get in each other's way moving forward. The SRDC is hosting the next MADO Executive Director meeting at Jackpot Junction at the end of February.





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