



FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:30 p.m. Pizza Ranch - Slayton, MN



Southwest Regional Development Commission—Full Commission

* Board of Directors

Commissioner	Representing
Rick Anderson	Lyon County Commissioners*
Carrie Bendix	Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
JoEllen Benson	Rock County Townships
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 FL	SRDC Full Commission Membership									
One (1)	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
- 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, March 14, 2024 3:30 pm

Pizza Ranch 2306 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

AGENDA

<u>#</u>	<u>Time</u>		<u>Page</u>
1		Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2		Introductions	
		Additions to and Annuoval of Annuals	
3		Additions to and Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	
4		Board of Director Appointments Three-Year Board Terms (expires March 2027) ☐ Jackson County (nominee is Richard Peterson) ☐ Nobles County (nominee is Paul Langseth) ☐ Pipestone County (nominee is Chris Hollingsworth) Action Needed: Approve Board Appointments	
5		Consent Agenda Items ☐ January Receipts & Expenditures ☐ January 11, 2024 FC Meeting Minutes ☐ February 8, 2024 BOD Meeting Minutes ☐ McKnight contract Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	4-8 9-15 16-18 19
6		Project Review — Planner Webb City of Minneota Used Jetter Truck Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	20
7		 Finance Reports—Treasurer Peterson & Finance Director Nelson Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report 	21
		 Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report Administrative January 2024 Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report 	22
8		 Budget & Personnel Committee Report—Committee Chair Peterson Moving Planners Webb and Bucklin along with Communications Specialist Crowley from probationary to permanent status Budget and work plan process timeline for Fiscal Year 2025 Changes to personnel policies Action Needed: Approval of Committee recommendations 	
9		Legislative Report - Chair Miron Carney	
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Committee & Staff Reports Economic Development Report—Deputy Director Weis	23-24
Revolving Loan Fund Report—Deputy Director Weis	25-26
Community Development Report— Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, Webb, Murphy	27-29
Transportation Report—Planner Webb and Walker	30-31
Communications Report—Communications Specialist Crowley	32
Executive Director's Report—Executive Director Trusty	33
Chairman's Report—Chairman Langseth	
Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups • Mic VanDeVere, Lincoln County Commissioners • Dan Delaney, Pipestone County Municipalities • JoEllen Benson, Rock County Townships	
Recognition of outgoing Commission members See Moua-Leske and Bill Crowley	
Unfinished Business	
New Business	
Timetable for SRDC's FY2025 Work Program and Budget Preparation • Proposed Timetable for Commission consideration Action Needed: Approve Timetable	34
Annual Meeting SRDC's Awards Committee will need to be appointed by the Chairman for Project/Program of the Year Action Needed: Chairman makes Committee Appointments	
 Announcements SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the SRDC office SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Balaton Community Center at 3:30 p.m. SRDC Office will be closed Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day 	
Adjourn	
	Revolving Loan Fund Report—Deputy Director Weis Community Development Report—Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, Webb, Murphy Transportation Report—Planner Webb and Walker Communications Report—Communications Specialist Crowley Executive Director's Report—Executive Director Trusty Chairman's Report—Chairman Langseth Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups Mic VanDeVere, Lincoln County Commissioners Dan Delaney, Pipestone County Municipalities JoEllen Benson, Rock County Townships Recognition of outgoing Commission members See Moua-Leske and Bill Crowley Unfinished Business New Business Timetable for SRDC's FY2025 Work Program and Budget Preparation Proposed Timetable for Commission consideration Action Needed: Approve Timetable Annual Meeting SRDC's Awards Committee will need to be appointed by the Chairman for Project/Program of the Year Action Needed: Chairman makes Committee Appointments Announcements SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, April 11 at 3:30 p.m. at the SRDC Office SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Balaton Community Center at 3:30 p.m. SRDC Office will be closed Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day

ATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM C-RLF Loan Borrowers	CHECK#	AMOUNT	E
	Falcon Loan Borrowers	ACH ACH	17,421.18 1,510.92	<u>J</u>
	RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	17,774.92	
	SWMHP-Dec lease/Dec Sec/Fin	34528	3,119.23	Ť
	Bank Vista-KB Mfg Orig and Legal fees-RLF	110050	1,705.00	ŀ
	Cottonwood Co-Explore SW 2024 appropriation	26473	1,500.00	ŀ
	Lyon Co - 2023 taxes	ACH	879.77	
	Jackson Co-Delinq taxes	105088	473.28	ŀ
	Pipestone Co-Explore SW 2024 appropriations	35472	1,500.00	ŀ
	Nicollett Co-2024 RMEB dues Nobles Co-2024 RMEB dues	211083 23173	2,500.00 2,500.00	ŀ
	Avidxchange-Murray Co Christmas	7199837278	500.00	<u>r</u> -
	Murray Co-Current/Deling. Taxes	173196	516.77	- k
	World Mart-RLF loan payment partial CRLF loan payment	28959353730	523.31	ŀ
	Faribault Co-2024 RMEB dues	ACH	2,500.00	,
	SWMHP-Dec monthly costs	34550	1,955.29	ŀ
	Lincoln Co-2024 RMEB dues	22537	2,500.00	ŀ
	Martin Co-2024 RMEB dues	207829	2,500.00	ŀ
	Murray Co-2024 RMEB dues	173300	2,500.00	ŀ
	Rock Co-2024 RMEB dues	106354	2,500.00	<u> </u>
01/22/24	Jackson Co-Explore SW 2024 appropriation MNRAAA-2024 storage rent	105128	1,500.00 144.00	ŀ
	World Mart-remaining CRLF loan payment	8198 28959354360	303.50	ŀ
	Murray Co Christmas Project (11 checks)	20939334300	2,425.00	- <u>r</u>
	Cottonwood Co-2024 RMEB dues	26610	2,500.00	<u>-</u>
	Cottonwood Co-Current/Delinquent taxes	26654	3,530.37	ŀ
	Pipestone Co-Current/Delinguent taxes	35596	1,065.84	ŀ
01/25/24	Lyon Co-2024 RMEB dues	174617	2,500.00	ŀ
	Blue Earth Co-2024 RMEB dues	307676	2,500.00	ŀ
	Watonwan Co-2024 RMEB dues	69519	2,500.00	ŀ
	Redwood Co - 2023 Taxes	ACH	547.70	•
	Redwood Co-Explore SW 2024 appropriation	85510	1,500.00	ŀ
	Jackson Co-2024 RMEB dues	105170	2,500.00 1,500.00	<u> </u>
	Murray Co-Explore SW 2024 appropriation ACE-Dec copies	12915 55657	1,500.00	<u>r</u> }
	SRDC-RMEB Nov & Dec admin	60484	3,471.25	<u>'</u>
	SRDC-PACE outreach Nov & Dec admin	60485	2,450.00	ŀ
	SWHSS-admin	131592	4,500.00	ŀ
01/29/24	Rock Co-tax settlement	106402	706.57	ŀ
	Lincoln Co-tax settlement	22618	517.74	ŀ
	Murray Co-tax settlement	173342	1.34	ŀ
	Renville Co-2024 RMEB dues	221205	2,500.00	ŀ
	R.Weis-reimburse cc expense	8250	93.09	ŀ
01/31/24	Pipestone Co-2024 RMEB dues Nobles Co-tax settlement and PACE payment	35661 ACH	2,500.00 11,229.10	ŀ
01/01/21	Tobles Go tax cettisment and 17/62 paymont	7,011	11,220.10	
	Minnwest Bank - PACE Electric - Savings Interest	Per Bank	11.73	
	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank	1.33	
	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	71.81	_
	Jackson Savings & Loan - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	27.50	ŀ
	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest Minguest Bank - PMER Savings Interest	Per Bank	1.66	
	Minnwest Bank - RMEB Savings interest Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank Per Bank	126.84 373.68	
	Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	572.85	
	Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings Interest Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	142.86	
	Minnwest Bank - PACE ARRA - Savings Interest	Per Bank	118.68	
	Minnwest Bank - TRUE Article - Gavings interest	Per Bank	212.99	
	Currie State Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	1.10	
	-			
	Minnwest Bank - EDA Savings	Per Bank	0.01	
01/31/24	Minnwest Bank - EDA Savings Minnest Bank - Explore SW MN	Per Bank Per Bank	0.01	

Session ID	Check	Document	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
CD010224 RLF	100	1/2/2024		RLF Loan Disbursement: KB Manufacturing	150,025.00	1/2/2024
CD011224 M	003	1/12/2024	State of Minnesota	Q4 MN Sales Tax	248.00	1/12/2024
CD011924 M	004	1/19/2024		MN UE Q4 2023 - benefits pd Brooke Swart & Justin Schroyer	7,109.81	1/19/2024
CD010924 W	200	1/25/2024		Wex Dec 2023 Admin Fees	19.25	1/25/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,840.01	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	434.85	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,809.52	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,578.71	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: Klein]; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,376.39	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date; 1/11/2024	13.04	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,842.50	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,596.15	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,511.11	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	153.76	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	31.82	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	3,521.43	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	2,463.00	1/8/2024
PRS011124	01112	1/8/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 1/11/2024	1,557.69	1/8/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 1/11/24 to 1/16/24 Meetings	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 1/11/24 to 1/16/24 Meetings	42.88	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 1/11/24 to 1/16/24 Meetings	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Ronald Kottke	Ronald Kottke 11/14/23 to 1/11/24 Meetings	100.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Ronald Kottke	Ronald Kottke 11/14/23 to 1/11/24 Meetings	68.90	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 1/11/24 Meeting	46.90	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott 1/11/24 Meeting	80.40	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 1/11/24 Meeting	14.74	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Jenny L. Quade	Jenny Quade 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 1/11/24 Meeting	80.40	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	SW MN Housing Partnership	Kristie Blankenship 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 1/11/24 Meeting	20.00	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 1/11/24 Meeting	43.55	1/23/2024
APS012324	01232	1/23/2024	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 12/8/23 to 1/11/24 Meetings	100.00	1/23/2024

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Richard Peterson 1/11 to 1/12/24 Meetings Employee: Bucklinny; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: WeisK; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employ	Richard Peterson 1/11 to 1/12/24 Meetings Employee: Bucklinny; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Klein¹; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Klein¹; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Murphyk; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Murphyk; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Murphyk; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Schreiberk; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: Schreiberk; Pay Date: 1/25/2024 Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/26/2024 Employ
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Check Amount	18.45	540.12	1,520.00	153.12	229.68	37.29	55.93	4,848.63	79.50	79.50	41.06	202.98	304.46	78.00	75.00	225.12	200.00	390.08	10.00	40.00	20.00	20.00	300.37	557.83	3,000.00	328.00	472.00	3,036.00	200'00	48.00	200.00	3,471.25	2,450.00	20.00
Transaction Description	Chandler Coop Dec 2023	Fleet Services 12/1/23 to 12/31/23	NADO: 2023 ATC Main Reg - Jay & Robin	NW Gas 11/25/23 to 12/22/23	NW Gas 11/25/23 to 12/22/23	Schaap 1/1/24 to 1/31/24	Schaap 1/1/24 to 1/31/24	Lease - January 2024	Stoneberg: LaCanne Family Funeral CRLF Legal Fees	Stoneberg - KB Manufacturing RLF Legal Fees	Verizon 12/2/23 to 1/1/24	Xcel Energy 12/4/23 to 1/6/24	Xcel Energy 12/4/23 to 1/6/24	Apparel: Jodi K	Explore SW: Web Domain Mgmt qty 3; good thru 3/2025 & 5/2025	Aflac 1/23/24	RMEB: 2024 Website Design Annual Fee	Cardmember Services 12/15/23 to 1/16/24	Frontier 1/4/24 to 2/3/24	Frontier 1/4/24 to 2/3/24	RMEB: Fryberger Oct, Nov, & Dec 2023	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Services Jan 2024	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Services Jan 2024	RMEB: PC Renewal 1/1/24 to 1/1/25 PN: PC686024-1	Murray Co Xmas Project - from AvidXchange	NCPERS 2/1/24 to 2/29/24	Nichole Johnson Ind Contractor Explore SW $11/9$ to $11/30/23$	RMEB Nov & Dec 2023	PACE Outreach - Nov - Dec 2023	Jeff Moen 1/11/24 Meeting				
Vendor Name	Chandler Co-Op	Fleet Services Division	NADO	Northwest Gas	Northwest Gas	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap Sanitation	Slayton EDA	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	Verizon Wireless	XCEL Energy	XCEL Energy	507 Designs	AdMfg, Inc	AFLAC	Association of Minnesota Coun	Cardmember Services	Frontier Communications	Frontier Communications	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson	Minnesota Counties Intergover	Murray County Christmas Fund	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	Nichole Johnson	SRDC	SRDC	Jeffry Moen				
Document	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/11/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024	1/25/2024
Check	60462	60463	60464	60465	60465	60466	60466	60467	60468	60469	60470	60471	60471	60472	60473	60474	60475	60476	60476	60476	60476	60476	60477	60477	60478	60479	60479	60480	60481	60482	60483	60484	60485	60486
Session ID	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS011124	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS012524	APS01252024

Date: 2/23/24 08:12:25 AM

	Effective Date	1/25/2024 1/25/2024	
	Check Amount	69.68 2,425.00	246,778.65
1.02/2027	Transaction Description	Jeff Moen 1/11/24 Meeting Murray Co Xmas Project	
	Vendor Name	Jeffry Moen Murray County Christmas Fund	
	Document	1/25/2024 1/25/2024	
	Check	60486 60487	
	Session ID	APS01252024 APS1252024	Report Total



SRDC FULL COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

PIZZA RANCH, SLAYTON

JANUARY 11, 2024

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

Blankenship, Bob Byrnes, Pam Cooreman, Bill Crowley, Keith Elbers, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Chris Hollingsworth, Steve Kellen, Dennis Klingbile, Ron Kottke, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, Jeff Moen, Richard Peterson, Jenny Quade, David Sturrock, Mic VanDeVere, Rick VonHoldt,

Dennis Welgraven, Justine Wettschreck

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners JoEllen Benson (excused), Leah Bittner, Miron Carney

(excused), Elliot Christensen, Dan Delaney, Eric Hartman (excused), Scott McClure (excused), See Moua-Leske (excused), Bob Paplow, Stephen Schnieder, Sherri Thompson, Bob Van Hee (excused) and Beth Wilms

(excused)

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

One item was added to the agenda under Contracts-SWHHS Technical Assistance contract.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VonHoldt and seconded by Commissioner Grant to approve the agenda with addition. Upon vote taken: Ayes-23, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the appointment of David Sturrock as the representative for Higher Education on the Commission. Upon vote taken: Ayes-23, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the November 16, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes: the December 14

to approve the November 16, 2023 Full Commission Meeting Minutes; the December 14, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes; the November 2023 Receipts and

Expenditures report and the Minnesota City Participation Program (MCPP) application.

Upon vote taken: Ayes-24, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONTRACTS

Community Development Director Walker presented the SW Health and Human Services contract for technical assistance to develop a five-year strategic plan.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VonHoldt and seconded by Commissioner Crowley to approve the SWHHS contract for technical assistance. Upon vote taken: Ayes-24, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Crowley and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-24, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kellen and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve the administrative report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-24, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Executive Director Trusty reviewed the new committee membership: Commissioner Carney will go off the B&P Committee and Commissioner Anderson will take his place. Commissioners Lesmeister-Knott and VonHoldt will join the Legislative Committee.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

Finance Director Nelson went over the major policy updates to the SRDC personnel policies: add 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. Commissioner Blankenship asked about the Crown Act. Staff will look into this wording and add if needed.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner VonHoldt to approve the personnel policy updates as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-24, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

B. Legislative Committee Report

Executive Director Trusty reviewed the SRDC 2024 Legislative Priorities again. This year will focus more on Implementation rather than Policy.

C. Economic Development Report

Deputy Director Weis submitted to EDA an Energy Resiliency Project for a substation transformer addition for the City of Adrian. Total cost of the project is \$3,258,900. It is an 80% grant request and 20% city match. A Water Resiliency Project for water source for the City of Lamberton was also submitted to EDA. Total project cost is \$1,384,000. It is an 80% grant request and 20% city match.

Staff have been working with the City of Pipestone on project exploration. Improvements to Industrial Road are not a good fit for EDA but the Industrial Park Expansion project the city is considering could possibly be a good fit for EDA. Staff will be providing technical assistance as the city considers creating a Local Development Organization (LDO) to get their CDBG dollars de-federalized.

The City of Hills will be hosting an open house for their Childcare Pod project. A flyer was included in the handouts for the January 19th open house.

D. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Traditional RLF has approximately \$386,700 available to lend out. One loan for \$150,000 has been approved but has not closed yet. There are 33 active loans at this time. This fund has loaned out over \$1.7 million.

CRLF has approximately \$190,700 available to lend out. One loan for \$100,000 in Jackson County closed in December. There are 27 active loans at this time. This fund has loaned out over \$1.8 million.

Contracted RLFs (Jackson County, Heron Lake, and Falcon Development) have been busy. Jackson County has approximately \$120,000 available to lend out. Heron Lake has approximately \$250,000 available to lend out. Falcon Development has approximately \$25,000 available to lend out.

PACE

There are approximately \$123,500 in ARRA funds and \$136,600 in SEP funds available to lend out.

The MN Department of Commerce is working on expanding the commercial PACE programs in Minnesota. SRDC applied for non-competitive funds of \$300,000 to expand the PACE program in our region and are waiting to receive these funds.

Weis will be providing in-person PACE program training to Region 5 staff and committee members in January.

E. Community Development Report

Community Development Director Walker reported that the RMEB board will meet January 22. New officers will be elected. Next Era will give an update on their projects.

Development Planner Bucklin reported that there were 7 out of 12 applications for CERTS Seed Grants funded in our region. Projects funded were: 3 lighting projects (Slayton Public Library/Senior Center, the Murray County 4-H building and the Comfrey municipal building), a manufactured home building basics training project by Slipstream, an air-source heat pump feasibility assessment project by SW MN Housing Partnership, a home education and energy savings program by United Community Action Partnership and an energy efficiency video storytelling project by Erika Gilsdorf.

Bucklin traveled to the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) and the University of Minnesota Campus in Morris to help the World Mart food truck project gather ideas for their solar panel installation. A tour of the WCROC facility included windmills, the renewable hydrogen and ammonia pilot plant, solar panel arrays and solar thermal generation and storage, robotic vehicles for agricultural use, and two solar trailers. The tour of the campus included: a battery storage project, a biomass heating plant, and some of their green building projects such as building with insulated concrete foam.

A Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) \$2 million grant proposal was submitted by Co-Director Melissa Birch. The grant was given a 30 minute interview with the Department of Energy in early January. If the MN Siting Collaborative receives funding, the SRDC anticipates working with other partners on activities detailed in the proposal.

Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) is calling for Idea Briefs proposals in the four RSDP focus areas of agriculture and food systems, clean energy, natural resources and resilient communities. They have an Empowering Small MN Communities initiative to help communities under 5,000 population with projects.

Development Planner Webb is representing the SRDC on the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota One Watershed, One Plan advisory committee. The next meeting will be February 21.

Webb is organizing a 3-person panel discussion on the topic of future planning for municipal pools. The webinar will take place on January 24.

Staff are also working with the City of Hills on strategic planning. A community survey will be developed and sent to residents in Hills for feedback for the plan.

Development Planner Murphy has finished the Regional Food Business Center plan. She will be working on public education, finding resources and finding funds for programs.

F. Solid Waste & Natural Resources

The Solid Waste Commission will meet January 22. There is a lot of discussion on the MPCA's proposed Construction & Demolition (C&D) rule changes.

Staff continues to work with the Solid Waste Administrators sub-committee on the Solid Waste Regional Plan. Trusty will go through the checklist and identify the items the SRDC can do.

Other items may need to be contracted out. A draft will be sent to the sub-committee for markup in the next two weeks.

G. Transportation Report

Webb attended the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) in December for District 8. The meeting focused on developing criteria for funding. Urban Highway Prioritization study was also discussed.

Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP) meeting was held in Marshall in December. Discussion was on trails and parks. There were 4 applications from the area to the Transportation Alternatives fund.

MnDOT will start gathering input from partners and the public to identify priorities to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions from on-road highway sources. District 7 ATP has 6 counties that are getting an electric truck and charger.

The quarterly transportation planners will meet virtually in February.

Staff reviewed the STRS planning assistance grants and deadlines, the SRTS Boost grants and deadlines, the SRTS District Coordinator grant and deadlines and the Active Transportation funding and deadlines.

H. Communications Report

Communications Specialist Crowley reported a door decorating contest was held in December for all staff to participate. Pictures were put on our Facebook page for voting.

Crowley developed a newsletter that went out the end of November.

Work continues on success stories from our RLF and PACE clients. Board member photos have been taken and they will appear on our Facebook page along with their bio.

I. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Trusty reported that the SRDC received a \$290,000 grant from the Department of Commerce. This money will be used for staff to research and write grants for communities. We have three years to spend the funds. There were 25 grants funded.

CERTs executive directors meet last week. RSDP met last week as well.

Trusty reviewed the MN Cities Participating Program application. Included in the handout was the amount of money used and where in the region it was used. The program reached 232% of our region's goal. Our allocation was \$2 million and with being able to use other's unused funds we used almost \$5 million in direct down payment loans.

Trusty shared that a flyer for the annual "It Begins With Us" conference from Commissioner Moua-Leske was in the handouts. Everyone is invited to attend.

J. Chairman's Report

Chairman Langseth said the townships were still dealing with the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust. There will be a meeting next week to decide if the board will appoint someone or if an election will take place to fill the open board spots.

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

A. Pipestone County Commissioners

Commissioner Hollingsworth reported on some of the activities in Pipestone County. Some highlights are: a new senior center in Pipestone, Hartquist Funeral Home has built a new facility, the former Brown school property will have a Kwik Trip built on it, the former Hill school property will have new homes built on it by the Pipestone EDA. JBS has invested in pickle ball courts and a new concession stand at the soccer fields. A veteran's memorial will be built. Woodstock Communications will be providing broadband in the County. The levy for 2024 was set at 7.5%. The Sheriff's office is fully staffed. The Casey Jones trail extension to Woodstock was finished. The restaurant in Woodstock reported having increased traffic from the trail. The SW Mental Health building was remodeled as mental health services are being provided by the Pipestone County Medical Center. The hospital has a new MRI machine, the ER is fully staffed, nursing positions are fully staffed and new doctors are coming.

B. Murray County Municipalities

No report.

C. Justine Wettschreck, Economic Development

Wettschreck shared that the Murray County EDA is struggling with some of the state money received for homeless prevention aid. They will be contracting with UCAP to administer these funds. They received \$17,000 in 2023 and will receive \$16,000 in 2024. Murray County will receive \$170,000 for 2023-2024 in Statewide Affordable Housing Aid. The County is looking into using a housing trust fund as some counties do. Issues in Murray County are childcare and housing. Operation Prairie Venture has a bond request at the legislature to construct a memory care/assisted living facility. Murray County EDA has lent out \$160,000 to fix up rental property or to flip houses. These funds have a 6 month deferral period. Forgivable childcare loans to start in-home childcare are available. Loan amount are up to \$5,000 for doing home updates. Loans are forgiven at \$1,000 a year for 5 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Pipestone County Townships.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:15 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

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Keith

Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Chris Hollingsworth, Dennis Klingbile,

Richard Peterson, Bob VanHee, Rick VonHoldt and Dennis Welgraven

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Miron Carney

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

Two item was added to the agenda one under Project Review and one under Contracts.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to

approve December Receipts and Expenditures Report, Murray County Comp Plan Contract and the Lyon County Comp Plan Contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0.

Commission Anderson abstained from the Lyon County Contract approval.

Commissioner Welgraven abstained from the Murray County Contract approval. Motion

Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Peterson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2024, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

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

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

Carried.

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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VonHoldt and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Nelson gave an update on the audit. The two auditors we have been working with are both back from maternity leave. However, due to prior commitments, they are unsure when they will get back to working on our audit.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Community Development Director Walker presented a project review for an environmental assessment for proposed federal loan guarantee to Solugen, Inc. for a bio-feedstock facility in Marshall.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to approve the project review for Solugen, Inc. as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONTRACTS

Executive Director Trusty reviewed the State Competitiveness grant contract from the Department of Commerce. The RDO directors are questioning the grant dates with the Department of Commerce as half of the first year is already over.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner VonHoldt to approve the State Competitiveness grant contract pending clarification on dates. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee Report

Executive Director Trusty and SRDC Chairman Langseth will attend the NADO Legislative Conference in Washington DC in March. The SRDC Legislative Committee will meet prior to the March 14 Full Commission meeting at 2:00pm. March 20, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) will have their Day on the Hill and Trusty and Carney will attend.

B. Deep Dive

Commissioner Elbers and Deputy Director Weis presented a deep dive into the process and outcome of the Hills Childcare Three Pod project.

C. Executive Director's Report

Trusty informed Commissioners that Commissioner Moua-Leske will not be seeking a second term on the Commission and he will attend the It Begins With Us conference to try and recruit a replacement. Moua-Leske's last meeting will be the March 14 full commission meeting.

MADO Executive Directors will meet at Jackpot Junction on February 28-29. They will tour the Incubator space and the Hempcrete facility.

Scott Marquardt (SWIF), Eric Day (R6E), Dawn Hegland (R6W) and Trusty will meet February 21 to discuss what everyone is working on and if any collaboration can be done on projects.

A meeting was held with the City of Tyler on some projects they want to do. The Tyler EDA has also called regarding a daycare project.

Discussion has taken place with the City of Round Lake on some water and sewer projects the are interested in pursuing.

Trusty drafted a letter to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) asking for a 3-year extension on the Southwest Regional Solid Waste plan.

The complete Executive Director's report can be found in the meeting packet.

D. Chairman's Report

Langseth along with Trusty will attend the NADO Legislative Conference in Washington DC March 10-13. There are no new developments in the Township Association issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Follow-up to the SRDC Board Retreat, a proposal has been received from Cheryl Glasser to facilitate a strategic planning meeting. Trusty is working on firming up plans for this meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Pipestone County Townships.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 4:42 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

University of Minnesota

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

This agreement is entered into by and between the Regents of the University of Minnesota, a Minnesota constitutional corporation, and contractor listed below.

Page 1 QCPS # 0002545928

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

Dispatch Via Email

Contractor #: 0000013607 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMM	Date 2/16/2024	Tax Exempt # 8029894
2401 BROADWAY STE 1 SLAYTON MN 56172	Payment Terms Net 30	Vendor Type Other (Govt, NonProfit, etc)
	Requestor Dawn Horner (E) udab280@umn.edu	Phone 218/463-0291

Federal Contract Funding? No

Bill To:	Contract Administrator:
AP VOUCHER ENTRY EXTENSION REGL CTR 200 S O'CONNELL ST STE 500 MARSHALL MN 56258	Dawn Annette Horner Extension Roseau Reg Ofc 1307 Third Street NE, Suite 102 Roseau MN 56751
	(P) 218/463-0291 (F) Melissa Birc

The sole and exclusive Terms and Conditions for this Contract for Professional Services are at: policy.umn.edu/sites/policy.umn.edu/files/contracts/ogc-sc501p.docx

The University objects to, and rejects, all other terms and conditions contained in any document provided by the Contractor at any time. By starting work, the Contractor accepts the University's terms and conditions, statement of work, and any accompanying attachments included with the Contract.

If Yes appears after the Federal Contract Funding section on this Contract, the Contractor will be contacted and required to provide additional reporting information to fulfill the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FARs).

Questions? Contact the University of Minnesota Purchasing Services at: purchase@umn.edu.

Southwest Regional Development Commission Project Review

Agenda Item: ? Meeting Date: March 14, 2024

Project Name: City of Minneota Used Jetter Truck - USDA Rural Development

Project Description:

The City of Minneota is seeking financing through USDA RD for the purchase of a used 2014 Aquatech B10 Sewer Jet/Vac Truck mounted on a 2014 Freightliner M2. The submitted application is for the amount of \$195,000.00.

The City of Minneota plans to issue General Obligation Bonds in accordance with MN State Statute Chapter 475 and the resulting annual bond payments will be included in the city's annual local property tax levy.

Staff Comments:

• Staff supports Minneota's application for a used Jetter Truck.

Project Review Time: 1 hours

Income to the SRDC for this Review: \$0

Reviewer: Christopher Webb, Transportation Planner

TREASURER'S REPORT MONTH END February 29, 2024

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund			APY
Bank	Amount	Due Date	Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	\$ 100,000.00	5/25/2024	4.45%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson	104,310.86	01/20/25	4.50%
Currie State Bank-Currie	112,095.31	09/02/24	5.09%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson	100,000.00	12/13/24	5.25%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson	100,000.00	12/13/24	5.25%
Investors Choice - Slayton	103,113.73	08/02/24	4.65%
Minnwest Bank Slayton	100,000.00	11/15/24	4.50%

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

United Prairie Bank-Worthington to allow deposits above FDIC limi				
	TOTAL INVESTMENTS		719,519.90	
ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Acco	unts		2/29/2024	
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$	3,000.00	
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings		371,372.13	
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H		23,780.50	
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings		84,685.79	
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings		61,112.70	
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings		50,289.11	
	TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS	\$	594,240.23	
Regional Cultural Diversity Coalition MN Rural Broadband Coalition Assigned Funds Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Equipment Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Building Committed to: Unemployment Claims		\$	- (11,296.85) (91,318.26) (243,151.09) (53,013.00)	
Committed to: Employee Retirement Transition			(10,973.00)	
Compensated Absences Payable			(56,502.00)	
	TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ \$	(466,254.20)	
			2/29/2024	2/28/2023
Total Inv	estments	\$	719,519.90	\$ 515,429.03
Total Cash	Accounts	\$	594,240.23	\$ 682,881.66
Total Dedicat	ed Funds	\$	(466,254.20)	\$ (466,658.47
TOTAL FUN	IDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW	(\$	847,505.93	\$ 731,652.22

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative		
EDA Planning Funds	\$ 51	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	270,377	Total EDA RLF
Currie State Bank-RLF Savings-(business loans only)	2,588	272,965
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	154,692	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	145,280	PACE Loan Funds
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	137,607	282,887
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off loans & admin)	23,751	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 734,346	



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Month End January 2024 Fiscal Year 2024

								YTD Comparison % of Budget	n % of Budget	58.33
	FY24	- yluk	October -		i	:	January -		ē	% of Overall Embowing
	Buaget	September	December	January	repruary	Marcu	Marci	Date	afinna	Davider LApianarion Comments
Revenues										
- 137.pc	443.445	1.022.58	182,016,78	255,597,66			255,597.66	438,637.02	4,807.98	when current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec and 98.9% Jun
Contract for Services	202,935	26.712.01	43.667.71	11,820.40		Ì	11,820.40	82,200.12	120,734.88	40.5% Based on activity earned to date.
MnDOT-Regional	75.000	0.00		0.00			0.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	50.0% Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000
Fconomic Development Adm	70.000	14.1		3,008,05			3,008.05	34,474.60	35,525.40	49.2% Grant Earned (Federal share)
EDA Trails Grant	150,000	l		6,743.19			6,743.19	27,572.62	122,427.38	18.4% Based on activity earned to date. (Federal share)
RLF Admin (Covid & Regular)	00,000	16,442.03		4,786.89			4,786.89	37,515.45	22,484.55	62.5% Based on activity earned to date.
- T-	70 040	45 207 72	AA 294 ED	0 758 12			0 758 12	69 287 35	1 622 65	Based on activity earned to date main Certs (not subprojects), includes on 7 7%, seed orants, (additional funds for seed grants, which equals more time).
DACE loss originations	19.191	78 42		0000			0.00	11.740.65	7.443.35	61.2% Loan intfloan odd fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4656/4321)
HEDA Cond Grave	80.00	15 000 00		00.0			000	30 000 00	30,000,00	50.0% Based on Billings (800 hours at \$75/hr for the year)
Inferest & Miscellaneous	6,800	2.254.04	5.070.01	3.817.66			3,817.66	11,141.71	-4,341.71	163.8% Bank int/loan orig fee
Total Revenues	1,158,274	95,769.25	388,768.30	295,531.97	0.00	0.00	295,531.97	780,069.52	378,204.48	67.3%
										33,804
Expenditures										
Committee Expenses	30.300	6.691.31	11.788.75	1,581.14			1,581.14	20,061.20	10,238.80	66.2%
Calarino & Cringo	984 339	166 574 63	263 644 36	81.063.63			81.063.63	511.282.62	473,056,38	51.9% October includes unemployment paid
Travel	55,000	12,804.19	14.899.65	2 723 97			2.723.97	30.427.81	24,572.19	55.3%
Office Space Costs	44.194	2.184.21	2,293,98	958,59			958.59	5,436.78	38,757.22	12.3%
Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb)	4.863	84.92		66.6			66.6	1,124.88	3,738.12	23.1%
Communications	6,819	1,277.92		401.42			401.42	2,904.08	3,914.92	42.6%
Printing/Publication	20,504	5,258.12	5,147.39	3,036.93			3,036.93	13,442.44	7,061.56	65.6% copier/printer too
Insurance	5.917	0.00	94.00	0.00			0.00	94.00	5,823.00	1.6% Insurance divident/Building Insurance
Supplies	17,000	906.35	3,550.78	178.97			178.97	4,636.10	12,363.90	27.3%
Program Supply (EDA)	0	0.00		0.00			0.00	00'0	00'0	#DIV/0!
Program Supply (Trails EDA)	0	0.00	840.00	0.00			00.0	840.00	-840.00	#DIV/0!
Program Supply (MNDOT)	0	00'0	00.0	0.00			00'0	00.00	0.00	#DIV/0!
Computer	37,750	11,399.45	5,442.92	1,231.41			1,231,41	18,073.78	19,676,22	47.9%
Andits	40,000	0.00	0.00	0.00			00.0	00.00	40,000.00	0.0%
Consultant/Confracted Services/Legal	2,750	746.25	1,559.72	227.86			227.86	2,533.83	216.17	92.1%
Dues/Memberships & Other	7.200	1,000.00	3,000.00	14.63			14.63	4,014.63	3,185.37	55.8%
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,500	174.87	2,531.17	0.00			00:00	2,706.04	2,793.96	49.2%
Foritoment/Building Undates	31.207	9.029.36	258.26	0.00			00.00	9,287.62	21,919.38	29.8%
PACE loan interest baid	208	0.00	0.00	0.00			00.00	0.00	208.00	0.0% Paid in December and June "an amt will be in January 2024"
Debt Service: Prin. & Int.	11,633	0.00	8,080.99	00'0			00.00	8,080.99	3,552.01	69.5% Paid in December
Building Lease Principal Pymt	23,085	5,370.01	5,445.04	1,831.82			1,831.82	12,646.87	10,438.13	54.8% Our portion of lease pyrnt
								0.00	00 110	10-107
Total Expenditures	1,328,569	223,501.59	330,831.72	93,260.36	0.00	0.00	93,260.36	647,593.67	680,975.33	46.1%
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	-170,295	-127,732.34	57,936.58	202,271.61				132,476		
			4							

132,476





Planner Weis was part of a Non-Traditional Lenders Forum in Worthington on February 29



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

March 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. Our next CEDS is due 12/31/2026.

EDA PLANNING

<u>EDGE</u>: EDA is moving from grantsonline to EDGE for grant management. EDA also recently moved from grant.gov to EDGE for grant submission. EDGE training is now being offered by EDA.

<u>EDA Investment Opportunities:</u> 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 Funding Opportunity: FY 2023 Disaster Supplemental (eda.gov). The following counties are eligible under the disaster distress criteria: Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Nobles, Redwood, and Rock. EDA has confirmed that all dollars are spoken for now and no applications will be considered for funding under this NOFO. The following applications were submitted. These projects were eligible for funding; however, funding was not adequate to fund all projects submitted under the NOFO.

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

The city of Adrian is in communication with SRDC and EDA about resubmitting their application under the public works NOFO. Max grant award would be 50% versus 80% under the disaster NOFO.

To finance new or improved infrastructure to support business, the following communities requested letters of support from SRDC for their CDSR applications: Holland, Revere, Okabena, Ruthton, Russell, and Lamberton.

Childcare Technical Assistance: The Hills Childcare project final project was due 2/29/24. A new request for proposal for the DEED Childcare Economic Development grant was recently issued with proposals due 3/12/24. More information can be found at Child Care Economic Development / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (mn.gov). SRDC met with WWG regarding their Little Chargers Daycare Center regarding this opportunity.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: The committee meets quarterly. This group gathers members who support career and technical education programs and educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. The committee last met on 2/1 and will again meet on 5/2.

Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC): The group last met on December 20 and will next meet on March 20. SRDC represents economic development on the council. An advocacy effort to pass PCA driver legislation recently passed. This work has been ongoing for several years and is a huge win for the aging and disabled community.

Friends in the Field: The group last met on January 10 with a focus on shared power. The group next meets on April 10 with a focus on Housing.

Southwest and South-Central Regional Community and Economic Developers Meeting: DEED once again activated this group with Lisa Hughes as the primary contact. The group next meets March 21.

Career Expo: Mary Mortier who has been with the SW/WC Service Cooperative for 11 years retired. She initially assisted Tom Hoft with career expo planning during her first three years and later fully coordinated the annual events. SRDC wishes her the best during her retirement! SRDC participates in the Career Expo by facilitating the "Career is Right."

AURI New Uses Forum: This year the location is Mankato on April 9 with a pre-conference tour in Waseca at AURI's new Bioindustrial Innovation Center on April 8. More information can be found at New Uses Forum 2024: Bioindustrial Innovations and Opportunities - AURI.



Planner Weis recently completed training for The Grow America EDA-supported Revolving Loan Fund Community of Practice



Planner Weis pictured with Mary Mortier who retired after 11 years with SW/WC Service Cooperative

Broadband Annual Conference: The conference is being held March 12. Visit the Connecting One Minnesota-Broadband webpage

for full information on the agenda, session and speaker biographies. Broadband continues to be an economic development priority for SRDC.

Lower Sioux Hempcrete Tour: During a meeting with the MADO Executive Directors on February 28, a tour of their one-bedroom hempcrete duplex was provided as part of the agenda. Hempcrete is a fireproof, mold-proof, and bug-proof material that is also highly energy-efficient. Lower Sioux, a small reservation, is one of the few locations that is growing, processing, and building with hemp. They have already trained three plumbers, but unfortunately, they have all moved off the reservation. The reservation will soon start training electricians.



REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT



OVID-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 January 16. One loan application was considered and approved.

<u>Interest Rates:</u> EDA's guideline for minimum interest rate is 4% under prime, which equates to 4.5% currently, or 75% of prime, which ever 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.

<u>Application and Checklist:</u> 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/.

An updated RLF brochure and checklist has been created for outreach purposes.

COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

<u>Funds Available:</u> Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$154,489. This accounts for our latest loan closing on February 29 with a Nobles County business of \$71,500. These funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Reporting is required twice per year.

Traditional RLF

<u>Funds Available:</u> Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$269,840.74. These funds are defederalized. The latest loan closed to a manufacturing business in Cottonwood County for \$150,000 that employs 28 hourly and 1 salaried staff. One application is being prepared for a business in Pipestone County.

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/.

Lenders Forum

SRDC was part of a Non-Traditional Lenders Forum in Worthington on February 29. Other members on the panel were MN Business Finance Corporation (AKA Prairieland), Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF). SRDC RLF and PACE were included in the presentation.

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RΙ	<i> </i>	continued

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 \$125,000 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 February 7 and approved one partial mortgage release. After the latest loan closing, approximately \$25,000 is available for lending. FDC next meets on May 1.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

<u>General Information:</u> 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. <u>Funds Available:</u> Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of PACE ARRA \$145,147.76 and PACE SEP \$137,481.40. Two applications are being prepared for committee consideration.

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. DOC has recently indicated a delay.

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.

Referrals to PACE: Referrals have increased recently due to REAP referrals to CERTs and outreach conducted in conjunction with MDA Good Food Access Program.

PACE Loan Board Energy Lending Training in Region 5: Via contract, SRDC conducted a training for Region 5 staff and committee members as they roll out PACE in their region. The training was on 1/31. Staff have prepared a taped version per their request for future use.

Upcoming Presentation: SRDC will be the presenter in St. James at their EDA Lunch and Learn on March 21. Contact staff if you have other groups in the region that would be appropriate.

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. An updated brochure will be made available at the meeting as part of the project spotlight.

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



March 2024

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

ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The RMEB met on January 22, 2024. Members voted to become members of Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MMRA) to advocate for waste-to-energy facilities. The presenters were representatives from NextEra. They provided updates on current and upcoming projects, led a discussion about how developers can best work with communities, and answered questions. On June 3rd they will be touring the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN. The tentative agenda is as follows:

1 pm Arrive at the WCROC. Introductions and a short presentation on their research

1:30 Tour admin building - ground source heat pumps, agrivoltaics, and EV charging

2:00 Tour solar robotic projects and mobile solar power stations

2:45 Tour green hydrogen/ammonia plant and wind turbine

3:45 Wrap up/final questions

4:00 pm Depart

The next meeting will be on March 25, 2024, at 1 P.M.



Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs):

<u>Seed Grants:</u> 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.

RSDP Idea Briefs

RSDP has been convening meetings in their four focus areas, to discuss the submitted idea briefs. Most of the idea briefs submitted this year have been from the West Central region. The projects that are being voted on to submit full proposals are: Morris model – Battery storage research, MMDC – Energy Resource Guides, MnTAP – Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction for Grocers, Rauenhorst Farm Agrivoltaics.



Idea brief proposals are for projects that can improve sustainability in communities, by addressing a community-identified need or opportunity related to one or more of RS-DP's focus areas: sustainable

agriculture and food systems, clean energy, natural resources, and resilient communities. It should expand community collaborations and support environmental, social, and economic sustainability for public purpose or benefit. Priority is for projects that are from, led by, or that include meaningful participation of historically underrepresented communities. Ideas can be submitted directly on the RSDP website.



RSDP Empowering Small MN Communities (ESMC)

The ESMC program had several applications from Southwest MN communities. Comfrey, Edgerton, Tyler, and Lamberton were among them. More to come on the actual projects in future updates.

The Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) program is a community-centered collaboration with the University of Minnesota to support small communities in becoming well-positioned to benefit from federal, state, and local investments. Several University of Minnesota partners will work directly with participating communities to creatively leverage community assets and ideas and strengthen projects and plans for resilient physical, social, and economic infrastructure. This partnership will lay the groundwork for competitive proposals that could be eligible for a variety of funding opportunities. Communities with a population of under 15000 are eligible, with prioritized communities of 5000 or under.





City of Hills, Strategic Plan: Planner Webb and Planner Murphy are currently working on the Hills Strategic Plan. So far, over 115 responses have been submitted through the Community Survey. SRDC held a Community Engagement Meeting on Tuesday, February 20th at the Legion Hall in Hills. At the Hills City Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 12, Planners Webb & Murphy will provide an update on the progress made and the final Strategic Plan is expected to be developed in March/April and presented to the Hills City Council in May. The Strategic Plan is focused on three primary categories: Housing, Land Use/Zoning Ordinance, and City Parks.

CERT Steering Committee Updates

The first steering committee meeting of 2024 took place on February 15. The committee discussed updates and various outreach opportunities, as well as the structure of future meetings. The committee will also be looking to add to its membership this year, and over the next few years replacing many of the current members who have been on for many years, to give others an opportunity to be a part of the committee.

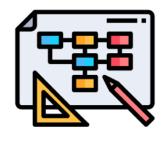
Southwest CERT Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Ambassador Networking Event

The SW region is planning an IRA ambassador networking event, which will take place on April 3rd, from 2-4:30pm, in Worthington. The event will bring together our steering committee, some current and former Seed grant awardees, and some community-based organizations and nonprofits who are doing work in the renewable energy and energy efficiency realm. It will consist of a short presentation, a workshop and small group discussion, and a networking hour, to get people acquainted with the IRA and current updates and get them thinking about how they can serve their communities with this knowledge.

World Mart – Work on completing the battery and modular solar panel installations is still under way. The plan is to install the battery system the first or second week of March. In order to give plenty of time to monitor and assess how the battery system is functioning, the mounting of the solar panels will not happen before the original project deadline in June. The team will need time to monitor the system and do adequate research on appropriate panels before a decision can be made on the type of solar panels that need to be installed. This will also give the students involved in the project an opportunity for educational research and will give the team valuable information to share with other food truck vendors.

Land Use, Planning & Zoning

Murray County, 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Update: Planner Webb and Planner Murphy are beginning work on the 5-year update to the Murray County Comp Plan. They have already met with County Staff and scheduled the first 2 meetings. The March 25 meeting will focus on the comp plan's goals section



and the April 22 meeting will focus on the data sources, trends and changes since the plan was written in 2016.

Lyon County, Comprehensive Plan: Planner Webb has met with Lyon County Staff and begun preparations for completing an update on the Lyon County Comprehensive Plan. Planner Murphy and Communications Specialist Crowley will also work on this plan. The kick-off meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11.

SWHHS Strategic Plan: Staff conducted interviews with all the non-supervisory Public Health staff in February and March. SRDC will host at least three strategic planning sessions with the first one in March, the second in April, and the 3rd in May with later meetings focused on reviewing draft documents and then implementation of the final document.

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, April 17 in Springfield.

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission: The Southwest Solid Waste Commission held its regular meeting on January 22, 2024. In addition to county reports, conversation continued among the Commission about the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) proposed rulemaking on demolition landfills. The Commission voted in favor of submitting a written request to extend the existing Solid Waste Plan by two years until the MPCA defines and implements the new rules. A committee of SW Administrators and SRDC Executive Director Trusty will make the extension request to the MPCA in writing.

The 2024 SW Solid Waste Commission Election of Officers was held. The Commission voted in favor of keeping the same individuals in office.

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission is scheduled to meet again on March 25, 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 decreases individual county costs, 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 Solid Waste Administrators met on January 19, 2024. SRDC Executive Director Trusty reviewed the current plan and facilitated a discussion that outlined the information each County Solid Waste Administrator will need to provide to write the plan. Despite the impending request to the MPCA to extend our current plan by two years, work will continue on writing the new plan. A draft plan is due to the MPCA by June 1, 2024.



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.

It is anticipated that the application process for the first round of Business Builder Sub-Award grants will open in March 2024 with grant awards to be made in April 2024. SRDC is currently working with small grocery stores and meat lockers to apply for the MN Dept of Agriculture's Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Equipment Grant.

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TRANSPORTATION REPORT

March 2024



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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC is scheduled to meet on Thursday, March 14 at 2 PM before the Full Commission meeting at 3:30 pm. This meeting will cover the draft of the FY2025 Transportation Work Plan, Corridor Coalition Updates, and updates from MnDOT District 7 & 8 planning staff.

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

The ATP-8 Transportation Alternative Scoring Subcommittee met on Friday, February 9 in Olivia. The subcommittee will bring their funding recommendations to the full ATP-8 in March. 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 Program (CRP):

ATP-8 is receiving \$1.49 million in fiscal year 2025 – 2026 through the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). \$740,000 is available for FY 2025, and \$750,000 for 2026 (both with a 20% minimum match). Projects must reduce emissions from on-road sources. Any road jurisdiction qualifies. Examples include public transit, vehicle electrification



(fleets, charging stations), TA-eligible projects, energy efficient lighting conversion, and reducing construction-related freight impacts. See the attached CRP handout for more information.

ATP-8 is soliciting for projects in fiscal year 2025 & 2026 via email. As this is a federal grant, any interested small communities that are not state aid cities will have county sponsorship. If you have any federally eligible elements in a project already in your 5-year plans that meet the CRP requirements, please complete, and submit the attached application form by March 15, 2024, by 12:00 PM. The ATP Subcommittee (a subcommittee of the ATP and its members) will meet late March to review and prioritize CRP project submittals based on their carbon reduction potential and deliverability. A recommendation will be made to the ATP to include projects in the ATIP at the April 5th ATP meeting.

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 virtually on Thursday, February 29.

Future Meeting Dates:

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 Design Assistance Grant

City of Tracy was awarded the MnDOT 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. Additional details are available in the solicitation guide.

How does this program work?

Selected applicants will receive consultant services to develop a design report. This report will identify up to four community locations where students walk or bike to school. Consultants will assist recipients in the spring/summer and fall to identify areas and determine potential improvements for each site.

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.

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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.

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.

City of Marshall was awarded \$325,680 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete rehab of 3 city blocks of trail that runs adjacent to County Club Drive. The project will also improve drainage in the area. This project is scheduled for completion in 2028.

City of Marshall was awarded \$361,039 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete a bridge replacement and rehab of 4 city blocks of trail that runs in Justice Park. This project will replace the oldest pedestrian bridge in town and improve ADA accessibility for all city trail users traversing over the Redwood River to enter Justice Park and the Camden Regional Trail that runs next to the park. This project is scheduled for completion in 2028.

REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING

The next stakeholder meeting will be held at the SRDC Board Room on Wednesday, March 20 at 1 pm to discuss the latest updates and share the next steps that the plan is taking.

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	
Comple Scor	ete Trail ing							
Focus G	roups & Inte	erviews						
			Interc	epts & Eco Surveys	nomic			
				Trail Co	unters			
						Econ Anal		
								Final Report Due

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail: The Friends of Casey Jones will meet Thursday, March 14 - 11:30 a.m. in the SRDC board room.

The Friends have requested a \$1.32 million bonding bill for the development of the Casey Jones State Trail. The group extended their gratitude to Senators Weber and Dahms, as well as Representative Schomacker for authoring bills in the House and Senate. The Friends are exploring land acquisition funding through DNR and will be engaging with landowners between Woodstock and Lake Wilson to determine a suitable route and purchase the required land. The final 2 miles into Woodstock will be paved, and there is a request for bids out for this purpose. If there is any remaining money, a trailhead and small parking lot will also be developed. The construction work is expected to commence this summer. Additionally, the reconstruction of Currie Loop segments is slated to commence in 2024.



COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

March 2024









have opened the email.

Quarterly Newsletter

The SRDC has recently released its quarterly newsletter. The newsletter covers various projects and events that took place over the last three months. The stories published in the newsletter are linked to our website to attract more visitors. At present, we have over 50 people on our email list who receive the newsletter. To keep track of the engagement rate, I have set up email tracking in Outlook to determine how many people

SRDC website: Various stories, activities, and projects have been taking place, and we have been posting information about them on our Facebook page. This information is also displayed on our website. We have posted meeting dates and spotlight stories as well. Our goal is to keep the website fresh with new stories, information, and photos. Over the previous 30 days, our sessions have increased by 62%, generating 1,454 pageviews, which is a 47% increase. Visitor stats show that 95% of the visitors were new, with only 5% returning. The site currently has a total of 848 users, out of which 805 are new users. The most visited pages include the LaCanne Family Celebration of Life page with 385 views, the SRDC opening page with 283 views, the Sarah Paws

Spotlight page with 105 views, and the staff page with 98 views.

SRDC Facebook: We aim to keep our Facebook visitors informed by sharing useful items with them. We also generate posts about the various activities and events that our staff participates in to demonstrate our engagement in the communities we serve. Our Facebook page has 463 followers, and our posts reach 1,301 people. This month, we have gained four new followers. The post highlighting the Hills engagement night reached 163 people. Our audience is 72% women and 28% men. Therefore, I want to once again emphasize the importance of sharing SRDC's posts.

RLF: Planner Weis and I have had discussions about my plan to spend some time visiting some of her RLF clients, taking photos, and highlighting them over the next few months. Additionally, I am currently working on a social media audit to provide them with insights into their social media presence.

RLF and PACE: Planner Weis recently spoke at the Small Business Lending Forum in Worthington. In preparation for the event, it was decided that the RLF and PACE programs' brochures needed a fresh look. As a result, new brochures were created and will be available for distribution at the March 14th meeting. These brochures will serve as a reminder to lenders throughout the region of the services provided by the SRDC.

Hills Engagement Night: I was invited to help with the Hills Engagement Night by taking pictures of the people and moments of the event. The photos will be useful for Planner Webb to prepare his presentation to the city council, showcasing the outcome of the night and the surveys collected.





EXECUTIVE REPORT

March 2024



We have yet to hear back officially on the letter from the Solid Waste Commission to MPCA asking for an extension of the current plan. Unofficially, the Solid Waste Administrators have heard back from MPCA that the request is (or will be) denied. After talking with Dustin from Lincoln County, (the SWA Chair) we have sent out the first request for data to the SWAs for the plan.

The MADO all-staff retreat is scheduled to occur this fall. We are looking at the possibility of hiring out most of the planning work. A former staff person of Region 9 is doing event planning and has given us a proposal that looks like it will provide us with what we need organizationally. The Executive Directors have already put together a list of training needs for our staffs, and so would be able to give direction for the retreat pretty easily.

We continue to meet with the folks from the Great Plains Institute and the other RDOs to talk about Climate and Energy issues. There is a lot of funding surrounding these issues and we are all trying to coordinate our efforts to bring some of these resources to the rural areas that we serve.

The Department of Commerce held a virtual meeting on grant funding available for Solar on Public Buildings. There is approximately \$4.3M available to help construct solar on public facilities. The one sticking point for availability is that the facilities must be located in Xcel service territory.

We are partnering with Regions 9, 6E, 6W and 4 on a regional grant application to be an intermediary lender for federal dollars to also do solar on public buildings. The Region Nine Development Commission is leading a coalition in partnership with 4 other regional development organizations for EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program (CPRG). The CPRG program offers 4.3 billion dollars to stimulate transformation toward a decarbonized economy and demonstrate approaches that are replicable to unlock opportunities for even greater emissions reductions. Our proposal will address this program's goals through the implementation of solar on public facilities of various scales.

I attended a breakfast meeting with Dawn Hegland from Upper Minnesota, Eric Day from MMDC and Scott Marquardt from SWIF. We had met a few times a year with Scott's predecessors, and we all felt it was time to start meeting again to discuss what was going on in the regions. Daycare continues to be a hot topic and there was much discussion as to how to take advantage of federal funding opportunities.

I submitted letters of support for two transportation projects seeking funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, the Buffalo Ridge Rail Authority project and a project with MNDOT and the City of Worthington. I also provided a letter of commitment to Commissioner Bendix and the Private Industry Council in support of their Clean Economy Equitable Workforce proposal to develop tailored curriculum and culturally responsive instructional strategies for targeted populations to complete a training-related certificate, credential, diploma, or degree and be employed with higher wages in high-growth, high-demand occupations in construction, clean energy, and energy efficiency industries.



At the suggestion of Commissioner Moua-Leske I attended the "It Begins with Us" conference at SMSU. This is the rebranded "Cultures on the Prairie" event. There was a lot of good information at the event and some fabulous presentations. It has got me rethinking how we want to approach the minority representative on the Commission position and how we can make it more effective and consequential.



As a follow-up with the new Tyler City Administrator, I met with Anne Dybsetter from Southwest RSDP to talk about those communities in the region that may be interested in applying for assistance from the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) program at RSDP. Tyler is interested in pursuing design assistance for a park at the site of the new City Hall. Other communities that have expressed an interest are Lamberton, Edgerton, Comfrey, Lynd, and Currie.



The quarterly MADO Executive Directors meeting was held on February 28-29 at Jackpot Junction. We met with AMC staff Jill Suurmeyer and Executive Director Julie Ring about the Commerce Program and possible McKnight funding. They also asked to stick around for the tour of the new Hempcrete production facility and the Cultural Incubator at the Lower Sioux. Kathy Draeger from the UofM also attended via Zoom to discuss the aforementioned ESMC program.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET AND WORK PLAN PROCESS

<u>2024</u>

February-March SRDC Standing Committees discuss work program and budget requests for FY2025. Week of April 1st SRDC Budget and Personnel Committee meets to discuss the SRDC FY2025 Budget and Work Program. The Preliminary Indirect Cost Plan is finalized utilizing Budget & Personnel recommendations. April 11 If needed, SRDC Budget & Personnel Committee meets prior to the Board meeting to finalize the budget and work program for FY2025. SRDC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program and Budget are presented to the April 11 Board SRDC Board of Directors for approval and referral to the Public Hearing. May 9 Public Hearing on SRDC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program and Budget May 9 SRDC Fiscal Year 2025 Work Program and Budget that incorporates any comments received during the Public Hearing is presented to the Full Commission for approval.



2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172 www.swrdc.org