



December **BOARD MEETING**

DECEMBER

12

AT 3:30 PM

SRDC BOARD ROOM
SLAYTON, MN





Southwest Regional Development Commission

Commissioner

Rick Anderson
Bob Byrnes
Miron Carney
Keith Elbers
Donna Gravley
Eric Hartman
Chris Hollingsworth
Dennis Klingbile
Paul Langseth
Mark Haberman
Bob Van Hee
Rick VonHoldt
Dennis Welgraven

Representing

Lyon County SRDC Treasurer
City of Marshall
Murray County, Immediate Past Chair
Rock County, SRDC Secretary
Cottonwood County
Region 8 School Boards
Pipestone County
Lincoln County
Nobles County, SRDC Chair
Jackson County,
Redwood County
City of Worthington
Murray County, SRDC Vice-Chair

SRDC Full Commission Membership

- One (1) County member from each of the nine counties.
- One (1) Township member from each of the nine counties.
- One (1) Mayor/Council member from each municipality over 10,000 in population.
- One (1) Mayor/council member for each of the nine counties representing cities under 10,000.
- Two (2) School Board members.
- One (1) Lower Sioux Indian Community member.
- Five (5) Public Interest Groups

SRDC Board of Director Membership

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





Thursday, December 12, 2024
3:30 pm

2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN 56172

AGENDA

#	Time		Page
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	Consent Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October Receipts & Expenditures • A.C.E. Contract • CERTs amendment • Friends of Casey Jones Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	5-9 10-13 14-16 17-18
5	3:40	Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Anderson & Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Report through October 2024 Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report	19 20
6	3:45	Budget & Personnel Committee Report - <i>Treasurer Anderson & Finance Director Nelson</i> Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations	
7	4:00	Audit Committee Report - <i>Finance Director Nelson & Board Chair Langseth</i>	
8	4:10	Legislative Report – <i>Chair Miron Carney / Executive Director Trusty</i>	
9	4:20	Deep Dive: Marketing – <i>Communications Specialist Sheila Crowley</i>	
10	4:35	Executive Director's Report — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	21
11	4:50	Chairman's Report — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	
12		Commissioners Recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Elbers, Rock County Municipalities - 9 years 	
13	4:53	Unfinished Business	
14	4:53	New Business	
15	4:53	Other Issues	

		<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SRDC Office is closing at noon on Dec. 24 and will be closed all day December 25 in observation of the Christmas Holiday• SRDC Office will be closed on January 1, 2025 in observance of New Year's Day• SRDC full commission meeting Thurs., Jan. 9th at 4-H building located at the Murray County Fairgrounds• Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, Pipestone County Township, Lower Sioux, and Cultural Diversity	
16	4:55	<p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>***Written Planner Reports are located on pages 22 through 31 of the meeting packet. For questions or additional information regarding report information, please contact staff.***</i></p>	



Southwest Regional Development Commission
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
 From 10/1/2024 Through 10/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
CD101424 S...	007	10/14/2024		MN Sales Tax Q3	248.00	10/14/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,990.61	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	2,058.23	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	581.89	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,912.71	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,456.48	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	9.15	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,867.05	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,690.10	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,704.27	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	60.42	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	54.91	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	3,218.35	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	2,598.98	10/3/2024
PRS100324	10032...	10/3/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 10/3/2024	1,771.73	10/3/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,977.21	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	2,303.43	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	504.23	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,672.71	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,447.31	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	18.32	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,867.05	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,674.10	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,680.50	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	65.90	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	10.99	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	3,241.85	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	2,820.08	10/17/2024
PRS101724	10172...	10/17/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 10/17/2024	1,807.57	10/17/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 10/10/24 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 10/10/24 Meeting	80.40	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Mark A. Haberman	Mark Haberman 10/10/24 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Mark A. Haberman	Mark Haberman 10/10/24 Meeting	43.55	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 10/10/24 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 10/10/24 Meeting	48.24	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 10/10/24 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 10/10/24 Meeting	30.82	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 10/10/24 Meeting	100.00	10/23/2024

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 10/1/2024 Through 10/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 10/10/24 Meeting	84.42	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 10/10/24 Meeting	100.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 10/10/24 Meeting	135.34	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 10/10/24 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 10/10/24 Meeting	107.20	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Stephen P. Schnieder	Stephen Schnieder 10/11/20 Meeting	50.00	10/23/2024
APS102324 ...	10232...	10/23/2024	Stephen P. Schnieder	Stephen Schnieder 10/11/20 Meeting	143.38	10/23/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	2,125.33	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	2,512.21	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	411.11	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	33.77	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,656.55	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	21.00	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,656.79	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	5.21	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,964.84	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,774.88	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,607.28	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	181.22	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	38.45	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	3,615.09	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	2,598.98	10/31/2024
PRS103124	10312...	10/31/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 10/31/2024	1,714.69	10/31/2024
APS101024	60820	10/10/2024	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Sept 2024	80.28	10/10/2024
APS101024	60821	10/10/2024	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 8/22/24 to 9/23/24	24.41	10/10/2024
APS101024	60821	10/10/2024	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 8/22/24 to 9/23/24	26.45	10/10/2024
APS101024	60822	10/10/2024	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	63.05	10/10/2024
APS101024	60822	10/10/2024	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	12.60	10/10/2024
APS101024	60823	10/10/2024	Doug's Lawn & Landscaping S...	Doug's Late Fall 2024 Fertilizer	63.82	10/10/2024
APS101024	60823	10/10/2024	Doug's Lawn & Landscaping S...	Doug's Late Fall 2024 Fertilizer	95.74	10/10/2024
APS101024	60824	10/10/2024	Eclectic Bison Productions, LLC	MADO: 1 hr Improve Show 10/3/24	2,698.00	10/10/2024
APS101024	60825	10/10/2024	Grants Management Systems ...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	100.00	10/10/2024
APS101024	60825	10/10/2024	Grants Management Systems ...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	40.00	10/10/2024
APS101024	60826	10/10/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 8/20/24 to 9/19/24	6.91	10/10/2024
APS101024	60826	10/10/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 8/20/24 to 9/19/24	10.36	10/10/2024
APS101024	60827	10/10/2024	One Office Solution	Meter reading, copy paper	266.13	10/10/2024
APS101024	60828	10/10/2024	The Park Event Center	2024 MADO All Staff Retreat	20,355.48	10/10/2024
APS101024	60829	10/10/2024	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 10/2/24 to 10/31/24	30.51	10/10/2024

Southwest Regional Development Commission

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From 10/1/2024 Through 10/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS101024	60829	10/10/2024	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 10/2/24 to 10/31/24	45.76	10/10/2024
APS101024	60830	10/10/2024	Slayton EDA	EDA lease Oct 2024	4,848.63	10/10/2024
APS101024	60831	10/10/2024	TCM Bank NA	Visa Card closing date 10/1/24	2,624.44	10/10/2024
APS101024	60831	10/10/2024	TCM Bank NA	Visa Card closing date 10/1/24	100.00	10/10/2024
APS101024	60831	10/10/2024	TCM Bank NA	Visa Card closing date 10/1/24	10.00	10/10/2024
APS101024	60832	10/10/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Update Veeam to 12.2.0.334, update vCenter	187.50	10/10/2024
APS101024	60832	10/10/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Update Veeam to 12.2.0.334, update vCenter	187.50	10/10/2024
APS101024	60833	10/10/2024	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 9/2/24 to 10/1/24	41.06	10/10/2024
APS101024	60834	10/10/2024	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 9/03/24 - 10/2/24	244.69	10/10/2024
APS101024	60834	10/10/2024	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 9/03/24 - 10/2/24	367.03	10/10/2024
APS101724	60835	10/17/2024	Fleet Services Division	Monthly Lease rent 9/1/24 to 9/31/24	151.23	10/17/2024
APS101724	60836	10/17/2024	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 10/10/24 to 11/09/24	480.29	10/17/2024
APS101724	60836	10/17/2024	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 10/10/24 to 11/09/24	891.96	10/17/2024
APS101724	60837	10/17/2024	GMNP - Greater MN Partnership	GMNP 2025 Membership	1,000.00	10/17/2024
APS101724	60838	10/17/2024	Murray County Auditor/Treasu...	Opdahl Solar Project: PACE ARRA loan fees; mort registry	171.24	10/17/2024
APS101724	60839	10/17/2024	Murray County Recorder	Opdahl Solar Project: PACE ARRA loan fees; mortg recording	46.00	10/17/2024
APS101724	60840	10/17/2024	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS Nov 2024	48.00	10/17/2024
APS101724	60841	10/17/2024	Quill Corporation	Bath tissue	29.72	10/17/2024
APS101724	60841	10/17/2024	Quill Corporation	Bath tissue	44.58	10/17/2024
APS101724	60842	10/17/2024	Solar FX	PACE ARRA loan disbursement: Opdahl Solar Project	37,225.00	10/17/2024
APS101724	60843	10/17/2024	SRDC	Explore SW Sept 2024	40.00	10/17/2024
APS101724	60844	10/17/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Work with Kim to resolve MFA issues	62.50	10/17/2024
APS103024	60845	10/30/2024	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 11/26/24 to 12/25/24	813.76	10/30/2024
APS103024	60846	10/30/2024	AFLAC	Aflac Oct 2024	675.36	10/30/2024
APS103024	60847	10/30/2024	B&H Petroleum Equipment Co.	FDC Loan Disb: Heron Lake Mini Mart	1,615.34	10/30/2024
APS103024	60848	10/30/2024	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 10/24/24 to 11/23/24	61.19	10/30/2024
APS103024	60848	10/30/2024	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 10/24/24 to 11/23/24	62.64	10/30/2024
APS103024	60849	10/30/2024	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Oct 2024	328.00	10/30/2024
APS103024	60849	10/30/2024	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Oct 2024	472.00	10/30/2024
APS103024	60850	10/30/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 9/19/24 to 10/21/24	18.10	10/30/2024
APS103024	60850	10/30/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 9/19/24 to 10/21/24	27.14	10/30/2024
APS103024	60851	10/30/2024	One Office Solution	Copy paper	260.00	10/30/2024
APS103024	60852	10/30/2024	SRDC	Falcon Expenses - Jul-Sept 2024	938.98	10/30/2024
CD101524 W...	7	10/25/2024		Sept 2024 Wex Fees	22.00	10/25/2024
CD101424 B...	BCBS11	10/21/2024		BCBS Nov 2024	10,610.68	10/21/2024

Southwest Regional Development Commission
Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
From 10/1/2024 Through 10/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
Report Total					154,030.94	

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CONTRACT WITH
A.C.E. OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
FOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES**

THIS CONTRACT for technical services is entered into this 1ST day of January 2025, by and between the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), and A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota (A.C.E.).

WITNESSED; In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, the SRDC and A.C.E. agree to the following terms and conditions:

The Term of this agreement commences January 1, 2025, and shall continue through December 31, 2025. The following work activities will be provided:

I. **Financial Services** will be provided to A.C.E. as per the attached work activity list including A.C.E. responsibilities. Reports will be provided showing the hours worked by individual staff members included in the monthly report billed. Financial Services include staff member's salaries, leave and fringe and administrative support for use of supplies, computer and other items necessary to work completion. A budget of \$22,000 is included here for financial services. (Exhibit A)

II. **Support Services** will be provided to A.C.E. as per the attached work activity list. Reports will be provided showing the hours worked by individual staff members included in the monthly report billed. Support Services include staff member's salaries, leave and fringe and administrative support for use of supplies, computer and other items necessary to work completion. A budget of \$36,000 is included here for support services. (Exhibit B)

III. **Payment for Services**

- A. A.C.E. will make payment to the SRDC. Statements will be billed monthly.
- B. A.C.E. will be billed for costs incurred by the SRDC to perform services listed on the attached exhibits.

IV. **Hold Harmless**

A.C.E. agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the SRDC against any legal actions brought by any personal entity whatsoever arising out of or claimed to be arising out of the performance of either party under this agreement for services.

A.C.E. agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the SRDC against any action legal and/or administrative for any A.C.E./RSVP performance prior to December 31, 2006.

V. Cancellation

This agreement may be cancelled by A.C.E. or SRDC at any time, with cause, upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. In the event of such a cancellation, SRDC shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro-rata basis, for work or services satisfactorily performed.

VI. Assignment

SRDC shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this agreement without prior written consent of A.C.E.

VII. Staffing

The SRDC reserves the right to utilize the most appropriate personnel and/or time availability of staff members to perform the stated activities.

VIII. Amendments

Any amendments to this agreement shall be in writing and shall be executed by the same parties who executed the original agreement or their successors in office.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chairperson

Executive Director

Date _____

A.C.E. OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA

Dean Miller
Chairperson

David Forbrud
Board Member

Date 11 - 20 - 21

EXHIBIT A

Financial Services Work Activity list

- Maintain an accounting system using Quickbooks for A.C.E. activities on a Calendar Year basis. All revenues and expenses will be included by separate project areas as set up to track activities of A.C.E. Payroll, taxes, payables and related activities will be completed.
- A separate checking account will be maintained with other accounts as deemed appropriate.
- Requests of funds will be completed as instructed by Joint Powers Board for county per capita fees and as requested by the A.C.E. Executive Director.
- Input journal entries for match, quarterly updates, grant or project yearend.
- Work with the A.C.E. Executive Director on general financial administration assistance and/or referrals to agencies that can address concerns of A.C.E. in relation to tax information, insurance, etc.
- Financial sections of any required grant/contract budgets, reports and updates will be prepared as needed. Grant analyses will be completed as deemed necessary.

A.C.E. Responsibilities

- Provide the SRDC with all approved expenditures and financial information necessary to properly account for A.C.E. project funds in a timely manner.
- Provide information to SRDC to request per capita fees and any other funds
- Provide completed timesheets, expense sheets and volunteer information as needed to properly record payments and categorize expenses or match requirements.
- Update Program Managers and oversee work activities, match and timelines for financial work completion.
- Provide match, primarily in-kind, documented, and project specific ready for journal entry input.
- A budget will be prepared with updates as necessary.
- Provide any necessary information in completing reports for contract/grant information for grantor organizations.
- Financial sections of any required grant/contract budgets, reports and updates will be prepared. Year-end closeout spreadsheets will be finalized to aid in closeout procedures of the financial records. The 990 will be completed.

EXHIBIT B

Support Services Work Activity list

Database Activities:

- 1.) Enter Station timesheets, new Volunteer sheets & new Stations information.
- 2.) Calculate, verify & approve Volunteer expense sheets to be processed.
- 3.) Keep Program Managers updated on Stations that report and do not report and any Volunteers listed who are not in the database.
- 4.) Update Volunteers & Stations in Volunteer Reporter Software.
- 5.) Setup appropriate welcome letters for new Volunteers & new Stations.
- 6.) Run-off Station sheets for Program Managers to take & deliver or send out.
- 7.) Track stations that need new MOU's.
- 8.) Retrieve information on Volunteer Reporter Software for monthly & quarterly reports.
- 9.) Keep SharePoint updated with current forms, updated time and expense sheets, etc.
- 10.) Input number served for each station into Volunteer Reporter database for grant reporting.
- 11.) Keep database updated with inactive volunteers and stations. Clean up database and station sheets as needed.

Support Activities:

- 1.) Log in-coming checks and copy for finance.
- 2.) Stamp checks when appropriate.
- 3.) Send out welcome letters, volunteer handbook, and volunteer insurance brochure to new volunteers and stations.
- 4.) Put stamps on mail and take to post office.
- 5.) Reconcile bank statements monthly.
- 6.) Help with grant writing and grant reporting as requested by Director.

Research Subaward Agreement Amendment

UMN CON # 107268

Pass-Through Entity (PTE)

Subrecipient

Regents of the University of Minnesota

Entity Name

Southwest Regional Development Commssion

Sponsored Projects Administration 200 Oak
Street SE, Suite 450
Minneapolis, MN 55455-2070, USAAddress
including City, State, Zip+4
(Country, if non-US)2401 Broadway ave.
Slayton, MN 56172

Melissa Birch

Principal Investigator

Jason Walker

PTE Prime Award No:

234147

Amendment No:

1

Prime Sponsor:

Minnesota Department of Commerce

Project Title: CERTS Core Funding FY2024-2025

Subaward Period of Performance:

Start Date: Aug 23, 2023

End Date: Sep 30, 2025

Amount Funded This Action:

\$ 19,500.00

Subaward No (PO#):

SUBA00000585-H011103802

Effective Date of Amendment:

Nov 9, 2024

Total Amount of Funds Obligated to Date:

\$ 152,820.00

Subject to FFATA:

☐ Yes☒ No**Amendment(s) to Original Terms and Conditions**

This Amendment revises the above-referenced Research Subaward Agreement as follows:

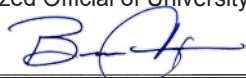
Action:

This amendment provides an additional \$19,500 in funding as shown in the attached budget. See attached budget and scope of work. Additionally, the subaward number has changed from H011103802 to SUBA00000585-H011103802.

Please note - All invoices shall now be submitted in electronic format to sub-inv@umn.edu.

Except as modified by this amendment, all other terms and conditions of this Subaward Agreement remain in full force and effect.

By an Authorized Official of University of Minnesota:



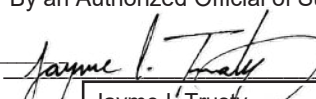
11/18/2024

Name: Brett Carlson

Date

Title: Sr. Grant & Contract Officer

By an Authorized Official of Subrecipient:



Nov 18, 2024

Name: Jayme I. Trusty

Date

Title: Executive Director

Southwest Regional Development Commission - CERTs Scope of Work FY2024-2025

A. The GRANTEE shall do all things necessary, including partnering with subcontractors, to complete the following tasks according to the following schedule:

	Task	Completion Date
1	<p>Participate in statewide activities so as to facilitate partner coordination. Activities to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Participate in monthly staff meetings. b. Assist with statewide projects and programmatic development efforts in alignment with the most recent strategic plan. c. Hire and manage Southwest Region staff. d. Maintain strong participation in Southwest Region's Steering Committee. e. Pursue and advance strategic alignment among CERTs partner organizations. f. Work collaboratively with the CERT Partners to pursue and leverage additional funding resources. Track and coordinate joint funding efforts among the CERTs partners. g. Submit monthly staff reports and programmatic reports to assist with data collection for both project and program evaluation. h. Collaborate with CERT partners to advance shared learning, training and action around justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts. 	08/31/2025
2	<p>Provide energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, storage and electrification resources (including around to vehicle electrification and Energy Conservation Optimization Act (ECO) enabled activities) to regional teams, key audiences, and communities, with an emphasis on underserved communities, and where possible aligned with Justice 40, with a particular focus in the Southwest Region, through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Document and disseminate approaches, models, tools, CARD grant results, case studies and stories that communities have and/or could utilize to identify and implement projects. These should include resources developed by SRDC, among others. b. Hold no fewer than two (2) educational events in the Southwest region. At least one meeting will be a workshop/site visit/tour. Southwest CERT regional meetings will be conducted through existing meeting hosts (i.e., Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB), SRDC, other). Evaluate the effectiveness of events and make recommendations for changes and improvements. c. Collaborate with CERTs partners around direct community engagement efforts such as around Farm Fest and other community-centered activities. d. Facilitate knowledge formation and project replication with other CERTs regions through convening, resource sharing, networking, and engagement, with a particular emphasis on funding and assistance program navigation for rural governmental units. e. SRDC will conduct additional outreach and assistance to communities in the Southwest region with an emphasis on large-scale renewable energy siting, and state, federal, and local grant funding opportunities. SRDC will connect communities to technical assistance through a state-wide network of technical services providers, including other regional development organizations. 	08/31/2025

	Task	Completion Date
3	<p>In coordination with relevant entities (including but not limited to utilities), provide technical assistance (including connection to federal, state, and local incentives, grants, and financing options) for community-based energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, energy storage, and beneficial electrification projects (including vehicle and thermal electrification) within the Southwest CERT region, to the following key audiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Governmental units (including but not limited to collaboration with GreenStep partners on clean energy related activities per GreenStep Memorandum of Understanding) b. Small businesses, agricultural producers, and nonprofit organizations c. Underserved communities d. Utilities 	08/31/2025
4	<p>Coordinate CERT seed grant process in the Southwest region through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop Southwest CERT seed grant priorities. b. Conduct outreach to potential applicants. c. Select projects. d. Check in with seed grant recipients and provide assistance as needed. e. Work with CERTs partners to publish the results of funded projects. 	08/31/2025
5	<p>Coordinate CERTs communications work through the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assist with story ideas and story development b. Lead Southwest CERT communications c. Keep CERT Communications Manager informed of Southwest CERT Communication needs and efforts d. Work with members of the media, traditional and nontraditional, to promote CERT programming, events, and information, in particular SW CERT focused efforts, in coordination with CERTs Communications Manager 	08/31/2025
6	<p>Conduct check-ins meetings with Univ of MN CERT staff, but no less that quarterly.</p> <p>SRDC Executive Director to participate in quarterly CERT Executive Director meetings.</p> <p>Submit monthly project invoices (including supporting documentation) and status reports (monthly reports).</p>	09/05/2023 - 08/05/2025

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CONTRACT WITH
FRIENDS OF THE CASEY JONES TRAIL ASSOCIATION
FOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES**

THIS CONTRACT for technical services is entered into this 1st day of January, 2025, by and between the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), and Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association (CLIENT).

WITNESSED; In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, the SRDC and CLIENT agree to the following terms and conditions:

The Term of this agreement commences January 1, 2025 and shall continue through December 31, 2025, unless the contract period is extended by mutual agreement between the parties of this contract.

I. Contract Agreement

A. The work program shall include:

1. SRDC will provide technical assistance upon the request of CLIENT regarding the implementation of communications, marketing, and/or outreach efforts as well as assistance with the research and pursuit of grant and funding opportunities, and strategic planning.
 - Technical assistance may be in the form of assistance of the development of communication strategies; coordinating outreach and communications, including the development of messages, graphics, or photography; development and/or maintenance of the CLIENT's website and/or social media channels; grant research and writing; assistance with event planning; or assistance with strategic planning efforts.
2. SRDC will be responsible to attend meetings for CLIENT as needed. CLIENT will continue to collaborate with SRDC to determine where technical assistance time is needed and communicate that need.
3. SRDC will coordinate projects with CLIENT and provide such information as is necessary to complete projects in a timely manner.

II. Financial Participation

- A. Professional services will be provided by SRDC at \$100 an hour for Communications Specialist services and Planner Services.
- B. Other charges directly reimbursable to SRDC by CLIENT include printing and mileage at SRDC's established rate of reimbursement. CLIENT will be billed by SRDC monthly. The invoice shall be submitted by mail to:
Maike Houser, Treasurer
Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association
PO Box 71
Slayton, MN 56172

- C. The total contract cost for the project attributed to CLIENT will not exceed \$3,500 including expenses.

III. Records and Documentation

- A. Accounting. SRDC shall be responsible for keeping records which disclose time spent on the project along with travel or printing costs.
- B. Reports. SRDC shall provide written monthly progress reports to CLIENT according to the schedule established.
- C. Hold Harmless. CLIENT agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the SRDC against any legal actions brought by any personal entity whatsoever arising out of or claimed to be arising out of the performance of either party under this agreement for services.

IV. Cancellation

This agreement may be cancelled by CLIENT or SRDC at any time, upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other party. In the event of such a cancellation, SRDC shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro-rata basis, for work or services satisfactorily performed.

V. Assignment

SRDC shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this agreement without prior written consent of CLIENT.

VI. Staffing

The SRDC reserves the right to utilize the most appropriate personnel and/or time availability of staff members to perform the stated activities.

VII. Amendments

Any amendments to this agreement shall be in writing and shall be executed by the same parties who executed the original agreement or their successors in office.

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**FRIENDS OF THE CASEY JONES
TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

Chairperson

Chairperson

Executive Director

Board Member

Date _____

Date _____

TREASURER'S REPORT
MONTH END November 30, 2024

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund

Bank	Amount	Due Date	APY Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	\$ 104,460.72	5/25/2025	5.07%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5272)	107,707.97	01/20/25	4.50%
Currie State Bank-Currie	117,821.98	09/02/25	4.33%
Currie State Bank-Currie	100,000.00	09/02/25	4.33%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5331) (will ck rates on 12-13)	104,194.63	12/13/24	5.15%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5332) (will ck rates on 12-13)	104,194.63	12/13/24	5.15%
Magic Fund - First National Bank	100,000.00	11/27/26	4.55%

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.

TOTAL INVESTMENTS	738,379.93
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ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts

		11/30/2024
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 2,965.00
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	563,050.27
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	2,335.54
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	85,325.99
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings	61,126.49
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	50,477.49
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS	\$	765,280.78

Approximate Designated Funds-Projects

Regional Cultural Diversity Coalition	\$ -
MN Rural Broadband Coalition	-
Assigned Funds	(11,296.85)
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Equipment	(91,318.26)
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Building	(243,151.09)
Committed to: Unemployment Claims	(53,013.00)
Committed to: Employee Retirement Transition	(10,973.00)
Compensated Absences Payable	(56,502.00)
TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ (466,254.20)

	11/30/2024	11/30/2023
Total Investments	\$ 738,379.93	\$ 622,236.88
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 765,280.78	\$ 634,202.94
Total Dedicated Funds	\$ (466,254.20)	\$ (466,254.20)
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW (\$ 1,037,406.51	\$ 790,185.62

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 53	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	379,978	
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	264,432	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	73,087	
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	85,379	
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off loans & admin)	15,606	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 818,534	

PACE Loan Funds 158,466



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Month End October 2024 Fiscal Year 2025

YTD Comparison % of Budget										33.33
	FY25 Budget	July - September	October	November	December	October - December	Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
Revenues										

Executive Director REPORT

Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities/ Greater Minnesota Partnership

Seems like we just had the last Commission Meeting and here it is time for the next Board report already. So far the month has been busy, and there are a lot of things scheduled for the beginning of December as well. I attended the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities/Greater Minnesota Partnership meeting in Alexandria on the 21st and 22nd. The southwest region was well represented with Luverne, Marshall, Slayton, Windom and Worthington being present. This included SRDC members Bob Byrnes, Jenny Quade, and Rick Vonholdt. There was much discussion as to how the election would impact the legislature and the 67-67 tie in the House. While LGA remains a priority for the Coalition, we also talked about the need to get a bonding bill done, ideally at the beginning of the upcoming session.

MADO EXECS

The MADO Executive Directors are meeting on December 5th and 6th in Hutchinson as it is Mid-Minnesota's turn to host. We are meeting with Sasha-Rose Phillips from the McKnight Foundation to discuss the funding from them and the development of a more formalized structure for MADO. We are meeting in the Southwest Initiative Foundation's offices so I imagine we will have some interaction with SWIF staff as well.

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Conference will take place in Bloomington the same week as the Board meeting. I'll once again be staffing the MADO booth, and Sheila has done an excellent job updating the displays for the vendor fair. On Tuesday late morning, after the vendor fair wraps up, Chris and Nadya will be presenting the Regional Trails Plan, and I plan to attend their session.

Regional Solid Waste

Work on the regional solid waste plan continues, with staff sending out the last request for information from the Solid Waste Administrators (SWAs) group. There continues to be some struggles with the Goal Volume Tables, (GVTs) as it turns out that previously MPCA staff filled out the forms for the counties so most of the SWAs have never done it. Lyon County Director Roger Schroeder has been instrumental in assisting the other staff on working on the GVTs and the budgets. As was pointed out by one of the SWAs, the next time the 10 year plan rolls around for an update, most of those who worked on this one will likely be retired. The Solid Waste Commission met on the 25th, once again there was much discussion on the potential changes to the demolition landfill rules but no concrete direction from MPCA. The Renville County Demo Landfill has been operating on an expired permit since 2009 and it is likely that it will never be issued a current permit before it is completely full in 2028 or 29. An interesting topic that has come up is the disposal of animal carcasses, particularly deer in the landfill. The DNR hunting brochure says to dispose of them in the landfill but the landfill permits issues by MPCA say that animal carcasses are not allowed in the landfills.

FY22 AUDIT

The FY22 Audit is complete and the Audit Committee met to approve it on December 2nd. We got a couple of small things for segregation of duties which are not surprising given the size of our staff. Melissa is doing a great job integrating the budget and audit which will make future audits much easier.

I will be taking a few days before Christmas to go out to see the kids.

Economic Development REPORT

DECEMBER
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>. Every five years, EDA requires an updated CEDS for the region. Our next CEDS is due on 12/31/2026. There are new reporting requirements which combine the annual CEDS report and the planning grant progress performance report.

Southwest MN Youth Committee

The committee meets quarterly to gather members who support career and technical education programs and to educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. The committee met on November 15. Staff participated in a business panel with Murray County CEO on 11/22/24.

SW Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC)

The group had their last meeting on June 27 and the date for their next meeting is yet to be determined. SRDC is responsible for representing economic development on the council. There was a roundtable discussion with Senator Tina Smith on October 2 in Marshall focusing on rural transit.

Friends in the Field:

The group last met on October 9th focusing on Education and Engagement for the new 2030 US Census. The group will next meet on January 8, 2025.

EDA Planning

EDA Investment Opportunities: Priorities can be found at Investment Priorities | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov). Priorities for economic development include Equity, Recovery and Resilience, Workforce Development, Manufacturing, Technology-Based Economic Development, Environmentally Sustainable Development, and Exports and Foreign Direct Investment. You can find EDA funding opportunities at All Funding Opportunities | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov). Currently, there are no funds for EDA disaster projects.

SRDC assisted the City of Adrian on their grant submission to EDA for an electric substation under the public works and economic adjustment assistance NOFO. The requested grant award was 50% of the project cost (\$3,258,900) or \$1,629,450. The grant was submitted 5/3/2024. SHPO compliance is complete. Grant notice received 9/30/2024. The EDA kick-off meeting was on 10/24/2024.

SRDC also assisted the City of Lamberton on submitting a PWEAA (Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance) application for water source improvement project. The requested grant award is 50% of their project cost (\$1,554,000) or \$777,000. The city of Lamberton qualifies under the distress criteria on Per Capita Income and Other: Current Disaster Declaration. Unfortunately, this application was not funded.

Staff met with the Ellsworth city council on 11/12/2024 to review the EDA disaster grant opportunities, amongst other programs. Staff then met with the Open to Progress committee in Luverne on 11/22/24 with several programs provided as possibilities.

NEW! EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant) Energy Planning for Small Communities

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program is a program designed to assist small communities (this includes cities or counties under 15,000 in population) in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions, and to improve energy efficiency. This funding, with no match requirement, applies to all cities in our region and the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Pipestone, and Rock. SRDC received \$99,959.78 of which 10% is allocated for project administration. Grants to eligible communities are maxed at \$20,000 with a focus on planning efforts. Planning efforts could include resiliency plans, energy audits, engineering studies, etc. If possible, there should be emphasis on disadvantaged communities.

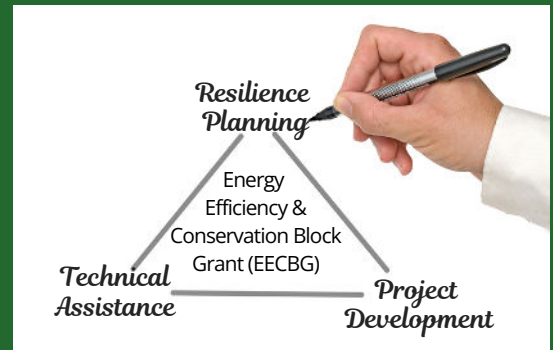
Outreach materials went out to cities and counties under 15,000 in population. The application is being finalized for distribution and discussion purposes. The CEDS committee will be reviewing EECBG applications as they come in. Several project ideas have been discussed with the MN Department of Commerce with decisions expected by month end.

Emergency Services

An application was submitted for \$67,500 to the Taylor Corporation for 50% of a newer pumper truck. This round was focused on emergency services. The city of Jeffers received \$30,000 towards their project.

Childcare

SRDC provided TA to WonderWorld, Minneota, and Lamberton on their grant submissions to DEED Childcare Economic Development program.



Exciting Funding Opportunity for Local Governments: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is pleased to share a grant opportunity for cities and counties in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties. The U.S. Department of Energy's EECBG program provides funding to support projects that:

- Improve energy efficiency
- Reduce fossil fuel emissions
- Enhance resilience

Why Partner with SRDC?

Our team offers:

- Resilience Planning: Preparing for and adapting to disruptive events
- Technical Assistance: Support for "shovel-ready" projects
- Project Development: Resources to maximize project impact

Grant Highlights:

- Funding Range: \$2,000 to \$20,000 (no match required)
- Eligible Projects: Energy efficiency, clean transportation, grid stability, green infrastructure, and more
- Who Can Apply: Cities and counties under 15,000 population, with a focus on disadvantaged communities
- Deadline: Rolling applications accepted through June 2026

**Let SRDC help you maximize this opportunity!
Contact us to discuss project ideas and get started.
Reach out today to explore the possibilities!**



Robin Weis | Deputy Director Southwest Regional Development Commission 507-836-1638
robin@swrdc.org | www.swrdc.org

Revolving Loan Fund DECEMBER 2024 **REPORT**

COVID-19 RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF

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 11/20/24.

Interest Rates: SRDC RLF has been financing projects using an interest rate of 75% of prime. This 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/>.

Funds Available for Lending

Funds Available: Funds on hand are the following; Traditional RLF of \$379,373.95 (as of 11-5-24) and CRLF of \$263,902.30 (as of 11-21-24). Recently there was an early payoff from a Lincoln County business. CRLF funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Reporting is required twice per year. A loan in the amount of \$100,000 closed for an auto repair and towing business in Nobles County on 11/26/24.

Delinquent Loan

On August 19, SRDC was notified as an interested party due to its role as a lender through the SRDC RLF (and Jackson County RLF), holding similar collateral (business and real estate) as the primary lender. SRDC's attorney responded to confirm the collateral positions. The business, which ceased operations in mid-July, is now up for sale.

Site Visits

Site visits are required every three years; however, they are done more often as the need arises. Annual business taxes are now being gathered for files. Site visits are combined with communication audits and interviews for storytelling. Success stories can now be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/rlf-business-spotlights/>.

Contracted RLFs

SRDC helps with business start-ups, retentions, expansions, and financing. Additionally, SRDC assists with three revolving loan fund programs within the region and are in communication with another as of recent.

Jackson County RLF: There are six active loans. Approximately \$160,000 is available for lending. One is in default and a summons letter was received August 19.

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.

Falcon Development Corporation (FDC): Information on FDC can be found online at <https://www.swrdc.org/revolving-loan-funds/>. FDC is a local organization that focuses on improving economic development within a 30-mile radius of Heron Lake. The funds provided by FDC are not federalized, which means that Davis Bacon is not applicable to construction projects. The interest rates for these funds can now go as low as 75% of the prime rate. The FDC Board has a maximum of 7 members. The committee currently has 5 members. The committee last met on November 14.

P.A.C.E.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY

REPORT

DECEMBER
2024

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 \$73,049.43 (as of 11-26-24) and PACE SEP \$85,335.37 (as of 10-31-24). These amounts do not account for the applications that were considered, approved, and not fully closed, nor the one application for \$100,000 that is approved but waiting for a USDA REAP grant determination. The latest loan was approved for a Nobles County business for an energy efficiency project up to \$91,500. The committee last met on November 1.

With limited funds available, staff have engaged in discussions with lenders about participation lending. On November 7, 2024, staff met with the Minnesota Department of Commerce and a leader in participation lending. A meeting with a lending institution is scheduled for December 3, 2024, to discuss further details.

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. These funds are now available.

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%.

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, MNTAP, CEE, EnergySmart, and USDA REAP.

PACE Success Stories

A few recent success stories can be found at <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-spotlight/>.

The PACE application that includes a checklist can be found at <https://www.swrdc.org/revolving-loan-funds/>

If you have questions about the PACE or energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at rob-in@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.



Energy saving measures are repaid on property tax assessment which eliminates burden of upfront costs providing low-cost, long-term financing



This Program is administered by the SRDC on behalf of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board.

COUNTIES SERVED

•Blue Earth •Brown •Cottonwood •Faribault •Freeborn •Jackson •Lincoln •Lyon •Martin
•Mower •Murray •Nicollet •Nobles •Pipestone •Redwood •Renville •Rock •Watsonwan

USDA Regional Food Business Center

The USDA Regional Food Business Center has a goal to promote economic opportunities within their respective regions and establish a more diverse and resilient food system. The North Central Food Business Center (NCFBC) was established to serve Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, with a grant of \$15 million over five years. The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) has been assigned to provide technical assistance in our area, with an annual compensation of \$60,000.

North Central

Regional Food Business Center:

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is committed to seeking ideas and suggestions from various groups and individuals. To foster growth and development in the next four years, the North Central RFBC (Regional Food Business Centers) Action Plan was created, and our work continues to support and strengthen businesses and projects to facilitate expansion and growth.

We recently supported one meat processor in our region to apply for the MDA Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing (MPEM) Grant. This program funds businesses by investing in equipment and physical improvement projects that support expanding production capacity, promotes safety, and market access for their products.

We are currently working to assist several businesses in Southwest Minnesota apply for the MDA Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant. This grant will assist grocery stores and small food retailers make physical improvements and purchase equipment to stimulate sales of affordable nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods.

SW MN Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has allocated \$250,000 to the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) to support its Southwest Minnesota Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative. This funding, provided through the MDA's Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant program, will assist small- to medium-sized meat and poultry processors in hiring, training, and retaining new employees.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) has teamed up with the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission and the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission to address workforce development needs. CareerForce services will be offered through the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council and Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services. Additionally, Ridgewater College and the University of Minnesota will help tackle challenges in the meat and poultry processing sector.

The SRDC is proud to participate in this initiative, which aims to invest in 30 individuals by addressing training gaps through both formal and on-the-job support. This program will also offer unique retention strategies and work to minimize employment barriers. Currently, three individuals are engaged in the on-the-job training option, and the first round of formal training is set to begin in the spring semester.



Community Development REPORT

DECEMBER
2024

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

WORLD MART

The final research report on solar panel types and set-up methods was completed by the engineering students at the University of Minnesota. SRDC Staff is currently helping RSDP staff with formulating a resource guide of the report, to share with other food truck vendors who may be interested in a similar project. The RSDP project staff will be looking to partner with another food truck to perform battery installation and look at solar panel installation options, as the World Mart food truck is no longer available for the project completion. RSDP staff are currently in conversation with some food trucks in Worthington.

PROMOTING ECONOMIC STABILITY AND GROWTH

The SRDC is here to help promote a stable and diverse economic base through business technical assistance and support



2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN
507-836-8547

PV-SUCCESS

The PhotoVoltaics Supporting Cultural and Community EcoSystem Services (PV-SUCCESS) project is a collaboration between CERTs, GPI (Great Plains Institute), and MTERA (Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association). PV-SUCCESS is a research project that will study ecosystem services provided by local landscapes. The goals are to understand how large-scale solar development affects them and to develop informational tools that communities can use for planning related to solar development. The project will focus on solar developments that are larger than 1 MW (about 10 acres).

Goals:

- Increase local understanding of large-scale solar and support community engagement on planning to increase benefits and mitigate risks of future projects.
- Contribute to research on the relationship between large-scale solar and ecosystem services, with the goal of increasing benefits to host communities.

CERTs will explore local perspectives on land uses and ecosystem services, experiences with and views on large-scale solar through interviews, surveys, and workshops in different communities with large scale solar projects.



SW RSDP



On November 21, Development Planner Nadya Bucklin attended the SW RSDP (Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships) Annual Meeting at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lambert. This was an opportunity for RSDP staff, board members, and work group members to get together to reflect on outcomes and challenges of the past year, build connections across the regions, gather feedback and ideas to enhance community engagement and support sustainable development, and refine focus area priorities for 2025. The agenda included updates from SW RSDP (Anne Dybsetter), an overview of programming at the Lambert Southwest Research and Outreach Center, updates from CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Teams) regional coordinators (Nadya Bucklin and Imani Mosher), and discussions within the four RSDP focus area work groups: Local Foods, Resilient Communities, Natural Resources, and Clean Energy. The RSDP clean energy work group is made up of the SW and West Central CERTs steering committee members.



LAND USE

Lyon County, Comprehensive Plan: The Lyon County Comp Plan Steering Committee held open houses in Balaton, Marshall, and Cottonwood during the last week of October. These meetings allowed local residents to give feedback at table activities on different subjects including Economic Development, Water Resources, County Wide Issues, and MnDOT projects.

Lyon County, Camden Regional Trail Master Plan: Planner Webb hosted 3 open houses in conjunction with Lyon County Staff. Two more open houses will be held in January 2025. The bulk of the writing of the Master Plan will occur in February and March.

Redwood River One Watershed, One Plan: Planner Webb is representing the SRDC on the Advisory Committee for the Redwood River One Watershed, One Plan.

SOLID WASTE COMMISSION

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission met on November 25, 2024. Billy Pollema from Zahn Tech joined the meeting to present about their business in Lennox, SD. Zahn Tech receives 10,000 tons of garbage (every grade of plastic, fiberglass, rubber, and metal) and transforms that waste into reusable, organic, construction grade products like fenceposts. The Solid Waste Administrator group has been discussing ways the counties can collaborate to transport plastics to Zahn Tech's site in Lennox, SD.

During the meeting, the attendees continued to discuss the upcoming construction and demolition rule changes proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2025.

Staff gathered at Bizzy Lizzy Flourless Bakery, White, SD on Nov 6th.

Lizzy and Sheila are a mother-daughter duo who created delicious products utilizing oatmeal and flax seed without a trace of wheat.

Learn more at www.bizzylizzybakery.com



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 arranges materials exchange for counties in the Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Commission.

Several issues and topics 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 policy-makers on the importance of sanitation services as a foundation for public health.

The Solid Waste Administrators (SWA) met on November 15, 2024. During this meeting, the group toured the Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority facility in Redwood County, with a particular focus on the new waste sorter. They are in the process of drafting a new 10-year Solid Waste Regional Plan. This plan will be submitted to the Southwest Solid Waste Commission for review at the meeting on January 27, 2025.



Transportation REPORT

DECEMBER
2024

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | ATPs
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SRTS

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

ATP 7 will hold its next meeting on Friday, January 10 at 10 AM in Mankato.

ATP 8 will hold its next meeting on Friday, December 6 at 10 AM in Willmar.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

National Summer Transportation Institute: Planner Webb has been working with staff at MN West to gauge interest in applying through MnDOT's Office of Civil Rights to host a NSTI summer camp in Worthington. MN West Staff and other local stakeholders will meet in early December to discuss further.

MnDOT State Rail Plan: Planner Webb is the RDO representative on the State Rail Plan Technical Advisory Committee. The State Rail Plan is a mode-specific plan that builds on the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and provides direction for the role Minnesota's freight and passenger railroads will play in achieving the overall vision. The goal is for the Final Draft of the State Rail Plan to be submitted in Spring, 2025. More information is available here: <https://talk.dot.state.mn.us/state-rail-plan>

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program (NEVI): Provides funds to states to build a convenient, affordable, reliable, and equitable fast charging network for EVs across the United States. This grant program provides up to 90% of the funding to purchase and install fast chargers. Private businesses within 1 mile from an interstate exit in Luverne, Worthington, or Jackson are eligible to apply. More information available here: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/nevi/>

Moving Greater Minnesota Forward Planning Grant: MNRAAA in Cottonwood County successfully applied for this planning grant through MnDOT. Their community-based committee will be working through a 10-week course with a MnDOT consultant to plan out how to increase transportation options for seniors traveling to and from medical appointments and other similar transportation needs. This is a Phase 1 Planning Grant. Phase 2 includes applying for funding to carry out plans created in Phase 1. More information at the link: <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/shared-mobility/moving-forward-phase1.html>



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

SRTS Planning Assistance Grants

Grants to schools and communities to develop comprehensive SRTS plans. Plans are completed by regional development organizations or a state-wide SRTS consultant.

Timeline:

Solicitation Opens: October 1, 2024;
Deadline: January 17, 2025;
Award Notification: March 2025;
Project Duration: July 2025 – June 30, 2026

SRTS Boost Grants

A grant to support 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.

Timeline:

Solicitation Opens: October 1, 2024;
Deadline: January 17, 2025;
Award Notification: March 2025;
Project Duration: July 2025 – June 30, 2026

SRTS & ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT AWARDS

Available statewide to communities to construct infrastructure that improves access and safety. Past grants have included sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, crosswalk improvements. No funding match required.



CARBON REDUCTION & PROTECT GRANT (Federal)

City of Luverne was awarded \$180,000 in Federal PROTECT Grant Funds to complete storm sewer system improvements at TH75 & Estey St.

The CRP provides Minnesota with approximately \$21 million annually over five years to fund projects that reduce carbon emissions from surface transportation. Program funding is distributed across the state, with some funds allocated proportionally based on population. MnDOT Districts, Metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and area transportation partnerships (ATPs) select projects to receive CRP funding.

Areas that receive funding use a consistent set of criteria and scoring techniques to support prioritization and selection of projects. While the primary intent of the CRP is to advance projects that reduce carbon from the surface transportation sector, the Minnesota CRS also advances goals of equity, safety, transportation access and public health.

Carbon Reduction Program	MnDOT – ATP7	MnDOT – ATP8
FY 2027 Funding Targets:	\$580,000	\$460,000
FY 2028 Funding Targets:	\$520,00	\$480,000

Board Recognition

Board Chairman,
Paul Langseth,
presented
Dennis Klingbile a
certificate recognizing
his 9 years of service on
the SRDC board at the
November
full commission
meeting

Reconition also goes to
Steve McClure for his 1
year of service



Board Chairman,
Paul Langseth,
presented
Steven Schnieder
a certificate recognizing
his 3.5 years of service
on the SRDC board at
the November
full commission
meeting



**CALENDAR YEAR 2025
BOARD & FULL COMMISSION
MEETING DATES & TIMES**

**Meeting locations are tentative. Confirmed meeting locations will be announced prior to all Board of Directors and Full Commission Meetings. Location details will be updated via meeting notices and on the SRDC website (www.swrdc.org).*

FULL COMMISSION

Thursday, January 9, 2025
Slayton (4-H Building – large room)

Thursday, March 13, 2025
3:30 p.m.
Slayton (Location TBD)

Thursday, May 8, 2025
3:30 p.m.
Rock County (Location TBD)

SRDC Annual Meeting
Thursday, July 10, 2025
4:00 p.m.
(Location TBD)

Thursday, September 11, 2025
3:30 p.m.
Redwood County (Location TBD)

Thursday, November 13, 2025
3:30 p.m.
Slayton (Location TBD)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, February 13, 2025
3:30 p.m.
SRDC Offices, Slayton

Thursday, April 10, 2025
3:30 p.m.
SRDC Offices, Slayton

Thursday, June 12, 2025
3:30 p.m.
SRDC Offices, Slayton

No August Meeting

Thursday, October 9, 2025
3:30 p.m.
SRDC Offices, Slayton

Thursday, December 11, 2025
3:30 p.m.
SRDC Offices, Slayton



**2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1
Slayton, MN 56172**

www.srdc.org