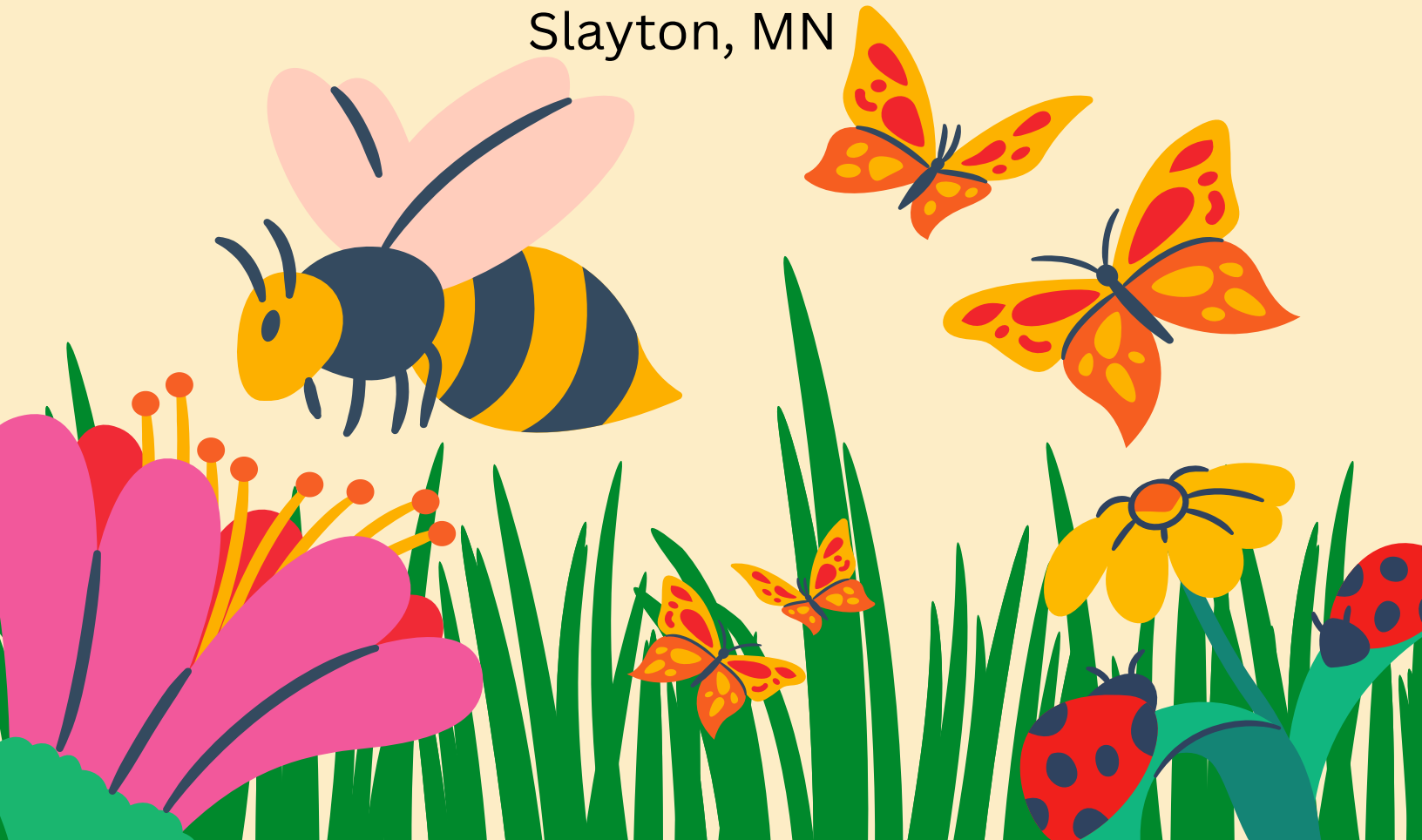




# April

## SRDC BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025  
3:30 p.m. ~ SRDC Board Room  
Slayton, MN





## Southwest Regional Development Commission

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### **Commissioner**

Rick Anderson  
JoEllen Benson  
Bob Byrnes  
Miron Carney  
Donna Gravley  
Mark Haberman  
Eric Hartman  
Chris Hollingsworth  
Paul Langseth  
Bob Van Hee  
Rick VonHoldt  
Mic VanDeVere  
Dennis Welgraven

### **Representing**

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

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#### **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, April 10, 2025  
3:30 pm

SRDC Board Room  
2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

## AGENDA

#	Time		Page
1	3:30	<b>Call to Order &amp; Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
2	3:31	<b>Introductions</b>	
3	3:37	<b>Consent Agenda Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• February Receipts &amp; Expenditures</li> <li>• MnDOT Contract and Resolution</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Consent Agenda Items</b>	3-6 7-16
4	3:40	<b>Finance Reports</b> — <i>Treasurer Anderson &amp; Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts &amp; investments</li> <li>• Administrative February 2025</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report</b> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report</b>	17 18
5	3:45	<b>Project Reviews</b> — <i>Community Development Director Walker</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Assessment – Coneflower Solar Project</li> </ul>	19-20
6	3:50	<b>Budget &amp; Personnel Committee Report</b> — <i>Committee Chair Anderson &amp; Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FY26 COLA</li> <li>• FY26 Budget</li> <li>• FY26 Work Program</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations</b>	
7	3:55	<b>Legislative Report</b> – <i>Chair Miron Carney</i>	
8	4:00	<b>Deep Dive: TAC</b> – <i>Transportation Planner Chris Webb</i>	
9	4:20	<b>Executive Director’s Report</b> — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	31-32
10	4:30	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	33
11	4:40	<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
12	4:45	<b>New Business</b>	
13	4:50	<b>Other Issues</b>	

14	4:50	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <p>SRDC vacancies exist from the following representation: Murray County and Pipestone County Townships along with a Minority Rep.</p> <p>SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025 at Hardwick Community Center</p> <p>The SRDC will be closed Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day</p> <p>SRDC Board Meeting: Thursday, June 12, 2025</p> <p>The SRDC will be closed Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth</p> <p>SRDC Annual Meeting: Thursday, July 10 – Hiawatha Lodge, Pipestone</p>	
15	4:55	<p><b>Adjourn</b></p> <p><i>***Written Planner Reports are located on pages 21 through 30 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 2/1/2025 Through 2/28/2025

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,958.62	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,762.47	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	776.97	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,611.52	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	41.33	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,411.38	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	22.40	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	2,139.56	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,684.62	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,651.50	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	60.76	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	55.23	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	3,186.79	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	2,461.75	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02062...	2/6/2025	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 2/6/2025	1,889.68	2/6/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	2,134.43	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	2,525.08	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	15.54	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	1,466.91	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	185.94	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	1,402.42	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	31.36	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	2,139.56	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	1,714.02	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	1,725.73	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	110.47	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	49.71	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	11.05	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	3,186.79	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	2,461.75	2/20/2025
PRS020625	02202...	2/20/2025	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 2/20/2025	1,858.18	2/20/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 2.13.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 2.13.25 Meeting	81.20	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 2.13.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 2.13.25 Meeting	45.50	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 12.6.24 + 2.13.25 Meetings	100.00	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDeVere 12.6.24 + 2.13.25 Meetings	90.72	2/28/2025
AP5022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 2.13.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 2/1/2025 Through 2/28/2025

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 2.13.25 Meeting	50.40	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 2.13.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 2.13.25 Meeting	32.20	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 11.14.24 + 12.12.24 Meetings	100.00	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 11.14.24 + 12.12.24 Meetings	86.80	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 2.13.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 2.13.25 Meeting	44.80	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister Knott 1.9.25 Meeting	50.00	2/28/2025
APS022625 ...	02282...	2/28/2025	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister Knott 1.9.25 Meeting	84.00	2/28/2025
CD022525 W...	1	2/25/2025		Jan 2025 Wex Fees	25.75	2/25/2025
APS020625	60979	2/6/2025	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/16/24 - 1/23/25	23.92	2/6/2025
APS020625	60979	2/6/2025	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/16/24 - 1/23/25	22.08	2/6/2025
APS020625	60980	2/6/2025	Culligan Water Conditioning	3 bottles water, cooler rack rental	38.15	2/6/2025
APS020625	60981	2/6/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 12/18/24 - 1/23/25	448.24	2/6/2025
APS020625	60981	2/6/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 12/18/24 - 1/23/25	298.83	2/6/2025
APS020625	60981	2/6/2025	Southwest Minnesota Private I...	SW MN Meat Train & Retain	2,300.53	2/6/2025
APS020625	60982	2/6/2025	One Office Solution	Meter reading, copy paper	183.12	2/6/2025
APS020625	60983	2/6/2025	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Feb 2025	4,848.63	2/6/2025
APS020625	60984	2/6/2025	SRDC	Explore SW Jan 2025	21.25	2/6/2025
APS021325	60985	2/13/2025	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Jan 2025	30.30	2/13/2025
APS021325	60986	2/13/2025	Grants Management Systems ...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	100.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60986	2/13/2025	Grants Management Systems ...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	40.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60987	2/13/2025	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Check water heater; light pilot; labor	32.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60987	2/13/2025	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, Inc.	Check water heater; light pilot; labor	48.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60988	2/13/2025	Nadya Bucklin	Reimb Nadya vision prem incorrectly deducted from 2025 pay	8.79	2/13/2025
APS021325	60989	2/13/2025	Pizza Ranch #7801	Nov 2024 Full Commission Mtg: Dessert+coffee	53.41	2/13/2025
APS021325	60990	2/13/2025	Quill Corporation	Clasp env, paper, file folders	66.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60990	2/13/2025	Quill Corporation	Clasp env, paper, file folders	13.25	2/13/2025
APS021325	60991	2/13/2025	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 2/1/25 - 2/28/25	30.51	2/13/2025
APS021325	60991	2/13/2025	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 2/1/25 - 2/28/25	45.76	2/13/2025
APS021325	60992	2/13/2025	SRDC	Falcon Expenses - Oct-Dec 2024	2,745.56	2/13/2025
APS021325	60993	2/13/2025	Southwest Minnesota Private I...	SW MN Meat Train & Retain	3,717.99	2/13/2025
APS021325	60994	2/13/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Visa Closing date 2/2/25	6,060.52	2/13/2025
APS021325	60994	2/13/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Visa Closing date 2/2/25	20.00	2/13/2025
APS021325	60994	2/13/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Visa Closing date 2/2/25	64.95	2/13/2025
APS021325	60995	2/13/2025	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 1/5/25 - 2/4/25	186.25	2/13/2025
APS021325	60995	2/13/2025	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 1/5/25 - 2/4/25	279.38	2/13/2025

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 2/1/2025 Through 2/28/2025

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS022025	60996	2/20/2025	Adrian Building Center	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Harder Saloon	12,399.64	2/20/2025
APS022025	60997	2/20/2025	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 2/10/25 - 3/9/25	481.39	2/20/2025
APS022025	60997	2/20/2025	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 2/10/25 - 3/9/25	894.00	2/20/2025
APS022025	60998	2/20/2025	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS March 2025	64.00	2/20/2025
APS022025	60999	2/20/2025	Patrick Thier Construction	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Harder Saloon	26,250.00	2/20/2025
APS022025	61000	2/20/2025	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 8/2/24 to 9/1/24	41.06	2/20/2025
APS022725	61001	2/27/2025	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 3/26/25 to 4/25/25	813.77	2/27/2025
APS022725	61002	2/27/2025	AFLAC	Aflac Feb 2025	409.44	2/27/2025
APS022725	61003	2/27/2025	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 2/24/25 to 3/23/25	59.99	2/27/2025
APS022725	61003	2/27/2025	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 2/24/25 to 3/23/25	60.00	2/27/2025
APS022725	61004	2/27/2025	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Feb 2025	328.00	2/27/2025
APS022725	61004	2/27/2025	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Feb 2025	472.00	2/27/2025
APS022725	61005	2/27/2025	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	700.00	2/27/2025
APS022725	61006	2/27/2025	Quill Corporation	Black toner	267.29	2/27/2025
APS022725	61007	2/27/2025	Robin Weis	Robin Weis; Reimb Aflac prem incorrectly deducted from pay	245.70	2/27/2025
CD022025 B...	BCBS03	2/20/2025		BCBS March 2025	13,480.51	2/20/2025
Report Total					121,469.10	



**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**GRANT AGREEMENT**  
**(FISCAL YEARS 2026 AND 2027)**

This Grant Agreement is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Transportation ("State") and the Southwest Regional Development Commission (hereinafter "Grantee").

## RECITALS

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1. Minnesota Statutes § 174.01 designates the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") as the principal agency of the state for development, implementation, administration, consolidation, and coordination of state transportation policies, plans, and programs; and
2. Minnesota Statutes § 462.383, subdivision 2, and 462.39, subdivision 3, authorize Regional Development Commissions ("RDCs") to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical, and governmental concerns and to develop comprehensive plans for local units of government; and
3. Minnesota Statutes § 174.03, subdivision 5, requires RDCs to develop regional long-range transportation policy plans in cooperation with MnDOT and local governments; and
4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 174.03, subdivision 4(2), MnDOT may provide financial assistance to RDCs for transportation planning; and
5. The Grantee is an RDC eligible to receive MnDOT funds.
6. The parties to this Agreement mutually agree as follows:

## AGREEMENT TERMS

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### 1. Term of Grant Agreement

- 1.1 **Effective date.** This Agreement will be effective on July 1, 2025 or the date the State obtains all required signatures under Minnesota Statutes § 16.98, subdivision 5, whichever is later. **The Grantee must not begin work under this grant agreement until this agreement is fully executed and the Grantee has been notified by the State's Authorized Representative to begin work.**
- 1.2 **Expiration Date.** This Agreement will remain in effect until June 30, 2027, or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first.
- 1.3 **Survival of Terms.** All clauses which impose obligations continuing in their nature and which must survive in order to give effect to their meaning will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement including, without limitation, the following clauses: 8. Indemnification; 9. State Audits; 10. Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property; 11. Workers' Compensation; 12. Publicity and Endorsement; 13. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; and 15. Data Disclosure.
- 1.4 **Exhibits.** Exhibit 1, Financial Assistance, and Exhibit 2, Invoices, are attached and incorporated into this agreement.

### 2. Duties

- 2.1 **Grantee's Duties.** The Grantee, who is not a state employee, will:
  - a) Perform the work activities defined in July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, RDC Transportation Planning Grant Agreement Work Plans (hereinafter "RDC Work Plans") as approved by the State and which are on file at Grantee's office and incorporated herein by reference.
  - b) The RDC Workplans defines the scope of work and particular tasks to be completed by the Grantee.
  - c) All work must be performed in a satisfactory and timely manner.

- b) Provide 15% local matching funds, which is equal to up to \$13,235 for FY 2026 and \$13,235 for FY 2027 (\$26,470 for the contract period).

2.2 **State’s Duties.** The State will:

- a) Review and monitor progress of work activities defined in the Grantee’s FY 2026 and FY 2027 RDC Work Plans.
- b) Furnish the Grantee, at its request, all data that is in the State’s possession that is considered pertinent by the State to the work to be performed.
- c) Advise the Grantee of the anticipated availability of funds and assist in the development of the Grantee’s FY 2026 and FY 2027 RDC Work Plans.

3. **Time**

The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this Grant Agreement. In the performance of this Grant Agreement, time is of the essence.

4. **Consideration and Payment**

4.1 **Consideration.** The State will pay for all services performed by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement as follows:

- a) **Compensation.** The Grantee will be paid on a Lump Sum basis as follows upon receipt of invoice:

**For July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (hereinafter FY 2026)**

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- i. 25% upon execution of this Agreement and acceptance of the FY 2026 RDC work plan (must be on or after July 1, 2025);
- ii. 20% after March 31, 2026, and acceptance of the FY 2026 mid-year work report; and
- iii. 5% after June 30, 2026, and acceptance of the FY 2026 final work report;

**For July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 (hereinafter FY 2027)**

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- iv. 25% after July 1, 2026, and acceptance of the FY 2027 RDC Work plan;
- v. 20% after March 31, 2027 and acceptance of the FY 2027 mid-year work report; and
- vi. 5% after June 30, 2027 and acceptance of the FY 2027 final work report.

- b) **Total Obligation.** The total obligation of the State for all compensation and reimbursement to the Grantee under this Grant Agreement will not exceed \$75,000 in each fiscal year (\$150,000 over two fiscal years).

4.2 **Advance Payment.** All grant payments will be made as reimbursements unless advance payment approval has been granted before grant encumbrance and not be made without a complete justification form.

4.3 **Payment: Invoices**

The State will promptly pay the Grantee after the Grantee presents an invoice and the State’s Authorized Representative accepts the invoice. Invoices must be submitted according to the schedule identified in Clause 4.1.a

4.4 **Grant Monitoring Visit and Financial Reconciliation.** During the period of performance, the State will make at least one monitoring visit and conduct annual financial reconciliations of Grantee’s expenditures. The State’s Authorized Representative will notify Grantee’s Authorized Representative where and when any monitoring visit and financial reconciliation will take place, which State employees and/or contractors will participate, and which Grantee staff members should be present. Grantee will be given at least seven calendar days of notice before any monitoring visit or financial reconciliation. Following a monitoring visit or financial reconciliation, Grantee will take timely and appropriate action on all deficiencies identified by State. At least one monitoring visit and one financial reconciliation must be completed before final payment is made to Grantee.

4.5 **Closeout.** At its sole discretion, the State will determine whether a closeout audit is required prior to final payment approval. If a closeout audit is required, final payment will be held until the audit has been completed.

## 5. Conditions of Payment

All services provided by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement must be performed to the State's satisfaction, as determined at the discretion of the State's Authorized Representative and District Planner and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment for work found by the State to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, state, or local law.

## 6. Authorized Representatives

6.1 **State's Authorized Representative.** The State's Authorized Representative is:

Bryan McCoy, State Program Administrator  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
395 John Ireland Blvd MS 440  
St. Paul, MN 55155

or their successor, and has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee's performance and the authority to accept the services provided under this grant agreement. If the services are satisfactory, the State's Authorized Representative will certify acceptance on each invoice submitted for payment.

6.2 **Grantee's Authorized Representative.** The Grantee's Authorized Representative is:

Jay Trusty, Executive Director  
Southwest Regional Development Commission  
2401 Broadway Avenue  
Slayton, MN 56172  
(507) 836-8547.

If the Grantee's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this grant agreement, the Grantee must immediately notify the State.

## 7. Assignment, Amendments, Waiver, and Grant Agreement Complete

7.1 **Assignment.** The Grantee may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Grant Agreement without the prior consent of the State and a fully executed Assignment Agreement, executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved this Grant Agreement, or their successors in office.

7.2 **Amendments.** Any amendment to this Grant Agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original Grant Agreement, or their successors in office.

7.3 **Waiver.** If the State fails to enforce any provision of this Grant Agreement, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to subsequently enforce it.

7.4 **Grant Agreement Complete.** This Grant Agreement contains all prior negotiations and agreements between the State and the Grantee. No other understanding regarding this Grant Agreement, whether written or oral, may be used to bind either party.

7.5 **Electronic Records and Signatures.** The parties agree to contract by electronic means. This includes using electronic signatures and converting original documents to electronic records.

7.6 **Certification.** By signing this Agreement, the Grantee certifies that it is not suspended or debarred from receiving federal or state awards.

## 8. Indemnification

In the performance of this Grant Agreement by Grantee, or Grantee's agents or employees, the Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold harmless the State, its agents, and employees, from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the state, to the extent caused by Grantee's:

1. Intentional, willful, or negligent acts or omissions; or
2. Actions that give rise to strict liability; or
3. Breach of contract or warranty

The indemnification obligations of this section do not apply in the event the claim or cause of action is the result of the State's sole negligence. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this Grant Agreement.

## 9. State Audits

Under Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98, subdivision 8, the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices relevant to this Grant Agreement are subject to examination by the State and/or the State Auditor or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this Grant Agreement.

## 10. Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property

10.1 **Government Data Practices.** Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, [Minn. Stat. Ch. 13](#), as it applies to all data provided by the State under this grant agreement, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this agreement. The civil remedies of [Minn. Stat. §13.08](#) apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either Grantee or the State.

10.2 **Intellectual Property Rights.** State owns all rights, title and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks and service marks in the Works and Documents created and paid for under this agreement. "Works" means all inventions, improvements, discoveries (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by Grantee, its employees, agents and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this agreement. Works includes Documents. "Documents" are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks or other materials, whether in tangible or electronic forms, prepared by Grantee, its employees, agents or subcontractors, in the performance of this agreement. The Documents will be the exclusive property of State, and Grantee upon completion or cancellation of this agreement must immediately return all such Documents to State. To the extent possible, those Works eligible for copyright protection under the United States Copyright Act will be deemed to be "works made for hire." Grantee assigns all right, title and interest it may have in the Works and the Documents to State. Grantee must, at the request of State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to transfer or record the State's ownership interest in the Works and Documents.

### 10.3 Obligations

- a) **Notification.** Whenever any invention, improvement, or discovery (whether or not patentable) is made or conceived for the first time or actually or constructively reduced to practice by the Grantee, including its employees and subcontractors, in the performance of this agreement, the Grantee will immediately give the State's Authorized Representative written notice thereof, and must promptly furnish the Authorized Representative with complete information and/or disclosure thereon.
- b) **Representation.** The Grantee must perform all acts, and take all steps necessary to ensure that all intellectual property rights in the Works and Documents are the sole property of the State, and that neither Grantee nor its employees, agents, or subcontractors retain any interest in and to the Works and Documents. The Grantee represents and warrants that the Works and Documents do not and will not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of other persons or entities. The Grantee will indemnify; defend, to the extent permitted by the Attorney General; and hold harmless the State, at the Grantee's expense, from any action or claim brought against the State to the extent that it is based on a claim that all or part of the Works and Documents infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others. The Grantee will be responsible for payment of any and all such claims, demands, obligations, liabilities, costs, and damages, including but not limited to, attorney fees. If such a claim or action arises, or in the Grantee's or the State's opinion is likely to arise, the Grantee must, at the State's discretion, either procure for the State the right or license to use the intellectual property rights at issue or replace or

modify the allegedly infringing Works or Documents as necessary and appropriate to obviate the infringement claim. This remedy of the State will be in addition to and not exclusive of other remedies provided by law.

### 11. Workers' Compensation

The Grantee certifies that it complies with Minnesota Statutes § 176.181, subdivision 2, pertaining to workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Grantee's employees and agents will not be considered State employees. Any claims that may arise under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act on behalf of these employees and any claims made by any third party as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of these employees are in no way the States' obligation or responsibility.

### 12. Publicity and Endorsement

- 12.1 **Publicity.** Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this Grant Agreement must identify the State as the sponsoring agency and must not be released without prior written approval from the State's Authorized Representative or District Planner. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the program, publications, or services provided resulting from this grant agreement.
- 12.2 **Endorsement.** The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

### 13. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs the validity, interpretation, and enforcement of this Grant Agreement. Venue for all legal proceedings arising out of this Grant Agreement, or its breach, must be in the appropriate state or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

### 14. Termination; Suspension

- 14.1 **Termination by the State.** The State may terminate this Grant Agreement at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.
- 14.2 **Termination for Cause.** The State may immediately terminate this grant agreement if the State finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this agreement, that reasonable progress has not been made, that fraudulent or wasteful activity has occurred, that Grantee has been convicted of a criminal offense relating to a state grant agreement, or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The State may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already disbursed.
- 14.3 **Termination for Insufficient Funding.** The State may immediately terminate this agreement if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding sources; or if funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow for the payment of the services covered here. Termination must be by written or fax notice to the Grantee. The State is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after notice and effective date of termination. However, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed to the extent that funds are available. The State will not be assessed any penalty if the agreement is terminated because of the decision of the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding source, not to appropriate funds. The State must provide the Grantee notice of the lack of funding within a reasonable time of the State's receiving that notice.
- 14.4 **Suspension.** The State may immediately suspend this Grant Agreement in the event of a total or partial government shutdown due to the failure to have an approved budget by the legal deadline. Work performed by the Grantee during a period of suspension will be deemed unauthorized and undertaken at risk of non-payment.

**15. Data Disclosure**

Under Minnesota Statutes § 270C.65, and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies and state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

**16. Discrimination Prohibited by Minnesota Statutes §181.59.**

Grantee will comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes §181.59 which requires that every contract for or on behalf of the State of Minnesota, or any county, city, town, township, school, school district or any other district in the state, for materials, supplies or construction will contain provisions by which Contractor agrees: 1) That, in the hiring of common or skilled labor for the performance of any work under any contract, or any subcontract, no Contractor, material supplier or vendor, will, by reason of race, creed or color, discriminate against the person or persons who are citizens of the United States or resident aliens who are qualified and available to perform the work to which the employment relates; 2) That no Contractor, material supplier, or vendor, will, in any manner, discriminate against, or intimidate, or prevent the employment of any person or persons identified in clause 1 of this section, or on being hired, prevent or conspire to prevent, the person or persons from the performance of work under any contract on account of race, creed or color; 3) That a violation of this section is a misdemeanor; and 4) That this contract may be canceled or terminated by the state of Minnesota, or any county, city, town, township, school, school district or any other person authorized to grant contracts for employment, and all money due, or to become due under the contract, may be forfeited for a second or any subsequent violation of the terms or conditions of this Agreement.

**(THE BALANCE OF THIS PAGE HAS BEEN INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK)**



**STATE ENCUMBRANCE VERIFICATION**

Individual certifies that funds have been encumbered as required by Minnesota Statutes § 16A.15 and 16B.98.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SWIFT Contract # \_\_\_\_\_

SWIFT Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

**GRANTEE**

The Grantee certifies that the appropriate person(s) have executed the grant agreement on behalf of the Grantee as required by applicable articles, by laws, resolutions, or ordinances.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(With delegated authority)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MnDOT CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southwest Regional Development Commission enter into an Agreement for Distribution of MnDOT Planning Funds, under Agreement Number 1058792 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the \_\_\_\_\_ Chair \_\_\_\_\_ (Title) and Executive Director (Title) of Southwest Regional Development Commission are hereby authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendments.

**CERTIFICATION**

State of Minnesota

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution presented to and adopted by the **Southwest Regional Development Commission** at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 10th day of April 2025, as shown by the minutes of said meeting in my possession.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**Financial Assistance**

Legal Name	Southwest Regional Development Commission
Contract Number	1058792
Contract Type / Program	Regional Development Commission Grant

<b>Project Description</b>	
Regional Development Commission Grant – State Planning Assistance	
Total State Award	\$150,000.00
Required Local Match	\$26,470.00

**EXHIBIT 2**

**Invoices**

**Regional Development Commission  
Request for State Funds**

**GRANTEE:** Agency: Southwest Regional Development Commission  
 Address: 2401 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, MN 56172  
 Telephone: (507) 836-8547  
 Recipient Agency Authorized Representative: Jay Trusty, Executive Director

Invoice Period:

Standard Transportation Planning Funds

Payment Request:	<input type="checkbox"/> 25%	Expenditure:	Total=	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> 20%		Local Match=	_____
	<input type="checkbox"/> 5%		(15%)	
			State Funds=	_____
			(85%)	

Amount of Requested State Planning Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recipient Agency Authorized Representative or Designee

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**MnDOT:**

I hereby certify that the following is approved by MnDOT District 7:

Annual work plan       July-Dec work report       Jan-June work report

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Approval of MnDOT District Representative

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Approval by MnDOT OTSM RDC Planning Program Coordinator

Date \_\_\_\_\_

MnDOT use only:	
Contract #:	Fiscal Year:
Swift Contract ID #:	Purchase Order ID #:

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
MONTH END March 31, 2025**

**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)	110,423.23	01/20/26	3.96%
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)	104,194.63	12/13/25	4.16%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5332)	104,194.63	12/13/25	4.16%
Magic Fund - First National Bank	100,012.77	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 741,107.96**

**ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts**

		3/31/2025
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 3,000.00
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	524,365.73
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	26,098.37
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	85,609.22
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings	61,132.63
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	50,559.83
<b>TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS</b>		<b>\$ 750,765.78</b>

**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)	
<b>TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ (466,254.20)</b>

	3/31/2025	3/31/2024
Total Investments	\$ 741,107.96	\$ 719,519.90
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 750,765.78	\$ 518,410.82
Total Dedicated Funds	\$ (466,254.20)	\$ (466,254.20)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW (</b>		<b>\$ 1,025,619.54</b>

**SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative**

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 52	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	396,623	
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	309,162	
PACE Funds-EE-RLF	243,776	
PACE Funds-ARRA-(loans only)	108,934	PACE Loan Funds <b>383,746</b>
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	31,036	
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off loans & admin)	10,159	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>		<b>\$ 1,099,741</b>



## Southwest Regional Development Commission Month End February 2025 Fiscal Year 2025

YTD Comparison % of Budget 66.67

FY25 Budget	July - September	October - December	January	February	March	January - March	April-June	Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
<b>Revenues</b>											
	465,617	1,325,511	195,933.42	7,836.65	0.00	7,836.65	0.00	205,095.58	260,521.42	44.0%	When current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec and Jun
Taxes	272,778	42,953.48	56,527.93	14,689.78	18,024.06	32,713.84	0.00	132,195.25	140,582.75	48.8%	Based on activity earned to date.
Contract for Services	191,275	191,275.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	191,275.00	0.00	100.0%	We received all of the RG McKnight money up front. In July 2024
R3-McKnight	75,000	37,500.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	67,500.00	7,500.00	90.0%	Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000
MnDOT-Regional	105,119	9,822.68	19,246.46	2,742.51	20,477.39	23,219.90	0.00	52,289.04	52,829.96	49.7%	Grant Earned (Federal share)
Economic Development Adm	56,291	56,291.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	56,291.08	0.00	100.0%	Based on activity earned to date. (Federal share) Done Sept 2024
EDA Trails Grant	60,000	20,775.64	18,255.78	5,364.00	4,489.75	9,853.75	0.00	48,885.17	11,114.83	81.5%	Based on activity earned to date. est. start March 2024, est. to use in FY24
RLF Admin (Covid & Regular)	179,000	28,772.15	30,209.25	5,971.14	4,916.06	10,887.20	0.00	69,868.60	109,131.40	39.0%	Based on activity earned to date. - main Certs (not subprojects), which equals more time
Commerce - State Comp Grant	86,160	4,284.01	27,024.14	7,311.91	5,205.17	12,517.08	0.00	43,825.23	42,334.77	50.9%	Loan inflow orig fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4650/4321)
CERTS Funds	6,800	757.11	3,315.48	0.00	213.16	213.16	0.00	4,285.75	2,514.25	63.0%	**USDA is being reviewed, contract is terminated as of 2-25-25 - December is the last payment to be received** Based on Billings (800 hours at \$75/hr for the year)
PACE loan origin/misc	30,000	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.00	100.0%	Blank inflow orig fee - Blank interest is coming in higher than estimated and includes CD interest**
USDA Food Grant	19,184	11,706.52	3,182.22	1,323.59	1,270.44	2,594.03	0.00	17,482.77	1,701.23	91.1%	Need to replace the roof and only a small amount will be paid by insurance (Quote is \$65,000, our portion is \$31,850 and SWMHP's portion is \$33,150)
Interest & Miscellaneous	31,850	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,850.00	0.0%	
Building Reserves Used	1,581,074	422,463.18	368,694.68	75,239.58	54,596.03	129,835.61	0.00	920,983.47	660,080.61	58.3%	
Total Revenues											
<b>Expenditures</b>											
Committee Expenses	30,300	4,790.44	5,273.36	1,908.90	1,791.68	3,700.58	0.00	13,764.38	16,535.62	45.4%	Includes Board Retreat & Orientation, added Annual Mtg
Salaries & Fringe	1,072,887	223,789.33	272,795.31	75,190.65	82,338.55	157,529.20	0.00	654,043.84	418,843.16	61.0%	Includes FY25 Salaries/Fringe (including 8% increase of Health Insurance/H.S.A)
Travel	60,000	12,667.31	18,863.11	2,627.32	1,833.78	4,467.10	0.00	36,017.52	23,982.48	60.0%	Staff Travel
Office Space Costs	44,194	2,166.86	2,281.83	803.94	695.49	1,499.43	0.00	5,948.12	38,245.88	13.5%	Utilities
Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb)	5,349	29.97	2,029.97	9.99	1,064.94	1,074.93	0.00	3,134.87	2,214.13	58.6%	We spent out the EDA Trails booklets, so had to get more postage in November. EDA Trails did reimburse us for most, we had to estimate because of the timing of the Contract ending and books showing up.
Communications	9,219	3,936.66	1,868.21	458.46	582.44	1,040.90	0.00	6,845.77	2,373.23	74.3%	
Printing/Publication	20,504	1,851.13	4,758.77	11.33	0.00	11.33	0.00	6,621.23	13,882.77	32.3%	
Insurance	5,917	2,615.85	173.57	24.41	22.08	46.49	0.00	2,835.91	3,081.09	47.9%	Insurance dividend/Building insurance
Supplies	17,000	4,748.71	6,302.36	480.09	516.17	996.26	0.00	12,047.33	4,952.67	70.9%	August includes our Strategic Plan, this also includes our part of IMADO
Program Supply (Trails EDA)	11,418	11,418.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,418.27	0.00	100.0%	Reimbursed by Trails EDA
Computer	41,250	3,883.06	4,343.79	2,730.88	1,215.44	3,946.32	0.00	12,173.17	29,076.83	29.5%	Quoted price for FY25 audit - Kinier & Co. + estimated amt for FY22/FY23 Audits
Audits	41,000	14,884.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24,884.00	16,116.00	60.7%	
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	33,275	80.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.00	33,155.00	0.4%	
Dues/Memberships & Other	7,200	14.25	4,000.00	85.00	101.00	186.00	0.00	4,200.25	2,999.75	58.3%	Includes MADO Coordination (\$2000 per region)
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,500	72.75	162.11	49.75	103.61	153.36	0.00	408.22	5,091.78	7.4%	
Equipment/Building Updates	10,000	0.00	56.00	55.14	32.00	87.14	0.00	143.14	9,856.86	1.4%	
PACE loan interest paid	508	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	391.79	116.21	77.1%	Paid in December and June
Debt Service: Prin. & Int.	10,000	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	100.0%	Paid in December
Building Lease Principal Pymt	23,183	5,675.96	5,755.15	1,936.17	1,945.09	3,881.26	0.00	15,312.37	7,870.63	66.0%	Our portion of lease pymt
Total Expenditures	1,448,704	292,624.55	349,065.33	86,372.03	92,248.27	178,620.30	0.00	820,310.18	628,394.09	56.6%	
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	132,370	129,838.63	19,629.35	-11,132.45	-37,652.24	-48,784.69	0.00	100,683			

100,683



## Southwest Regional Development Commission Project Review

**Agenda Item:**

**Meeting Date:**

**Project Name:** Coneflower Solar Project (235 MW) in Lyon County, MN, Docket No. IP-7132/GS-24-215

### **Project Description:**

On August 19, 2024, Coneflower Solar, LLC (Coneflower Solar) submitted a site permit application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to construct the Coneflower Solar Project – an up to 235 MW alternating current photovoltaic solar energy generating facility. The project will occupy approximately 1,723 acres in Custer Township, immediately north of the city of Garvin. The project will use photovoltaic solar panels mounted on single-axis tracking systems.

The project has two potential interconnection scenarios: the MISO Scenario and the Garvin Scenario. In the MISO Scenario, a 34.5/115 kV substation located in the north-central portion of the project will connect with the electric grid through the existing Lyon County to Lake Yankton 115 kV transmission line via an adjacent switching station and up to 500 feet of 115 kV transmission line that will be permitted, constructed, owned, and operated by the interconnecting utility (Xcel Energy). In the Garvin Scenario, a 34.5/345 kV substation located in the east side of the project will connect with the electric grid through the proposed Garvin Substation from Xcel Energy's Minnesota Energy Connection route permit application (separate proceeding, Docket TL-22-132) via a short (up to 1 mile), aboveground 345 kV transmission line. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026, with completion and operation anticipated in 2027.

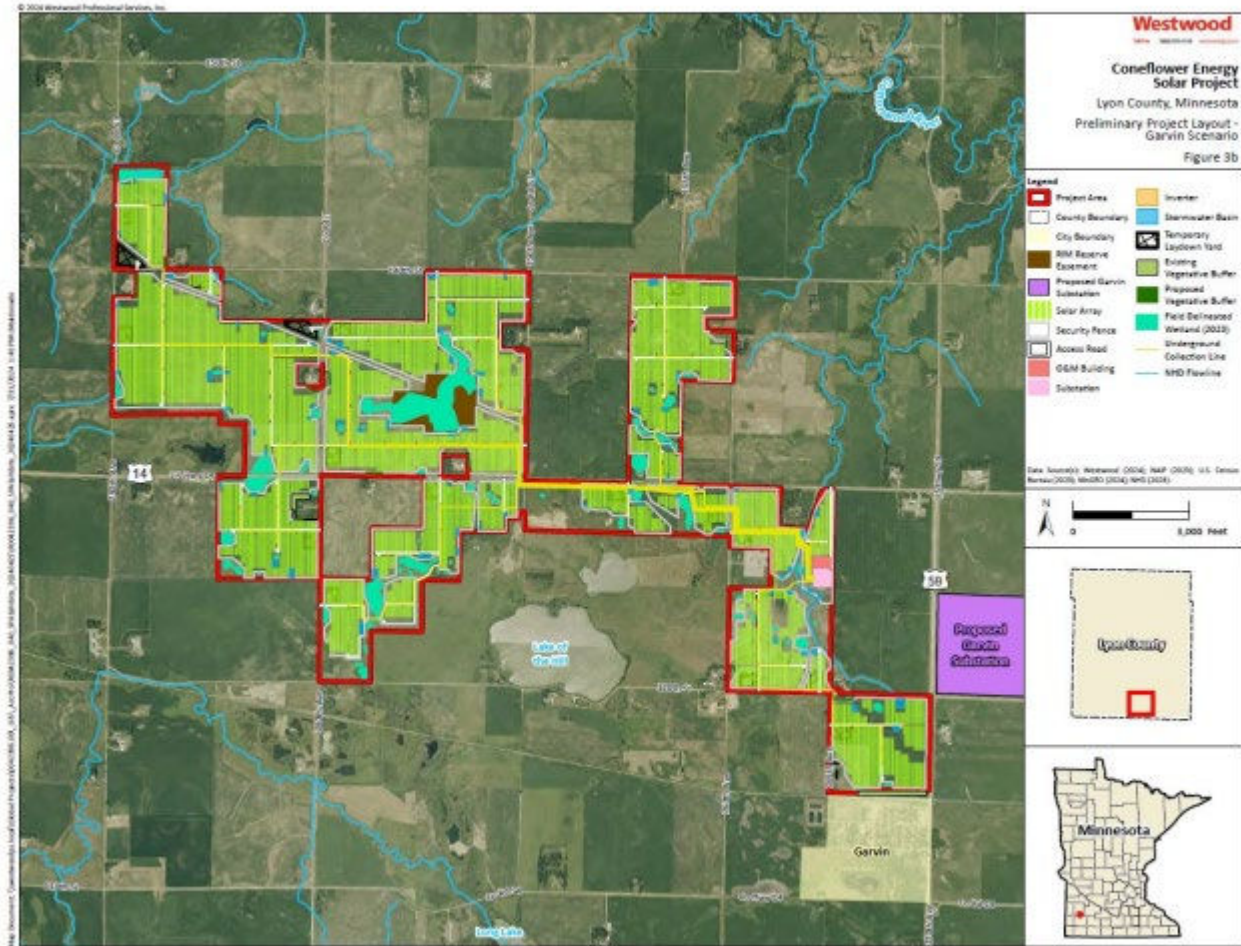
### **Staff Notes:**

1. The anticipated dates for the public hearings are April 22 (In-person) and April 23 (virtual).
2. During a discussion in Lyon County about solar energy, local politicians, landowners, and county staff shared their opinions on this project.
  - a. They were concerned that the fencing and large footprint would disturb the movement of local wildlife in the area. They would like mitigation efforts implemented. The footprint of the project winds around the Sherman Waterfowl Production Area, Lyon County Waterfowl Production Area, Garvin State Wildlife Management Area, and Lake of the Hill.
  - b. They were concerned about the viewshed and disturbing the typical landscape of corn and soybeans that they have known for generations.
  - c. One individual was concerned that the project was too close to his personal property.
  - d. Some were excited about the economic benefits, and the city clerk for Garvin wondered if their local bar/restaurant would need to staff up in anticipation of all the construction workers for the solar project, a new substation, a potential natural gas peaker plant near the new substation, and other potential renewable energy projects in the region.
3. Economic benefits to the region: Production tax revenue from the project is estimated at \$500,000 per year for Lyon County, subject to change based on curtailment, maintenance, or other issues that may arise.

**Project Review Time:** 1 Hour

**Reviewer:** Jason Walker, Development, Community Development Director

## Coneflower Solar Project Overview Map – Garvin Scenario Interconnection



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

April 2025  
CEDS | EDA PLANNING



## EDA PLANNING

EDA Investment Opportunities: Priorities can be found at Investment Priorities | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov). Priorities have recently changed with the reauthorization to include Critical Infrastructure, Workforce, Innovation and Entrepreneurship,

Economic Resiliency, and Manufacturing. You can find EDA funding opportunities at All Funding Opportunities | U.S. Economic Development Administration (eda.gov).

The EDA Disaster NOFO is being drafted. Eligible units of government, higher education, etc., based on FEMA disaster declarations (dec\_4797.pdf), are those within Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties. Staff is working on preliminary project plans with the city of Wilder (and city of Windom) on a wastewater sewer system and the city of Pipestone on an industrial park expansion. Staff assisted the city of Wilder in presenting their project to the Windom Utilities Commission on 3/26.

## Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA)

The Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) grant opportunity continues to be available, now at a 60% grant rate. More information can be found at Public Works | U.S. Economic Development Administration.

## City of Adrian

SRDC continues to assist the City of Adrian on their funded EDA PWEAA grant for an electric substation. The grant award was 50% of the project cost (\$3,258,900) or \$1,629,450. The SRDC provides administrative and financial services, acting as a liaison among the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering, and the EDA.

## Federal Pauses

During a time of several Federal pauses, planners are scheduling conversations with cities across the region to discuss needs, potential projects, etc. These meetings have resulted in SRDC awareness, technical assistance, referrals, etc.

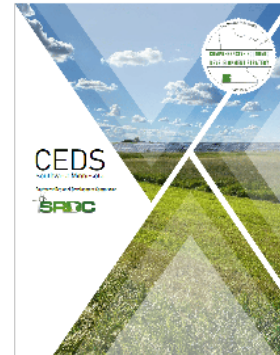
## INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

### City of Steen

Staff recently assisted the city of Steen with an MPCA Small Communities Planning grant for stormwater improvements. The application was submitted for \$27,700 (includes 10% match) for stormwater improvement planning. The city is awaiting an announcement.

### City of Hardwick

The City of Hardwick is in the process of applying for a \$30,000 USDA SEARCH planning grant that will include planning efforts for water system improvements. The hope is for system updates to the water system that will allow for remote reading of residential water meters. The city requested assistance from SRDC regarding USDA ADA requirements. SRDC was involved with the ADA Checklist for existing buildings and provided technical assistance with the required Accessibility Transition plan.



## 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. If you are interested in being on the CEDS committee, please contact staff.

Our EDA planning grant was due 2/17/2025. Grant funding available per year is \$70,000 or \$210,000 over the three-year planning grant. Staff withdrew the application per Chicago regional EDA staff and recently resubmitted it to better align with the new federal administration.

### Providing Professional Expertise and Leadership to Enhance Regional Opportunities

SRDC works in partnership with local, state and federal agencies to provide planning, guidance, technical assistance and services to the region. We're passionate about partnering with communities, organizations, community groups, regional stakeholders, and local leadership to create vibrant, attractive, and resilient communities, and we do this through providing individualized community and economic development services.

#### Technical Assistance Services

- Federal EDA Planning & Grant Packaging
- Workforce Development Collaboration
- Grant Research
- Project Management
- Community Engagement/Visioning
- Policy Development & Advocacy
- Economic Resiliency Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Business Marketing & Communications Training & Planning

**Learn More**

Call Find Us 507-836-8547 Visit Website Us [www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org)



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

April 2025  
CEDS | EDA PLANNING



## EECBG (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant)- Energy Planning for Small Communities-

### PAUSE LIFTED MARCH 11

EECBG is a funding source for planning efforts 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. There is no match requirement, and it is eligible 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. Planning efforts could include resiliency plans, energy audits, engineering studies, etc.

Two agreements have been signed, each for \$20,000 projects. The CEDS committee met on 3/19 to consider these projects.

The Deep Dive for May will be EECBG. Come with your project ideas.

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**Workforce Summit:** Employers and economic staff in the EDA regions of 8 and 6W recently received a "Save the Date" for a Workforce Summit to be held on Tuesday, April 29 at the Heritage Event Center near Taunton, MN. The focus is on employer recruitment and retention.

---

**Friends in the Field-** This group that meets quarterly and recently met on April 9 with a focus on Attraction and Retention in rural communities.

**Childcare:** Successful DEED Childcare Economic Development program applicants from this region include: **Hendricks Community Hospital Foundation** in the amount of \$159,000 and **Nobles County Community Service Agency** at \$480,000.

## Taylor Family Farms Foundation



The Taylor Family Farms Foundation supports and enhances rural communities in southern Minnesota and northwest Iowa. Areas of interest for grants include health and human services, youth and education and community engagement. For the last round, the Taylor Family Farms Foundation sought grant applications for community, outdoor, and recreation projects that promote healthy lifestyles. Preferences are given to projects that are accessible to all regardless of age or ability. Project proposals for these grants require a fifty percent match from other funders/partners. Typical grants range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The application deadline was February 28. SRDC staff assisted with an application for efficiency upgrades to **Iona Township Hall** and Community Center, and the replacement of a liner and decking for the **Lamberton outdoor pool**.

**Southwest Minnesota 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 last met on 2/6/2025 and will again meet on 5/1/2025.

**Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC):** The group met on 3/4/2025. SRDC is responsible for representing economic development on the council.

**Southwest MN Workforce Summit**

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

April 29, 2025

REGISTER HERE

Heritage Event Center  
3621 County Highway 8, Taunton, MN

For employers, HR staff, schools, community, and economic development

<https://SWMNworkforcesummit.eventbrite.com>



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

April 2025  
CEDS | EDA PLANNING

**State of the Region**- Weis and Walker attended the State of the Region in Worthington on March 20. This was a collaborative effort between the Worthington Chamber and Visitors Bureau, city of Worthington, and Nobles County.

**2025 Workforce Summit / National Outlook, Minnesota Focus** - Murphy attended the 2025 Workforce Summit in Brooklyn Park on February 26. The event focused on the economic contributions of New Americans in Minnesota. Challenges in outlying rural Minnesota included barriers such as available affordable housing, available business space, school offerings, and transportation.

### Wonder World

SRDC completed a three-year strategic plan for Wonder World between Aug 2024 and January 2025 and received \$5,000 compensation from SWIF for the work. Other assistance for Wonder World included submitting grant applications to the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation, DEED, and Boxcar wind; presenting to the Murray County EDA, developing a funding plan, and connecting them with other technical assistance providers.



### Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference

– Murphy attended the Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference on March 20-21, in Virginia, MN. The focus of the conference was how entrepreneurship connects to our regions to build a stronger economy and focused on four key components to a healthy and thriving region: Business Development, Community Development, Workforce Development, and Quality of Life.

## PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP TO ENHANCE REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

At Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), we are listeners and connectors to help you find the resources needed to address your concerns. Together we can channel progressive collaboration between cities, counties, and townships so that shared knowledge and resources can be used to help you and the region prepare for a future where people and businesses thrive.



2401 Broadway Ave., Slayton, MN  
507-836-8547



- A GROWING WORKFORCE AND BUSINESS BASE.
- BETTER LIVES FOR THOSE LIVING IN THE REGION.
- POPULATION STABILITY.
- SIGNIFICANT NEEDS ADDRESSED THAT ARE CHALLENGING THE REGION.



# REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

April 2025

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



## RLF

The committee consists of five members and meets as needed. The committee covers both the COVID-19 RLF and Traditional RLF. The committee meets as needed. The committee last met on 3/3/2025.

**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 (as of 3-10-25) \$395,950.26 and C-RLF (as of 3-10-25) \$308,631.61. CRLF funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Not included within these figures is a loan approval in Pipestone that is approved, but not yet scheduled to close, in the amount of \$36,250.

## Loan Servicing

Now, more than ever, the committee has had to consider interest only and/or modification requests. Some of the requests are due to seasonality, and others are due to changes in the market. SRDC recently wrote off funds for a project that sold in Jackson County for less than lender loan obligations. SRDC recently entered into a modification agreement with a Lyon County couple as their business sold for less than lender loan obligations. One loan client may be selling their food truck soon to lessen their loan burden.



## Site Visits

Site visits are required every three years; however, they are done more often as the need arises. Annual business taxes continue to be 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/revolv->



## Atlantic Place: Craft Food & Cocktails

*Crafted for Memories & Connections, Inspired by Flavor*

Atlantic Place in Marshall, MN, isn't just another restaurant—it's a passion project brought to life by Ronnie Walker, a chef with a deep love for food and creating memorable experiences. Ronnie's journey to opening Atlantic Place in 2023 is as rich and flavorful as the dishes he serves.

## From Culinary School to Crafting Experiences

Ronnie's love for food started young. "I got my first job at 15, which eventually led me to culinary school in Atlanta, GA," he shared. After moving to SW MN and spending some time teaching Culinary Arts at SMSU, Ronnie knew it was time to follow his dream of owning a restaurant. "Food brings people together—fun, family, friends. That's what I wanted to create here—a place where people gather, share meals, and leave with memories."

When Ronnie saw an opportunity in Marshall, he knew it was the perfect spot to put his culinary twist on the local dining scene. Atlantic Place offers a relaxed yet elevated atmosphere, with warm wood tones and carefully selected vintage black-and-white photos of Marshall's history adorning the walls.

## A Speakeasy Vibe with Modern Comforts

Ronnie envisioned Atlantic Place as more than just a restaurant—he wanted to create a modern take on a speakeasy. "I've always been drawn to the idea of a hidden gem—a place that feels like you're stepping into a different time," Ronnie said. The intimate lighting, rich wood tones, and cozy seating create a welcoming yet elevated ambiance. "It's not over-the-top fine dining—it's fun dining," Ronnie explained.

See the full story on the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/restaurant/>





# REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

April 2025

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



## Erin Schutte Wadzinski:

### *Bringing Immigration Law Home*

Growing up on a farm near Worthington, Erin Schutte Wadzinski never expected to return home after college. But after a decade in Connecticut, she felt a calling to come back to Greater Minnesota and make a difference in her community through immigration law.

### **A Journey from Yale to Worthington**

Schutte Wadzinski's journey took her far from her rural roots. She attended Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, and later earned her law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law, attending night classes while working full-time. During her time at Yale, she directed the Yale Young Global Scholars program, expanding educational opportunities for students across the U.S. and around the world. It was there that she met her future husband, Tyler Wadzinski, a Wisconsin native.

Despite establishing a life and career in Connecticut, a persistent sense of home kept calling. "I started getting this little voice in my head telling me to go home," Schutte Wadzinski recalled. Though she and her husband had built a life on the East Coast, she ultimately realized that home meant Worthington. In 2018, the couple made the move back, with Tyler taking a chemistry instructor position at Minnesota West Community and Technical College and Erin beginning work as a staff attorney at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota.

See the full story on the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/immigration-law/>

## **MN Business Finance Corporation (SBA Lender)**

MBFC and SBA will be conducting a Lunch & Learn in Marshall on 4/28.

## **RLF Plan**

Every five years, the RLF Plan required revision. SRDC's RLF Plan is due 9/6/2025.

## **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 four active loans. One loan had a recent write off as the business was sold for less than lender obligations. Another business paid their loan in full. Approximately \$185,000 is available for lending. One is in default. The committee last met on 1/29/2025. There is a vacancy on the committee from Heron Lake.

**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. There is currently an interest rate incentive, as low as 2%, on loans that close before August 2025 month-end. The FDC Board has a maximum of 7 members. The committee currently has six members. The committee last met on 3/20 and is scheduled to meet again on 5/7/2025. Approximately \$57,000 is available for lending.

***If you have questions about the business lending via SRDC RLF or its contracted RLFs, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at robin@swrdc.org.***





# PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

April 2025

**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. Interest rates for new projects are set at 3% under Prime, with a floor of 3%.**

**Funds Available:** Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of PACE EE-RLF (as of 2-28-25) \$245,478.17, PACE ARRA (as of 2-28-25) \$104,687.04, and PACE SEP (as of 3-12-25) \$34,158.02. Not included within these numbers are unspent project expenses and the latest loan approved was for a Renville County agricultural property owner for solar installation at \$60,000.

Currently, two PACE loans are in default as they have not paid their 2024 property taxes.

**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. The committee last met on 3/24/2025.

**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. Referrals for energy audits are often made to RETAP, MNTAP, CEE, or EnergySmart.

### PACE 101

Weis conducted a PACE 101 for two new RMEB members on 3/19.

### Payback to 14 RMEB Counties to begin December 2026

There were 14 counties within RMEB that provided \$6,336 to lessen the interest burden of 3% financing via REED. The other initial financing was REED with 0% interest. REDG will be paid off in June 2025 and REED is projected to be paid off in June 2034. Financial help from the counties allowed the PACE program to continue. Payback is set to start in December 2026.

### PACE Success Stories


A few recent success stories can be found at <https://www.swrdc.org/broadway-beauty-salon/> and <https://www.swrdc.org/tally-ho-koffee/>.


The **updated PACE application** that includes a checklist can be found at RMEB PACE Application.

If you have questions about the PACE or energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at [robin@swrdc.org](mailto:robin@swrdc.org).


# Are you looking to cut your energy bill?


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





- Heating / Cooling
- Lighting
- Refrigeration
- Insulation
- Air Sealing
- Solar Energy System
- Wind Turbines
- Geothermal





**Robin Weis**  
 PACE Program Administrator  
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 Slayton, MN 56172  
 Phone: 507-836-1638  
 Email: [robin@swrdc.org](mailto:robin@swrdc.org)

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 Phone: 507-836-1642  
 Email: [jason@swrdc.org](mailto:jason@swrdc.org)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

April 2025

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



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

### PAUSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Due to Executive Orders under the current Administration, USDA Regional Food Business Center funding has been paused. Due to the uncertainty of the USDA's ability to authorize and process North Central Regional Food Business Center (NCRFBC) reimbursements beyond January 19, 2025, necessary action was taken by the NCRFBC to terminate our contract effective February 25, 2025.

## Southwest Minnesota 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, four individuals have engaged in the on-the-job training option, and the second round of formal training will kick off in the Fall of 2025. Due to lower participation than anticipated, the SW MN Processor Workforce Development Initiative did return half of what was allocated for Training (\$65,000) and half of what was earmarked for Retention (\$25,000), for a total of \$95,000. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has included these funds in a new round of funding for this grant opportunity.

## Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Grant from DOE:

SRDC worked with Region 9 to coordinate writing the concept paper for this opportunity, which was submitted Feb 27th. The projects included in the proposal are in five RDO regions. They are:

Project	Category	Technologies & Brief Summary	Total Project cost
City of Windom Municipal Utility	Grid Resilience and Solar	Transformers, bore wires underground, smart switches, solar panels & inverters, smart thermostats	\$5.9M
City of Madison Municipal Utility	Grid Resilience	Substation upgrades, advanced metering infrastructure, boring wires underground	\$17.08 M
City of Tyler Municipal Utility	Grid Resilience	Substation upgrades	\$3 M
City of Lakefield Municipal Utility	Grid Resilience	Replace diesel generator, replace breakers, upgrade streetlights with LEDs, conduct a study on energy monitoring and management systems	\$1 – 10 M
Kandiyo Power Cooperative	Grid Resilience	Substation and distribution line upgrades, create a microgrid, and do efficiency work	\$2.5 M
People's Energy Cooperative - Stewartville	Grid Resilience	Upgrading distribution lines; voltage changeover of distribution lines, microgrids, integrating DER solar and battery	\$1 M +
City of Blue Earth Municipal Utility	Grid Resilience	4 MW Solar for the utility	\$8.1 M (only requesting \$3.1M Fed)
Eco-Innovation Center, Baxter	Solar	Solar for a planned unit development called "Eco-Innovation"	\$0.150 M
Resiliency Hub, Cass Lake	Solar	Add solar to a new resiliency hub	\$0.150 M
Tri-County Community Action	Solar, Air Source Heat Pumps	Provide ASHPs and Solar to low-income residents and small businesses in rural areas	\$5 M

Total DOE Funding Request (\$M USD):	\$40.824 M
Total Non-Federal Cost Share (\$M USD):	\$12.056 M
Total Project Costs (\$M USD):	\$52.88 M

## Solid Waste Commission:

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission convened on Monday, March 24, 2025. During the meeting, Jay Trusty, the Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Development Commission, presented the 10-year Solid Waste Plan to the Commission. The draft plan has been submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for an initial review. The MPCA will provide feedback, and any necessary corrections will be made before the final report is submitted.

*The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2025.*





# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

April 2025

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



## Mankato State of Energy Summit

The 2025 State of Energy Summit on Monday, March 24, hosted by the MN State Energy Center of Excellence, was open to students, faculty, educators, and industry professionals. The Summit was held at the Centennial Student Union Ballroom in Mankato. CERTs staff, the SW and SE regional coordinators, presented on the CERTs ambassador program, Seed Grant projects, and storytelling. The day included a MN energy careers panel, education and training innovation breakout sessions, utilities and energy innovations discussions, a policy and advocacy panel, and energy career networking. This summit is an adaptation of the MN Energy Consortium's annual meeting, made up of various energy industry professionals. Some of the participants included NextEra, Fresh Energy, Center for Energy Workforce Development, Clean Energy Economy, and Goodwill-Easter seals.

## Ways that Make 'Cents' Seed Grant

[Ways That Make 'Cents'](#) is a CERTs Seed grant project, carried out by Erika Gilsdorf, an international filmmaker and producer. It is a series of 26 stories filmed throughout northwestern and southwestern Minnesota featuring residents, businesses, and community organizations. She captures a variety of clean energy projects ranging from 28-second clips at busy businesses, to 30-minute tours of Bemidji homes. The Southwest portion focuses on the businesses and community organizations that have implemented clean energy projects in their communities. The website is [whatfuelsyouusa.com](http://whatfuelsyouusa.com) and has video interviews from each project and a trailer for each region.

## St. James EV ride and Drive

St. James will be holding an EV Ride and Drive event on Saturday, May 17, from 11 am – 3 pm, at the St. James Middle and High School. It will be held in coordination with Recharge America, who will be providing a lot of the resources and outreach around the event. The event will also feature a local vendor and exhibit EXPO, including a table for the GreenStep Cities program. St. James is a Step 3 GreenStep city (out of 5 steps).

# SRDC SERVICES

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) offers a vast list of services to assist with your needs

- Planning
- Facilitation
- Grant writing assistance
- Project collaboration
- Research
- Data analysis
- Revolving loan funds
- And more...

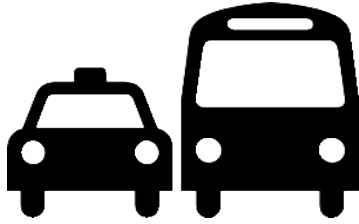


For more information  
see [www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org)

# TRANSPORTATION REPORT

April 2025

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



## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**Active Transportation Planning Assistance Grant:** MnDOT announced that ten Minnesota cities will receive funding support from the latest round of Active Transportation Planning Assistance to help them increase the number of people walking and biking to destinations in their communities.

“MnDOT’s Active Transportation Planning Assistance program brings together neighbors to dream big and develop a work plan for building their own network for walking and bicycling,” says Will Wlizlo, MnDOT Active Transportation coordinator. “This assistance helps cities reduce pollution, curb traffic, revitalize Main Streets, and increase residents’ health and safety.”

The cities of Mountain Lake and Worthington were awarded planning assistance grants.

### E-Bike Rental Program at End-O-Line Park in Currie:

Planner Webb has been facilitating meetings between Southwest Health and Humana Services, Murray County, and other local stakeholders in order to gauge the potential for an E-Bike Rental Program at End-O-Line Park in Currie. If funding is secured, then the goal is that 4 E-Bikes will be in place at the park by June 1 for residents and visitors to use the bikes on the Casey Jones State Trail Loop located in Lake Shetek State Park. .



### Portable Counters Available:

If you or someone in your area is planning to apply for MnDOT or other funding for a trial project, consider requesting a portable counter from the SRDC Office. These counters provide valuable information and data on current trail users that can be very beneficial for grant applications and other planning efforts. Contact Planner Webb for more information: [chrisw@swrdc.org](mailto:chrisw@swrdc.org)

### RDO Transportation Planner’s Group:

Planner Webb has been selected to serve as Co-Chair of the RDO Transportation Planner’s Group in Minnesota. This group works with MnDOT officials and all of the Regional Development Commissions to lead quarterly planning meetings and other efforts in relation to RDO’s and their relationship with MnDOT.

### Lamberton/Red Rock Central Safe Routes To School Planning Assistance Grant:

Planners Webb and Bucklin hosted a meeting with the SRTS Steering Committee on 3/24 in Lamberton. The final draft of the Safe Routes Plan will be approved by the Steering Committee at their final meeting on May 5.

## AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

ATP 7 will hold its next meeting on Friday, June 13 at 10 AM in Mankato.

ATP 8 will hold its next meeting on Friday, April 11 at 10 AM in Willmar



## Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail

In a recent meeting, the Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail group has opted to reallocate some of their funds. Kent Skaar, DNR, stated : *The priority and scope will be revised for each of the two projects, with the Lake Wilson now being identified for Design and Construction and the Woodstock – East Segment shifting to Design only. Noting that we will likely limit further work at Woodstock for now to allow the Lake Wilson Project to proceed.*

The group recently had a booth at the Slayton Expo sharing information about the trail with those in attendance along with handing out brochures, talking about upcoming events and membership.

### Upcoming events for 2025.

- May 17th, the Pipestone ride to Woodstock and back
- September 13, Currie ride
- Horse trail ride, Sept. 20th or 21st





# EXECUTIVE REPORT

April 2025



## MADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The MADO Executive Directors had our quarterly in person meeting in Grand Rapids on February 27-28. I presented on the SRDC’s PACE program so the other XD’s would have a better grasp of just how the program works. I used the presentation Robin put together for her training with Region 5.

Representatives from the new Office of Long Range Planning at the Minnesota Management and Budget office, (MMB) were at the meeting to gather information on long range priorities for the RDCs.

Also at the meeting, Kyle Erickson, the Director of Rural Grantmaking from the Blandin Foundation presented on a number of their grant programs, including Small Communities Grants, Rural Placemaking Grants and Community Wealth Building Grants.

Cheryl Glaeser from Achieve facilitated a discussion about the organizational possibilities for MADO as a whole and the Executive Directors specifically. The Director’s agreed that we would go forward with a plan of “Strategic Doing” rather than a strategic plan. Strategic Doing identifies rapid response planning efforts as compared to traditional strategic planning. We will continue to work on this effort with Cheryl. The next in-person meeting is set for the end of May in Bemidji.

## SW REGIONAL SOLID WASTE COMMISSION

The Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission met at our offices on March 24th. I presented the ten-year solid waste plan to the Commission. MPCA staff has begun review of the plan with a target of the end of March for the initial review.

## NADO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Chair Langseth and I traveled to Washington DC for the NADO Legislative Conference, returning on the 13th, unfortunately not in time to make the Commission meeting. My report is included in the packet.

## EECBG PROGRAM

With the EECBG Program coming back on-line, we met with the Department of Commerce and the other RDOs to discuss how we move forward, how we provide services and some of the details about the reimbursement process. Staff continue to work on the two projects that have come forward for this program in Pipestone and Slayton.

## ORIENTATION

Orientation for new elected officials and new SRDC Commissioners was held on March 21st at the Murray County 4H Building in Slayton. We had a very good response from the region with 23 elected officials in attendance. Many Commissioners have told me that after serving in their first term as an SRDC Commissioner, attending the orientation a second time makes everything clearer than the first time they attended. Paul welcomed everyone to the Orientation and then we walked everyone through the orientation, with staff members handling the programs that they administer or work on.



Jay Trusty



Melissa Nelson



Robin Weis



Jason Walker



Nadya Bucklin

## WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

I continue to work with Melissa to develop the Workplan and Budget for FY 26. Staff met on March 26th to review outstanding contract work and discuss possible contracts for next year, especially in light of the chaos around programs at the federal level. The Budget and Personnel Committee will meet at our offices on April 4th to discuss preliminary recommendations to the Board of Directors.



Executive Director’s Report  
April 10, 2025

**Monday, March 10th Highlights**

Opening Plenary Session

Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director, Region XII Council of Governments, (Iowa); President, NADO, and Chris Chiles Executive Director, Region 2; President, DDAA, welcomed attendees to this year’s conference.

The Plenary Session began with remarks from Daniel Lippman, a reporter from POLITICO who covers Washington and the White House. Lippman reported on the chaos that the current administration has engendered in Washington and noted that there are many meetings behind closed doors from both parties to try and mitigate the general lawlessness that accompanies DOGE and it’s agenda. With mid-terms less than two years away, House members in particular are being careful not to invite retaliatory primary challenges by publicly opposing the administration’s tactics and policies.

Erich Zimmermann, Executive Director, National Association of Regional Councils, Matt Chase, CEO/Executive Director, National Association of Counties, Nathan Ohle, President and CEO, International Economic Development Council, and Joe McKinney, Executive Director, National Association of Development Organizations sat on a panel to discuss the impact on local units of government and economic development of the new administration’s Executive Orders and other federal policy efforts. Key points in the discussion:

- └ When you talk to the new administration, know who you’ve talked to and what they said
- └ Everything is on the table
- └ Congress may attempt to get rid of the tax exemption for municipal bonds
- └ If SNAP is cut from the Farm Bill, the Farm Bill won’t pass

**Regional Organizations and Population Aging:**

*What’s Changing and What’s Ahead*

This was a panel discussion with Sandy Markwood from USAging, Brendan Flinn from AARP and Annette Gutierrez from the Rio Grande Council of Governments. The topic was generally the push for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. One of the key points discussed was that, especially as more and more of the population of the US reaches retirement age that social care is just as important as medical care and that the combination of social care and medical care IS healthcare.

**Plenary Luncheon -**

***Policy and Practice: Supporting and Investing in Rural Regions***

NADO and DDAA presented awards to Senator Capito of West Virginia and former Senator Carper of Delaware in recognition of their outstanding leadership and commitment to communities,

and their successful bipartisan effort to champion EDA reauthorization legislation.

During this session, Tony Pipa discussed the Brookings Institution’s Reimagining Rural Policy Initiative, which seeks to modernize and transform U.S. federal policy in order to strengthen community and economic development in underserved rural places across the country. Tony will also discuss some of the stories and themes from his podcast, Reimagine Rural, which profiles rural towns across America that are making progress on their efforts to thrive amidst social and economic change. Farah Ahmad also discussed her organization, Partners for Rural Transformation, a coalition of six Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) serving persistently poor and rural communities as well as lessons learned from her previous leadership roles with USDA Rural Development and the White House National Economic Council.

**Regional and Rural Transportation**

Jim Kolb from NADO’s lobbying firm, Kevin Adam from the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council and Carolyn Simons from the American Road and Transportation Builders Association discussed state transportation funding initiatives, as well as how NADO and other peer organizations are advocating for the needs of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs). There was much discussion about the ways states implement gas taxes and how states manage replacement taxes for EVs, hybrids and high mileage vehicles. Research shows that most people think that they pay more in funding for transportation than they actually do.

**Midwest Region Chapter Meeting**

The Midwest Region met on Monday afternoon at 3:30. As NADO Executive Committee member Nicole Griensewic (R9 Minnesota) was unable to attend Carrie Kissel from NADO and I facilitated the discussion. There was much talk about the impacts of the federal retrenchment on existing programs/funding. USDA programs, which impact virtually all rural areas/entities seem to be particularly affected. Each of the states gave a brief report on what was going on in their states. We also talked about memberships in NADO. All of the RDCs in Minnesota are members.



**Tuesday, March 11th Highlights**

Hill Visits

Kristi Kane, Executive Director and Beth Ann Teskey Planning Director from Arrowhead RDC joined us for the senate visits. Andrea Boettger, Region 9 Vice-Chair, joined us for all of our visits. We were able to meet with staff from both Senator Smith’s and Senator Klobuchar’s office, including Ben from Senator Smith’s office, who we met with last year. We thanked both staffs for their work on EDA reauthorization and discussed some regional asks for Congressional Directed Spending that had come through our office. Arrowhead also is the Area Agency on Aging, and so Kristi also talked about reauthorization of the Older American’s Act.

In the afternoon, we visited with Congressman Brad Finstad from New Ulm. Again, we thanked him for his vote on EDA reauthorization and discussed funding levels for EDA as indicated in the legislation. Andrea led a discussion on the impacts of the holds on USDA programs.

**Wednesday, March 12th Highlights**

**Breakfast Plenary Session**

*Disaster Preparation, Mitigation, and Recovery*

During this session we heard from Brock Long, who was appointed as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the first term of the Trump Administration, and who now serves as the Executive Chairman of Hagerty Consulting. Former Administrator Long provided insights born from

his decades of experience responding to disaster scenarios and facilitating emergency management and community resilience efforts. The most interesting part of the discussion was his aggressive stance on local units of government having pre-placed assets (contracts) in place for debris removal, power and telecommunications with local contractors and local providers so transportation, power, and communications can be rapidly re-established following a disaster.

**Closing Plenary**

*Aligning Outdoor Recreation*

*Amenities with Economic Development Strategies*

This closing session featured perspectives from panelists Jessica Wahl Turner, President of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, Ryan Chao, President of the Rails to Trails Conservancy and Sean Byrne, a partner at ACG Advocacy. The session was moderated by NADO member Ryan Richardson, the Executive Director of Superior California Economic Development in Redding, California. There was much discussion on the intersection between Economic Development and Outdoor Recreation, particularly around trail development. Ms. Turner stated that there was \$1.2 trillion in economic impact in the outdoor recreation sector. There was discussion of the US EPA program, “Recreation Economy for Rural Communities”, although the future of any EPA programs that are at all useful is seriously in doubt. There was also discussion on how, if there is insufficient housing opportunities for those employed in the sector, it is difficult to maintain the staffing levels necessary to have a consistent economic development impact.



**Representative Finstad**



**Senator Smith**





## Chairman Report

I recently afforded the opportunity to attend the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference in Washington, DC.

I had considered doing a workshop-by-workshop report telling you a blow-by-blow of what I learned. However, I think it is more important to give you my thoughts and takeaways.

NADO is a broad and a varied organization that represents a huge diversity of missions and programming. Some are good, some may come under DOGE scrutiny. Are we effectively helping our communities nationwide? I am not sure...based on the hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' money spent and what progress we have to show. But I can only speak of our community, the SRDC in Minnesota.

To my limited observation we are doing an adequate job. We can leverage multiple federal programs to help our LGUs and taxpayers navigate the complicated and sometimes unkind world in which we live. The connections and relationships built at a conference like this are vital. Everyone I spoke with that knew Jay Trusty, held him in high esteem and respected his presence. He represents us well in NADO's circle. Thank you, Jay.

By being there in Washington, we are heard, and known, by our political representatives – both in the Senate and Congress. We become an information source for them and provide feedback on the applications of the programs they put into law. It is a give-and-take process that NADO facilitates.



Senator Klobuchar

Please continue, as a commission, to send staff and commissioners to D.C. to provide this vital link for RDC's, as well as our Country.

Paul Langseth,  
Commission Chair 2025





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