



Hello *November*

Hello, November!
A new month for gratitude, warmth, and gathering



COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2025

3:30 p.m.

Murray Co. 4-H Building

3048 Broadway Ave., Slayton, MN



Southwest Regional Development Commission—Full Commission

* Board of Directors

Commissioner	Representing
Rick Anderson	Lyon County Commissioners, SRDC Treasurer*
Kent Bargfrede	Jackson County Commissioners
Carrie Bendix	Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
JoEllen Benson	Rock County Townships*
Carol Biren	Health and Human Services
Leah Bittner	Redwood County Municipalities
Kristie Blankenship	Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
Bob Byrnes	City of Marshall & RLF Committee Chair*
Miron Carney	Murray County Municipalities, Immediate Past Chair, Legislative Committee Chair*
Vacant	Lower Sioux Community
Pam Cooreman	Lyon County Municipalities
Vacant	Murray County Townships
Dan Delaney	Pipestone County Municipalities
Lori Grant	Lyon County Townships
Donna Gravley	Cottonwood County Commissioners*
Mark Haberman	Jackson County Municipalities*
Rod Hamilton	Economic Development
Eric Hartman	Region 8 School Boards* SRDC Secretary
Chris Hollingsworth	Pipestone County Commissioners*
Lyndon Johnson	Lincoln County Municipalities
Tiffany Lesmeister- Knott	Redwood County Townships
Ronald Kottke	Cottonwood County Townships
Paul Langseth	Nobles County Townships, SRDC Chair*
Steve Kellen	Nobles County Municipalities
Dennis Madison	Rock County Municipalities
Jeff Moen	Lincoln County Townships
Vacant	Cultural Diversity
Bob Paplow	Nobles County Commissioners
Jenny Quade	Cottonwood County Municipalities
Craig Rubis	Jackson County Townships
Vacant	Region 8 School Boards
David Sturrock	SW MN Higher Education
Vacant	Pipestone County Townships*
Sherri Thompson	Rock County Commissioners
Mic VanDeVere	Lincoln County Commissioners, Transportation Committee Chair*
Bob Van Hee	Redwood County Commissioners*
Rick VonHoldt	City of Worthington*
Dennis Welgraven	Murray County Commissioners, SRDC Vice-Chair*

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



SRDC
FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, November 13, 2025
3:30 pm

Murray Co. 4-H Building
3048 Broadway Ave, Slayton MN

AGENDA

<u>#</u>	<u>Time</u>		<u>Page</u>
1	3:30	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	3:31	Introductions	
3	3:35	Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	
4	3:40	Consent Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. Receipts & Expenditures • Sept. & Oct. meeting minutes Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	5-8 9-18
5	3:45	Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Anderson & Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts & investments • Administrative Report through September 2025 Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report	19 20
6	3:50	B & P Update	
7	3:55	Legislative Report – <i>Chair Miron Carney / Executive Director Trusty</i>	
8	4:00	Deep Dive ~ Budget & Personnel — <i>Finance Director Nelson</i>	
		<u>Committee & Staff Reports</u>	
9	4:20	Economic Development Report — <i>Deputy Director Weis & Planner Murphy</i>	21-25
10	4:25	Revolving Loan Funds Report — <i>Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis</i>	26-28
11	4:30	Community Development Report — <i>Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, and Webb</i>	29-33
12	4:35	Transportation Report — <i>Committee Chair VanDeVere & Development Planners Walker & Webb</i>	34
13	4:40	Executive Director’s Report — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	35
14	4:50	Chairman’s Report — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	

15	4:55	Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Bargfrede, Jackson County Commissioners • Eric Hartman, School Board • Chris Hollingsworth, Pipestone County Commissioners • Dennis Madison, Rock County Municipalities • Paul Langseth, Nobles County Townships 	
16	5:10	Unfinished Business	
17	5:10	New Business	
18	5:10	Other Issues	
19	5:10	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRDC will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27th and Friday, Nov. 28th in observance of Thanksgiving • SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, December 11 at 3:30 pm at the SRDC Office • SRDC Office will be closing at noon on Wed., Dec. 24th and will be closed all day on December 25th in observance of Christmas • SRDC will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2026 • SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 3:30 pm TBD • Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, Pipestone County Township, School Board Rep., Lower Sioux, and Cultural Diversity 	
20	5:15	Adjourn	

Providing professional expertise & 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.



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Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 9/1/2025 Through 9/30/2025

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	2,175.44	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	12.20	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	2,254.77	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	457.74	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	1,744.42	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	1,478.51	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	23.54	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	4.75	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	2,200.60	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	49.21	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	1,775.57	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	355.07	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	1,359.41	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	61.02	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	3,177.15	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	2,765.60	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	212.80	9/4/2025
PRS090425	09042...	9/4/2025	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 9/4/2025	2,071.77	9/4/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	2,116.22	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	2,093.27	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	543.13	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	129.31	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	186.20	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	1,613.58	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	130.83	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	1,402.84	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	94.51	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	9.46	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	2,221.69	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	28.12	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	1,775.57	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	1,636.48	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	77.68	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	49.94	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	22.20	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	3,674.22	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	2,400.19	9/18/2025
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	194.61	9/18/2025

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 9/1/2025 Through 9/30/2025

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
PRS091825	09182...	9/18/2025	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 9/18/2025	1,972.80	9/18/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 7/10/25 Meeting	50.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 7/10/25 Meeting	112.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 9/11/25 Meeting	50.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 9/11/25 Meeting	50.40	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 7/10/25 & 9/11/25 Meetings	100.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 7/10/25 & 9/11/25 Meetings	196.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 9/11/25 Meeting	50.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 9/11/25 Meeting	163.80	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 9/11/25 Meeting	50.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 9/11/25 Meeting	86.80	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 8/18/25 & 9/11/25 Meetings	100.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 8/18/25 & 9/11/25 Meetings	163.80	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 9/11/25 Meeting	50.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	09242...	9/24/2025	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 9/11/25 Meeting	133.00	9/24/2025
APS090425	61235	9/4/2025	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 7/24/25 to 8/27/25	22.08	9/4/2025
APS090425	61235	9/4/2025	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 7/24/25 to 8/27/25	23.92	9/4/2025
APS090425	61236	9/4/2025	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 1 bag salt, cooler rental	60.30	9/4/2025
APS090425	61236	9/4/2025	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 1 bag salt, cooler rental	6.60	9/4/2025
APS090425	61237	9/4/2025	David R. Samuelson	Mow 8/2, 8/9, 8/17, 8/22, 8/30	100.00	9/4/2025
APS090425	61237	9/4/2025	David R. Samuelson	Mow 8/2, 8/9, 8/17, 8/22, 8/30	150.00	9/4/2025
APS090425	61238	9/4/2025	NADO	Early bird registration - Jay & Robin	1,510.00	9/4/2025
APS090425	61239	9/4/2025	One Office Solution	Meter reading, desk pads	135.00	9/4/2025
APS090425	61240	9/4/2025	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Sept Sept 2025	5,003.67	9/4/2025
APS091125	61241	9/11/2025	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Aug 2025	17.02	9/11/2025
APS091125	61242	9/11/2025	EPF Solar	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Southern MN Electric	40,000.00	9/11/2025
APS091125	61243	9/11/2025	Midway Farm Equipment, Inc	Refund: RLF Loan Agreement Balance - Midway Farm Equipment	40.50	9/11/2025
APS091125	61244	9/11/2025	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS Oct 2025	64.00	9/11/2025
APS091125	61245	9/11/2025	Quill Corporation	Addr labels, 9x12 env, trash can liners	107.11	9/11/2025
APS091125	61245	9/11/2025	Quill Corporation	Addr labels, 9x12 env, trash can liners	122.80	9/11/2025
APS091125	61246	9/11/2025	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 9/1/25 - 9/30/25	31.42	9/11/2025
APS091125	61246	9/11/2025	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 9/1/25 - 9/30/25	47.13	9/11/2025
APS091125	61247	9/11/2025	Shrpa	2025 Explore MN Content Creation Program	4,400.00	9/11/2025
APS091125	61248	9/11/2025	Slayton Electric, Inc.	20250731-120220727 Replace 2 ballasts, 36 light bulbs, labor, recycle bulbs	185.70	9/11/2025

Southwest Regional Development Commission
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
 From 9/1/2025 Through 9/30/2025

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo ...	Effective Date
APS091125	61248	9/11/2025	Slayton Electric, Inc.	Replace 2 ballasts, 36 light bulbs, labor, recycle bulbs	278.56	9/11/2025
APS091125	61249	9/11/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank - Visa 9/1/25 closing date	2,644.80	9/11/2025
APS091125	61249	9/11/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank - Visa 9/1/25 closing date	120.00	9/11/2025
APS091125	61249	9/11/2025	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank - Visa 9/1/25 closing date	10.50	9/11/2025
APS091125	61250	9/11/2025	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 8/2/25 - 9/1/25	42.60	9/11/2025
APS091125	61251	9/11/2025	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 8/4/25 - 9/3/25	211.55	9/11/2025
APS091125	61251	9/11/2025	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 8/4/25 - 9/3/25	317.33	9/11/2025
APS091825	61252	9/18/2025	Carlson Automotive Repair, LLC	FDC Loan Disbursement: Carlson Automotive Repair, LLC	40,000.00	9/18/2025
APS091825	61253	9/18/2025	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 9/10/25 to 10/09/25	479.58	9/18/2025
APS091825	61253	9/18/2025	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 9/10/25 to 10/09/25	890.65	9/18/2025
APS091825	61254	9/18/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 7/22/25 to 8/21/25	7.40	9/18/2025
APS091825	61254	9/18/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 7/22/25 to 8/21/25	11.10	9/18/2025
APS091825	61255	9/18/2025	Southwest Minnesota Private ...	SW MN Meat Train & Retain	7,963.76	9/18/2025
APS092425	61256	9/24/2025	Allen Jensen	Allen Jensen FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	61257	9/24/2025	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 9/24/25 to 10/23/25	59.99	9/24/2025
APS092425	61257	9/24/2025	Bluepeak	Bluepeak 9/24/25 to 10/23/25	61.37	9/24/2025
APS092425	61258	9/24/2025	Jeremy D. Janssen	Jeremy Janssen FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	61259	9/24/2025	John Hay	John Hay FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	61260	9/24/2025	Kevin Leopold	Kevin Leopold FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	61261	9/24/2025	Steven Bornhoft	Steven Bornhoft FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
APS092425	61262	9/24/2025	Tracy L. Freking	Tracy Freking FDC Meeting 8/6/25	25.00	9/24/2025
CD091125 ...	8	9/25/2025		Admin Fees August 2025	25.75	9/25/2025
CD092625 A...	Aflac 9	9/29/2025		Aflac Sept 2025	241.92	9/29/2025
CD092625 A...	Aflac 9	9/29/2025		Aflac Sept 2025	37.26	9/29/2025
CD092625 A...	Aflac 9	9/29/2025		Aflac Sept 2025	130.26	9/29/2025
CD091225 B...	BCBS...	9/20/2025		BCBS October 2025	12,161.77	9/20/2025
CD091825	Monte...	9/18/2025	Montes de Oca Solutions Group	Montes de Oca Solutions Sept 2025: Interpreter for CERTS mtg	1,432.50	9/18/2025
Report Total					<u>165,214.12</u>	



- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Carrie Bendix, JoEllen Benson, Carol Biren, Leah Bittner, Miron Carney, Pam Cooreman, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Rod Hamilton, Eric Hartman, Steve Kellen, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, Dennis Madison, David Sturrock, Sherri Thompson, and Mic VanDeVere
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Rick Anderson (excused), Kent Bargfrede (excused), Kristie Blankenship (excused), Bob Byrnes (excused), Dan Delaney (excused), Chris Hollingsworth (excused), Lyndon Johnson (excused), Ron Kottke (excused), Jeff Moen (excused), Bob Paplow (excused), Jenny Quade (excused), Craig Rubis (excused), Bob Van Hee (excused), Rick Von Holdt (excused) and Dennis Welgraven (excused)
- GUESTS PRESENT:** Grady Holtberg, Redwood Economic Development and Shannon Martin, MPCA Brownfields
- STAFF PRESENT:** Executive Director Jay Trusty, Nadya Bucklin, Melissa Nelson, Kathy Schreiber, Jason Walker, and Robin Weis

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Paul Langseth called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions. The meeting will be a Board of Director's meeting due to not having a quorum of the Full Commission but having a quorum for the Board.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

Three contracts were added under contracts.

- M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the agenda with the additions. Upon vote taken: Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Great Plains Institute (GPI) contract was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to the contract section as there is an amendment to that contract.

- M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Grant and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve June & July receipts and expenditures, July full commission meeting minutes, contracts for CERTs, SWHHS and the City of Taunton. Upon vote taken: Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

With the addition of four more full commission members, the board of directors meeting was closed at 3:45 and a full commission meeting was opened.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to close the board of directors meeting and open the full commission meeting. Upon vote taken: Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director Nelson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2025 and August 31, 2025, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hamilton and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the July 31 and August 31, 2025 treasurer's reports. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of June 2025 and the end of July 2025. She pointed out some line items and where FY25 finished. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the June 30 and July 31, 2025 administrative reports. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Nelson reported that the FY23 audit is finished and the audit committee has approved it. We received an unqualified opinion with no material findings. The audit committee signed the engagement letter for Kinner and Co to complete the FY24 audit. The auditors are hoping to have the FY24 audit completed by the end of the year.

CONTRACTS

Community Development Director Walker presented the following contracts for approval: City of Jasper, City of New Ulm-CERTs, Great Plains Institute-Carolyn and Great Plains Institute DWSMA contract and amendment.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Hamilton to approve the contracts for the City of Jasper, City of New Ulm-CERTs, Great Plains Institute-Carolyn and Great Plains Institute DWSMA contract and amendment as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Community Development Director Walker presented the project review for the City of Walnut Grove's Collection System – Eighth Street North Reconstruction project. Development Planner Bucklin presented the project review for the City of Ruthton's Water Tower Replacement project.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hamilton and seconded by Commissioner Grant to approve the project reviews as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report
No report.

B. Legislative Committee Report
Committee Chair Carney updated the commissioners on the Minnesota Legislature. There may be a special session to address the proposed re-districting map and what the changes in federal money will have on the state.

The Senate will have 2 special elections, and the House will have 1 special election. Democrats elected Zack Stephenson as the minority leader.

The summer Great Minnesota Partnership (GMP) and Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) conference focused on the state's impending deficit and how it affects programming and local government aid (LGA). The fall conference will be held in November in Grand Rapids.

Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) will have 2 legislative priorities for the next session. 1. Ask for an increase in the MnDOT planning grant amount given to RDCs. 2. Ask the legislature for direct planning dollars to RDCs to help small communities.

Shannon Martin from MPCA's Brownfields division was the guest speaker. She presented what Brownfield has to offer for help in the cleaning up of properties with hazardous waste on them.

C. Economic Development Report
Deputy Director Weis reported that staff have been working with the Cities of Wilder, Jackson and Pipestone along with Minnesota West on EDA grant applications.

The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development will host an information session in Heron Lake on September 17 on Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Local Development Organizations (LDO).

Weis reminded commissioners that there is money available for energy planning for small communities with no match required.

Staff will again participate in the Career Expos in Worthington and Marshall in September with an interactive booth showcasing career opportunities in community and economic development.

There are a couple of childcare events coming up: First Children's Finance will host the "Foundation of the Future: Childcare in Economic Development" on October 23 and the Redwood County Childcare Forum will take place on October 28.

SRDC and MMDC are collaborating on a grant application submission to the Office of Small Business and Innovation through the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The grant would be used to provide no-cost technical assistance to historically underserved entrepreneurs and small business owners throughout a combined 13 county region. Weis asked commissioners to approve a resolution for the grant.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Bittner to approve the resolution as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Staff have been looking for and writing grants to find funding to continue the work started under the Regional Food Business Center project.

A grant was re-submitted to the Next Generation Refrigeration Grant through MPCA for the Heron Lake Mini Mart to replace failing equipment.

Southwest Minnesota Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative has had 7 individuals participate in on-the-job training with support from SW MN Private Industry Council, 4 individuals participated in on-the-job training with support from Central MN Jobs and Training and there is one transferring into the meat cutting program at Ridgewater College this fall.

D. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Fund balances are approximately \$511,900 in the RLF fund and \$330,500 in the CRLF fund. An interest rate reduction incentive will be looked at to help get funds loaned out.

Every 5 years a revised C-RLF plan needs to be submitted to EDA. The plan was submitted in July. A resolution by the full commission is needed to complete the plan. Weis reviewed the resolution and asked for approval.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Madison and seconded by Commissioner Haberman to approve the C-RLF resolution. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

PACE

Available PACE funds are approximately: EE-RLF \$188,900, ARRA-\$91,600 and SEP-\$40,900. There are several loans that have not been fully disbursed and a \$40,000 loan that recently closed.

E. Community Development Report

Community Development Director Walker reported that the Rural MN Energy Board met on July 27. Clean Grid Alliance presented on wind turbine setbacks. The RMEB board unanimously voted to support changing the setback from 3x5 rotor diameter to 1.1 times the total height. Next meeting is September 22.

Contract negotiations for the R-STEP funding have resumed. This grant would be \$156,000 over 3 years.

Under the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) contract, staff will coordinate/facilitate 1 or 2 workshops in selected areas for supporting solar development within drinking water protection areas. Great Plains Institute is deciding where they want to hold these meetings at.

Work continues on the Lyon County Comprehensive Plan, the Nobles County Comprehensive Plan and the Marshall Master Parks Plan. New contracts were signed with the City of Taunton for strategic planning and the City of Jasper for zoning ordinance updates.

Development Planner Bucklin reviewed the Biodigester tour in August that SRDC and CERTs hosted. The group toured the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) Bioindustrial Innovation Center in Waseca and the Hometown BioEnergy Facility in LeSueur.

A contract was signed with the City of New Ulm for CERTs to provide outreach support for the MPCA Climate Action grant they received.

SEED grants are available this year. They can pay for labor but not materials for energy efficiency projects. There is an educational component to the grant. Grants are due October 1, 2025, at noon.

F. Transportation Report

Walker reported that the e-bikes arrived at the End-O-Line Park in Currie. They will be available to rent next spring.

The MADO Transportation Planners met in Marshall in August. They had a Pedestrian Counter Installation demonstration and had a downtown walking art tour with Marshall Mayor Bob Byrnes and EDA Director Lauren Deutz. The next meeting will be in November.

The Lamberton/Red Rock Central Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Planning Assistance grant is finished. At this time there are no infrastructure funds available for SRTS or Active Living projects.

G. Executive Director's Report

Trusty has been working with Finance Director Nelson on the new Finance Policy manual with help from Wipfli.

MADO Executive Directors met in Crookston in August. The strategic planning with Cheryl Glaeser wrapped up and work began on putting together some joint priority settings. Next meeting will be in November.

The Minneapolis office of the Federal Reserve hosted a meeting to discuss housing and the impacts of federal policy. The key focus areas were interest rates and the high cost of homeowners insurance.

The new commission car will be picked up September 17. Trusty attended the Redwood County Township Association annual meeting. Walker explained that the SRDC has an air monitoring device on the building. You can go to Purple Air Maps to get current air quality reports.

Trusty and Weis will attend the NADO conference in Salt Lake City in October.

H. Chairman's Report

No report.

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

A. Jackson County Commissioners

No report.

B. Murray County Municipalities

Commissioner Carney reported he didn't get a response from any of the cities when requesting information for the meeting. The City of Iona is without a clerk and is having issues with their water billings.

In Slayton the nursing home closed, and the building was demolished. A group of community members formed Operation Prairie Venture (OPV) to work on getting a group to build/invest in elderly housing. A new nursing home, assisted living or memory care facility was envisioned. There were plans in the works and then COVID hit and now the project is halted due to construction costs making a facility unable to cash flow. OPV is looking at some funding options and were disappointed they didn't get in the bonding bill. The city will have to refund about \$86,000 from a grant because nothing has happened at the site in the time frame given at the time of the grant award.

Wonder World Daycare and Preschool has been in business for over 50 years. They are in need of new space. They were not included in the bonding bill so they have started a capital campaign to construct a \$2.1 million facility. The City of Slayton has

given them land and will hook up to city infrastructure at no cost as part of their contribution. The city will also provide lawn care and snow removal.

The City of Slayton is working on buying out Xcel Energy and municipalizing their own electric utility. They have agreed upon asset valuation and re-powering but not on the stranded investment (substation). The proposal is at the Public Utilities Commission with a decision expected by June 2026. The City will take over ownership of the Natural Gas utility in the next couple of months. Northwest Natural Gas will still service the utility but with the City owning it that changes the number of users to 1 and that will open up the ability to have more users hook up to natural gas.

- C. School Board
No report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Pipestone County Townships, Murray County Townships, School Board, Lower Sioux and Cultural Diversity.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Eric Hartman
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth
SRDC Chairman



MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chairman Dennis Welgraven, Commissioners Rick Anderson, JoEllen Benson, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Bob Van Hee, Mic VanDeVere

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Eric Hartman (excused), Chris Hollingsworth, Paul Langseth (excused) and Rick VonHoldt (excused)

GUESTS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Executive Director Jay Trusty, Nadya Bucklin, Sheila Crowley, Kim Murphy, Melissa Nelson, Kathy Schreiber, Jason Walker, and Robin Weis

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Dennis Welgraven called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the agenda as provided. Upon vote taken: Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Van Hee to approve the August Receipts & Expenditures and the Solid Waste Regional Plan Contract Extension. Upon vote taken: Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer Anderson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2025, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Van Hee and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of August 2025. She pointed out some line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

Treasurer Anderson noted that work is being done on the Accounting Procedure Manual and will be ready to present soon. The code of federal regulations says we need this manual.

The Minnesota Paid Leave law goes into effect January 1, 2026. This can be done in-house or by a third party. The B & P committee will decide how this will be paid for.

A contractor looked at the parking lot and thought it should be re-surfaced. The city has been contacted and asked if someone from the Public Works Department could take a look at it.

The Conflict of Interest document for board members was reviewed and they decided to leave it as it is.

Cash reserve goals were set as follows:

Employee Transition Designation a minimum of \$7,500

Acquisition of Capital Assets – Equipment a minimum of \$70,000

Acquisition of Capital Assets – Building a minimum of \$150,000

Unemployment Claims a minimum of \$75,000

It was also recommended to have reserves of at least 6 months of operating costs.

The B & P committee is recommending the amount the Executive Director can approve over the budgeted amount be set at \$5,000.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the Executive Director's approval limit over the budget to be \$5,000. Upon vote taken: Ayes-9, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

B. Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Carney reported as the federal government shutdown continues some programs and funding will be negatively impacted. CGMC & GMP's fall conference is November 13-14 in Grand Rapids. Commissioner VonHoldt plans to attend.

C. Deep Dive

Trusty presented on the SRDC Strategic Plan and how we are doing with our goals.

D. Executive Director's Report

Trusty referred commissioners to his report in the packet. He and Deputy Director Weis will be attending the NADO conference next week in Salt Lake City. The MN Private Industry Council held a 40th anniversary open house at the former TruShrimp building, now known as Iterro in Balaton. The company, along with raising restaurant quality shrimp, are producing medically inhalable Chitosan from the shells and high-grade pet nutrition supplements.

E. Chairman's Report

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairman Welgraven referred Commissioners to the announcements included on the agenda.

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Pipestone County Townships, Murray County Townships, School Board, Lower Sioux and Cultural Diversity.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Welgraven adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Eric Hartman
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth
SRDC Chairman

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

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund

Bank	Amount	Due Date	APY Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	\$ 109,839.04	11/30/2025	4.10%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5272)	110,165.17	01/20/26	3.96%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X8562)	122,909.79	09/02/26	3.90%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X0010)	104,318.21	08/26/26	3.90%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5331)	105,492.50	12/13/25	4.16%
Jackson Federal Savings & Loan-Jackson (X5332)	105,492.50	12/13/25	4.16%
Magic Fund	100,013.07	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	758,230.28
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ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts

		10/31/2025
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 2,927.00
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	404,804.52
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	6,316.95
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	86,112.41
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings	61,143.40
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	50,740.87
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS	\$	612,045.15

Committed to: Employee Transition Designation	(8,625.70)
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Equipment	(74,270.50)
Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Building	(286,872.73)
Committed to: Unemployment Claims	(83,859.63)
TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS	\$ (453,628.56)

	10/31/2025		10/31/2024
Total Investments	\$ 758,230.28	\$	735,709.53
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 612,045.15	\$	628,099.98
Total Dedicated Funds	\$ (453,628.56)	\$	(466,254.20)
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW (\$ 916,646.87	\$	897,555.31

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 52			
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	509,353			
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	365,630			
PACE Funds-EE-RLF	127,229			
PACE Funds-(loans only)	92,786	<table border="1"> <tr> <td align="center">PACE Loan Funds</td> </tr> <tr> <td align="center">260,944</td> </tr> </table>	PACE Loan Funds	260,944
PACE Loan Funds				
260,944				
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	40,929			
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off Counties & admin)	22,518			
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	starting December 2026		
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 1,158,498			



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Month End September 2025 Fiscal Year 2026

YTD Comparison % of Budget 25.00

	FY26 Budget				Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
	July	August	September	July - September				
Revenues								
Taxes	479,586	1,430.63	0.00	43.57	1,474.20	478,111.80	0.3%	When current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec. and Jun.
Contract for Services	169,088	22,719.98	32,694.56	24,507.77	79,922.31	89,165.69	47.3%	(Based on activity earned to date.
R9 McKnight balance of what we rec'd up front	132,927	7,570.00	6,148.82	1,161.07	14,879.89	118,047.04	11.2%	R9 McKnight balance of what we received up front. (Monthly is amt used of what we have)
MnDOT-Regional	75,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,000.00	0.0%	Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000 (Bill 3 times a year, 1st in Dec)
Economic Development Adm	70,000	0.00	0.00	32,042.06	32,042.06	37,957.94	45.8%	(Federal share) (request pymts quarterly) The Sept pymt covered April-June 2025.
RLF Admin (Covid & Regular)	60,000	7,710.92	7,863.66	6,685.06	22,259.64	37,740.36	37.1%	The next pymt will be for July-Sept \$14,322.42
Commerce - State Comp Grant	120,000	8,205.66	11,058.19	10,707.76	29,971.61	90,028.39	25.0%	Based on activity earned to date.
CERTs Funds	66,660	92.40	39.20	5,957.84	6,089.44	60,570.56	9.1%	\$250,000 over 2 yrs 4 mths, est. start March 2024, budgeted amt is est. to be remaining at end of FY25
PACE loan origint/misc	6,800	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,800.00	0.0%	Based on activity earned to date - main Certs (not subprojects), CERTS 25/26 \$66,660
Interest & Miscellaneous	21,000	13,137.01	10,235.14	1,068.91	24,441.06	-3,441.06	116.4%	per FY. **new contract starts 8-23-25*
Total Revenues	1,201,061	60,866.60	68,039.57	82,174.04	211,080.21	989,980.72	17.6%	Loan in/loan orig fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4656/4321)
Expenditures								
Committee Expenses	34,000	2,445.10	1,713.64	1,102.80	5,261.54	28,738.46	15.5%	Bank interest/CD interest/Loan orig. fee
Salaries & Fringe	1,142,572	63,787.17	83,765.47	86,832.31	234,384.95	908,187.05	20.5%	33,804
Travel	60,000	6,144.07	6,199.45	3,340.98	15,684.50	44,315.50	26.1%	Includes Board Retreat & Orientation, and Annual Mtg
Office Space Costs	15,000	700.98	770.21	746.06	2,217.25	12,782.75	14.8%	Includes FY26 Salaries/Fringe (including 15% increase of Health Insurance/H.S.A) also includes MN Paid Leave that starts Jan. 2026
Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb)	5,349	10.49	1,010.49	10.49	1,031.47	4,317.53	19.3%	Staff Travel
Communications	9,219	1,098.58	580.63	582.17	2,261.38	6,957.62	24.5%	Utilities
Printing/Publication	8,000	477.85	1,800.36	45.23	2,323.44	5,676.56	29.0%	Annual report designed in house, sent out for printing. Includes outreach items/mktg
Insurance	5,917	5,858.58	22.08	22.08	5,902.74	14.26	99.8%	Insurance dividend/Building Insurance -- also paid Cyber Security Ins
Supplies	8,000	345.37	89.01	119.60	553.98	7,446.02	6.9%	
Computer	53,000	9,025.62	4,676.31	2,057.87	15,759.80	37,240.20	29.7%	Includes 5 new laptops, setup and 1 docking station
Audits	33,000	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	13,000.00	60.6%	Audits that may get done in FY26 by Kinmer & Co.
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	6,000	14,209.83	0.00	0.00	14,209.83	-8,209.83	236.8%	Part of the Wipfl Manual & Cost Alloc contract (was budgeted for FY25)
Dues/Memberships & Other	5,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%	Includes MAD0 Coordination (\$2000 per region)
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,500	48.75	39.61	41.00	129.36	5,370.64	2.4%	
Equipment/Building Updates	10,000	0.00	0.00	186.82	186.82	9,813.18	1.9%	
PACE loan interest paid	508	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	508.00	0.0%	Paid in December and June **PAID OFF**
Debt Service: Prin. & Int.	11,635	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,635.00	0.0%	Paid in December to State of MN
Building Lease Principal Pymt	23,360	2,045.68	2,063.12	2,075.70	6,184.50	17,175.50	26.5%	Our portion of lease pymt
Total Expenditures	1,436,060	106,198.07	122,730.38	97,163.11	326,091.56	1,109,968.44	22.7%	
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	-234,999	-45,331.47	-54,690.81	-14,989.07	-115,011.35	-115,011		



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025



CEDS| EDA PLANNING

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Current CEDS:

SRDC's current CEDS (2022–2027) can be viewed at: <http://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CEDS-2022-2027.pdf>

Every five years, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires an updated CEDS for the region. The next update is due December 31, 2026. SRDC is currently ensuring that the CEDS Committee represents all key regional sectors and aligns with EDA guidance.

If you are interested in serving on the CEDS Committee, please contact SRDC staff.

City of Adrian - EDA PWEAA Grant

SRDC continues to provide administrative and financial services for Adrian's funded **EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) grant** for an **electric substation** project.

- Total Project Cost: \$3,258,900
- EDA Grant: \$1,629,450 (50%)

SRDC serves as liaison between the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering, and EDA.

EDA Infrastructure Projects

Investment Opportunities:

EDA's priorities have recently changed with its reauthorization. Current focus areas include:

- Critical Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Economic Resiliency
- Manufacturing

More information can be found at:

- Investment Priorities: <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/investment-priorities>
- Funding Opportunities: <https://www.eda.gov/funding/funding-opportunities/all-opportunities>

EDA Disaster NOFO:

The EDA Disaster Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released, offering up to **80% grant funding** for eligible projects. Units of government, higher education institutions, and others located within **FEMA-declared disaster areas** (Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties) are eligible.

Current project discussions include:

- Equipment and facility upgrades with **Minnesota West Community and Technical College**
- Wastewater/sewer projects in the **Cities of Wilder and Windom**
- **City of Jackson** industrial park expansion

SRDC staff also attended a **State Bonding meeting in Tracy on October 22, 2025**, to learn more about local infrastructure needs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

EECBG Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant

Energy Planning for Small Communities

The EECBG program assists small communities (cities or counties with populations under 15,000) in developing plans to:

- Reduce energy use
- Decrease fossil fuel emissions
- Improve energy efficiency

SRDC received **\$99,959.78**, with 10% reserved for administration. Grants to eligible communities are capped at **\$20,000** and may support projects such as resiliency plans, energy audits, or engineering studies.

Two \$20,000 project agreements have been approved with the **Cities of Slayton and Pipestone**. Outreach continues, as all projects must be completed by **November 2026**.

Childcare Initiatives

Staff recently attended several childcare-related events:

- **Foundations of the Future: Childcare in Economic Development** (Alexandria, October 23, 2025) – Sponsored by First Children’s Finance.
- **Childcare Community Solutions Open House & Action Planning** (Pipestone, October 20, 2025).
- **Redwood County Childcare Forum** (re-scheduled to November 6, 2025).
An online meeting will be scheduled later in November.



SRDC Deputy Director Robin Weis, Karen DeBoer, Region 8 Child Care Aware of Minnesota out of Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, Inc., and Josh Malchow, City of Slayton, attended the 2025 Foundations of the Future: Child Care in Economic Development event held in Alexandria, MN.

The conference focused on the vital connection between child care and community prosperity, beginning with a keynote presentation by Art Rolnick, “Child Care is Key to a Thriving Minnesota Economy.”

Sessions throughout the day explored how communities across Minnesota are leveraging local strategies, partnerships, and innovation to strengthen child care access, support providers, and create opportunities for economic growth.

Session 1: Child Care Works: Leveraging Local Strategies and Partnerships for Lasting Impact – Highlighted collaborative efforts improving child care access and quality.

Session 2: Caring for Growth: Child Care Solutions for Thriving Communities – Showcased how teamwork, funding, and community support are helping launch new child care businesses.

This event was sponsored by First Children’s Finance, an organization dedicated to strengthening child care businesses and supporting thriving communities.

Learn more at <https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/minnesota/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

State of Manufacturing

The State of Manufacturing Regional Presentation was held November 12 in Redwood Falls.

Register at: <https://www.enterpriseminnesota.org/event/som-regional-2025-redwood-falls/>.

Data Center Forum

SRDC recently met with **Geronimo** and **Nobles Coop Electric** to discuss a potential data center project in Nobles County.

The **Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation** and **Region Nine Development Commission** will host a **Data Center Forum** in North Mankato on **November 12**. Topics include:

- Data center technologies and designs
- Water and energy impacts
- Minnesota legislation
- Tools to secure community benefits

Expert speakers will represent **Great River Energy, Freshwater Society, Blue Earth Light & Water, CURE Minnesota, Dunham Associates, and others.**

SW MN Youth Committee

This committee meets quarterly to support career and technical education and connect students with local training opportunities. The most recent meeting was **November 6, 2025**.

Members participated in a **Business Panel** for Mrs. Johnson's Career Classes at **Murray County Central** on **October 9**.

Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC)

The RTCC last met on **September 2, 2025**, and will meet again on **December 2, 2025**. SRDC represents **economic development** interests on the council.

Career Expos

Career Expos were held:

- **September 23 – Worthington (Minnesota West)**
- **September 24 – Marshall (Red Baron Arena)**

Staff facilitated the **“Career is Right”** session in the Worthington location only due to flood damage at SMSU. SRDC displayed an **interactive booth** focused on community and economic development employment opportunities at both locations. Approximately 2,000 students attended in total.

Friends in the Field

This group meets quarterly to strengthen connections among regional partners. The most recent meeting was **October 8, 2025**, with the next scheduled for **January 14, 2026**.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

NADO Annual Training Conference

Deputy Director **Robin Weis** and Executive Director **Jay Trusty** attended the **NADO Training Conference** in Salt Lake City, October 14–17.

Conference highlights included:

- **Mobile Workshops:** Urban Redevelopment Walking Tour (City Creek Center) and Restoring Salt Lake City’s Waterways & Greenways.

- **Keynote Session:** *Seven Essentials to Unlocking the Path to Enduring Success – Engagement, Assessment, Strategy, Budget, Brand/Culture, Market, and Rinse/Repeat.*

- **Session:** *Underwriting in Times of Economic Uncertainties* – Relevant to SRDC’s RLF work.

For more information: 2025 NADO Annual Training Conference <https://www.nado.org/>



Child Nutrition Program - Bulk Milk

SRDC is exploring opportunities to introduce **Bulk Milk Dispensers** in school nutrition programs to reduce waste and maintain milk quality. Staff are coordinating with agencies to discuss funding and implementation, with plans to identify one or two pilot schools in the region.

General Technical Assistance

SRDC continues to seek funding to support outreach and relationship-building with sustainable farmers and local food producers. The goal is to establish the **Southwest Minnesota Growers’ Connection (SMGC)**—a network for farmers and producers to share resources, receive peer mentoring, and collaborate for growth.

Food System Initiatives

Small Business Assistance Partnership Program (SBAP)

SRDC collaborated with the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) to apply for DEED’s SBAP program. This partnership supports small business development across **13 counties** in West Central and Southwest Minnesota.

The program focuses on advancing **equity, innovation, and economic vibrancy** by providing entrepreneurs—particularly BIPOC, women, veterans, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, low-income households, and rural residents—with access to technical assistance, capital, and training.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

Southwest Minnesota Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative

The **Minnesota Department of Agriculture** awarded SRDC \$250,000 through the **Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant Program** to support small- and medium-sized processors with hiring, training, and retaining employees.

Entering **Year Two** of the contract:

- **7 participants** have completed **On-the-Job (OJT)** experiences with support from the **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council**.
- **Central Minnesota Jobs & Training** is collaborating with **Happy Halal Meats (Willmar)**, where **4 new employees** are receiving OJT.

Ridgewater College has one student who transitioned from the Agriculture to the Meat Cutting Program this fall.



RLF Spotlight

Langseth Lodge | Worthington, MN

Langseth Lodge:

Rooted in History, Renewed by Vision

Nestled on the tranquil shores of Lake Ocheda just south of Worthington, Minnesota, Langseth Lodge is more than just a peaceful getaway—it's a living legacy. Built in 1995 by Paul Langseth, his father Rodney, and two cousins, the lodge was a tribute to family tradition and a decades-old dream. The land, part of the Langseth family homestead since 1901, has long been a gathering place. In the late 1930s, during the Great Depression, cabins originally located across the lake were pulled over the ice by horses and resettled on the Langseth property. Though rustic and primitive in the early years, the sense of connection, refuge, and hospitality remained constant.

Over time, what was once a family haven evolved into a public retreat. In 2020, Paul and his wife Leanne decided to transform Langseth Lodge into a year-round short-term rental, opening the doors to visitors seeking quiet, nature, and authenticity. "The lodge has always been here," Paul shared, "but we knew if we were going to continue using it—and sharing it—we needed to upgrade it."

To read the complete story see the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/lodge/>

GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH SRDC

Our **Revolving Loan Fund** helps bridge the gap when traditional financing isn't enough.

Let's get together and make your dream a reality!



www.swrdc.org

2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN
507-836-8547



REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

C- RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – C-RLF and Traditional RLF

The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Committee consists of five members and meets as needed to review and act on loan applications. The committee oversees both the COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF) and the Traditional RLF programs.

The committee last met on **October 6, 2025**, and approved **four loans**.

Interest Rates:

SRDC RLF projects are currently being financed at an **interest rate of 75% of prime**, in accordance with the regulations governing RLF awards.

Funds Available for Lending:

Traditional RLF (as of October 23, 2025):
\$526,282.81

C-RLF (as of October 7, 2025): **\$365,153.72**

A recent loan closing in **Pipestone County** provided **\$40,000 for equipment**.

In addition, two projects have been approved but are not yet closed:

- **\$35,000** project in **Cottonwood County**
- **\$83,000** project in **Nobles County** for real estate acquisition

Note: C-RLF funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed.

Presta: New Financial Software

Applications can now be submitted through SRDC's new RLF financial software, Presta, at <https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/85>

Site Visits

Site visits are required every three years; however, they are conducted more frequently as needed. Annual business tax returns continue to be collected for files.

These visits are often combined with **communication audits and interviews** for storytelling purposes.

Success stories can be viewed at: <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-spotlight/>

For more information about SRDC's business lending programs or contracted RLFs, please contact:

Robin Weis, Deputy Director
507-836-1638 | Robin@swrdc.org

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

C- RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF

Contracted RLFs

SRDC supports business start-ups, retentions, expansions, and financing throughout the region. In addition to administering its own Revolving Loan Fund programs, SRDC assists with three contracted revolving loan funds and has recently initiated communication with another.

Jackson County RLF

- Active Loans: 5
- Funds Available for Lending: Approximately \$168,000
- Last Committee Meeting: October 8, 2025
- Latest Loan Closed: \$50,000 for real estate and business acquisition

Heron Lake RLF (HLRLF)

HLRLF focuses on economic development within a 20-mile radius of Heron Lake using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

SRDC continues to assist with GMS entry and amortization schedules as requested. Funds remain available for businesses within their service area seeking gap financing.

Falcon Development Corporation (FDC)

FDC is a local organization that promotes economic development within a 30-mile radius of Heron Lake.

Because the funds are not federalized, Davis-Bacon requirements do not apply to construction projects.

- FDC Board Members: 6 (7 maximum)
- Last Committee Meeting: August 6, 2025
- Funds Available: Approximately \$9,500
- Latest Loan Closed: \$40,000 with a rural Heron Lake business

Did you know SRDC provides gap financing to help local businesses expand, create jobs, and thrive?



DID YOU KNOW?

SRDC
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN
507-8361638
robbyn@swrdc.org
For more information see:
www.swrdc.org

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

General Information

PACE financing is available to **property owners of small businesses**, including **agri-businesses** and certain **non-profits**, depending on building use. Please help spread the word about PACE to property owners interested in making improvements that **reduce energy usage and save on utility costs**.

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

PACE Committee

The PACE Committee meets as needed, often in conjunction with **Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)** meetings.

Committee Members: Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere, and Paap

Last Meeting: August 26, 2025

Renewable Energy Roundtable:

SRDC staff plan to attend the **Renewable Energy Roundtable**, coordinated by AURI, on **December 17, 2025**, in Minneapolis to learn and network with energy and economic development professionals.

PACE Success Stories

Recent success stories can be viewed at: <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-spotlight/>
The updated PACE application, which now includes a checklist, is available through the RMEB PACE Application portal. <https://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PACE-Application-updated-2-20-25.pdf>

Funds Available (as of October 2, 2025):

- **ARRA:** \$91,595.90
- **EE RLF:** \$127,174.92
- **SEP:** \$40,915.41

In the **third quarter of 2025**, three new PACE loans closed, totaling **\$122,946**.

Currently, **one PACE loan is in default** due to unpaid **2024 property taxes and first-half 2025 property taxes**.

Energy Audits

Energy assessments and audits provide valuable information to property owners and often serve as the **first step** toward implementing cost-saving energy improvements.

The **Minnesota Department of Commerce (MN DOC)** continues to expand access to certified energy auditors.

Typical referrals for energy assessments include:

- **RETAP** (Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program)
- **MnTAP** (Minnesota Technical Assistance Program)
- **CEE** (Center for Energy and Environment)

EnergySmart

Contractor estimates and energy audits are the first **two steps** in the PACE financing process.

For more information about **PACE or energy audits**, please contact:
Robin Weis, Deputy Director
507-836-1638 | robin@swrdc.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

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

Energy

The **Rural Minnesota Energy Board** met on **September 22** at 1:00 PM.

At this meeting, **Gene Metz** provided an update on the **Public Utilities Commission** session held on **September 16** regarding wind turbine setbacks—changing from a **3x5 rotor diameter setback to 1.1 times the total height**.

Two presentations were shared:

- The **Minnesota Rural Electric Association** advocated for ending the **state moratorium on building new nuclear facilities**. RMEB voted to **join the coalition** of organizations supporting this legislative change.
- **Xcel Energy** presented on early outreach efforts for a **proposed 765 kV transmission line** extending from **South Dakota through southern Minnesota** and into **Wisconsin**.

The next RMEB meeting will be held on **November 24**, where **Sioux Valley Energy** will provide updates on their organization and current trends in the energy industry.

R-STEP Grant

The **R-STEP Grant** for **\$1.2 million**, which was previously “paused,” has now been **reinstated**. SRDC is currently negotiating the contract.

SRDC is one of several partners in this project, which aims to **support regional energy transition and planning efforts**.

State Competitiveness Funding

SRDC staff attended the **Minnesota Energy Innovation Summit** at the **McNamara Alumni Center on October 13**. The event brought together industry leaders, experts, and innovators to explore emerging technologies and trends shaping the future of energy and electrification in Minnesota.

Staff networked, learned about state and private sector opportunities, and identified **potential partnerships** to help communities advance their **clean energy goals**.

SRDC continues to visit communities across the region on a **listening tour** to learn about high-priority local energy projects and connect them to funding and technical resources.

Great Plains Institute – Carolyn Foundation Project

SRDC is subcontracting with the **Great Plains Institute** under a **\$30,000 agreement** (August 2025–December 2026) funded by the **Carolyn Foundation**.

This project focuses on **identifying community benefits related to renewable energy development** through **stakeholder engagement** and participation in **statewide discussions** regarding **Public Utilities Commission** permitting processes.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

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



DWSMA (Drinking Water Supply Management Area) Project

An **organizational meeting** is being planned with **Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water** to serve as the **first project site** for this initiative supporting **solar development within local drinking water protection areas**.

The **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**, in collaboration with the **Great Plains Institute (GPI)** and other partners, will evaluate the benefits of using **solar energy** to provide renewable power while offering **economically viable and environmentally sustainable land use options** in southwest Minnesota—particularly in areas facing nitrate concerns in drinking water.

SRDC’s role includes **coordinating and facilitating workshops** and convening cohort groups in one or two selected communities.

CERTs – McKnight Foundation Collaboration

SRDC staff are working with **Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)** at the **University of Minnesota** to update **website resources** related to **wind, solar, energy storage, and transmission siting**.

The current content is being revised to reflect **recent regulatory and technological changes** within the energy landscape.



PV Success Workshops

SRDC staff recently assisted with **solar energy workshops** in **Houston County** and **Nobles County** and are planning an additional session in **Long Prairie** in **February 2026**.

These workshops are part of a **McKnight Foundation grant** administered by **CERTs** and **aim to educate communities and property owners** on photovoltaic (PV) solar opportunities and implementation.

Regional Energy Engagement and Partnerships

City of New Ulm – Energy Assistance Project
The **City of New Ulm** received an **MPCA Climate Action Grant** to connect residents in a designated **low-income census tract** to **weatherization and energy assistance programs**.

The grant is structured for the **Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC)** to manage installations and energy efficiency upgrades, with **Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC)** and **CERTs** providing outreach and community engagement support.

Funding runs through **June 30, 2026**, with community outreach activities planned for fall 2025, **including direct mailings and on-the-ground engagement efforts**.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

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

St. James – Community Energy Ambassador Training

On **September 22 and 29**, CERTs staff facilitated two **Community Energy Ambassador certification workshops** in St. James. Participants included members of **Climate Smart, Convivencia Hispana, and other community members.**

The workshops featured informational videos, discussions, and project brainstorming sessions. Interpreters helped create an inclusive environment for **Spanish-speaking participants.**

Upon completion of their community projects, participants will be officially **CERTified** and recognized with **certificates and pins** at a December celebration, which will also include a **solar pack charger drawing.**

The **CERTs Community Energy Ambassador Program** empowers individuals to support their communities by providing **resources and connections for clean energy initiatives.**



Nadya Bucklin (left) helping to lead the Ambassador Training.

Minnesota Energy Innovation Summit

Jason Walker and Nadya Bucklin attended the **Minnesota Energy Innovation Summit** on **October 13** at the **McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota.**

The event, organized in partnership with the **Technological Leadership Institute, Center for Electrification Opportunity, Center for Transportation Studies, Grid Catalyst, Recharge America, and the Beneficial Electrification League**, brought together **startups, researchers, policymakers, and community change-makers** to advance Minnesota's **clean energy transformation.**

The day included **presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities.**

Climate Smart St. James participated as an **exhibitor**, showcasing the community's ongoing **energy and sustainability projects.**



Nadya Bucklin (right) with Sue Harris, one of the Climate Smart St. James steering committee members.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

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



Solar for schools panel, with Scott Monson, Superintendent of Minneota schools district at far left

Powering Tomorrow: Energy Project Resource Summit

On **October 28**, **Nadya Bucklin** attended the **Powering Tomorrow: Energy Project Resource Summit** hosted by the **Minnesota Department of Commerce** at **Theodore Wirth Park** in **Golden Valley**.

The event focused on **partnerships and resources** that support **energy, health, and safety improvements in educational settings**. Topics included **energy efficiency, indoor air quality, public resources and technical assistance, electric school buses, and Solar for Schools**.

Minneota School District Superintendent Scott Monson presented on the district's **solar project** as part of the **Solar for Schools** panel.



Nadya Bucklin, Peter Lindstrom of CERTs, Mandie Schienebeck and Brian Strub of Commerce

Southwest RSDP Annual Meeting

Nadya Bucklin will attend the **Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) Annual Meeting** on **November 13, 2025**, in **Appleton**.

Participants will include members from:

- **Local Foods/Sustainable Agriculture Work Group**
- **Natural Resources Work Group**
- **Resilient Communities Work Group**
- **Southwest and West Central CERT Steering Committees**
- **Southwest RSDP Board**

This annual gathering provides an opportunity to **share project successes, exchange ideas, and collaborate on strategies** to strengthen sustainability efforts across the **Southwest region** as planning begins for **2026**.

Seed Grant Review – SW CERT Steering Committee

The **Southwest CERT Steering Committee** met on **November 6** from **10:30 AM–12:00 PM** to **review and finalize seed grant funding**.

A total of **10 applications** are under review, including **three multi-regional proposals**, representing a strong interest in **community-led clean energy and sustainability projects** across the region.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025

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

Land Use

Lyon County Comprehensive Plan

Planner Webb will present the draft Land Use Plan to the Lyon County Board on **Tuesday, November 18**. That evening, the county will host an open house to celebrate the completion of the plan, which has been in development for the past 16 months. The goal is for the county board to approve the plan by the **end of 2025**. In early 2026, Planner Webb will begin working with county staff to update the county's zoning ordinance.

Lyon County Landfill Advisory Board

Planner Webb facilitated a **strategic planning session** with the Landfill Advisory Board on **Monday, November 3**. The purpose of this session was to prioritize strategies and goals for Lyon County staff to implement related to future land-fill planning and other **solid waste management priorities in the region**.

City of Taunton – Strategic Planning

Staff has completed all engagement activities and developed a draft strategic plan for the City of Taunton to review for final edits and approval.

The plan identifies four key goal areas:

- **Beautification**
- **Roads and Infrastructure**
- **City Services**
- **Community Events**



City of Jasper – Zoning Ordinance Update

The Jasper City Council has approved a proposal for the SRDC to update its zoning ordinance. This contracted work will take place in **2026**.

Nobles County Comprehensive Planning

Nobles County has finalized its steering committee, with a **kickoff meeting** scheduled for **Wednesday, November 12**. Community engagement activities, including a countywide survey, will take place in December and January.

Marshall Master Parks Plan

SRDC staff, in collaboration with City of Marshall staff, hosted **nine focus groups** and completed six interviews with city residents. A total of **314 residents** responded to the community survey. The results from the survey, focus groups, and interviews will be analyzed and incorporated into the **Master Parks Plan document**. Next steps include developing visuals based on the community outreach findings. These visuals will be used to allow residents to vote on and **prioritize park improvements** for inclusion in the final plan.

Southwest Solid Waste Commission

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission convened on **Monday, July 28, 2025**. Representatives from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency attended to discuss the permitting process. Additional discussion topics included the **Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Regional 10-Year Plan, regional highlights, and legislative updates**.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **November 24, 2025**.



TRANSPORTATION REPORT

NOVEMBER 2025



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

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MnDOT is completing a statewide functional class road review. The SRDC’s TAC met on **November 12** to discuss and recommend these **proposed changes to MnDOT**.

AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

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

ATP 8 will hold its next meeting on **Friday, December 12** at 10 AM in Wilmar.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Active Transportation Planning Grant:

These Active Transportation grants help communities of all sizes **create action plans** with help from a consultant. **Action plans will analyze existing conditions, engage the community, determine ways to improve infrastructure and networks, and identify policies and programs to promote walking and bicycling.**

“An active transportation action plan can help your community become the best version of itself,” said Will Wlizlo, Active Transportation coordinator at MnDOT. “Transportation networks that focus on walking and bicycling connect people with important places in their communities. **Active transportation also improves local health outcomes, reduces pollution, spurs economic activity, and increases connections between neighbors.**”

Application solicitation closes on Friday, November 22.

Safe Routes To School Coalition in Marshall:

Planner Webb is working to organize a **Safe Routes to School Coalition in Marshall**. Community Partners include **Marshall School District, SWHHS SHIP, and Lyon County 4-H**. The Coalition received a **\$1,500 grant** from the Marshall Community Foundation and will be applying for additional grants to **fund programming, education initiatives, and new gear and supplies for Crossing Guards.**



The Marshall Sunrise Rotary welcomed Chris Webb, Planner with the Southwest Regional Development Commission, as our featured speaker. Chris shared valuable insights on area parks and how community feedback is helping shape future improvements.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



NOVEMBER 2025

- The **Southwest Regional Solid Waste Plan** is currently out for **review and comment** by the Solid Waste Administrators and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A meeting was held on **October 3** to review potential changes or additions and to determine any remaining needs. MPCA requested that copies of each county's solid waste ordinance be included, along with additional data from the **Goal Volume Tables**. These items are being incorporated into the **plan appendices**.

- The **MADO Executive Directors** met via Zoom on **October 27**. The first portion of the meeting featured a presentation by **Carrie Christensen** from the **Office of Long-Range Planning within the Minnesota Management and Budget Office**. As a newly recreated agency, they are gathering information from RDCs and other local planning organizations. Their stated goal is to **increase cooperation among state departments** with an emphasis on support for rural areas.

- The **first training for RDC staff** will take place in **November**, focusing on finance staff, followed by a leadership training cohort. Much of the cost will be covered through **McKnight Foundation funding** designated for MADO professional development.

- **Executive Director Bob Voss** of East Central RDC (Mora) will **retire on January 15, 2026**, and their Commission is currently in the search process for his replacement.

- The next **in-person MADO Executive Directors Meeting** will be held in Region 9 (Mankato), with the **MnDOT Commissioner** expected to attend.

MADO's top two legislative priorities for 2026 will be to pursue:

- **Increase in MnDOT contract funding**
- Seek **planning dollars for RDCs** similar to those recently obtained by CEDA.

- Robin and I attended the **NADO Annual Training Conference** in Salt Lake City, **October 13–17** (*see separate report*).

- I also attended the **40th Anniversary Celebration** of the **Southwest Private Industry Council** in Balaton on **October 6**.

- Jason, Robin, and I met with representatives from **Geronimo Wind** and **Nobles Electric Cooperative** regarding potential **economic impact data gathering** for a proposed project. We are in the early stages of determining how SRDC might assist.

- I also attended the **ACE Meeting** at Danebod in Tyler. SRDC serves as an ex-officio member of the ACE Board, and I make it a point to attend at least one meeting per year when possible.


- The **CERTs Executive Director Group** held an in-person meeting at the Madison Mercantile in **Madison, Minnesota**—a project supported by the University of Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP). CERTs staff wanted to meet “out west” for the convenience of Kathy (U of M) and myself—though I'm not sure they realized how far apart Slayton and Graceville are!

Agenda topics included:

- Plans for a broad **CERTs family gathering** (partners, steering committees, and staff) in spring 2026 in St. Cloud.

- Discussion on how **partner organizations** are adapting to **current challenges**.

- Updates from the **CERTs Co-Directors**, progress on the **Ambassador Program**, **Seed Grant** highlights, and a **general funding update**.





Executive Director's Report

November 13, 2025

Tuesday, October 14th Highlights

Concurrent Session:

Tech-Based Entrepreneurship in Small Places

This session described the efforts in **Colorado to grow tech-based small businesses** in small to mid-sized cities like Durango (pop. 20,000). Heather Otter, Executive Director of the SW Colorado Accelerator Program for Entrepreneurs, Laura Lewis-Marchino, Executive Director Region 9 Economic Development District, presented on the work they are doing with the **Center on Rural Innovation to develop economic development programs** to promote moving to Durango to enjoy the lifestyle and still being able to work in the tech industry. One of the key take-aways from the effort is that one of the biggest barriers to success in the tech industry in rural areas is that there is no culture of risk. In places like Silicon Valley, start-ups fail all the time and entrepreneurs move on to try something else. Business failure in rural areas often brings with it social ostracism and lack of support for the next venture, and this culture needs to change before people will be willing to take the big risks in rural areas.

Opening Plenary: Conflict Solves Problems

Jordan Katcher, Initiatives Facilitator with the **Wallace Stegner Center Environmental Dispute Resolution Program** at the University of Utah explored how

conflict can be seen as a positive tool for solving problems, growth and innovation. She used examples from both her professional and personal lives to reframe and normalize conflict. Many of the examples that she used reminded me of the Interest Based Collective Bargaining training that I participated in from the Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services, (BMS). The point is to concentrate on what the interests of both parties are and concentrate on meeting those interests rather than focusing on different ways to try and “win” the conflict.

NADO 101

With the retirement of long-time Deputy Executive Director (and Director of the NADO Research Foundation) and so many new NADO staff and attendees, this session aimed to reach out to many of the **new people attending this year's conference and connect them with NADO staff and long-term members.** I attended with three Minnesota staff who had never been to NADO before.

Wednesday, October 15th Highlights

NADO Energy Academy Meeting

At the invitation of Nicole from Region 9 in Mankato, I attended a meeting with Mana Group Consulting and some other NADO members. Mana Group is developing an **“Energy Academy” with the National Association of Counties (NACo)** and is looking to do the same with NADO. Scheduled for an initial one-hour meeting, we ended up going two as we all introduced ourselves and spoke about the energy projects we are involved in. I think the meeting resulted in



the consulting group changing their approach with NADO after they saw that NADO members are more implementers than policy developers and that there is a lot of need for technical assistance to local units of government that can be provided as a direct service from NADO members. There were representatives from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Development Districts from northern Florida and California, Utah, New Mexico and Texas. It was interesting to hear about how far along the modular nuclear projects, especially in Utah, are.

Concurrent Session:

Public Lands and Regional Planning 101

Greg Nelson from NACo gave the session overview, reviewing the **history of public lands in the US**. Nearly two-thirds of counties in the U.S. have federally owned land. This is particularly of interest in the western states, with **Utah having over 60% of its land owned and managed by the federal government**. A couple of RDO Directors that I spoke with had over 90% of the land in their organization's footprint owned and managed by the feds. In Minnesota of course, much of the federally held land is in National Forests, but if you include lands held by the state and other governmental jurisdictions, it adds up to a significant chunk of land.

NADO Midwest Chapter Meeting

As always, it was interesting to see what the other Midwest states were up to. The Midwest chapter includes the six states in the Chicago EDA region, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Each state gave an update on what is going on

in their state. Minnesota talked about all of the work we are all doing around **training** and trying to **prepare a younger workforce** to step into **leadership positions** within agencies. All of the states in the region struggle with staffing capacity and availability of local resources. A few of the organizations are very small and most states are not supporting their planning organizations financially. Ohio and Indiana are just now getting around to doing projects with their ARPA dollars. The transition to the new **EDA Edge reporting program** has not been going smoothly, reporting glitches were reported by many organizations.

Thursday, October 16th Highlights

Concurrent Session: Developing and Maintaining a Competitive Regional Workforce
The focus of this session was on how to **develop and maintain a local workforce in rural areas**. Across the country in rural areas this seems to be one of the most pressing issues. How do we attract and retain enough workers to support economic growth, especially in areas of population decline. There was also discussion about **incorporating various strategies into the CEDS**. A common thread throughout the discussion was a **lack of affordable housing**, even if you could attract a significant workforce there is often no place for them to live. I'm not sure that was the intended direction of the session, but that seemed to be where we ended up.



Concurrent Session: Engaging with Tribal Partners

As it turned out, this was mostly members who already had **relationships with tribes in their regions** asking about any new and different ways to engage with them for economic development. There is much in common when dealing with tribal interests but each tribe and its constituents are very different so what might work in one area might not work in another. I don't think I learned any great new insights, but it was interesting to see how other RDOs were dealing with many of the same issues that we do.

The day wrapped up with the **NADO Annual Business Meeting** and the Impact Awards reception. This year's **NADO Executive Committee** is:

- **President, Matthew Dolge**, Executive Director, Piedmont Triad Regional Council, Kernersville, North Carolina
- **First Vice-President**, Charlie Baker, Executive Director, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Winooski, Vermont
- **Second Vice-President**, Nicole Griensewic, Executive Director, Region Nine Development Commission in Mankato
- **Treasurer, Robert Venables**, Executive Director, Southeast Conference, Juneau, Alaska
- **Secretary, Russell Devorsky**, Executive Director, Heart of Texas Council of Governments, Waco, Texas
- **Immediate Past President, Rick Hunsaker**, Executive Director, Region XII Council of Governments, Carroll, Iowa

Friday, October 17th Highlights

Concurrent Session: Empowering Regions: A Forum on Energy Planning & Economic Development

This was a breakout session led by the Mana Group consultants to talk about the **Rural Energy Academy**. Mana spoke about their work with NACo and NADO and what they hoped to accomplish. Jordon Solomon, President and CEO of Ecostrat talked about their **BDO ZONE program** which seeks to match interested developers with available **Bio-development resources**. The purpose of the BDO Zone is to attract **large manufacturing concerns to areas with renewable energy resources**. We have the resources but not the workforce for the BDO designation to do us any good. Brian Ross from the Great Plains Institute (one of our CERTs partners) spoke about the development of wind and solar in Minnesota in particular.

Closing Plenary: Federal Advocacy Update

As we are all aware, the federal government is in a state of turmoil to say the least. NADO's Deputy Executive Director (and former Legislative Director) Mirielle Burgoyne and current NADO Legislative Director Mike Mathews talked about the **budget process** and about the **possibility of various programs of concern to NADO members** either disappearing entirely or changing their focus. EDA was re-authorized last year, so it at least has that going for it in the budget discussions. Members were encouraged to reach out to their legislative offices, especially those with members on influential budget committees like Ways and Means to emphasize the importance of programs in rural areas like EDA and many of the programs governed by HUD and USDA.

16th Annual MIP User Conference

October 14-16

Las Vegas – Park MGM Hotel – Hosted by NP
Solutions



FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 13, 2025

Conference: 16th Annual MIP User Conference

Location: Park MGM, Las Vegas, NV

Dates: **October 14–16, 2025**

Accounting Specialist **Jodi Klein** and Finance Director **Melissa Nelson** attended the 16th Annual MIP User Conference in Las Vegas, where they participated in multiple training sessions and keynote presentations



focused on financial management, reporting, cybersecurity, and future enhancements to the MIP software.

Tuesday, October 14 Highlights

Keynote Speaker – “Advocacy 101”

Sarah Gable, Attorney and Executive Leader

Emphasized the importance of advocacy for one’s organization and community while maintaining a **non-biased and professional approach**.

MIP Reports (Melissa)

Presenter: Phil Symonds, CPA

- Reviewed the **MIP reporting module**, explaining icons, links, and report customization.
- Covered **financial statement formatting** and how to tailor reports for organizational needs.

HR Management Setup (Jodi)

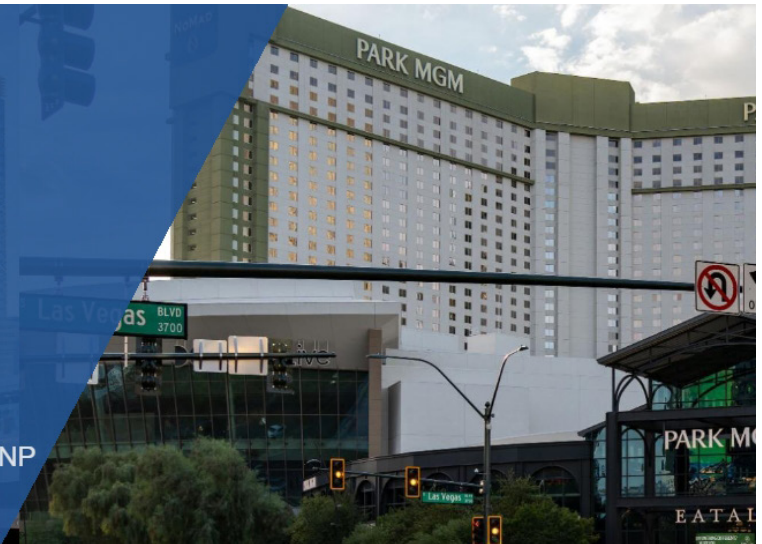
Presenter: Melinda White

- Demonstrated the **HR Management Module** setup process.
- Highlighted features for securely storing employee data (contacts, hire dates, salary, etc.).
- Payroll, benefits, and leave plans are integrated to reduce duplication and manual entry.
- HR documents (applications, I-9s, etc.) can be stored electronically.

16th Annual MIP User Conference

October 14-16

Las Vegas – Park MGM Hotel – Hosted by NP
Solutions



MIP Fixed Assets (Melissa)

Presenter: Jeron Comeau

- Demonstrated how the **Fixed Assets Module** automates depreciation and tracking.
- Allows for adding assets still in use after full depreciation.
- Once implemented, will reduce manual entry errors and save time in reporting.

HR Management – Benefit & Leave Plans (Jodi)

Presenter: Melinda White

- Showed how to input, track, and modify benefit and leave plans in bulk.
- Enables organization-wide updates to pay rates and benefits at year-end.
- Tracks leave liability and automatically posts to the **General Ledger** each pay period.

MIP Budgets (Melissa)

Presenter: Michael Golub, CPA

- Provided a step-by-step guide to entering and managing budgets.
- Demonstrated multiple **budget types** and shared **real-life applications** beyond the manual.

MIP Payroll Corrections (Jodi)

Presenter: Jimmy Rogalski

- Offered a **step-by-step checklist** for payroll corrections and leave adjustments.
- Clarified differences between payroll and accounting adjustments.
- Facilitated peer discussions addressing real-world payroll scenarios.

Socializing Reception

Attendees: Melissa & Jodi

- Provided networking opportunities with other MIP users and trainers.

Wednesday, October 15 Highlights

Keynote Speaker – “The Future of MIP”

Ryan Moran, Director of Product for MIP (Austin)

- Announced expanded **drilldown capabilities** in financial reports.
- Introduced **Momentive Automated Payments (CorPay)** integration.
- Shared details of the **2026 product roadmap**, including modernized tools and automations.

MIP Accounts Receivable Reporting & Billing (Jodi)

Presenter: Denise O’Malley

- Reviewed efficient use of AR reports and filters for reconciliations.
- Covered **batch invoice printing** and **streamlined receipt entry**.
- Detailed AR Billing Module functions and setup.

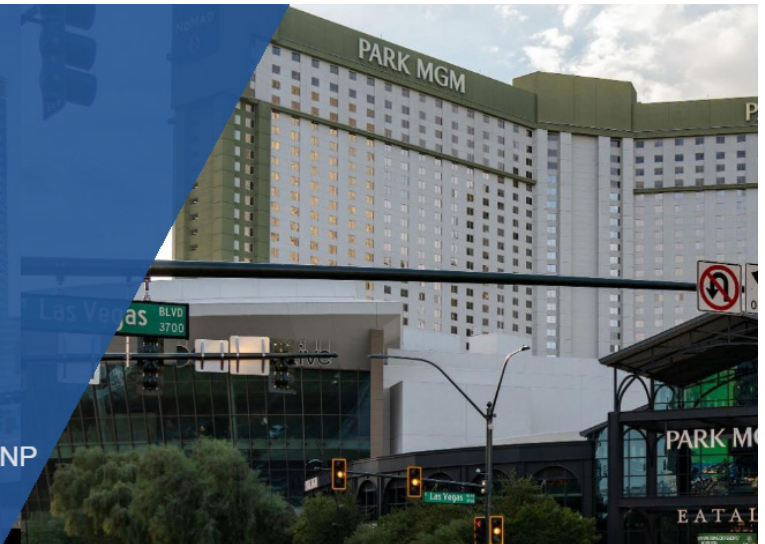
Vertical IT Services – Cybersecurity (Melissa)

- Explored **IT and cybersecurity services** supporting agency-level protection.
- Participated in an interactive cybersecurity exercise illustrating password vulnerability.
- Discussed data protection and cloud-hosting solutions offered by Vertical IT.

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Karmasuite Software (Melissa)

- Vendor presentation on **Karmasuite**, software compatible with MIP.
- Allows planners to track **hours, budgets, and remaining funds** by contract or grant.
- Can replace multiple manual tracking spreadsheets and improve **budget forecasting**.
- A **demonstration** will be requested to determine suitability for SRDC's workflow.

Accounts Payable – Advanced (Jodi)

Presenter: Thomas Tweedel

- Covered troubleshooting using the **Detailed AP Ledger report**.
- Explained **credit memos, voiding, and check cancellation procedures**.

Making Great Financial Decisions (Melissa)

Presenter: Jim Simpson

- Focused on maintaining **financial integrity** through proactive monitoring, reporting, and performance evaluation.

MIP Financial Statements (Melissa)

Presenter: Phil Symonds, CPA

- Reviewed **financial statement formats** and customization options.

Thursday, October 16 Highlights

MIP Allocations (Melissa)

- Detailed the **Allocations Module** setup and configuration.
- Included step-by-step guidance and discussion on **Indirect Cost Rate calculations**.

Automated Payments Powered by CorPay (Jodi)

Presenter: Ryan Moran

- Explained how **CorPay automation** streamlines AP payments.
- Provides vendor setup assistance and access to **audit trails and payment records**.
- Vendors can select payment methods (check, ACH, or virtual card).

Succession Planning (Melissa)

Presenters: Jeron Comeau & Jim Simpson

- Focused on **Finance Team succession planning** strategies.
- Recommended developing templates, timelines, task documentation, and key contact lists.

MIP Cloud – Modern User Interface (Jodi)

Presenter: Sarah Keppler

- Showcased the **new modern MIP interface** with enhanced dashboards and tools.
- Features include **bank feeds, budget importing, automated payments, and AR/AP attachments**.
- Newly added modules include **modern encumbrances** and **Aatrix 1099/W2 processing**.

Discussion About AI (Jodi)

Presenter: Heath Castellano

- Covered the evolving role of **artificial intelligence in finance**.
- Future AI capabilities may include **real-time audits, error detection, and streamlined closings**.



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