
FEBRUARY

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2026



3:30 p.m.
SRDC Board Room
Slayton, Minnesota



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Commissioner	Representing
Rick Anderson	Lyon County SRDC Treasurer
JoEllen Benson	Rock County
Bob Byrnes	City of Marshall
Miron Carney	Murray County, Immediate Past Chair
Donna Gravley	Cottonwood County
Mark Haberman	Jackson County
Eric Hartman	Region 8 School Board, SRDC Secretary
Chris Hollingsworth	Pipestone County
Paul Langseth	Nobles County, SRDC Chair
Bob Van Hee	Redwood County
Rick VonHoldt	City of Worthington
Mic VanDeVere	Lincoln County
Dennis Welgraven	Murray County, SRDC Vice-Chair

SRDC Full Commission Membership

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

SRDC Board of Director Membership

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



Thursday, February 12, 2026
3:30 pm

2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN 56172

AGENDA

#	Time		Page
1	3:30	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	3:31	Introductions	
3	3:35	Additions to and Approval of Agenda Action Needed: Approve Agenda	
5	3:37	Consent Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December Receipts & Expenditures • City of Hadley contract Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items	5-9 10-12
6	3:40	Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Anderson & Exec. Director Trusty</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts & investments Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report • Administrative Report through December 2025 Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY 2027 Budget & Work Plan Timeline Action Needed: Approval of FY27 Timeline 	13 14 15
7	3:50	Legislative Report – <i>Chair Miron Carney / Executive Director Trusty</i>	
8	4:00	Deep Dive: Board Retreats – <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	
9	4:20	Executive Director’s Report — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	28
10	4:30	Chairman’s Report — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	
11	4:35	Unfinished Business	
12	4:35	New Business Discussion on building LLC	
13	4:45	Other Issues	

		<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRDC Office will be closed Monday, February 16 in observance of President's Day • SRDC full commission meeting Thurs., March 12th at 4-H building located at the Murray County Fairgrounds • Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, Pipestone County Township, Lower Sioux, School Board Rep, and Cultural Diversity. 	
14	4:45	<p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>***Written Planner Reports are located on pages 18 through 27 of the meeting packet. For questions or additional information regarding report information, please contact staff.***</i></p>	



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...

SRDC
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
2401 Broadway Ave., Slayton, MN 56172
507-836-8547

For more information see www.swrdc.org

Southwest Regional Development Commission
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
 From 12/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
CD122525 ...	1125	12/25/20...	Wex Health, Inc.	Nov 2025 Wex Fees	25.75	12/25/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	2,049.02	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	2,254.77	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	457.74	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	1,744.42	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	1,478.54	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	18.83	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	9.43	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	2,271.70	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	1,775.57	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	1,586.81	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	144.26	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	38.85	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	5.58	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	2,989.29	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	2,594.80	12/11/2025
PRS121125	12112...	12/11/20...	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 12/11/2025	1,972.80	12/11/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	2,072.82	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	621.67	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	2,346.62	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	33.94	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	1,744.42	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	1,478.54	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	28.26	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	2,271.70	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	1,891.77	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	1,605.82	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	166.46	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	83.22	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	3,177.15	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	2,594.80	12/24/2025
PRS122525	12242...	12/24/20...	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 12/25/2025	1,972.81	12/24/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 12/11/25	50.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 12/11/25 Meeting	50.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 12/11/25 Meeting	45.50	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Miron V. Carney	Carney 7/10/25 to 12/11/25 Meetings	50.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Miron V. Carney	Carney 7/10/25 to 12/11/25 Meetings	250.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Pamela J. Stimpert	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 11/13/25 Meeting	50.00	12/23/2025

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 12/1/2025 Through 12/31/2025

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 11/13/25 Meeting	41.30	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 12/11/25 Meeting	50.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 12/11/25 Meeting	50.40	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 12/11/25 Meeting	50.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 12/11/25 Meeting	32.20	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Rick Von Holdt	Rick Von Holdt 7/10/25 & 12/11/25 Meetings	100.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Rick Von Holdt	Rick Von Holdt 7/10/25 & 12/11/25 Meetings	128.80	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 12/11/25 & 12/14/25 Meetings	100.00	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Robert J. Byrnes	Bob Byrnes 12/11/25 & 12/14/25 Meetings	141.40	12/23/2025
APS122325 ...	12262...	12/23/20...	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 12/11/25 Meeting (zoom)	50.00	12/23/2025
CD011326 S...	4	1/13/2026	State of Minnesota	Sales Tax Q4 2025	350.00	12/31/2025
APS120425	61336	12/4/2025	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 11/26/25 - 12/25/25	878.87	12/4/2025
APS120425	61337	12/4/2025	Ackerman Heating, Cooling, ...	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Carlson Auto	26,000.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61338	12/4/2025	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 5 bags salt, cooler rental	54.40	12/4/2025
APS120425	61338	12/4/2025	Culligan Water Conditioning	5 bottles water, 5 bags salt, cooler rental	33.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61339	12/4/2025	David R. Samuelson	Trim bushes, pick up leaves Oct+Nov 2025	213.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61339	12/4/2025	David R. Samuelson	Trim bushes, pick up leaves Oct+Nov 2025	142.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61340	12/4/2025	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	100.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61340	12/4/2025	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	40.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61341	12/4/2025	Grain Exchange	GC for Samuelsons for Xmas	100.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61342	12/4/2025	Larkin Hoffman	Larkin Hoffman Sept 2025	1,000.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61343	12/4/2025	Minnesota Counties Intergov...	WC Audit 2024 - WC646024-1	242.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61344	12/4/2025	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	2,495.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61344	12/4/2025	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	1,370.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61345	12/4/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 10/22/25 - 11/19/25	128.01	12/4/2025
APS120425	61345	12/4/2025	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 10/22/25 - 11/19/25	85.34	12/4/2025
APS120425	61346	12/4/2025	One Office Solution	Meter reading	121.59	12/4/2025
APS120425	61347	12/4/2025	Quill Corporation	Pens	47.23	12/4/2025
APS120425	61348	12/4/2025	Redwood Valley Technical Sol...	MINADO Annual website hosting plan	360.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61349	12/4/2025	Ridgewater College	SW MN Meat Train & Retain	3,130.20	12/4/2025
APS120425	61350	12/4/2025	SRDC	Oct 2025 Planner	1,746.50	12/4/2025
APS120425	61351	12/4/2025	SRDC	Sept + Oct 2025 Planner + Travel	5,478.27	12/4/2025
APS120425	61352	12/4/2025	State of Minnesota	Debt Service 2025 Principal/Interest Payment	10,000.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61353	12/4/2025	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	Valley Tree Farm (CRLF) judgment & tax lien search	79.50	12/4/2025
APS120425	61354	12/4/2025	Trevor Rosenbrook Constructi...	Fix Melissa door, remove cabinet, install paper towel holder	75.00	12/4/2025
APS120425	61355	12/4/2025	Western Print Group	Bus cards - Robin	95.18	12/4/2025

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Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS120425	61356	12/4/2025	Woodstock Communications	Dec 1 - Dec 31, 2025	36.28	12/4/2025
APS120425	61356	12/4/2025	Woodstock Communications	Dec 1 - Dec 31, 2025	36.28	12/4/2025
APS121125	61357	12/11/20...	Carlson Automotive Repair, LLC	FDC Loan Disbursement: Carlson Auto	7,900.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61358	12/11/20...	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 10/28/25 - 12/1/25	23.92	12/11/2025
APS121125	61358	12/11/20...	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 10/28/25 - 12/1/25	22.08	12/11/2025
APS121125	61359	12/11/20...	Kinner & Company Ltd	June 30, 2024 Audited Fin Strmts + Audit	21,000.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61360	12/11/20...	NADO	NADO Membership renewal 2026	3,000.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61361	12/11/20...	Nicholas & Tegan Carlson	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Carlson Auto/Nicholas + Tegan	994.39	12/11/2025
APS121125	61362	12/11/20...	Nobles Abstract & Title Co.	CRLF Loan Disbursement: Boz Truck & Auto	83,000.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61363	12/11/20...	Quill Corporation	Black toner	308.69	12/11/2025
APS121125	61364	12/11/20...	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 12/1/25 - 12/31/25	47.13	12/11/2025
APS121125	61364	12/11/20...	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 12/1/25 - 12/31/25	31.42	12/11/2025
APS121125	61365	12/11/20...	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Dec 2025	5,003.67	12/11/2025
APS121125	61366	12/11/20...	SRDC	Falcon Expenses - Aug - Nov 2025	3,457.20	12/11/2025
APS121125	61367	12/11/20...	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 12/1/25	1,126.04	12/11/2025
APS121125	61367	12/11/20...	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 12/1/25	51.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61367	12/11/20...	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 12/1/25	20.00	12/11/2025
APS121125	61368	12/11/20...	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 11/2/25 - 12/3/25	253.05	12/11/2025
APS121125	61368	12/11/20...	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 11/2/25 - 12/3/25	168.71	12/11/2025
APS121825	61369	12/18/20...	Cottonwood County Auditor/...	CRLF loan fees: River Towing, Mtg registry tax	80.50	12/18/2025
APS121825	61370	12/18/20...	Cottonwood County Recorder	CRLF loan fees: River Towing, Mtg rec + Req for Notice fees	92.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61371	12/18/20...	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 11.8, 11.26, 11.30	211.20	12/18/2025
APS121825	61371	12/18/20...	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 11.8, 11.26, 11.30	113.80	12/18/2025
APS121825	61372	12/18/20...	Fleet Services Division	Monthly lease rent 11/01/25 - 11/30/25	773.10	12/18/2025
APS121825	61373	12/18/20...	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 12/10/25 - 1/9/26	899.22	12/18/2025
APS121825	61373	12/18/20...	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 12/10/25 - 1/9/26	484.19	12/18/2025
APS121825	61374	12/18/20...	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	1,546.06	12/18/2025
APS121825	61375	12/18/20...	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS January 2026	64.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61376	12/18/20...	Presta Technologies, Inc.	Presta Annual License Fee, Second payment	2,000.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61376	12/18/20...	Presta Technologies, Inc.	Presta Annual License Fee, Second payment	1,500.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61376	12/18/20...	Presta Technologies, Inc.	Presta Annual License Fee, Second payment	1,500.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61377	12/18/20...	Quill Corporation	Plotter ink	45.89	12/18/2025
APS121825	61377	12/18/20...	Quill Corporation	Plotter ink	45.88	12/18/2025
APS121825	61378	12/18/20...	River Towing, LLC	CRLF Loan Disbursement: River Towing	35,000.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61379	12/18/20...	Ron's Electric, Inc.	PACE EE-RLF loan disbursement: Carlson Auto	19,000.00	12/18/2025
APS121825	61380	12/18/20...	TeamKeeper	TeamKeeper annual user license	945.00	12/18/2025

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Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS121825	61381	12/18/20...	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 11/2/25 - 12/1/25	42.60	12/18/2025
APS123125	61382	12/31/20...	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 12/26/25 to 1/25/26	878.87	12/31/2025
APS123125	61383	12/31/20...	AFLAC	Aflac December 2025	409.44	12/31/2025
APS123125	61384	12/31/20...	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Nov 2025	11.70	12/31/2025
APS123125	61385	12/31/20...	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Dec 2025	472.00	12/31/2025
APS123125	61385	12/31/20...	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Dec 2025	328.00	12/31/2025
APS123125	61386	12/31/20...	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	1,155.00	12/31/2025
APS123125	61387	12/31/20...	Quill Corporation	Plotter ink; Jay wall calendar	65.29	12/31/2025
APS123125	61387	12/31/20...	Quill Corporation	Plotter ink; Jay wall calendar	49.50	12/31/2025
APS123125	61388	12/31/20...	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	Boz Truck & Auto (CRLF) judgment & tax lien search	79.50	12/31/2025
APS123125	61389	12/31/20...	The Computer Man, Inc.	Assist with change from Bluepeak to Woodstock internet	171.88	12/31/2025
APS123125	61389	12/31/20...	The Computer Man, Inc.	Assist with change from Bluepeak to Woodstock internet	171.87	12/31/2025
CD121825 B...	BCBS...	12/22/20...	BlueCross Blue Shield of MN	BCBS Jan 2026	16,161.34	12/22/2025
Report Total					<u>309,890.54</u>	



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Grant Program Agreement

This Agreement is made and entered into on 01/22/2026 between Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) and The City of Hadley (GRANTEE) for the Hadley Area Community Center, Hadley Municipal Liquor Store, and City of Hadley Pump House Energy Audits (PROJECT). The PROJECT defined within this agreement directly supports energy and climate resiliency efforts of the SRDC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Therefore, it is hereby mutually agreed that:

1) PROJECT:

The PROJECT must be completed in accordance with the EECBG Program policies and guidelines.

2) GRANT AMOUNT(S):

Energy efficiency and climate resilience plan: \$ _____

Energy audit: \$ up to \$20,000

Technical assistance services: \$ _____

Total Grant Award not to exceed: \$ 20,000

3) PAYMENT:

a.) Up to \$ 20,000 will be reimbursed at final completion of the PROJECT. Final completion occurs when the PROJECT has ended and SRDC staff have approved the PROJECT.

b.) All other costs incurred by the GRANTEE in connection with the performance of GRANTEE's obligations under this agreement will be the responsibility of the GRANTEE. Expenses incurred prior to SRDC's signature are not eligible for reimbursement.

4) POLICIES:

The GRANTEE must comply with SRDC grant policies effective as of the date of this Agreement. SRDC reserves the right to refuse disbursement of funds for the PROJECT if it is not completed in accordance with SRDC grant policies or the terms of this executed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Block Grant Agreement.

5) LIABILITY:

The GRANTEE agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless SRDC against any and all claims, liability, loss, damage, or expense arising under the provisions of this Agreement, whether by the parties or by their agents, employees or contractors. Neither SRDC or the GRANTEE, if applicable, waive any immunities provided by any law or doctrine, including those of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow a claimant to obtain separate judgments or separate liability limits from the individual parties.

6) SRDC/GRANTEE RELATIONSHIP:

The GRANTEE acknowledges and agrees that GRANTEE is not an employee of the SRDC, and is not entitled to any rights, privileges, or benefits provided by SRDC to its employees. GRANTEE is not a contractor of goods or services to SRDC. This agreement does not establish a joint powers agreement or a joint partnership between the GRANTEE and SRDC.

7) MODIFICATION:

It is understood and agreed by the parties hereto that this agreement shall not be modified or amended except in writing duly signed by each of the parties.

8) ACCESS AND RETENTION RECORDS:

GRANTEE acknowledges that records related to this grant may be governed by Minnesota Statutes and Rules.

9) CANCELLATION:

a) SRDC may cancel this Grant Agreement for just cause. Just cause means that the GRANTEE is not using funds or disbursing funds in accordance with established procedures and/or has otherwise breached a term of this Agreement. The GRANTEE will be given written or electronic notice fourteen (14) calendar days prior to cancellation. The cancellation shall be effective on the beginning of the 15th day after such notice is delivered unless an agreement is reached within such fourteen (14) day period and SRDC allows an extension or withdrawal of the cancellation in writing.

b) In the event of cancellation by SRDC, the GRANTEE will only be entitled to payment of reimbursable expenses for the portion of work completed as determined by SRDC. If SRDC cancels this grant agreement for just cause, the GRANTEE may not be eligible for reimbursement of expenses that were approved in its application.

c) In the event of cancellation by GRANTEE, the GRANTEE will only be entitled to payment of reimbursable expenses for the portion of work completed as determined by SRDC.

10) TERMINATION AND SURVIVABILITY

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect until 10/31/2026, unless earlier terminated by mutual agreement of the GRANTEE and SRDC. Those portions that must survive to attribute meaning to them shall continue after expiration. However, the obligation to reimburse for expenses under the grant shall terminate upon expiration of the agreement.

11) LIMITATION OF PAYMENTS

SRDC's obligation to pay Grantee for services rendered pursuant to this Contract is conditioned upon the availability of funds which are allocated through DOE and multiple other sources to pay Grantee. If funds are not allocated and available to pay Grantee for these services, SRDC may terminate this Contract at the end of the period for which the funds are available. SRDC shall notify Grantee at the earliest possible time if Grantee will or may be affected by shortage of funds. No liability shall accrue to SRDC in the event this provision is exercised, and SRDC shall not be obligated or liable for future payments due or for any damages as a result of termination under this section. This provision shall not be construed so as to permit SRDC to terminate this Contract in order to acquire similar services from another party. The Grantee shall be paid for all services provided and expenses incurred prior to receipt of any such notification that SRDC was terminating the Contract because of shortage of funds.

a. Termination of Contract.

SRDC reserves and has the right and privilege of canceling, suspending, or abandoning the execution of any work or projects in connection with this Contract at any time upon written notice to Grantee. The Grantee may terminate this Contract upon written notice to SRDC should SRDC substantially fail to perform in accordance with this Contract.

12) DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In performing the work that is subject to this agreement, the GRANTEE will ensure that no person is excluded from full employment rights, or participation in, or benefits of any program, service, or activity on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, public assistance status, or national origin, and that no person protected by applicable federal or state laws, rules, or regulations against discrimination is subject to discrimination.

The parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed.

Southwest Regional Development Commission

City of Hadley

Jayme I Trusty, Executive Director

Riley Engbarth

Riley Engbarth, Clerk/Treasurer

Date

1/31/2026

Date

**TREASURER'S REPORT
MONTH END January 31, 2026**

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund

Bank	Amount	Due Date	APY Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	\$ 109,839.04	5/30/2026	3.70%
Minnwest Bank	100,000.00	02/21/27	3.50%
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%
First Independent Bank (X8022)	100,000.00	01/22/27	3.91%
First Independent Bank (X2281)	100,000.00	01/22/27	3.91%
Magic Fund	100,013.07	11/27/26	4.55%

NOTE: We currently have extra security at Minnwest Bank-Slayton to allow deposits above FDIC limits

TOTAL INVESTMENTS	737,080.11
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ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts

		1/31/2026
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 3,000.00
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	503,752.17
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	38,223.99
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	86,327.29
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings	61,147.98
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	85,062.63
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS	\$	777,514.06

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)

	1/31/2026	1/31/2025
Total Investments	\$ 737,080.11	\$ 741,095.19
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 777,514.06	\$ 876,876.16
Total Dedicated Funds	\$ (453,628.56)	\$ (466,254.20)
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW	\$ 1,060,965.61	\$ 1,151,717.15

SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 50	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	537,862	
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	318,028	
PACE Funds-EE-RLF	79,490	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	119,513	PACE Loan Funds 257,623
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	58,620	
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off Counties & admin)	26,721	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	starting December 2026
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	\$ 1,140,284	

Account Title	December 2025 Actual	Total Budget - FY26 Revised Operating Budget	FY26 YTD Actual	Total Budget Variance - FY26 Operating Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
					50.00	YTD Comparison % of Budget
Tax Revenue	153,500	471,544	191,569	279,975	40.6%	When current taxes rec'd, pymts primarily rec'd in Dec and June
R9 McKnight (balance of what we rec'd upfront)	9,249	132,927	31,218	101,709	23.5%	Monthly amount is what was used of what we have
R1F Admin (Covid and Regular)	8,345	60,000	53,699	6,301	89.5%	
Contract Revenue	40,763	329,840	195,193	134,647	59.2%	Based on activity to date
PACE Loan Orig/Int/Misc	13,066	6,800	0	6,800	0.0%	Loan Int/Loan Orig fee mostly received in Dec & June (code 4321/4656)
Rental Revenue/Bank and CD Interest Revenue	10,042	69,840	40,164	29,676	57.5%	
MnDOT Revenue	37,500	75,000	37,500	37,500	50.0%	Based on Billings - Yearly amt is \$75000, bill 3 times a year, 1st one is in Dec
Dept.Commerce Revenue.	22,524	222,790	112,068	110,722	50.3%	Certs (Regular), EECBG and State Comp. Grant
EDA Revenue	24,581	70,000	46,364	23,636	66.2%	Federal Share - Sept amt is for April-June 2025. Have to request quarterly payments now
Total Revenue	319,570	1,438,741	707,775	730,966	49.2%	
Salaries & Fringe	88,916	1,142,572	531,953	610,619	46.6%	Includes FY26 Salaries,/Fringe (including 15% increase to Health Insurance/H.S.A.) also includes MN Pd Leave that starts Jan 2026
Travel	2,893	60,000	28,369	31,631	47.3%	Staff Travel
Committee Expenses	1,297	34,000	9,355	24,645	27.5%	Includes Board Retreat, Orientation & Annual Meeting
Postage Expenses	51	5,349	2,114	3,235	39.5%	not including housing reimbursement
Insurance	264	10,000	6,067	3,933	60.7%	Insurance Dividend/Our portion of Bldg Ins,Cyber Security,Ins
PACE Loan Interest Paid	0	0	0	-	#DIV/0!	Loans were paid off in June 2025
Office Space Costs	924	15,000	4,510	10,490	30.1%	Utilities
Equipment/Building Updates	75	5,000	302	4,698	6.0%	
Communications	563	9,219	3,878	5,341	42.1%	
Printing/Publication	122	8,000	3,175	4,825	39.7%	Annual Report designed in house, sent out for printing, includes outreach items/mktg
Office Supply/Meeting Expense	642	8,000	1,929	6,071	24.1%	
Program Supply	0	0	2,137	(2,137)		Reimbursed by Contracts
Computer	3,235	56,000	20,827	35,173	37.2%	Includes 5 new laptops, setup and 1 docking station
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	0	24,013	14,210	9,803	59.2%	Part of the Wipfli Manual & Cost Alloc contract (was budgeted for FY25)
Audit	21,000	41,000	41,000	-	100.0%	Audits that may get done by Kinner & Co during FY26
Dues/Memberships/Other	3,000	5,000	4,000	1,000	80.0%	Includes MADDO Coordination (\$2,000 per region)
Finance Fees & Exp	20	1,000	201	799	20.1%	
Lease Payment	2,105	23,360	12,470	10,890	53.4%	Our portion of the principal payment
Debt Service-Principal/Interest	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	100.0%	Paid in December to the State of MN (Princ paid, but Int is internal tracking)
Total Expenses	135,106	1,457,513	696,496	761,017	47.8%	
Inc/(Decr) in PACE Adm for Interest		12,766				
Revenues over Expenses	184,464	(6,006)	11,278			

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FISCAL YEAR 2027
BUDGET AND WORK PLAN PROCESS**

2026

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| February-March | SRDC Standing Committees discuss work program and budget requests for FY2027. |
| April 7th | SRDC Budget and Personnel Committee meets to discuss the SRDC FY2027 Budget and Work Program. |
| April 9th | <u>If needed</u> , SRDC Budget & Personnel Committee meets prior to the Board meeting to finalize the budget and work program for FY2027. |
| April 9 Board | SRDC Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program and Budget are presented to the SRDC Board of Directors for approval and referral to the Public Hearing. |
| May 14 | Public Hearing on SRDC Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program and Budget |
| May 14 | SRDC Fiscal Year 2027 Work Program and Budget that incorporates any comments received during the Public Hearing is presented to the Full Commission for approval. |

G:\WORKFOLDER\FINANCE\BUDGET\FY27\Time Table for Budget FY27

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

Economic Development Professionals (ED Pros)

SRDC has resumed in-person ED Pros meetings with a hybrid option, providing opportunities for networking and information sharing among regional economic development professionals.

The first meeting was held December 1 and focused on the Small Business Administration (SBA), childcare, and a potential data center in Nobles County.

The next meeting will be held February 2 at 1 p.m.

These gatherings are open to anyone in the region with an interest in economic development.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

The current SRDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) (2022–2027) is available on the SRDC website. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requires an updated CEDS every five years. SRDC’s next CEDS is due December 31, 2026.

The SRDC CEDS Committee, which represents key regional sectors and aligns with EDA guidance, held its kickoff meeting on January 21. A regional survey has been developed to gather initial input and is open through February 28. Board members are encouraged to complete the survey and share it within their respective communities.

Upcoming CEDS Cornerstone Meetings

(All meetings are held from 1–3 p.m. and available in person or hybrid)

March 2 – Human Capital

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84431484059>

March 16 – Economic Competitiveness

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85140729062>

April 13 – Community Resources

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82852341164>

April 27 – Foundational Assets

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83486068886>

In addition, individual CEDS meetings are being scheduled to gather targeted input. A meeting with the Lower Sioux Indian Community was held on December 8.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

EDA – Infrastructure & Investment Projects EDA Investment Opportunities

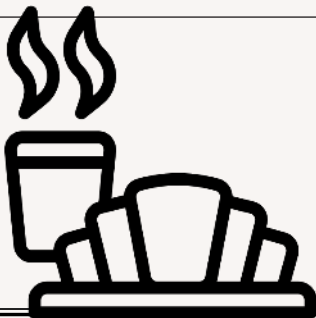
EDA priorities were updated with reauthorization and now include:

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

Current funding opportunities are available through EDA.

Opportunity Zones (OZ 2.0)

New U.S. Census Bureau data determining Opportunity Zone 2.0 eligibility is scheduled for release on January 29, 2026. Treasury will publish the official list of eligible census tracts following the release.



EDA Disaster NOFO

The EDA Disaster Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released, with projects eligible for up to an 80% grant match. Eligible jurisdictions, based on FEMA disaster declarations, include Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties.

SRDC staff are currently assisting with:

- Minnesota West – equipment and facility upgrades
- City of Windom – infrastructure improvements

Additional projects identified include:

- City of Wilder / City of Windom – wastewater sewer system
- City of Jackson – industrial park expansion

A proposed rail spur expansion by BRRRA (Nobles and Rock counties) was reviewed but did not meet EDA eligibility due to rail access requirements.

City of Adrian – EDA PWEAA Grant

SRDC continues to administer the EDA PWEAA grant for the City of Adrian electric substation project.

- Total project cost: \$3,258,900
- EDA award: \$1,629,450 (50%)

SRDC provides administrative and financial services and serves as liaison among the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering, and EDA. Revised site certificates and equipment RFPs have been submitted for EDA review. Construction design is underway. Due to long transformer lead times, project completion is currently projected for October 2027, with a more accurate timeline expected once material bids are awarded.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

Regional Committees & Partnerships

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee

Meets quarterly to support career and technical education awareness.

- Last meeting: 11/6/2025
- Upcoming meetings: 2/5/2026 and 5/7/2026

Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC)

- Last meeting: 12/2/2025
- Next meeting: 2/3/2026

SRDC represents economic development interest.

Friends in the Field

- Last meeting: 1/14/2026 (focus on rural healthcare)
- 20th Anniversary Celebration: 4/8/2026

Future Leader Network – Rock County

Weis will attend a session focused on economic development on **February 23 at 7 p.m.**

Community Development & Redevelopment City of Ellsworth – Grocery Store Redevelopment

SRDC assisted the **City of Ellsworth** and new grocery store owners in applying for the **Minnesota DEED Redevelopment Grant**. The grant would fund Phase 1 of the project, including demolition of the former grocery store and site preparation for a new addition connected to the existing meat locker.

The proposed 54' x 100' addition includes:

- **Retail meat sales space**
- **Expanded sausage kitchen**
- **Dedicated baking room**
- **Walk-in cooler and freezer space**
- **Inventory storage and restroom**

This project would help restore grocery access following the closure of the Ellsworth Food Center in 2024, which left the community of 497 residents without a grocery store.

Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

SRDC received **\$99,959.78** in EECBG funding to support energy planning for small communities (cities or counties under 15,000 population). There is no local match requirement. Grants to communities are **capped at \$20,000**.

Eligible planning activities include:

- Energy audits
- Engineering studies
- Resiliency planning

The CEDS Committee approved projects for **Slayton, Pipestone, and Hadley**. Projects must be completed by November 2026, and timely application submission is critical to ensure funds remain within Minnesota.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

CEDS| EDA PLANNING

Strategic Planning & Professional Development

• Industrial Park Strategic Planning – Redwood Falls

SRDC is working with the City of Redwood Falls through an EDA planning grant.

- Next planning session: 2/4
- City council/staff working session: 3/31

• Winter EDAM Conference

Held January 22–23 with strong southwest Minnesota participation. Sessions included infrastructure development, data centers, TIF districts, and certified sites.

• Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank – Q1 Business Survey

SRDC partnered with the Minneapolis Fed on a confidential survey of regional businesses. The survey

Food System & Workforce Initiatives

• Child Nutrition – Bulk Milk Program

SRDC is exploring the introduction of **bulk milk dispensers** in regional schools to reduce waste and improve efficiency. Outreach will be conducted to identify one or two pilot school sites.

• AGRI Works Grant

SRDC's application to the **MDA AGRI Works Grant** has advanced to **Round 2**. Funding would support outreach and relationship-building with local sustainable farmers and food producers.

• Ellsworth Grocery – FRIDG Grant

SRDC will assist the Ellsworth Food Center owners with an application to the **MDA Food Retail Improvement & Development Grant**, due **March 10, 2026**, to support equipment purchases for the new combined locker/grocery facility.

• Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative

SRDC received **\$250,000** from MDA through the Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant.

- Year two of the contract is underway
- Seven individuals have completed On-the-Job Training
- Four individuals hired at **Happy Halal Meats** (Willmar)
- One Ridgewater College student transferred into the Meat Cutting Program



REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF)

FEBRUARY 2026

C-RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF PROGRAMS

Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)

• SRDC RLF – COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

and Traditional RLF

The SRDC Revolving Loan Fund Committee consists of five members and meets on an as-needed basis. The committee oversees both the COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF) and the Traditional RLF.

Recent loan activity includes new loans closed in **Cottonwood and Nobles counties** businesses.

Interest Rates

SRDC RLF projects are currently financed at 75% of the Prime Rate, in compliance with federal regulations governing RLF awards.

Loan Servicing & Modifications

SRDC continues to receive requests from borrowers for minor loan modifications, largely related to seasonal cash flow challenges. Winter weather conditions in Minnesota can result in temporary seasonal slowdowns for some businesses.

Funds Available for Lending

As of the dates noted below, available funds are:

- **Traditional RLF** (as of 1/29/2026): **\$537,249.92**

This amount does not reflect a recent disbursement of \$19,466.38 to a Nobles County business.

- **COVID-19 RLF** (as of 1/16/2026): **\$317,680.71**

C-RLF funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed, in accordance with federal requirements.

New Financial Software – Presta

SRDC has implemented Presta, a new financial software platform for RLF applications and loan management. Applications can now be submitted online at:

<https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/85>

Site Visits & Compliance

Site visits are required at least once every three years, though they are conducted more frequently as needed. SRDC also collects annual business tax documentation for compliance purposes.

When possible, site visits are combined with communication audits and interviews to support business storytelling. RLF success stories are available on the SRDC website:

<http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/rlf-business-spotlights/>

Training Opportunities

Upcoming training and professional development opportunities include:

- **February 18** – RLF Community of Practice: Lending Techniques and Trends
- **May 5** – MBFA SBA 504 Loan Program Lender Training (Marshall)

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF)

FEBRUARY 2026

C-RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF PROGRAMS

Contracted Revolving Loan Funds

In addition to administering SRDC's RLF programs, staff assist with **three contracted RLFs** within the region and are currently in communication with another potential partner. These programs support **business start-ups, expansions, retentions, and gap financing needs.**

Jackson County RLF

- Five active loans
- Funds available for lending: **\$180,625.57**
- Outstanding principal: **\$300,210.63**
- Last committee meeting: **October 8, 2025**
- Most recent loan: **\$50,000** for real estate and business acquisition
- Two interest-only requests were recently reviewed and approved

Heron Lake RLF

- The Heron Lake RLF serves businesses within a **20-mile radius of Heron Lake** and utilizes **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds**. SRDC continues to assist with **GMS entries and amortization schedules** as requested.
- One loan was recently paid in full
- Funds remain available for businesses with gap financing needs in the service area

Falcon Development Corporation (FDC)

The Falcon Development Corporation supports economic development within a **30-mile radius of Heron Lake**. FDC funds are **not federalized**, meaning **Davis-Bacon wage requirements do not apply** to construction projects.

- Board composition: **6 members** (7 maximum)
- Last meeting: **August 6, 2025**
- Recently approved an increase to an existing loan for equipment acquisition
- Current lending capacity is **very limited**

Contact Information

For questions regarding SRDC business lending or contracted RLF programs, please contact:
Robin Weis, Deputy Director
507-836-1638
robin@swrdc.org



PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

General Information

The PACE program is available to **small business property owners**, including **agri-businesses** and some **non-profit organizations**, based on building use. PACE financing supports improvements that reduce energy usage and operating costs.

Interest rates for new PACE projects are set at **3% below Prime**, with a **minimum (floor) rate of 3%**. Board members are encouraged to help spread awareness of the program among eligible property owners..

Funds Available

As of the dates noted, available PACE financing includes:

- PACE EE-RLF (as of 12/31/2025): **\$79,463.96**
- PACE ARRA (as of 1/5/2026): **\$118,704.93**
- PACE SEP (as of 1/5/2026): **\$58,600.48**

Total PACE financing capacity: \$256,769.37

PACE Delinquencies

Following receipt of Fall 2025 property tax payments from counties, six PACE clients were identified as delinquent.

- One client has since **paid in full**
- One client is working with the county on a **payment plan**
- **Three clients** will be receiving certified letters, including one property owner who has not paid any 2024 or 2025 property taxes
- Weis is meeting with another client for a status update

Staff continue to monitor delinquencies and work closely with counties and property owners to resolve issues.

Loan History

Since inception, the PACE program has issued 48 loans.

- **9 loans paid in full**
- **39 active loans**
- **5 new loans issued in 2025** (Jackson County – 3, Freeborn County – 1, Nobles County – 1)
- New 2026 special tax assessments were filed prior to January 2026

Total PACE financing issued: \$1,623,008.84

Remaining principal: **\$1,186,914.23**

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 held: **August 26, 2025**

Contact Information

For questions regarding PACE financing or energy audits, please contact:

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

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

Energy Audits

Energy assessments and audits provide valuable information to property owners and often serve as the first step toward cost-saving improvements eligible for PACE financing. Required initial steps include:

1. An energy assessment or audit
2. Contractor estimates

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is working to expand access to qualified energy auditors. Referrals are commonly made to **RETAP, MNTAP, CEE, or EnergySmart.**

Staff recently received a request for an energy assessment related to an **updated grain dryer**, an eligible PACE project; however, an energy auditor has not yet been secured.

PACE Success Stories

Recent PACE project spotlights can be found on the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-spotlight/>

PACE applications can now be submitted online through the **Presta platform**: <https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/91>

Are you looking to cut your energy bill?

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

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

PACE
property-assessed
clean energy
financing

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

SRDC
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD

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

COUNTIES SERVED

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Southwest Solid Waste Commission

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission met on Monday, January 26, 2026.

- **Jim Eidem (Barr Engineering)** presented findings from a study on the occurrence and distribution of **PFAS** in groundwater at Minnesota landfills.

- Commission members provided updates on solid waste activities and developments in their respective counties.

- **SRDC Executive Director Trusty** reviewed the Executive Summary of the **Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Regional 10-Year Plan**.

The commission **approved the 10-Year Plan**, which will now be released for **public comment** before being presented to the **SRDC Board of Directors** for approval and subsequently forwarded to each county for formal endorsement.

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2026**.

Energy

Regional Community Listening Tour

SRDC staff continue to visit communities across the region to hear directly about high-priority projects and connect local leaders with available resources to help advance their goals.

Great Plains Institute – Carolyn Foundation Funded Work

SRDC is subcontracting with the **Great Plains Institute** for \$30,000 (August 2025–December 2026) to identify high-priority community benefits related to renewable energy development. Activities include stakeholder engagement at the local level and participation in statewide discussions related to the **Public Utilities Commission** permitting process.

CERTs (Clean Energy Resource Teams) – McKnight Foundation

SRDC staff are working with **CERTs at the University of Minnesota** to update siting-related content on their website. Current webpages contain outdated information, and recent changes to siting policies and practices necessitate a comprehensive update covering wind, solar, energy storage, and transmission.

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)

The **Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)** met on January 26 at 1:00 p.m.

At the meeting, **Ted Smith**, Vice President of Engineering and Operations, and **Brandon Lane**, Economic Development and Community Relations Executive with **Sioux Valley Energy**, provided an overview of their organization and shared insights on current energy trends from the cooperative’s perspective.

Following that presentation, **Rob Davis**, Chief Growth Officer with CleanCount, discussed the nonprofit’s role in **renewable energy certificates, wind curtailment**, and a potential solution involving **distributed green ammonia**.

The next RMEB meeting is scheduled for **March 23, 2026**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) – Idea Briefs

RSDP is accepting Idea Brief proposals through February 14. Idea Briefs support local innovation through partnerships with University of Minnesota faculty, staff, and students.

Projects must:

- Address a community-identified need or opportunity aligned with RSDP focus areas
- Support environmental, social, and economic sustainability
- Include meaningful leadership roles for both community members and University partners

Solar for Schools – 2026 Funding Round

The Solar for Schools grant program, administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, is expected to open **February 2**. The program is undergoing structural changes, including increased grant coverage of 70–90% of system purchase and installation costs, up from the previous 40–70%.

The application process includes two steps:

- Step 1: Notice of Intent / School Readiness Application
Due March 2, 2026
- Step 2: Full Grant Application
Due July 3, 2026, for schools deemed ready
- Updated information and the full RFP will be posted to the Commerce website.

Energy

SW CERT Seed Grant Program

The Southwest CERT Steering Committee met on November 6 (10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) to review seed grant applications and finalize funding recommendations. The committee reviewed 10 applications, including three multi-regional proposals.

Each CERT region was allocated **\$45,500**, with **\$15,000 dedicated to on-the-ground clean energy deployment projects**. An additional **\$9,000 per region** was later made available to support projects led by and serving marginalized and BIPOC communities. Funding announcements were released in early December, and contracts are currently being finalized. Project kickoffs are expected to begin shortly.

Funded projects include:

- *Little Huskies Learning Center* – Window Upgrades (\$10,000)
- *City of Vesta* – LED Lighting Upgrade (\$6,375)
- *Lower Sioux Indian Community* – Independent Energy Future (\$5,000)
- *Oertel Architects* – Biogenic Building Materials Repository (Hemp-lime) (\$5,125)
- *St. James Climate Smart* – Furnace Inspections and Tune-ups (\$10,000)
- *Rock County Agricultural Society* – Fairgrounds Lighting Upgrade (\$5,000)
- *Comfrey High School* – LED Lighting Upgrade (\$9,000)
- *Rainbow Research* – Clean Energy Transition Teams (\$4,000)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) Project

SRDC held an organizational meeting with **Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water** in January, followed by a project kickoff meeting in February. The **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)** will work with **GPI** and other partners to evaluate the potential benefits of using solar installations to support drinking water systems, while also providing economically viable and environmentally sustainable land use options. This work is particularly relevant in areas of southwest Minnesota experiencing elevated nitrate levels in drinking water.

SRDC's role as a subgrantee includes coordinating and facilitating workshops in one or two selected areas and convening cohort groups.



Land Use

City of Jasper – Zoning Ordinance Update

SRDC Planner Webb has initiated a comprehensive review of the City of Jasper's zoning ordinance. The goal is to complete the review process by **summer 2026**.

Nobles County Comprehensive Plan

The next Nobles County Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee meeting will be held on **Monday, February 9**, from **5:30–7:00 p.m.** in Worthington. The committee will review results from the community engagement survey, along with **U.S. Census** and **Minnesota DEED** data, and will complete a **SOAR Analysis** (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results).

City of Marshall – Master Parks Plan

SRDC staff, in partnership with City of Marshall staff, have conducted extensive community engagement, including:

- **9 focus groups**
- **6 individual interviews**
- **314 responses** to the community survey

Survey results and qualitative feedback from focus groups and interviews are being analyzed and incorporated into the Master Parks Plan document. Next steps include developing visual concepts based on community input. These visuals will be used to allow residents to vote on and prioritize park improvements for inclusion in the final plan.

Geronimo – Nobles County Economic Impact Analysis

In December, SRDC staff completed a draft economic impact analysis for a low-density, six-building data center scenario. At Geronimo's request, staff subsequently evaluated a **high-density scenario with fewer buildings**. The final report was completed and delivered in early January.

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

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

Transportation

Advisory Committee (TAC)

Planner Webb is at the beginning of a process to **restructure the TAC**. He has worked with MnDOT and the MnDOT planning directors at the start of this process. The next step is to work with the current TAC members and ask them to participate in the new restructuring process moving forward. More information will be coming out to TAC members in the next couple of months.

Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP)

- ATP 7 will meet on **Friday, March 13**, at 10:00 a.m. in **Mankato**.
- ATP 8 will meet on **Friday, March 6**, at 10:00 a.m. in **Willmar**.

Portable Counters Available

SRDC has **portable traffic and trail counters** available for communities planning to apply for MnDOT or other funding for trail or demonstration projects. These counters provide valuable data on current trail and user activity, which can strengthen grant applications and planning efforts.

For more information or to request a counter, contact **Planner Webb** at chrisw@swrdc.org



Transportation Planning

Stop Arm Cameras Case Study

Planner Webb recently completed a research case study on the implementation of **stop arm cameras** installed on **30 school buses** in Marshall, Minnesota. The study examined implementation considerations and outcomes related to school bus safety.

Safe Routes to School – Marshall

Planner Webb is working to organize a **Safe Routes to School Coalition** in Marshall. Community partners include the **Marshall School District, SWHHS SHIP, and Lyon County 4-H**.

The coalition received:

- **\$1,500** from the **Marshall Community Foundation**
- **\$500** from **Box Car Wind**

These funds were used to purchase new gear and supplies for school crossing guards.

A graphic for SRDC (Southwest Regional Development Commission) featuring a diverse group of stylized human figures in various colors. The text reads: "Connecting Communities in SW Mn", "DID YOU KNOW THAT THE SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION SERVES 9 COUNTIES 80 CITIES 162 TOWNSHIPS 32 SCHOOL DISTRICTS 1 TRIBAL NATION", "With over 117,000 people in our region, we're dedicated to connecting governments, businesses, and communities to foster growth and opportunity.", "Since 1973, we've been your regional partner in community and economic development.", "Let's work together to create a thriving future!", and the SRDC logo with address "2401 Broadway Ave., Slayton, MN" and phone number "507-836-8547".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026

The **Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission** approved the draft **10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan** at its January meeting. The plan will now be released for review and public comment in accordance with **MPCA guidelines**.

Region 8 (SRDC) will host the next meeting of the **Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) Executive Directors** in **Slayton on February 25–26**. Key agenda items include planning for the upcoming **All-Staff Retreat**, scheduled for **April 29–May 1** in St. Cloud, and reviewing organizational progress on **Strategic Doing initiatives**. Much of the training and retreat costs are being supported through a **McKnight Foundation grant**. The **East Central Regional Development Commission (Region 7E)** in Mora has named **Natalie Koerber** as its new Executive Director, and she plans to attend the February meeting.

We are currently seeking **keynote speaker suggestions** for the All-Staff Retreat. If you have seen a speaker at **AMC, LMC, or a similar** event who you believe would be a good fit, please share your recommendations.

Sheila and I have begun planning the **SRDC Board Retreat**, scheduled for **April 8–9 at Arrowwood**. While the retreat has traditionally been held in the fall, scheduling constraints made a spring date more feasible this year. Thanks to **Commissioner Anderson** for suggesting a retreat theme focused on **SRDC's history**—exploring how the organization became involved in certain program areas and how current practices evolved.

The **Legislative Committee** met in December prior to the Board meeting. One legislative priority for SRDC will be advocating for a **bonding bill** to help local communities address infrastructure needs. SRDC will also support **MADO's effort to increase MnDOT planning grant funding**. Significant changes are anticipated within the region due to the retirements of **Senator Gary Dahms** and **Senator Bill Weber**. At the federal level, **Senator Tina Smith** has announced her retirement, and **Senator Amy Klobuchar** has declared her candidacy for Governor, signaling additional transitions ahead.

The **FY 2024 audit** has been completed and approved. **FY 2025 concluded on June 30, 2025**, and we are nearing alignment with our audit schedule. Auditors anticipate that SRDC will be fully caught up and back on a normal audit cycle by the **end of next summer**.

The **SRDC and the Housing Partnership** are scheduled to assume ownership of the building in **June**. Staff are exploring the formation of an **LLC** to hold the property, with ownership shares divided according to the initial agreement between the two entities. This item is included on the **February Board agenda** for discussion.

Related to this transition, **Ben VanderKooi of Luverne**, who has served as SRDC's general counsel since 2001, has retired. I will be meeting with **Greg Bucher of Marshall**, who has been handling SRDC's Revolving Loan Fund legal work since Paul Stoneberg's retirement, to discuss his potential role as SRDC's attorney. While SRDC does not require legal services frequently, it is important to maintain an established professional relationship when the need arises.

February

May every day be filled with
positive energy and
consistent progress





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