



Welcome

April

*April is when the air softens, imaginations blossom,
and mud introduces itself.*

BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 2026 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Lake Okoboji Resort
and Conference Center
1405 US Hwy. 71, Okoboji, IA



Southwest Regional Development Commission

Commissioner

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

Representing

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

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
BOARD MEETING

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Lake Okoboji Resort and Conference Center 11:30 pm
1405 US Hwy. 71, Okoboji, IA

AGENDA

#	Time		Page
1	11:30	Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance	
2	11:31	Introductions	
3	11:33	Consent Agenda Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February Receipts & Expenditures • City of Cottonwood – Technical Assistance • U of M McKnight • Minnesota West – EDA Writing Grant Assistance • U of M RStep • MDA Agri Works Action Needed: Approval of Consent Agenda Items	3-5 6-9 10-12 13-23 24-25 26-39
4	11:35	Finance Reports — <i>Treasurer Anderson & Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts & investments • Administrative February 2026 Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report	H 26
5	11:40	Budget & Personnel Committee Report — <i>Committee Chair Anderson & Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY27 Budget • FY27 Work Program Action Needed: Approve Committee Recommendations	
6	11:45	Legislative Report – <i>Chair Miron Carney</i>	
7	11:50	Executive Director’s Report — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	41
8	11:55	Chairman’s Report — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	
9	11:55	Unfinished Business	
10	11:55	New Business	
11	11:55	Other Issues	

12		<p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, School Board Rep., Lower Sioux, and Cultural Diversity • SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2026 • at Farmers Room at Nobles Co. Government Center • The SRDC will be closed Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day • SRDC Board Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2026 • The SRDC will be closed Friday, June 19th in observance of Juneteenth • SRDC Annual Meeting: Thursday, July 9 – Heritage Event Center, Taunton, MN 	
13		<p>Adjourn</p> <p><i>***Written Planner Reports are located on pages 42 through 51 of the meeting packet. For questions or additional information regarding report information, please contact staff.***</i></p>	

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 2/1/2026 Through 2/28/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS020326	61415	2/3/2026	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 1/26/26 - 2/25/26	878.87	2/3/2026
APS020326	61416	2/3/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	4 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	56.20	2/3/2026
APS020326	61416	2/3/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	4 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	13.20	2/3/2026
APS020326	61417	2/3/2026	Lake Okoboji Catering & Events	Board retreat 2026: Room rental deposit	181.90	2/3/2026
APS020326	61418	2/3/2026	Larkin Hoffman	Larkin Hoffman Dec 2025	1,500.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61419	2/3/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Unplug furnace vent - labor	60.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61419	2/3/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Unplug furnace vent - labor	40.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61420	2/3/2026	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 12/19/25 - 1/20/26	386.95	2/3/2026
APS020326	61420	2/3/2026	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 12/19/25 - 1/20/26	257.96	2/3/2026
APS020326	61421	2/3/2026	One Office Solution	Meter reading	123.06	2/3/2026
APS020326	61422	2/3/2026	SRDC	Nov 2025 Admin, Dec 2025 Planner	1,325.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61423	2/3/2026	SRDC	Nov + Dec 2025 Planner, FY24 Audit inclusion	3,600.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61424	2/3/2026	Stoneberg, Giles & Stroup, PA	River Towing (CRLF) judgment & tax lien search	79.50	2/3/2026
APS020326	61425	2/3/2026	Southwest Minnesota Private ...	SW MN Meat Train & Retain: Ethan Kampson OJT, retent. bonus	4,976.00	2/3/2026
APS020326	61426	2/3/2026	Woodstock Communications	Feb 1 - Feb 28, 2026	74.98	2/3/2026
APS020326	61426	2/3/2026	Woodstock Communications	Feb 1 - Feb 28, 2026	74.97	2/3/2026
APS021226	61427	2/12/2026	Boz Truck & Auto	Refund: CRLF Loan Agreement Balance - Boz Truck	70.50	2/12/2026
APS021226	61428	2/12/2026	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Jan 2026	45.77	2/12/2026
APS021226	61429	2/12/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/30/25 - 1/28/26	63.45	2/12/2026
APS021226	61429	2/12/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/30/25 - 1/28/26	58.55	2/12/2026
APS021226	61430	2/12/2026	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 1.10, 1.16, 1.19, 1.20, 1.22, 1.30	330.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61430	2/12/2026	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 1.10, 1.16, 1.19, 1.20, 1.22, 1.30	220.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61431	2/12/2026	DVS Renewal	License tabs: 2025 Ford Escape	21.25	2/12/2026
APS021226	61432	2/12/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 2/10/26 - 3/9/26	897.18	2/12/2026
APS021226	61432	2/12/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 2/10/26 - 3/9/26	483.10	2/12/2026
APS021226	61433	2/12/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	100.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61433	2/12/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	40.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61434	2/12/2026	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	175.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61435	2/12/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 2/1/26 - 2/28/26	44.99	2/12/2026
APS021226	61435	2/12/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 2/1/26 - 2/28/26	30.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61436	2/12/2026	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Feb 2026	5,003.67	2/12/2026
APS021226	61437	2/12/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 2/1/26	2,606.05	2/12/2026
APS021226	61437	2/12/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 2/1/26	60.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61437	2/12/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank Visa closing date 2/1/26	10.50	2/12/2026
APS021226	61438	2/12/2026	Western Print Group	Business cards - Melissa	26.00	2/12/2026
APS021226	61439	2/12/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 1/5/26 - 2/4/26	265.91	2/12/2026

Southwest Regional Development Commission
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
 From 2/1/2026 Through 2/28/2026

Session ID	Check ...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS021226	61439	2/12/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 1/5/26 - 2/4/26	177.28	2/12/2026
APS021926	61440	2/19/2026	Abila	HR Module, provisioning, & beginning training	586.00	2/19/2026
APS021926	61441	2/19/2026	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS March 2026	64.00	2/19/2026
APS021926	61442	2/19/2026	The Computer Man, Inc.	Microsoft 365 Bus Prem Annual (10)	660.00	2/19/2026
APS021926	61443	2/19/2026	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 1/2/26 - 2/1/26	42.60	2/19/2026
APS022626	61444	2/26/2026	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 2/26/26 - 3/25/26	878.87	2/26/2026
APS022626	61445	2/26/2026	Fleet Services Division	Monthly lease rent 1/1/26 - 1/31/26	773.10	2/26/2026
APS022626	61446	2/26/2026	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Feb 2026	472.00	2/26/2026
APS022626	61446	2/26/2026	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Feb 2026	328.00	2/26/2026
APS022626	61447	2/26/2026	SRDC	Falcon Expenses - Dec 2025 - Jan 2026	547.25	2/26/2026
APS022626	61448	2/26/2026	SRDC	Falcon Expenses - FY24 Audit Inclusion	300.00	2/26/2026
CD022626 Aflac	Aflac ...	2/26/2026	AFLAC	Aflac Feb 2026	241.92	2/26/2026
CD022626 Aflac	Aflac ...	2/26/2026	AFLAC	Aflac Feb 2026	37.26	2/26/2026
CD022626 Aflac	Aflac ...	2/26/2026	AFLAC	Aflac Feb 2026	130.26	2/26/2026
CD022426 BCBS	BCBS...	2/20/2026	BlueCross Blue Shield of MIN	BCBS March 2026	16,061.68	2/20/2026
Report Total					<u>45,480.73</u>	

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND THE CITY of COTTONWOOD**

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Southwest Regional Development Commission hereinafter referred to as the "Commission" and the City of Cottonwood.

1. Contract Agreement

- a. The work program shall be as outlined in the attached Scope of Work agreement:
 - i. The Commission will provide up to 240 hours of technical assistance and invoice an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for mileage and supplies. All work is to be completed between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027, unless the contract period is extended by mutual agreement between the parties.
- b. Change of Scope of Consulting Services. City of Cottonwood may, at any time during the term of this Agreement, make changes to the scope of the planning services provided under this Agreement and its technical provisions. If any such change causes any increase or decrease in Commission's cost of performing any part of its obligations under this Agreement, upon Commission's request and City of Cottonwood's written authorization, an equitable adjustment shall be made in the contract price, and a written amendment of such adjustment shall be made. Any claim by the Commission for an equitable adjustment shall be made in writing and delivered to the City of Cottonwood before proceeding with the additional services. No additional services shall be performed until written authorization is received from the City of Cottonwood. Nothing in this subparagraph shall excuse the Commission from proceeding with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement per the original terms and conditions contained herein and any approved changes.
- c. Termination of Work: City of Cottonwood may terminate all or a portion of the Work covered by this Agreement for its convenience at any time. City of Cottonwood or Commission may terminate work if the other party fails to perform per the provisions of this Agreement by providing thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice to the other party by certified mail with receipt for delivery returned to the sender. In the event of termination, the Commission shall perform such additional work as is necessary for the orderly filing of documents and closing of the Project, and all finished or unfinished documents, maps, studies, work papers, and reports prepared by the Commission under this Agreement shall be the sole property of the City of Cottonwood. The time spent on such additional work shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the time expended on the Project prior to the effective date of termination. The commission shall be compensated for work satisfactorily performed prior to the effective date of termination, plus work required for filing and closing as described in this Article.

2. Financial Participation

- a. The Commission shall make available Planners and a Communications Specialist of competent training and experience to accomplish the assigned tasks and projects. Professional services are provided at \$100 an hour. These hourly rates include normal support costs. Other charges directly reimbursable to the Commission by the City of Cottonwood include meeting expenses, printing, mileage, and applicable technologies/software necessary to complete the contract at the SRDC's established rate of reimbursement.
- b. The total contract cost for the project will not exceed \$25,000 unless modified by mutual agreement. The invoice shall be submitted to:

Teather Bliss

City Clerk/Administrator

City of Cottonwood

teather@cityofcottonwoodmn.gov

507-423-6488

3. Payment for Services Performed

- a. Payment of funds to the Commission by the City of Cottonwood for services performed shall be made following submission by the Commission of a quarterly invoice requesting funds for costs incurred.

4. Records and Documentation

- a. Reports: The Commission shall provide quarterly progress reports to the City of Cottonwood along with invoices. Reports and invoices will be due by the 15th of the month that follows the reporting period. Any written, visual, audio, or electronic publications or press releases related to this project shall credit both the Commission and the City of Cottonwood.
- b. Hold Harmless: The City of Cottonwood to indemnify and hold harmless the Commission against any legal actions brought by any personal entity whatsoever arising out of or claimed to be arising out of the performance of either party under this agreement for services.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. The City of Cottonwood reviews all reports for compliance with its guidelines and requirements.

- b. The contract shall be subject to all pertinent state statutes and regulations.
- c. Any portion of this contract deemed invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction shall be held severable and shall not affect the remaining portions.

6. Independent Contractor Status

The SRDC is to be and shall remain an independent contractor with respect to any and all work performed under this Contract. It is agreed that nothing herein contained is intended or should be construed in any manner as creating or establishing the relationship of co-partners between the parties hereto or as constituting the SRDC as the agent, representative or employee of the City of Cottonwood or any purpose or in any manner whatsoever. The SRDC acknowledges and agrees that the SRDC is not entitled to receive any of the benefits received by City of Cottonwood employees and is not eligible for worker’s or unemployment compensation benefits under the City of Cottonwood. The SRDC also acknowledges and agrees that no withholding or deduction for state or federal income taxes, FICA, FUTA, or otherwise, will be made from the payment due to the SRDC and that it is the SRDC’s sole obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of all federal and state tax laws.

IN WITNESS, THEREOF, THE Commission has caused this contract to be duly executed on its behalf, and the City of Cottonwood has caused the same to be duly executed on its behalf.

**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

CITY OF COTTONWOOD

Authorized Official

Authorized Official

Attested By

Attested By

Date: _____

Date: _____

Scope of Work: City of Cottonwood Land Use Plan Update

Work elements for the City of Cottonwood Land Use Plan are outlined as deliverables below.

Initial Contacts

Staff will communicate with project leaders to establish the dates, times, logistics, and scope for all deliverables.

Public Meetings

SRDC will schedule these meetings. Tasks will include meeting preparation, facilitation, note-taking and distribution, interim communication, and follow-up.

Community Survey

Create, distribute, analyze, and present a community survey in partnership with the City of Cottonwood

Data Gathering

Collect, review, and analyze the City of Cottonwood's available documents related to planning efforts. Update images, and graphs based on feedback from surveys and community meetings, as well as current data available online.

Update Plan

Draft the plan update document for review, including updated data, images, goals, objectives, and text. Staff will attend a city council meeting to present the final plan for approval.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

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

Page 1

QCPS # 0002919181

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

Dispatch Via Print

Contractor #: 0000013607 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMM 2401 BROADWAY STE 1 SLAYTON MN 56172	Date 3/6/2026	Tax Exempt # 8029894
	Payment Terms Net 30	Vendor Type Other (Govt, NonProfit, etc)
	Requestor Carlee Kling (E) kling380@umn.edu	Phone 507/258-8750

Federal Contract Funding? No

Bill To: AP VOUCHER ENTRY EXTENSION REGL CTR 200 S O'CONNELL ST STE 500 MARSHALL MN 56258	Contract Administrator: Carlee Evon Kling Extension Marshall Reg Ofc 200 S OConnell St Suite 500 Marshall MN 56258 (P) 507/828-3732 (F) Melissa Birc
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COPY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

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

Page 2

QCPS # 0002919181

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF WORK

Term of Agreement: Start Date: 01/30/2026 and shall remain in effect until End Date: 12/01/2027					
Line	Item / Description	Quantity	UOM	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	Southwest Regional Dev Comm	1.00	LOT	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00

TOTAL OBLIGATION:

The University's total obligation to Contractor under this agreement, including compensation for goods, services and reimbursable expenses, shall not exceed **\$22,000.00** without the prior written approval of the University.

ABOVE CONTRACT IS ELECTRONICALLY APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

COPY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

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Page 3

QCPS # 0002919181

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

Line	Sched	Dist	Amount
1	1	1	22,000.00

Fund	Deptid	Program	PC BU	Project	Act	Account	Fin EmplID	Chartfield1	Chartfield2	CS
3001	10774		UMSPR	00125901	1	730299				

COPY



PROFESSIONAL and TECHNICAL SERVICES CONTRACT

THIS CONTRACT, and amendments and supplements thereto, is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, on behalf of *Minnesota West Community and Technical College*, (hereinafter “Minnesota State” or “College”), and *Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC)*, a public planning agency, not an employee of the State of Minnesota (hereinafter “Contractor”).

WHEREAS, Minnesota State, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 136F, is empowered to procure from time to time certain professional or technical services, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota State is in need of professional or technical services, and

WHEREAS, the Contractor represents it is duly qualified and willing to perform the services set forth in this contract and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed:

1. **TERM OF CONTRACT.**

This contract is effective on *February 24, 2026* or upon the date the final required signature is obtained by Minnesota State, whichever occurs later, and shall remain in effect until *December 31, 2028* or until all obligations set forth in this contract have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first. The Contractor understands that no work should begin under this contract until all required signatures have been obtained and the Contractor is notified to begin work by an authorized representative of Minnesota State.

2. **DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AGREED TO BY BOTH PARTIES:**

The SRDC hereby agrees to:

- A. Appoint a primary contact for this project;
Name: Robin Weis, Deputy Director
Phone: 507-836-8547, ext. 1638
Email: robin@swrdc.org

- B. Coordinate grant application preparation within the COLLEGE grants.gov account.

C. Advise COLLEGE on required processes, documentation, local match, and other information needed to submit application in consultation with Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA).

D. Advise COLLEGE on future grant administration and reporting requirements.

E. Serve as the project administrator for COLLEGE, if funds are awarded, including but not limited to the following:

- Project Coordination
- Progress Report Submission
- Liaison to Federal Economic Development Administration

The COLLEGE agrees to:

A. Appoint a primary contact for this project;

Name: Dawn Gordon

Phone: 507-372-3443

Email: dawn.gordon@mnwest.edu

B. Provide the SRDC with specific information and documents as needed to complete the SRDC's services. Including but not limited to:

- a. Provide an operations plan or equivalent that shows the demand for and capacity of the COLLEGE to implement this project while utilizing SRDC for project administration.
- b. Provide all required application materials, which may include data/information that supports the demand for workforce training, an environmental narrative, preliminary engineering report and detailed cost estimates. All architectural/engineering fees associated with developing this application will be the responsibility of the COLLEGE and are not part of this contract. These costs are not reimbursable as part of the grant.
- c. If architectural or engineering services are needed and are desired to be reimbursable by any funds awarded through the EDA grant, the COLLEGE agrees to procure a firm in accordance with 2 C.F.R §§ 200.319.
- d. Collect ED-900B Beneficiary Information Forms from private businesses who can support and benefit from the proposed project.
- e. Documentation of the required local match.
- f. Review application drafts and submit the EDA application via grants.gov.

C. Pay for, schedule, conduct, mail and print information for COLLEGE public hearings/meetings as required and assure that all publication and notification requirements are met.

D. Compensate the SRDC in accordance with Section IV of this Contract.

E. Utilize the SRDC as the project administrator if funds are awarded.

3. **CONSIDERATION AND TERMS OF PAYMENT.**

- a. **Consideration** for all services performed and goods or materials supplied by the Contractor pursuant to this contract shall be paid by Minnesota State as follows:

Compensation. There will be no invoice submitted to COLLEGE by SRDC for the grant writing portions of this contract, however, in the event the COLLEGE is awarded a grant, the COLLEGE agrees to pay the SRDC a flat fee of fifteen thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$15,000.00) for project services to be rendered in four (4) equal installments of Three thousand seven hundred fifty and 00/100 dollars (\$3,750.00) each, with the first installment due within thirty (30) days of grant notification. Each additional installment will be billed in regular increments as services are completed.

- i. The **total obligation** of Minnesota State for all compensation and reimbursement to the Contractor shall not exceed fifteen thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$15,000.00). In the event the COLLEGE requests additional services from that described in paragraph 1, and such services are to be completed by the SRDC, the SRDC shall be entitled to additional compensation if agreed to by both the SRDCS and the COLLEGE in writing. This contract shall be amended, or a new contract shall be created, to reflect the additional services and compensation.

b. **Terms of Payment.**

- i. Payment shall be made by Minnesota State promptly after the Contractor's presentation of invoices for services performed and acceptance of such services by an authorized representative of Minnesota State. All services provided by the Contractor pursuant to this contract shall be performed to the satisfaction of Minnesota State, as determined at the sole discretion of its authorized representative, and in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The Contractor shall not receive payment for work found by Minnesota State to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of any applicable federal, state or local law, ordinance, rule or regulation. Invoices shall be presented by Contractor according to the following schedule:

Within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice following the completion of services.

- ii. **Nonresident Aliens.** Pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §1441, Minnesota State is required to withhold certain federal income taxes on the gross compensation paid to nonresident aliens, as defined by Internal Revenue Code §7701(b). Minnesota State will withhold all required taxes unless and until the Contractor submits documentation required by the Internal Revenue Service indicating that the Contractor is a resident of a country with tax treaty benefits. Minnesota State makes no representations regarding whether or to

what extent tax treaty benefits are available to Contractor. To the extent that Minnesota State does not withhold these taxes for any reason, Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold Minnesota State harmless for any taxes owed and any interest or penalties assessed.

4. **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES.**

All official notifications, including but not limited to, cancellation of this contract must be sent to the other party's authorized representative.

- a. Authorized representative of Minnesota State for the purpose of administration of this contract is:

Name: Robin Weis, Deputy Director
Address: 2401 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN 56172
Telephone: 507-836-8547 ext 1638
E-Mail: robin@swrdc.org

Such representative shall have final authority for acceptance of the Contractor's services and, if such services are accepted as satisfactory, shall so certify on each invoice presented pursuant to Clause 3, paragraph b.

- b. The Contractor's authorized representative for the purpose of administration of this contract is:

Name: Dawn Gordon, Dean of Science & Nursing
Address: 401 West Street, Jackson, MN 56143
Telephone: 507-372-3443
E-Mail: Dawn.Gordon@mnwest.edu

5. **CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION.**

- a. This contract may be canceled by Minnesota State at any time, with or without cause, upon **thirty (30) days written notice** to the Contractor. In the event of such a cancellation, the Contractor shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for work or services satisfactorily performed.
- b. **Termination for Insufficient Funding.** Minnesota State may immediately terminate this contract if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature or other funding source, or if funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow for the payment of the services covered here. Termination must be by written or fax notice to the Contractor within a reasonable time of Minnesota State receiving notice that sufficient funding is not available. Minnesota State is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after notice and effective date of termination. However, the Contractor will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for work or services satisfactorily performed to the extent that funds are available. Minnesota State will not be assessed any penalty if the contract is terminated because of the decision of the Minnesota Legislature or other funding source not to appropriate funds.

6. **ASSIGNMENT.**

The Contractor shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this contract without the prior written consent of Minnesota State.

7. **LIABILITY.**

The Contractor shall indemnify, save, and hold Minnesota State, its representatives and employees harmless from any and all claims or causes of action, including all attorney's fees incurred by Minnesota State, arising from the performance of this contract by the Contractor or Contractor's agents or employees. This clause shall not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Contractor may have for the failure of Minnesota State to fulfill its obligations pursuant to this contract.

8. **WORKERS' COMPENSATION.**

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

9. **PUBLICITY.**

Any publicity given to the program, publications, or services provided resulting from this contract, including, but not limited to, notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Contractor or its employees individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors shall identify Minnesota State as the sponsoring agency and shall not be released prior to receiving the approval of an authorized representative of Minnesota State.

10. **MINNESOTA STATUTES §181.59.**

The Contractor will comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes §181.59 which require:

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

11. **DATA DISCLOSURE.**

- a. As a condition of this contract, the Contractor is required by Minn. Stat. §270C.65 to provide a social security number, a federal tax identification number or Minnesota tax identification number. This information may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws. These numbers will be available to federal and state tax authorities and state personnel involved in approving the contract and the payment of state obligations. Supplying these numbers could result in action to require the Contractor to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities. **This contract will not be approved unless these numbers are provided.**
- b. **Independent Contractors.** Minn. Stat. §256.998 requires Minnesota State to report the name, address and social security number of independent Contractors to the New Hire Reporting Center of the Minnesota Department of Human Services unless this contract is for less than two months in duration with gross earnings of less than \$250.00 per month. This information may be used by state or local child support enforcement authorities in the enforcement of state and federal child support laws.

12. **GOVERNMENT DATA PRACTICES ACT.**

The requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 13.05, subd. 11 apply to this contract. The Contractor and Minnesota State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13, as it applies to all data provided by Minnesota State in accordance with this contract, and as it applies to all data, created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Contractor in accordance with this contract. The civil remedies of Minnesota Statutes §13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Contractor or Minnesota State.

In the event the Contractor receives a request to release the data referred to in this clause, the Contractor must immediately notify Minnesota State. Minnesota State will give the Contractor instructions concerning the release of the data to the requesting party before the data is released.

13. **OWNERSHIP OF MATERIALS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.**

- a. Minnesota State shall own all rights, title and interest in all of the materials conceived or created by the Contractor, or its employees or subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others and which arise out of the performance of this contract, created and paid for under this contract, including any inventions, reports, studies, designs, drawings, specifications, notes, documents, software and documentation, computer based training modules, electronically, magnetically or digitally recorded material, and other work in whatever form (hereinafter “Materials”).

The Contractor hereby assigns to Minnesota State all rights, title and interest to the Materials. The Contractor shall, upon request of Minnesota State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to assist Minnesota State to obtain and register copyrights, patents or other forms of protection provided by law for the Materials. The Materials created under this contract by the Contractor, its employees or subcontractors, individually or jointly with others, shall be considered “works made for hire” as defined by the United States Copyright Act. All of the Materials, whether in paper, electronic, or other form, shall be remitted to Minnesota State by the Contractor, its employees and any subcontractors, and the Contractor shall not copy, reproduce, allow or cause to have the Materials copied, reproduced or used for any

purpose other than performance of the Contractor's obligations under this contract without the prior written consent of an authorized representative of Minnesota State.

- b. The Contractor represents and warrants that Materials produced or used under this contract do not and will not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of another, including, but not limited to, patents, copyrights, trade secrets, trade names, and service marks and names. The Contractor shall indemnify and defend, to the extent permitted by the Attorney General, Minnesota State at the Contractor's expense from any action or claim brought against Minnesota State to the extent that it is based on a claim that all or part of the Materials infringe upon the intellectual property rights of another. The Contractor shall be responsible for payment of any and all such claims, demands, obligations, liabilities, costs and damages, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney fees arising out of this contract, amendments and supplements thereto, which are attributable to such claims or actions.

If such a claim or action arises, or in the Contractor's or the opinion of Minnesota State is likely to arise, the Contractor shall, at the discretion of Minnesota State, either procure for Minnesota State the right or license to continue using the Materials at issue or replace or modify the allegedly infringing Materials. This remedy shall be in addition to and shall not be exclusive to other remedies provided by law.

14. **ANTITRUST.**

The Contractor hereby assigns to the State of Minnesota any and all claims for overcharges as to goods or services provided in connection with this contract resulting from antitrust violations which arise under the antitrust laws of the United States or the antitrust laws of the State of Minnesota.

15. **JURISDICTION AND VENUE.**

This contract, and amendments and supplements thereto, shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. Venue for all legal proceedings arising out of this contract, or breach thereof, shall be in the state or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

16. **AMENDMENTS.**

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

17. **STATE AUDITS.**

The books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Contractor relevant to this contract shall be subject to examination by Minnesota State and the Legislative Auditor for a minimum of six (6) years from the end of the contract.

18. **SURVIVAL OF TERMS.**

The following clauses survive the expiration, cancellation or termination of this contract: Liability; Publicity; Data Disclosure; Government Data Practices Act; Ownership of Materials and Intellectual Property Rights; Jurisdiction and Venue; and State Audits.

19. **FORCE MAJEURE.**

No party to this contract shall be responsible for any delays or failure to perform any obligation under this contract due to acts of God, strikes or other disturbances, including, without limitation, war, insurrection, embargoes, governmental restrictions, acts of governments or governmental authorities, and any other cause beyond the control of such party. During an event of force majeure the parties' duty to perform obligations shall be suspended.

20. **INSURANCE and Liability.**

Each party shall be responsible for its own acts and behavior and the results thereof to the extent authorized by law and shall not be responsible for the acts and behavior of the other party, or the acts and behavior of the other party's agents, employees, or subcontractors. COLLEGE'S liability shall be governed by the Minnesota Torts Claims Act, Minnesota Statutes section 3.736 and other applicable law. SRDC represents that its liability is governed by the Minnesota Torts Claims Act found at Minnesota Statutes section 3.736 and other applicable law. SRDC shall maintain and furnish satisfactory evidence of the following:

i. **Workers' Compensation Insurance.** SRDC must provide workers' compensation insurance for all its employees and, in case any work is subcontracted, SRDC shall require the subcontractor to provide workers' compensation insurance in accordance with the statutory requirements of the State of Minnesota, including Coverage B, Employer's Liability, at limits not less than \$100,000.00 bodily injury by disease per employee; \$500,000.00 bodily injury by disease aggregate; and \$100,000.00 bodily injury by accident.

ii. **Commercial General Liability.** SRDC shall maintain a comprehensive commercial general liability insurance (CGL) policy or equivalent protecting it from bodily injury claims and property damage claims which may arise from operations under the contract (and shall cause any subcontractor used by SRDC or by anyone directly or indirectly employed under the contract to maintain coverage). The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$1,500,000.00 per occurrence in accordance with the Minnesota Torts Claims Act.

In addition, the following coverages shall be included:

Premises and Operations Bodily Injury and Property Damage

Personal Injury and Advertising Injury

Products and Completed Operations Liability

Pollution Exclusion

Name the following as Additional Insureds, to the extent permitted by law:

The Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and its officers and members, to include the named COLLEGE, the State of Minnesota, officers and employees of the State of Minnesota and the COLLEGE, for claims arising out of the SRDC's negligence or the

negligence of those for whom the SRDC is responsible for both ongoing and completed operations.

iii. Commercial Automobile Liability. SRDC shall maintain insurance protecting it from bodily injury claims and property damage claims resulting from the ownership, operation, maintenance, or use of all owned, hired, and non-owned autos which may arise from operations of vehicles under the contract, and in case any work is subcontracted the SRDC will require the subcontractors to maintain Commercial Automobile Liability insurance. The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$1,500,000.00 per occurrence Combined Single Limit (CSL) for bodily injury and property damage in accordance with the Minnesota Tort Claims Act

In addition, the following coverages should be included:

Owned, Hired, and Non-owned

iv. Errors and Omissions (E & O) Insurance. SRDC shall maintain insurance protecting it from claims SRDC may become legally obligated to pay resulting from any actual or alleged negligent act, error or omission related to SRDC's services required under this Contract. The minimum insurance amounts will be:

\$1,500,000.00 per occurrence in accordance with the Minnesota Torts Claims Act

Additional Insurance Conditions:

- SRDC'S policy(ies) shall be primary insurance to any other valid and collectible insurance available to COLLEGE with respect to any claim arising out of SRDC'S performance under this Contract.
- SRDC is responsible for payment of Contract related insurance premiums and deductibles.
- SRDC'S policy(ies) shall include legal defense fees in addition to its liability policy limits.
- An Umbrella or Excess Liability insurance policy may be used to supplement the SRDC'S policy limits to satisfy the full policy limits required by the Contract.

COLLEGE reserves the right to immediately terminate the Contract if SRDC is not in compliance with the insurance requirements and retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against SRDC. All insurance policies must be available for inspection by COLLEGE and copies of policies must be submitted to COLLEGE's authorized representative upon written request.

- d. Minnesota State reserves the right to immediately terminate this contract if the Contractor is not in compliance with the insurance requirements and retains all rights to pursue any legal remedies against the Contractor. All insurance policies must be available for inspection by Minnesota State and copies of policies must be submitted to an authorized representative of Minnesota State upon written request.

25. **OTHER PROVISIONS.** None


The rest of this page intentionally left blank. Signature page to follow.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this contract to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

APPROVED:

1. CONTRACTOR: Southwest Regional Development Commission

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

By (authorized signature and printed name)
 Jay Rusty (Mar 18, 2026 13:30:29 PDT)
Title Executive Director
Date 03/18/2026


2. VERIFIED AS TO ENCUMBRANCE:

The employee certifies that funds have been encumbered as required by Minnesota Statutes §16A.15.


By (authorized signature and printed name)
Not Applicable
Title
Date

3. MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Minnesota West Community and Technical College

By (authorized signature and printed name)
 Terry Gaalswyk (Mar 19, 2026 17:23:54 CDT)
Title President
Date 03/19/2026

4. AS TO FORM AND EXECUTION:

By (authorized signature and printed name)
 Terry Gaalswyk (Mar 19, 2026 17:23:54 CDT)
Title President
Date 03/19/2026

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

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

Page 1

QCPS # 0002928339

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

Dispatch Via Print

Contractor #: 0000013607 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMM 2401 BROADWAY STE 1 SLAYTON MN 56172	Date 3/25/2026	Tax Exempt # 8029894
	Payment Terms Net 30	Vendor Type Other (Govt, NonProfit, etc)
	Requestor Carlee Kling (E) kling380@umn.edu	Phone 507/258-8750

Federal Contract Funding? No

Bill To: AP VOUCHER ENTRY EXTENSION REGL CTR 200 S O'CONNELL ST STE 500 MARSHALL MN 56258	Contract Administrator: Carlee Evon Kling Extension Marshall Reg Ofc 200 S OConnell St Suite 500 Marshall MN 56258 (P) 507/828-3732 (F) Melissa Birc
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COPY

Quick - Contract for Professional Services

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

Page 2

QCPS # 0002928339

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF WORK

Term of Agreement: Start Date: 03/17/2026 and shall remain in effect until End Date: 06/30/2028					
Line	Item / Description	Quantity	UOM	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	SW Reg Dev Comm	1.00	LOT	\$20,500.00	\$20,500.00

TOTAL OBLIGATION:

The University's total obligation to Contractor under this agreement, including compensation for goods, services and reimbursable expenses, shall not exceed **\$20,500.00** without the prior written approval of the University.

ABOVE CONTRACT IS ELECTRONICALLY APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

COPY



ENCUMBRANCE WORKSHEET

Mark this box if this is a RUSH	SWIFT CONTRACT NO: 285805	PO NO: PO #:3000057901
--	---------------------------	------------------------

Please, allow 4 - 6 weeks for the entire contract process (5 - 7 business days for FBD, or 2-3 business days for rush requests).

MDA PREPARER/CONTACT: Ashley Bress	ORG: 101	AGENCY: AGRICULTURE B04
NEW CONTRACT/GRANT: X	AMENDMENT:	ROLL FORWARD:
DIVISION'S FINANCIAL ADVISOR: John Schleder	TYPE: GRT	ANNUAL PLAN LINE NUMBER:

FISCAL YEAR(S): 2026	TOTAL AMOUNT OF CONTRACT: \$75,000.00	SWIFT SUPPLIER NUMBER: 203052
CATEGORY CODE: 84101501	25K EVAL NEEDED: No	SWIFT SUPPLIER LOCATION: 1
ACCOUNT CODE: 441352	CONTRACT START DATE: March 15, 2026	SWIFT SUPPLIER ADDRESS: 1
TOTAL EWS AMOUNT: \$75,000.00	CONTRACT END DATE: March 14, 2029	SIGNATURES NEEDED BY DATE: March 15, 2026

LAWS OF: Minn. Stat. §41A.12; Minnesota 2025, Chapter 34, Article 1 Section 2. Subd. 3(f)(10)

FUNDING STRING	FUNDING STRING	FUNDING STRING
FISCAL YEAR: 2026	FISCAL YEAR:	FISCAL YEAR:
FUND: 1000	FUND:	FUND:
DEPT ID: B0432759	DEPT ID:	DEPT ID:
APPROP ID: B047G70	APPROP ID:	APPROP ID:
PC BUS UNIT:	PC BUS UNIT:	PC BUS UNIT:
PROJECT ID:	PROJECT ID:	PROJECT ID:
ACTIVITY:	ACTIVITY:	ACTIVITY:
SOURCE:	SOURCE:	SOURCE:
AMOUNT: \$75,000.00	AMOUNT:	AMOUNT:

FUNDING STRING	FUNDING STRING	FUNDING STRING
FISCAL YEAR:	FISCAL YEAR:	FISCAL YEAR:
FUND:	FUND:	FUND:
DEPT ID:	DEPT ID:	DEPT ID:
APPROP ID:	APPROP ID:	APPROP ID:
PC BUS UNIT:	PC BUS UNIT:	PC BUS UNIT:
PROJECT ID:	PROJECT ID:	PROJECT ID:
ACTIVITY:	ACTIVITY:	ACTIVITY:
SOURCE:	SOURCE:	SOURCE:
AMOUNT:	AMOUNT:	AMOUNT:

CONTRACT NAME & ADDRESS:	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEV COMMISSION SRDC
<i>(Must match SWIFT Supplier Location ID, as listed on the contract)</i>	2401 BROADWAY AVE #1
	SLAYTON, MN 56172-1142

SUPPLIER REMITTANCE ADDRESS:	SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEV COMMISSION SRDC
<i>(Must match SWIFT Supplier Address ID)</i>	2401 BROADWAY AVE #1
	SLAYTON, MN 56172-1142

NOTES: FY26 AGRI Works Grant



STATE OF MINNESOTA
GRANT CONTRACT AGREEMENT

Swift Contract Number: _____

Purchase Order Number: _____

This Grant Contract Agreement is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Department of Agriculture ("State") and Southwest Regional Development Commission SRDC, 2401 Broadway Ave #1, Slayton, MN 56172-1142 ("Grantee").

Recitals

1. Under Minnesota Statutes 41A.12, the State is empowered to enter into this Grant Contract Agreement.
2. The State seeks to enhance agricultural, horticultural, and rural community and economic development through marketing, promotion, and research and education.
3. The Grantee represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to perform all services described in this Grant Contract Agreement to the satisfaction of the State.

Grant Contract Agreement

1 Term of Grant Contract Agreement

- 1.1. **Effective Date.** March 15, 2026, or the date the State obtains all required signatures, whichever is later.
 - 1.1.1. Per [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98, Subd. 5](#), the Grantee must not begin work until this Grant Contract Agreement is fully executed and the State's Authorized Representative has notified the Grantee that work may commence.
 - 1.1.2. Per [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98 Subd. 7](#), no payments will be made to the Grantee until this Grant Contract Agreement is fully executed.
- 1.2. **Expiration Date.** March 14, ~~2026~~, or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever occurs first. 2029
- 1.3. **Survival of Terms.** The following clauses survive the expiration or cancellation of this Grant Contract Agreement: Specifications, Duties, and Scope of Work; Subcontracting and Subcontract Payment; Liability; State Audits; Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property Rights; Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; Publicity and Endorsement; Data Disclosure; Monitoring; Non-Discrimination Requirements

2 Specifications, Duties, and Scope of Work

- 2.1. Purchase and pay for goods and services as outlined in the Budget (Exhibit A) to accomplish the work outlined in Work plan (Exhibit B), which are attached and incorporated into this Grant Contract Agreement.
- 2.2. Comply with required grants management policies and procedures set forth through Minnesota Statutes § 16B.97, Subd. 4(a)(1).

- 2.3. Be responsible for the administration, supervision, management, record keeping, and program oversight required for the work and purchasing performed under this agreement.
- 2.4. Collect and maintain source documentation associated with expenses incurred. Upon request, submit this documentation and reimbursement request worksheets provided by the State that detail grant expenditures by the budget categories as outlined in the Budget (Exhibit A). Source documentation includes, but is not limited to receipts, canceled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contracts, invoices, requests for bids or other procurement documents.
- 2.5. Provide progress or final reports on forms provided by the State with each request for reimbursement.
- 2.6. Submit annual reports on forms prescribed by the State each fall during 2026-2028.
- 2.7. Submit written requests for changes to the Budget (Exhibit A) before shifting funds between budget categories by more than ten percent. Wait for the written approval by the State's Authorized Representative before making any requested changes to the budget or scope of work.
- 2.8. Facilitate a grant review meeting or "monitoring visit" as requested by the State.
- 2.9. Post on the Grantee's website the names of, and contact information for, the Grantee's leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees this Grant Contract Agreement on behalf of the Grantee.
- 2.10. Monitor and report any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest to the State's Authorized Representative throughout the performance period of this grant; and maintain and adequate conflict of interest policy. Conflicts of interest are described in Exhibit C, which is attached and incorporated into this Grant Contract Agreement.

3 Time

- 3.1. The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this Grant Contract Agreement. In the performance of this Grant Contract Agreement, time is of the essence and failure to meet a deadline date may be a basis for a determination by the State's Authorized Representative that the Grantee has not complied with the terms of the Grant Contract Agreement. The Grantee is required to perform all the duties cited within section 2.0 "Specifications, Duties, and Scope of Work" within the grant period. The State is not obligated to extend the grant period.

4 Consideration and Terms of Payment

- 4.1. The consideration for all services performed by the Grantee pursuant to this Grant Contract Agreement shall be paid by the State as follows:
 - 4.1.1. **Compensation.** The total obligation of the State under this Grant Contract Agreement, including all compensation and reimbursements, is not to exceed \$75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand dollars and zero cents). The Grantee may submit payment requests with the required expenditure documentation throughout the grant performance period. Funds made available pursuant to this agreement shall be used only for expenses incurred in performing and accomplishing the purposes and activities specified in Exhibits A and B, attached and incorporated into the Grant Contract Agreement. The State, at its discretion, may hold back up to the final 10 percent of the grant award until all reporting requirements have been met and the final report has been received and accepted by the State's Authorized Representative.
 - 4.1.2. **Administrative Costs.** Pursuant to [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98, Subd. 1](#), the Grantee agrees any administrative costs are reasonable and necessary and assumes these costs as a condition of this Grant Contract Agreement.

- 4.1.3. **Travel Expenses.** Reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the Grantee because of this Grant Contract Agreement will not exceed \$0.00. The Grantee will not be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses incurred outside Minnesota unless it has received the State's prior written approval for out of state travel. Minnesota will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state. The Grantee will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses in the same manner and in no greater amount than provided in the current Commissioner's Plan promulgated by the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget.
- 4.2. **Invoices.** Payments shall be made by the State after the Grantee's presentation of invoices for services satisfactorily performed and the written acceptance of such services by the State's Authorized Representative. Invoiced expenses must occur after the contract effective date, and on or before the grant contract expiration date, March 14, 2029. Upon request, provide the State invoices containing itemized descriptions of their purchases and proofs of payment.
- 4.2.1. Invoices shall be itemized descriptions of purchases with receipts and proof of payment for expenditures. The Grantee may submit payment requests with the required expenditure documentation throughout the grant performance period.
- 4.2.2. All payment requests must be submitted no later than 60 calendar days after the expiration date of this Grant Contract Agreement, listed at paragraph 1.2. The Grantee must send invoices and supporting financial documentation, with progress reports and the final report, to the State's Authorized Representative. All reports prescribed by the State must be completed and meet with the approval of the State's Authorized Representative before payment is made to the Grantee.
- 4.3. **Unexpended Funds.** The Grantee must promptly return to the State any unexpended funds that have not been accounted for in a financial report to the State.

5 Conditions of Payment

- 5.1. All services provided by the Grantee under this Grant Contract Agreement must be performed to the State's satisfaction, as determined at the sole discretion of the State's Authorized Representative and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment for work found by the State to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, state, or local law. The Grantee accepts full financial responsibility for any reimbursement of grant funds due to the State as a result of the Grantee's noncompliance.

6 Contracting and Bidding Requirements

- 6.1. The Grantee and any subrecipients must comply with prevailing wage rules per [Minnesota Statutes §§ 177.41 through 177.50](#), as applicable.
- 6.2. The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government: [Suspended and Debarred Vendors, Minnesota Office of State Procurement](#) or [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#).
- 6.3. The Grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

7 Authorized Representatives

- 7.1. The State's Authorized Representative is Ashley Bress, Assistant Director, Ashley.Bress@state.mn.us, 651-201-6648, or their successor, and has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee's performance and the

authority to accept the services provided under this Grant Contract Agreement. If the services are satisfactory, the State's Authorized Representative will certify acceptance on each invoice submitted for payment.

- 7.2. The Grantee's Authorized Representative is Kim Murphy, Development Planner, kimm@swrdc.org; 507-836-1631, 2401 Broadway Ave #1, Slayton, MN 56172-1142, or their successor. If the Grantee's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this Grant Contract Agreement, the Grantee must immediately notify the State.

8 Assignment, Amendments, Waiver, and Contract Complete

- 8.1. **Assignment.** The Grantee may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Grant Contract Agreement without the prior consent of the State and a fully executed agreement, executed and approved by the authorized parties or their successors.
- 8.2. **Amendments.** Any amendment to this Grant Contract Agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until it has been executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved the original Grant Contract Agreement or their successors.
- 8.3. **Waiver.** If the State fails to enforce any provision of this Grant Contract Agreement, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to enforce it.
- 8.4. **Contract Complete.** This Grant Contract Agreement contains all negotiations and agreements between the State and the Grantee. No other understanding regarding this Grant Contract Agreement, whether written or oral, may be used to bind either party.

9 Subcontracting and Subcontract Payment

- 9.1. A subrecipient is a person or entity that has been awarded a portion of the work authorized by this Grant Contract Agreement by Grantee. The Grantee must document any subaward through a formal legal agreement. The Grantee must provide timely notice to the State of any subrecipient(s) prior to the subrecipient(s) performing work under this Grant Contract Agreement.
- 9.2. The Grantee must monitor the activities of the subrecipient(s) to ensure the subaward is used for authorized purposes; is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the subaward, [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.97, Subd.4 \(a\) 1](#), and other relevant statutes and regulations; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.
- 9.3. During this Grant Contract Agreement, if a subrecipient is determined to be performing unsatisfactorily by the State's Authorized Representative, the Grantee will receive written notification that the subrecipient can no longer be used for this Grant Contract Agreement.
- 9.4. No subagreement shall serve to terminate or in any way affect the primary legal responsibility of the Grantee for timely and satisfactory performances of the obligations contemplated by the Grant Contract Agreement.
- 9.5. The Grantee must pay any subrecipient in accordance with [Minnesota Statutes § 16A.1245](#).
- 9.6. The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government.

10 Liability

- 10.1. The Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from performance of this Grant Contract Agreement by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed

to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this Grant Contract Agreement.

11 State Audits

- 11.1. Under [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.98, Subd. 8](#), the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices relevant to this Grant Contract Agreement are subject to examination by the Commissioner of Administration, the State granting agency, the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the expiration or termination of this Grant Contract Agreement, receipt and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all State and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

12 Government Data Practices and Intellectual Property Rights

- 12.1. **Government Data Practices.** The Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, [Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13](#), as it applies to all data provided by the State under this grant contract, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this grant contract. The civil remedies of [Minnesota Statutes § 13.08](#) apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Grantee or the State.
- 12.2. If the Grantee receives a request to release the data referred to in this Clause, the Grantee must immediately notify the State. The State will give the Grantee instructions concerning the release of the data to the requesting party before the data is released. The Grantee's response to the request shall comply with applicable law.
- 12.3. **Intellectual Property Rights.**
- 12.3.1. **Joint of Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights:** All rights, title, and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks in the Works and Documents, shall be jointly owned by the Grantee and the State. Works shall mean all inventions, improvements, discoveries (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by the Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this Grant Contract Agreement. "Documents" are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks, or other materials, whether intangible or electronic forms, prepared by the Grantee, its employees, agents, or subcontractors, in the performance of this Grant Contract Agreement. The ownership interests of the State and the Grantee in the Works and Documents shall equal the ratio of each party's contributions to the total costs described in the Budget of this Grant Contract Agreement, except that the State's ownership interest in the Works and Documents shall not be less than fifty percent (50%). The party's ownership interest in the Works and Documents shall not be reduced by any royalties or revenues received from the sale of the products or licensing or other activities arising from the use of the Works and Documents. Each party hereto shall, at the request of the other, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to transfer or record the appropriate ownership interests in the Works and Documents.
- 12.3.2. **Obligations:**
- A. Notification: Whenever any invention, improvement or discovery (whether or not patentable) is made or conceived for the first time or actually or constructively reduced to practice by the Grantee, including its employees and contractors, in the performance of this Grant Contract

Agreement; the Grantee shall immediately give the State's Authorized Representative written notice thereof, and shall promptly furnish the Authorized Representative with complete information and/or disclosure thereon. All decisions regarding the filing of patent, copyright, trademark or service mark applications and/or registrations shall be the joint decision of the Grantee and the State, and costs for such applications shall be divided as agreed by the parties at the time of the filing decisions. In the event the parties cannot agree on said filing decisions, the filing decision will be made by the State.

B. **Representation:** The Grantee shall perform all acts, and take all steps necessary to ensure that all intellectual property rights in the Works and Documents are the sole property of the State, and that no Grantee employee, agent, or contractor retains any interest in and to the Works and Documents. The Grantee represents and warrants that the Works and Documents do not and shall not infringe upon any intellectual property rights of others. The Grantee shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the State, at the Grantee's expense, from any action or claim brought against the State to the extent that it is based on a claim that all or part of the Works or Documents infringe upon the intellectual property rights of others. The Grantee shall be responsible for payment of any and all such claims, demands, obligations, liabilities, costs, and damages including, but not limited to, attorney fees. If such a claim or action arises, or in the Grantee's or the State's opinion is likely to arise, the Grantee shall, at the State's discretion, either procure for the State the right or license to use the intellectual property rights at issue or to replace or modify the allegedly infringing Works or Documents as necessary and appropriate to obviate the claim. This remedy of the State shall be in addition to and not exclusive of other remedies provided by law.

12.3.3. **Uses of the Works and Documents:** The State and Grantee shall jointly have the right to make, have made reproduce, modify, distribute, perform, and otherwise use the Works, including Documents produced under this Grant Contract Agreement, for noncommercial research, scholarly work, government purposes, and other noncommercial purposes without payment or accounting to the other party. No commercial development, manufacture, marketing, reproduction, distribution, sales or licensing of the Works, including Documents, shall be authorized without a future written contractual agreement between the parties.

12.3.4. **Possession of Documents:** The Documents may remain in the possession of the Grantee. The State may inspect any of the Documents at any reasonable time. The Grantee shall provide a copy of the Documents to the State without cost upon the request of the State.

12.3.5. **Suitability:** The rights and duties of the State and the Grantee, provided for above, shall survive the expiration or cancellation of this Grant Contract Agreement.

13 Workers Compensation

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

14 Governing Law, Jurisdiction, Venue

14.1. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this Grant Contract Agreement, or its breach, must be in the appropriate state or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

15 Termination

15.1. Termination by the State.

15.1.1. **Without Cause.** The State may terminate this Grant Contract Agreement without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

15.1.2. **With Cause.** The State may immediately terminate this Grant Contract Agreement if the State finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this grant contract, that reasonable progress has not been made, or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The State may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already disbursed.

15.2. **Termination by the Commissioner of Administration.** The Commissioner of Administration may immediately and unilaterally terminate this Grant Contract Agreement if further performance under the agreement would not serve agency purposes or performance under the Grant Contract Agreement is not in the best interest of the State.

15.3. **Termination for Insufficient Funding.** The State may immediately terminate this Grant Contract Agreement if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding source; or if funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow for the payment of the services addressed within this Grant Contract Agreement. Termination must be by written notice to the Grantee. The State is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after notice and effective date of termination. However, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed to the extent that dedicated funds are available. In the event of temporary lack of funding or appropriation, the State may pause its obligations under this Grant Contract Agreement without terminating it. This pause will be for the duration of the lack of funding or appropriation and shall not be considered a termination of the Grant Contract Agreement. The Grantee will be notified in writing of the temporary pause, and the Grantee's ability to provide services may be temporarily suspended during this period. The State will provide reasonable notice to the Grantee of the lack of funding or appropriation and shall notify the Grantee once funding is restored or appropriated, at which point the provision of services under the Grant Contract Agreement may resume. The State will not be assessed any penalty if the Grant Contract Agreement is terminated due to insufficient funding. The State must provide the Grantee notice of the lack of funding within a reasonable time of the State's receiving notice.

16 Publicity and Endorsement

16.1. **Publicity.** Any publicity pertaining to the services resulting from this Grant Contract Agreement shall identify the State as the sponsoring agency. Publicity includes, but is not limited to: websites, social media platforms, notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee or its employees individually or jointly with others or any subcontractors or subrecipients. All projects primarily funded by state grant appropriations must publicly credit the State, including on the Grantee's website, when practicable.

16.2. **Endorsement.** The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

17 Data Disclosure

17.1. Under [Minnesota Statutes § 270C.65, Subd. 3](#), and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax

identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies and state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

18 Monitoring

- 18.1. The State shall be allowed at any time to conduct periodic site visits and inspections to ensure progress in accordance with this grant agreement. The State will conduct at least one monitoring visit on all state grants over \$25,000 and at least annual monitoring visits on grants over \$250,000. For this purpose, the Grantee must provide expense receipts, invoices, and any other documents requested by the State.

19 Non-Discrimination Requirements

- 19.1. The Grantee will conduct grant activities in compliance with non-discrimination law(s) including the [Minnesota Human Rights Act \(Minnesota Statutes § 363A\)](#), and any other applicable non-discrimination law(s).
- 19.2. The Grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender identity, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified per [Minnesota Statutes § 363A.02](#). The Grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.
- 19.3. The Grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The Grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship. [Minnesota Rules, Part 5000.3500](#).
- 19.4. The Grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

Exhibits

The following Exhibits are attached and incorporated into this Grant Contract Agreement. In the event of a conflict between the terms of this Grant Contract Agreement and its Exhibits, or between Exhibits, the order of precedence is first the Grant Contract Agreement, and then in the following order.

Exhibit A: Budget

Exhibit B: Work plan


Exhibit C: Conflict of Interest Requirements

Signatures

State Encumbrance Verification

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

Print Name: _____

Signature:  _____

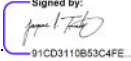
Title: _____ Date: 3/17/2026

SWIFT Contract No. 285805 PO #: 3000057901

Grantee

With delegated authority

Print Name: _____

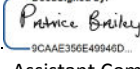
Signature:  _____

Title: Executive Director Date: 3/30/2026

State Agency

With delegated authority

Print Name: _____

Signature:  _____

Title: Assistant Commissioner Date: 3/30/2026

Exhibit A: Budget

All funding must be used to support the work outlined in Exhibit B: Work plan. The State will reimburse the Grantee for no more than 50% of the actual total costs with the total reimbursement not to exceed \$75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand dollars and no cents).

Expense Category	Total
Personnel - salaries and wages	\$109,500.00
Personnel - fringe benefits	\$38,301.74
Travel	\$1,417.50
Equipment (over \$10k)	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00
Construction	\$0.00
Contractual	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total direct project costs	\$149,219.24
Indirect costs	\$22,170.26
Total project costs	\$171,389.50

Personnel-Salaries and Wages

Employee name and title	Level of	
	Effort	Total
Kim Murphy, Econ Dev Specialist	50%	\$104,500.00
Melissa Nelson, Finance Director	2%	\$5,000.00
Total		\$109,500.00

Personnel-Fringe

Employee name and title	Level of	
	Effort	Total
Kim Murphy, Econ Dev Specialist	33%	\$36,629.17
Melissa Nelson, Finance Director	33%	\$1,672.57
Total		\$38,301.74

Travel

Trip destination and description	Type of	Unit of Measurement	Number of Travelers	Total
	Expense			
Mileage	Mileage	Mileage rate	1	\$1,417.50
Total				\$1,417.50

Supplies

Supplies description	Cost/Unit	Number of Units	Total
			\$0.00
Total			\$0.00

Equipment

Equipment item or description	Rental or Purchase	Acquisition Date	Total
			\$0.00
Total			\$0.00

Contractual

Contractor name/organization	Hourly/flat	Rate value	Total
			\$0.00
Total			\$0.00

Other

Other description	Cost/Unit	Number of Units	Total
			\$0.00
Total			\$0.00

Exhibit B: Work plan

Project summary

The Southwest Regional Development Commission seeks funding to provide technical support and a collaborative platform for training, resource sharing, and peer learning that will help the Southern Minnesota Growers Collaborative (SMGC) expand market access, encourage innovation, and strengthen a more resilient and sustainable food system in southwest Minnesota.

Small and emerging farmers in Southwest Minnesota face persistent structural barriers that limit their ability to establish and grow viable agricultural enterprises. These barriers include limited access to land and infrastructure, insufficient market channels for locally produced foods, gaps in business development skills, and a lack of coordinated peer networks that support knowledge sharing and innovation. These challenges are compounded by a regional agricultural system dominated by large-scale conventional operations, which constrains economic opportunities for small producers and reduces the overall resilience of the local food economy.

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This project is timely due to ongoing supply chain disruptions, workforce shortages, and increasing consumer demand for regionally sourced foods. Producers are seeking new strategies to diversify markets, strengthen farm viability, and adapt to changing economic and environmental conditions. There is a critical need for a coordinated regional platform that provides technical assistance, training, and collaborative support to ensure small and emerging farmers can respond effectively to these pressures.

SMGC will address these needs by establishing a regional network dedicated to producer development, market access expansion, and value-chain coordination. Through peer mentoring, multilingual outreach, targeted business training, and partnerships with schools, commercial kitchens, community organizations, and market outlets, the project will enhance the capacity of local producers to meet growing demand. By strengthening local food systems infrastructure, improving market inclusion, and supporting diversified farm operations, the project will significantly advance agriculture, horticulture, and rural community development across Southwest Minnesota.

Project objectives

Objective Number	Objective name	Objective description
1	Advance Economic Equity and Inclusion	Increase equitable access to business development resources, technical assistance, and capital for underserved entrepreneurs in SW MN—particularly small-scale farmers, and producers, from underrepresented, rural, and low-income communities.
2	Strengthen Local Food Systems and Market Access	Enhance the capacity and sustainability of local food systems by supporting small to mid-sized producers through the creation of SMGC - a regional network designed to build collaboration, peer mentoring, and market linkages.
3	Build Entrepreneurial Capacity and Innovation	Empower local producers and small business owners to strengthen operations, innovate, and expand through targeted training, technical assistance, and access to shared resources.
4	Enhance Food Security and Environmental Sustainability	Support the creation of a more sustainable and resilient food ecosystem that increases access to local food, reduces waste, and improves community health.
5	Cultivate a Connected and Knowledge-Sharing Community	Establish the Southwest Minnesota Growers’ Network (SMGN) as a long-term, collaborative hub for ongoing peer learning, community-building, and resource exchange.

Exhibit C: Conflict of Interest Requirements

Recipients of Minnesota Department of Agriculture grants are responsible for adopting local conflict of interest policies and procedures. As referenced in the Minnesota Department of Administration's Office Grants Management's Policy 08-01, a conflict of interest, actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when a person has actual or apparent duty or loyalty to more than one organization and the competing duties or loyalties may result in actions which are adverse to one or both parties. A conflict of interest exists even if no unethical, improper, or illegal act results from it. (Office of Grants Management, Policy 08-01).

Actual Conflict of Interest:

An actual conflict of interest occurs when a decision or action would compromise a duty to a party without taking immediate appropriate action to eliminate the conflict. Examples included but not limited to:

- One party uses their position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the other party's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence.
- One party receives or accepts money (or anything else of value) from another party or has equity or a financial interest in or partial or whole ownership of the other party's organization.
- One party is an employee, board member, or family member of the other party.

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Potential Conflict of Interest:

A potential conflict of interest may exist if one party has a relationship, affiliation, or other interest that could create an inappropriate influence if the person is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests.

- For example, when one party serves in a volunteer capacity for another party, it has the potential to, but does not necessarily create a conflict of interest, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two parties.
- A disclosed potential conflict of interest warrants additional discussion in order to identify the nature of the relationship, affiliation, or other interest and take action to mitigate any potential conflicts.

Individual Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest that may benefit an individual employee is any situation in which their judgment, actions, or non-action could be interpreted to be influenced by something that would benefit them directly or through indirect gain to an immediate family member, business, or organization with which they are involved.

- An employee uses their status or position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the grantee or grant applicant's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence.

Organizational Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest can also occur with an organization that is a grant applicant or grantee of a state agency. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

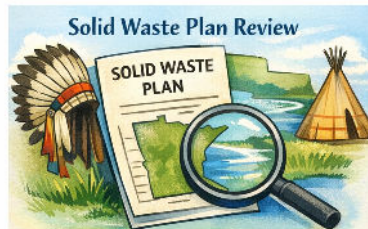
- A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is impaired or compromised due to competing duties or loyalties.
- A grantee, potential grantee, or grant applicant has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.
- Particular attention should be paid to any proposed Grant Contract agreement requirements that provide for the rendering of planning, consultation, evaluation, or similar activities that may inform decisions on future grant awards.

Account Title	February 2026 Actual	Total Budget - FY26 Revised Operating Budget	FY26 YTD Actual	Total Budget Variance - FY26 Operating Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
Tax Revenue	787	471,544	196,745	274,799	66.67%	YTD Comparison % of Budget
R9 McKnight (balance of what we rec'd upfront)	13,246	132,927	54,220	78,707	41.7%	When current taxes rec'd, pymts primarily rec'd in Dec and June
RLF Admin (Covid and Regular)	8,839	60,000	75,531	(15,531)	40.8%	Monthly amount is what was used of what we have
Contract Revenue	18,131	329,840	234,758	95,082	71.2%	Based on activity to date
PACE Loan Orig/Misc	195	6,800	13,261	(6,461)	195.0%	Loan Orig fee mostly received in Dec & June (code 4321)
Rental Revenue	0	1,500	936	564	62.4%	GL 4648
Bank Savings and CD Interest Revenue	1,745	68,340	37,809	30,531	55.3%	GL 4651
MnDOT Revenue	0	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.	16,508	222,790	140,464	82,326	63.0%	Certs (Regular), EECBG and State Comp. Grant
EDA Revenue	24,581	70,000	70,945	(945)	101.4%	Federal Share - Sept amt is for April-June 2025. Have to request quarterly payments now
PACE Loan Interest Received	0	12,766	18,188	(5,422)	142.5%	GL 4656, funds 70,72,73,75,76
Total Revenue	84,034	1,451,507	880,359	571,148	60.7%	
Salaries & Fringe	83,383	1,142,572	700,326	442,246	61.3%	Includes FY26 Salaries/Fringe (including 15% increase to Health Insurance/H.S.A.) also includes MN Pd Leave that starts Jan 2026
Travel	2,968	60,000	35,704	24,296	59.5%	Staff Travel
Committee Expenses	1,721	34,000	12,721	21,279	37.4%	Includes Board Retreat, Orientation & Annual Meeting
Postage Expenses	10	5,349	2,134	3,215	39.9%	not including housing reimbursement
Insurance	59	10,000	6,414	3,586	64.1%	Insurance Dividend/Our portion of Bldg Ins,Cyber Security Ins
Office Space Costs	1,069	15,000	6,674	8,326	44.5%	Utilities
Equipment/Building Updates	40	5,000	904	4,096	18.1%	
Communications	601	9,219	5,080	4,139	55.1%	
Printing/Publication	85	8,000	3,490	4,510	43.6%	Annual Report designed in house, sent out for printing, includes outreach items/mktg
Office Supply/Meeting Expense	17	8,000	2,318	5,682	29.0%	
Program Supply	0	0	2,330	(2,330)		Reimbursed by Contracts
Computer	3,327	56,000	24,253	31,747	43.3%	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	0	41,000	41,000	-	100.0%	Audits that may get done by Kinner & Co during FY26
Dues/Memberships/Other	0	5,000	4,085	915	81.7%	Includes MADCO Coordination (\$2,000 per region)
Finance Fees & Exp	41	1,000	378	622	37.8%	Includes bank fees
Lease Payment	2,124	23,360	16,709	6,651	71.5%	Our portion of the principal payment
Debt Service-Principal/Interest	0	10,000	10,000	-	100.0%	Paid in December to the State of MN (Princ paid, but Int is internal tracking)
Total Expenses	95,447	1,457,513	888,732	568,781	61.0%	
Revenues over Expenses	(11,413)	(6,006)	(8,373)			

EXECUTIVE REPORT

April 2026

The Southwest Regional Solid Waste Plan is currently under review by the Lower Sioux and Upper Sioux communities. Following their feedback and any necessary revisions, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will release the plan for public comment.



Kristi Kane has announced she will be stepping down as Director of ARDC in August due to family health considerations.



She anticipates remaining involved in a part-time capacity in a less demanding role. Planning for the All-Staff Retreat is also progressing, with final guest speakers recently confirmed.



Preparations are underway for the SRDC Board Retreat, scheduled for April 8–9 in Okoboji. While the retreat has traditionally been held in the fall, scheduling conflicts required a shift to spring this year. A special thank you to Commissioner Anderson for suggesting

a historical theme, focusing on how SRDC became involved in various program areas and how current practices have evolved. Input gathered during the February Board meeting helped shape the retreat agenda, and a draft has been shared with staff. Former commissioners will also be invited to provide insight into programs they helped develop.



SRDC, as part of MADO, was invited by the McKnight Foundation to submit a two-year grant proposal totaling \$50,000

annually. The funding would support community-defined resilience initiatives across the region.

Promoting Growth & Opportunities for Southwest MN

We work to connect units of government, businesses, and communities with the resources, planning, and services needed to promote growth.

Together we can further opportunities in Southwest Minnesota by promoting a growing workforce and business base and ensuring population stability



COTTONWOOD | JACKSON | LINCOLN | LYON | MURRAY | NOBLES | PIPESTONE | REDWOOD | ROCK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

April 2026

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)



Cornerstone Meetings for the Region

- ✓ COMPLETED: March 2 - Human Capital
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84431484059->
- ✓ COMPLETED: March 30 - Economic Competitiveness
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85140729062>
Rescheduled from March 16
- ✓ April 13 - Community Resources
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82852341164>
- ✓ April 27 - Foundational Assets
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83486068886>

All Cornerstones
From 1:00 -
3:00 PM

Individual CEDS meetings are also being scheduled to gather specific information. A housing forum is also a possibility in partnership with SW MN Housing Partnership.

EECBG – Energy Planning for Small Communities

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) supports planning efforts for small communities—defined as cities or counties with populations under 15,000—to reduce energy use, lower fossil fuel emissions, and improve overall energy efficiency.

This funding requires no local match and is available to all cities in the region, as well as Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Pipestone, and Rock counties. **SRDC was awarded \$99,959.78**, with 10% allocated for project administration. **Individual grants to eligible communities are capped at \$20,000.**

Eligible planning activities may include **resiliency plans, energy audits, engineering studies, and related efforts.**

The **CEDS Committee** has approved projects for three cities and one county: **Slayton, Pipestone, Hadley, and Rock County.** SRDC is currently in discussions with an additional city interested in a resiliency plan under contract with SRDC staff, as well as another city exploring energy audit opportunities.

Staff have also begun compiling a list of qualified **commercial energy auditors.** If you are aware of an energy auditor, please contact SRDC staff to be included as a resource. SRDC does not endorse or promote any specific provider.

Latino & Immigrant Business Emergency Relief Fund

The Latino Economic Development Center recently launched the Latino & Immigrant Business Emergency Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to Latino-owned businesses impacted by recent ICE activity. In alignment with SRDC’s commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs, staff assisted one small business owner in preparing and submitting an application for this funding opportunity.

ED Pros- This group of economic development professionals last met on **February 2 at 1 p.m.** to network and share information. The next meeting will be Monday, May 4 at 1 p.m. These gatherings are for anyone in our region with an interest in economic development.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

April 2026

EDA Investment Opportunities

EDA investment priorities can be found on the U.S. Economic Development Administration website. With the recent reauthorization, priorities have been updated to focus on **Critical Infrastructure, Workforce Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Economic Resiliency, and Manufacturing**. Current EDA funding opportunities are also available on the EDA website.

EDA Disaster NOFO

The EDA Disaster Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released, and applications are currently under review. Projects may be funded at up to an **80% grant rate**. Eligible applicants—including units of government and higher education institutions—must be located within FEMA-declared disaster areas (DR-4797), including **Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock counties**.

Potential projects include:

- **Minnesota West:** equipment and facility upgrades
- **City of Windom:** infrastructure improvements along the 10th Street Corridor of Commerce
- **City of Jackson:** industrial park expansion
- **Cottonwood County:** rail crossing road project

The **City of Wilder** continues to pursue funding for a wastewater sewer system.

City of Adrian – EDA PWEAA Grant

SRDC continues to assist the City of Adrian with its EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) grant for the construction of an electric substation. The project received a **50% grant** award totaling **\$1,629,450 of the \$3,258,900 project cost**.

SRDC is providing **administrative and financial services** and serves as a liaison between the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering, and the EDA. The revised site certificate and transformer and circuit breaker RFP have been submitted to EDA for review, and design work for the construction bid package is underway.

Transformer lead times remain extended. **Construction is currently projected for completion in October 2027**, with a more precise timeline to be determined once material bids are awarded.

The infographic is titled "EDA-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS" and features a blue background with a city skyline and construction cranes. It highlights several key projects and funding opportunities:

- NEW DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDS:** 80% GRANT FUNDING For Eligible FEMA Disaster Areas.
- MINNESOTA WEST:** Equipment Upgrades.
- WINDOM:** 10th St. Infrastructure.
- JACKSON:** Industrial Expansion.
- COTTONWOOD CO.:** Rail Project.
- CITY OF ADRIAN:** ELECTRIC SUBSTATION PROJECT with a \$3.26 MILLION GRANT, currently "In Progress".
- ELLSWORTH GROCERY REDEVELOPMENT:** MN DEED Grant Application Submitted.
- NEW GROCERY & MEAT LOCKER!** Revitalize the Ellsworth Food Center!

Ellsworth Grocery Redevelopment Project

SRDC recently partnered with the City of Ellsworth and the new owners of the **Ellsworth Grocery Store** to apply for the Minnesota DEED Redevelopment Grant. Grant funding would support Phase 1 of the project, which includes **demolition of the existing grocery store building and site preparation** for a new structure that will connect seamlessly to the current meat locker facility.

The **proposed 54' x 100' addition** will accommodate retail meat sales, an expanded sausage kitchen, a dedicated baking room, and additional walk-in cooler and freezer space. The design also includes a large storage area and a restroom.

This expansion will provide the capacity to **reintroduce a selection of grocery items to the community**. The Ellsworth Food Center closed in 2024, leaving the city's 497 residents without a local grocery store.

The grant application was submitted ahead of the February 1, 2026 deadline.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

April 2026



REGIONAL UPDATES



Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee

Met on 2/5/2026. Next Meeting: 5/7/2026

Supporting Career & Technical Education

The Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee meets quarterly to bring together individuals who support career and technical education. The group focuses on educating students and parents about local career pathways and training opportunities.



Friends in the Field 20th Anniversary

Celebration & Networking Event April 8 in St. Cloud



Industrial Park Strategic Planning

Redwood Falls EDA Workshop March 31 with City Council

Weis worked with the City of Redwood Falls via our EDA planning grant in preparation for their working session with city council and staff on March 31.



RTCC Regional Transportation

Next Meeting: June 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Economic Development Coordination

SRDC serves on the RTCC as a regional economic development partner. The council's next meeting is scheduled for June 2 at 9:00 a.m.



Vision for Windom – Childcare Project

Planning for 16 Infants, 21 Toddlers, 40 Preschoolers

Working to Fill Funding Gaps

SRDC is participating in the Windom Way Forward childcare subcommittee. The Windom School District is exploring the use of four classrooms at its Highland site to provide care.

The subcommittee is focused on identifying initial funding (estimated renovation costs of \$200,000) and long-term sustainability strategies. Efforts are underway to address a projected \$140,000 annual operating gap by securing commitments from five partners at \$28,000 each over five years.

Future expansion is also being considered, with an estimated project cost of \$4,075,000. The group is working with Representative Fischbach's office to develop an appropriations request. SRDC has submitted a letter of support for a \$100,000 DEED Childcare Economic Development grant application.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming Learning and Networking Opportunities

April 15 – Navigating the Currents, Charting the Course Conference

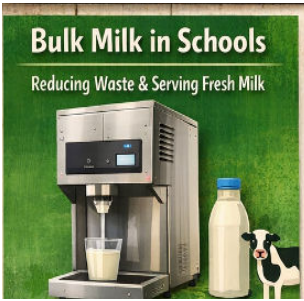
April 29 – Connecting One: MN 2026 Broadband Summit (Brooklyn Center)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

April 2026

Food Initiatives



Child Nutrition Program – Bulk Milk
 There is growing interest across the region in introducing bulk milk dispensers within school child nutrition programs. These systems offer an innovative way to provide cold milk while reducing packaging waste. SRDC staff have been in contact with several agencies to explore funding opportunities and implementation guidelines. Outreach to

regional schools is planned to identify one or two pilot sites willing to support and promote a transition from traditional milk service models.



Funding Opportunities & Program Development
 Staff recently participated in the Minnesota Climate-Smart Food Systems: 2026 Funding Programs webinar. One highlighted opportunity, the Prevention of **Wasted Food and Organics Management Grant**, is open through **April 28, 2026**. This program aligns well with efforts to install bulk milk dispensers

and reduce waste in schools. Another opportunity, the Food to Livestock Grant, is expected to open later in 2026, and SRDC will continue to monitor updates as they become available.

SW Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative
 The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) awarded \$250,000 to SRDC through the Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant program to support workforce development for small- to mid-sized meat and poultry processors.

The grant is set to expire June 30, 2026. SRDC has submitted a letter of support to extend the program, recognizing its importance in strengthening workforce capacity, improving local processing infrastructure, and supporting a resilient agricultural economy in Southwest Minnesota.



AGRI Works Grant – Producer Network Development
 SRDC was recently awarded the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI)

Works Grant. This funding will support **outreach and relationship-building with local sustainable farmers and food producers** over the next three years. The goal is to establish a regional network that fosters collaboration, information sharing, peer mentoring, and access to educational and networking opportunities.



Ellsworth Food Center – Grant Support
 SRDC staff provided technical assistance to the owners of the Ellsworth Food Center in applying for the **Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Food Retail**

Improvement & Development Grant (FRIDG), submitted on **March 10, 2026**. If awarded, funding will support the purchase of refrigeration units, HVAC systems, and commercial appliances for a new combined locker and grocery store. Award announcements are expected in **May 2026**.

Food Technical Assistance Grant (FRIDG)
 SRDC has also applied for the MDA Food Technical Assistance Grant to support food security efforts across the region. Award notifications are anticipated in **May 2026**.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

April 2026



SRDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – C-RLF and Traditional RLF
The RLF committee consists of five members and meets as needed to oversee both the COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF) and Traditional RLF programs. Recent loan closings occurred in **Cottonwood and Nobles counties**.

SRDC continues to finance projects at an interest rate of **75% of prime**, in compliance with RLF regulations. Staff are also working with clients on minor loan modifications, as seasonal fluctuations—particularly during winter months—impact business operations.

As of March 19, 2026, available funds include **\$571,586.35** in Traditional RLF and **\$354,304.51** in C-RLF. C-RLF funds will remain federalized for seven years. Two new loan applications, both for equipment purchases, are expected to be reviewed soon.



SRDC supports business start-ups, retention, expansion, and financing, and provides administrative assistance to several regional RLF programs:

- **Jackson County RLF:** Five active loans; \$187,254.33 available for lending with \$293,410.08 in outstanding principal.
- **Heron Lake RLF:** Serves a 20-mile radius using CDBG funds. Approximately \$250,000 is available. SRDC provides assistance with GMS entry and amortization schedules. One application is anticipated for signage and lighting improvements.

Presta – Financial Software
Loan applications can be submitted through SRDC’s online platform, Presta: <https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/85>



Site Visits & Compliance
Site visits are conducted at least every three years, or more frequently as needed. These visits are often combined with communication audits and client interviews for storytelling purposes. Annual business tax documentation continues to be collected. Success stories are available on the SRDC website.



- **Falcon Development Corporation (FDC):** Serves a 30-mile radius of Heron Lake. Funds are not federalized, so Davis-Bacon requirements do not apply. The board (6 members) last met on February 19, 2026, and will meet again on May 6, 2026. A DEED representative will present on CDBG and Local Development Organizations. Approximately \$10,000 is currently available for lending.

Training Opportunity

May 5 – MBFA SBA 504 Loan Program Lender Training (Marshall)

For more information on SRDC or contracted RLF programs, contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or robin@swrdc.org

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

April 2026

PACE Program Overview

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing is available to small business property owners, including agri-businesses and certain non-profits (based on property use). PACE supports projects that reduce energy use and improve efficiency. Interest rates for new projects are set at 3% below Prime, with a minimum rate of 3%. Please help share information about this program with property owners considering energy improvements.

PACE Committee

The PACE Committee meets as needed, often in coordination with Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) meetings. Current members include Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere, and Paap.

Three PACE applications have been initiated through the online platform, Presta.

Delinquencies

One property owner in Pipestone County is currently delinquent on 2024 and 2025 property taxes.

Energy Audits

Energy assessments are a key first step in identifying cost-saving improvements. Along with contractor estimates, they form the foundation for PACE financing. Referrals are commonly made to providers such as RETAP, MNTAP, Center for Energy and Environment (CEE), and Energy Smart.

PACE PROGRAM

Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing

About PACE Financing
Energy efficiency loans for small businesses, agri-businesses & non-profits
Rates: 3% Below Prime (Min. 3%)

Funds Available
PACE EE-RLF: \$79,514
PACE ARRA: \$119,559
PACE SEP: \$58,638

Energy Audits
Assessments to identify cost-saving improvements

Delinquencies
1 Pipestone County Property Delinquent

PACE Success Stories
Read our local project highlights

Apply Online
www.app.letspresta.com/signup/32/91

Questions? Contact Robin Weis
507-836-1638
robin@swrdc.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

April 2026

Energy

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)

The RMEB met on **March 23** at 1:00 p.m. Commissioners received a presentation from MnCIFA on **financing options for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects**. The board also approved support for a grant application to research and promote green ammonia development in Minnesota.

State Competitiveness Funding:

The Reliable Energy Siting Through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) grant for \$1.2 million was awarded, and we completed the first two milestones. In year one, SRDC will receive \$50,000 to create outreach materials, inventory existing resources for siting, engage RMEB members, and create fact sheets. In year two, we will receive \$100,000 to do outreach to RDOs and local governments, create training modules, host community benefits workshops, co-host trainings, and plan processes.

The next meeting is scheduled for **June 1, 2026**.

State Competitiveness Funding
(R-STEP Grant)



DWSMA (Drinking Water Supply Management Area)

Project: The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will work with GPI and other partners to evaluate the benefits of using solar energy to help provide renewable power while also providing economically viable and environmentally sustainable land use options in southwest Minnesota, where nitrate levels in drinking water have been an ongoing concern. SRDC was a subgrantee whose planned role is/was coordinating and facilitating workshops in one or two selected areas and convening cohort groups. Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water and the City of Adrian are the likely hosts for these workshops and outreach/research activities.



Updating Energy Siting Content



CERTS – McKnight:

Staff are working with CERTs at the University of Minnesota to update their website with the latest information on siting for wind, solar, energy storage, and transmission. The current web pages have outdated information, and numerous changes in the siting landscape have occurred recently.



Great Plains Institute –

Carolyn Foundation funded work: The SRDC is subcontracting with the Great Plains Institute (\$30,000) from August 2025 to December 2026 to identify high-priority benefits in communities related to renewable energy development. Tasks will include community stakeholder engagement, and participating in statewide discussions related to the Public Utilities Commission permitting process.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

April 2026



Solar for All

SRDC received \$9,000 from the Energy Foundation for Solar planning focused on low-income communities. Although the Solar for All program (through the EPA) has been terminated, the Energy Foundation funding will be used for planning for future implementation. We'll be working with other partners to put together a plan for solar access for various communities such as manufactured home parks, multi-residential buildings, and single-family homes in low-income communities. Staff will support community organizations that already have some existing programs in place, such as UCAP and their community solar garden program for Xcel customers.

CERTs Community Gathering

CERTs staff, partners, and steering committees will gather on March 30 in Waite Park for a day of visioning, connecting, and conversation. The conversation will focus on how we collectively build community-based clean energy in Minnesota. Nadya, Jason, and Robin, all plan to attend. Nadya will also attend the CERTs all-staff meeting the following day.

Electric School Buses

The Minnesota Department of Commerce seeks proposals for the Electric School Bus Grant Program. This program provides funding for districts to deploy electric school buses to serve their students. This includes:

- Purchasing up to three new electric school buses, or repowering fossil-fuel-powered school buses to run on electricity.
- Installing charging infrastructure for the buses
- Administering vehicle and charger procurement processes

Depending on the district's financial need and other district prioritization criteria, the Department can cover between **80% and 90% of bus cost**, and 65% and 95% of other eligible expenses. Commerce anticipates awarding the remaining amount of funding, up to **\$3.3M**, during this round.

Applications will be accepted from **March 23, 2026**, until **Thursday June 18, 2026**, at 5pm. The RFP is posted publicly online on the Department's RFP page.

An informational webinar will be held on **Thursday, April 9, 2026** from 1pm-2pm. Link to register is on the department's website. **Learn more at mn.gov/ElectricSchoolBus**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

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

April 2026



Land Use



City of Jasper – Zoning Ordinance Update

City of Jasper – Zoning Ordinance Update

Planner Webb has completed a draft update to the City of Jasper’s zoning

ordinance. The next step is a presentation to the Jasper City Council on May 12 to review the draft, finalize the update, and discuss implementation.



Nobles County Comprehensive Planning

Nobles County Comprehensive Planning

The next steering committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April

22, from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Worthington. The committee will finalize the draft Economic Development chapter and establish related goals.



Marshall Master Parks Planning

Marshall Master Parks Planning

SRDC staff, in partnership with the City of Marshall, have conducted nine focus

groups and six interviews with residents. A total of **314 community members** responded to the survey. Results from the survey, focus groups, and interviews will be analyzed and incorporated into the Master Parks Plan.

Next steps include developing visual concepts based on community input this fall. These visuals will be used to gather public feedback and prioritize park improvements for inclusion in the final plan.



Geronimo – Nobles County Economic Impact Analysis

Geronimo – Nobles County Economic Impact Analysis

In December, staff completed an initial draft analyzing a low-density, six-building data center

scenario. At Geronimo’s request, the analysis was revised to evaluate a higher-density scenario with fewer buildings. The final report was completed in early January and is available on the SRDC website.

SRDC
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**Need Help
with Land Use Projects?**

Contact chrisw@swrdc.org

TRANSPORTATION REPORT

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

April 2026

Transportation Updates

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

- TAC Restructuring in Progress
- Next Meeting: Fall 2026

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. The next TAC Meeting will be held sometime in the **Fall** to coincide with the next round of grants.

Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP)

- Upcoming ATP Meetings
- Hwy 59 Trail Rehab **\$420K**
- Country Club Trail Rehab **\$390K**

AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

- ATP 7** will hold its next meeting on
Friday, June 12 at 10 AM in Mankato.
- ATP 8** will hold its next meeting on
Friday, April 10 at 10 AM in Marshall.

The City of Marshall was awarded 2 Federal Transportation Alternatives Grants through MnDOT District 8.

Highway 59 Trail Rehab (TH 23 to Boyer Drive) project

- Local match: \$78,036
- TA award: \$341,964

(TOTAL DOLLARS): **\$420,000**

Country Club Drive Trail Rehab
(Southview Drive to 4th Street) project

- Local match: \$72,462
- TA award: \$317,538

(TOTAL DOLLARS): **\$390,000**

Transportation Planning

- Transit Funding Cuts
- Cost Share Policy Updates
- Safe Routes to School

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Greater MN Transit Funding: The current Governor's Budget Proposal recommends a **6% decrease** in funding to Greater MN Transit agencies (UCAP & SMOC).

MnDOT Cost Participation Policy for Local Agencies

Update: MnDOT is updating their cost sharing policy for local agencies. Now, local cost share on a MnDOT initiated project will be capped at 0.8% of that unit's Adjusted Net Tax Capacity. This cap does not apply to locally owned utilities, or streetscape items that are above the project's contribution limit.

- City of Luverne (project in 2027) - \$40,000 city contribution.
- City of Lake Benton (project in 2027) - \$3,000 city contribution.

Safe Streets 4 All Planning Grant:

Planner Webb is in the process of approaching Lincoln, Lyon, and Murray Counties on a proposal to create County-wide Safe Routes To School Plan. Typically, this has been a state program that focuses on one community at a time. This Federal Grant through USDOT would allow the SRDC to create 3 separate County Safe Routes To School Plans extending our reach to invest in more communities at once that would otherwise not be available. **Lincoln County** would focus on Hendricks and Lake Benton; **Lyon County** would focus on Minneota and Cottonwood; and **Murray County** would focus on Slayton and Fulda.

Portable Counters Available:

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



Pictured: Darla Waldner (Northwest Regional Development Commission) SRDC Deputy Director Robin Weis, and SRDC Board Chairman Paul Langseth

The SRDC was represented in Washington, D.C. last week as Deputy Director Robin Weis, alongside Board Chairman Paul Langseth, attended the 2026 NADO & Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Washington Conference in Arlington.

Throughout the conference, attendees engaged in valuable discussions focused on strengthening rural communities and advancing economic development efforts. A standout session featured a panel of philanthropic leaders who shared practical strategies for diversifying funding streams. The discussion highlighted how rural stakeholders can build capacity, cultivate authentic relationships, and leverage philanthropic partnerships to support long-term sustainability and success.

Attendees also heard from political analyst Charles Cook, founder of The Cook Political Report with Amy Walter, who provided an insider’s perspective on the current political landscape, including the balance of power in Congress and upcoming elections. In addition, federal leaders from HUD, USDOT, USDOL, USDA, and the U.S. Economic Development Administration shared timely updates on grant programs, funding opportunities, and evolving priorities—including insights on how artificial intelligence is shaping future initiatives.

Following the plenary sessions, NADO members traveled to Capitol Hill where they met with Senators and Representatives to advocate for the needs of the regions they serve.

SRDC is grateful for the opportunity to learn, connect, and bring valuable insights back to support the communities of Southwest Minnesota.





Happy
Birthday



Melissa

APRIL 26



Congratulations on
your
4th
Work Anniversary

APRIL 30



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