



# Hello March

Embracing new beginnings and  
blooming possibilities.

## **FULL COMMISSION MEETING**

**THURS., MARCH 12, 2026**  
**4-H BUILDING - BIG ROOM**  
**MURRAY CO. FAIRGROUNDS**  
**3:30 P.M.**

# Southwest Regional Development Commission—Full Commission

\* Board of Directors

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

## **SRDC Full Commission Membership**

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

## **SRDC Board of Director Membership**

SRDC Chairman & a regional commissioner from each county elected by the regional commissioners from each county and:

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



## FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026  
3:30 pm

4-H Building, MC Fairgrounds  
3048 Broadway Ave, Slayton, MN

### AGENDA

#	Time		Page
1	3:30	<b>Call to Order &amp; Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
2	3:31	<b>Introductions</b>	
3	3:35	<b>Additions to and Approval of Agenda</b> <b>Action Needed: Approve Agenda</b>	
4	3:37	<b>Commissioner Appointments:</b> Pipestone County Township (nominee is Scott Blom) <b>Action Needed: Approve Commissioner</b>	
5	3:40	<b>Board Appointments:</b> Three year Board Terms (expires March 2029) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna Gravley – Cottonwood County Commissioner</li> <li>• Dennis Welgraven – Murray County Commissioner</li> <li>• JoEllen Benson – Rock County Township</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approve Board of Directors</b>	
6	3:45	<b>Consent Agenda Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 8, 2026, FC Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• February 12, 2026, BOD Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• January Receipts &amp; Expenditures Report</li> <li>• Solar for All Contract</li> <li>• Rock County Rural Water Facilities Energy Audit</li> <li>• City of Slayton – Technical Assistance</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Consent Agenda Items</b>	3-10 11-13 14-17 18-19 20-22 23-26
7	3:50	<b>Finance Reports</b> — <i>Treasurer Anderson &amp; Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts &amp; investments</li> <li>• Administrative Report through January 2026</li> <li>• FY 2027 Budget &amp; Work Plan Timeline</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report</b> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report</b>	27 28 29
8	3:55	<b>Deep Dive (Data Centers)</b> – <i>Community Development Director Walker</i>	
9	4:20	<b>Legislative Report</b> – <i>Chair Miron Carney</i>	

		<b>Committee &amp; Staff Reports</b>	
10	4:30	<b>Economic Development Report—</b> <i>Deputy Director Weis &amp; Economic Development Specialist Kim Murphy</i>	30-33
11	4:35	<b>Revolving Loan Funds Report—</b> <i>Deputy Director Weis &amp; Committee Chair Byrnes</i>	34
12	4:40	<b>PACE Report—</b> <i>Deputy Director Weis</i>	35
13	4:45	<b>Community Development Report—</b> <i>Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, Webb, Murphy</i>	36-39
14	4:50	<b>Transportation Report—</b> <i>Committee Chair VanDeVere &amp; Development Planners Walker &amp; Webb</i>	40
15	4:55	<b>Executive Director’s Report</b> — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	41
16	5:05	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> <b>Annual Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need one more member for nominating committee</li> </ul> Nominating committee consists of Gravley & Langseth Current awards committee consists of Anderson, Hartman & Von Holdt	
17	5:10	<b>Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government &amp; Public Interest Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mic VanDeVere, Lincoln County Commissioners</li> <li>• Rick Anderson, Lyon County Commissioners (from January)</li> <li>• Mark Haberman, Jackson County Municipalities</li> <li>• Ron Kottke, Cottonwood County Townships</li> </ul>	
18	5:30	<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
19	5:30	<b>Other Issues</b>	
20	5:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Announcements</b></li> <li>• SRDC Board Retreat – Okoboji April 8 &amp; 9</li> <li>• SRDC Board Meeting – Thursday, April 9, 2026 at Okoboji</li> <li>• SRDC Full Commission Meeting – Thursday, May 14, 2026 in Nobles County</li> <li>• Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, School Board Rep., Lower Sioux, and Cultural Diversity</li> </ul>	
21	5:35	<b>Adjourn</b>	



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Carrie Bendix, Carol Biren, Kristie Blankenship, Pam Cooreman, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Eric Hartman, Steve Kellen, Ron Kottke, Dennis Madison, Bob Paplow, Jenny Quade, Craig Rubis, David Sturrock, Sherri Thompson, Rick Von Holdt, Dennis Welgraven

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY:** Commissioners Rod Hamilton (convenience) and Bob Van Hee (convenience)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Rick Anderson (excused), Kent Bargfrede (excused), JoEllen Benson (excused), Leah Bittner, Bob Byrnes (excused), Miron Carney (excused), Dan Delaney, Chris Hollingsworth, Lyndon Johnson, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott (excused), Jeff Moen and Mic VanDeVere (excused)

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Paul Langseth called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Kottke to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

**COMMISSIONER RE-APPOINTMENT**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Rubis and seconded by Commissioner Von Holdt to approve the re-appointment of David Sturrock as the representative for Higher Education on the Commission. Upon vote taken: Ayes-18, Nays-0 Commissioner Sturrock abstained. Motion Carried.

## CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Cooreman and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve November 13, 2025 Full Commission minutes, December 11, 2025 Board of Director's minutes and the November Receipts and Expenditures report. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## FINANCE REPORT

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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Welgraven and seconded by Commissioner Haberman to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

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

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Von Holdt and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson referred commissioners to the Pay Equity Report in the handout. This report is done every 3 years. Once approved Trusty will submit to MN Management and Budget agency.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Von Holdt to approve the Pay Equity Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Nelson gave an update on the audit reports. The FY24 audit is completed. The auditors will work on the FY25 audit until they start their tax season then will resume after taxes are done.

## COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

The B&P Committee recommended the FY2026 Budget Revision to the Board of Directors who is recommending it to the Full Commission for approval.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Paplow and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the FY2026 Budget Revision as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### B. Legislative Committee Report

The SRDC Legislative Committee has decided their priorities for this year will be to support all local bonding requests and support an updated RDC/MnDOT contract for an

increase in funding. Greater MN Partnerships legislative platform was received, comments were made and sent back. The SRDC Legislative Committee will have their day on the hill in February or March.

C. Deep Dive

Executive Director Trusty and Finance Director Nelson reviewed the new Policy Manual. Approval of the policy was needed after review

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Kottke and seconded by Commissioner Sturrock to approve the Policy Manual as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-19, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

D. Economic Development Report

Deputy Director Weis reported the SRDC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan update is due December 31, 2026. Meetings are scheduled to gather information for the update.

Staff are working with several communities and MnWest on EDA eligible projects.

A third application for EECBG dollars is being reviewed. There are still funds available and projects must be completed by November 2026.

Weis is meeting with the City of Redwood Falls through an EDA Planning Grant to support industrial park strategic planning efforts.

One or two schools are being sought to pilot bulk milk dispensers in school. The milk is better and dispensers would cut down on waste.

The SW MN Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative is in its second year. Year to date progress shows seven individuals have completed or are participating in on-the-job training, four individuals have been hired for on the job training at Happy Halal Meats in Willmar and Ridgewater College has one student in the meat cutting program.

E. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Fund balances show approximately \$540,800 in the RLF account and \$299,500 in the CRLF account.

Jackson County RLF has 5 active loans and approximately \$176,000 in funds to lend out. Heron Lake RLF has funds available to lend out. Falcon Development Corporation has very limited funds to lend out.

F. PACE

Current fund balances show EERLF with approximately \$79,000, ARRA with \$113,00 and SEP with \$55,600 available to lend out. There are 39 active loans.

G. Community Development Report

Community Development Director Walker reported that the RMEB met in November and heard from Nobles Coop Electric and Geronimo Power on the proposed data center in Nobles County. Xcel Energy provided an update on the proposed transmission line from South Dakota through southern Minnesota to Wisconsin. Next meeting will be January 26 with presentations from Clean Counts and Talus Ag.

The Reliable Energy Siting Through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) grant is pending final signatures. There are 11 partners in the \$1.2 million grant with the SRDC getting \$150,000 for outreach over a 2 year period.

Staff will have an organizational meeting with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water in January for the Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) project. There will then be a project kick-off meeting in February. This project will look at the benefits of utilizing solar energy on land where water supply is high in nitrates. SRDC will coordinate and facilitate workshops.

SRDC will receive \$30,000 for work conducted to identify high priority community benefits related to renewable energy development through the Great Plains Institute's Carolyn Foundation Grant.

Walker updated the work that staff will be doing with the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) through the McKnight Foundation grant to update the CERTs website's information on energy project siting.

Development Planner Bucklin reviewed who the Seed Grant Recipients are and their project. One project that was partially funded has declined the grant so 2 grants received updated amounts bringing them to their full asking amount. Eight projects received all or partial funding.

Bucklin informed commissioners that the RSDP Idea Briefs proposals were open and the deadline to apply is February 14, 2026. Proposals for funding should include local innovation in at least one of the four RSDP focus areas.

The food truck electrification project is ready to move forward with a food truck out of Worthington.

Transportation Planner Webb gave an update on the Nobles County Comprehensive Plan update. The steering committee will meet in January. Surveys have been sent out with a good response so far. The City of Jasper's Zoning Ordinance update will begin in February.

H. Transportation Report

ATP 7 will meet in January in Mankato and ATP 8 will meet in March in Willmar.

I. Executive Director's Report

Trusty informed the commissioners that Region 7E has a new executive director that started in January, her name is Natalie Koerber. Region 9 RDC's Board is working on restructuring the organization before they hire a new director. The MADO executive directors will meet in February in Slayton.

The SRDC Board of Directors' retreat will be held in April at Arrowwood Resort in Okoboji. The NADO legislative conference will be held in March in Washington DC.

J. Chairman's Report

Chairman Langseth will be attending the NADO legislative conference in March.

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

A. City of Worthington

Commissioner Von Holdt gave an update on what is happening in the City of Worthington. Some highlights were: The city has updated their wastewater treatment plant and updated sidewalks on 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> streets with bump outs for safety. The school is doing some updating and renovating. Market rate apartments have been approved. There could be up to 5 buildings, but are starting with 2-38 unit buildings by Casey's and 2-12 unit market rate apartments by the movie theater. There has also been new residential housing going up. New businesses include a New Tech Kabota dealer with equipment rental, new fertilizer equipment supply company, Les Schwab tire center and an Ethiopian restaurant. El Mexicano will be building a new building for their trucks, Tru-Shine truck wash that previously burned down will be rebuilt and Jimmy Johns lost their lease but found a new home in Cenex with updated space including seating and a drive thru. There have been meetings with Geronimo power regarding a new data center in Nobles County. The city approved 4 applications for cannabis facilities. In 2027 and 2028 there will be work done on Highway 59 and roundabouts will be added. Some updates to amenities in the city have been: working with the school and the hockey association on a new ice arena, 5 new soccer fields were open and 3 baseball fields were re-done with work scheduled for updating the softball fields, concession stand and bathrooms. Extensions to the current bike trail have happened and the JBS field house has been a great asset to the city. Upgrades to park equipment and bathrooms have been done as well.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Eric Hartman  
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth  
SRDC Chairman



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, JoEllen Benson, Miron Carney, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Eric Hartman, Chris Hollingsworth, Mic VanDeVere, Rick Von Holdt, and Dennis Welgraven

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY: Bob VanHee (convenience)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Bob Byrnes

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Paul Langseth called the meeting to order at 3:30p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

**AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the December Receipts and Expenditures and the City of Hadley EECBG contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

**FINANCE REPORT**

Treasurer Anderson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer’s Report as of January 31, 2026, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Executive Director Trusty went over the Administrative Report through the end of December 2025. He pointed out some line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner VanDeVere and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Executive Director Trusty went over the FY2027 Budget & Work Program timeline.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Hartman and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the FY2027 Budget & Work Program timeline as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### A. Legislative Committee Report

Committee Chair Carney gave an update on Legislative Issues for 2026. The Committee has decided to support all local bonding requests (a list of local projects was handed out), an increase to the MnDOT contract amount with RDCs, the re-direction of solid waste tax that goes in the general fund now, the Casey Jones trail request, and planning dollars for smaller communities similar to the CEDA funds. Support will continue for the Missing Middle Housing, TIF reform for more flexibility and prevailing wage.

Langseth, Trusty and Weis will attend the NADO Legislative Conference March 8-12 in Washington DC. Minnesota Association of Townships Day on the Hill will be March 2. League of Minnesota Cities Day on the Hill will be March 11. Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Day on the Hill will be March 25.

### B. Deep Dive

Executive Director Trusty gave a deep dive on the purpose of board retreats.

### C. Executive Director's Report

Trusty reported there are several legislators who will not be seeking re-election (Sen. Dahms and Weber; Rep. Schomacker and Torkelson).

SRDC Annual Meeting in July will be held at the Heritage Event Center in rural Taunton. Work is being done on a speaker and stops for the bus tour.

Project of the Year Committee will be Commissioners Anderson, Hartman and Von Holdt.

Nominating Committee will be Commissioners Gravley and Langseth. One more person will be needed.

### D. Chairman's Report

Chair Langseth will be attending the NADO Legislative Conference in Washington DC March 8-12. He will also be attending several legislative meetings in March.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Trusty referred Commissioners to their handout for an email received regarding ownership of the building once it is paid this year. The SRDC and SWMHP are looking at forming an LLC to own the building.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to allow Trusty to work on building ownership with legal counsel and SWMHP. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Commissioner Van Hee reported that Commissioner Lesmeister-Knott will be running for Senator Dahms' seat and Cory Theis will be running for Torkelson's seat.

MN Rural Counties Association reported bonding for failing infrastructure far exceeds the bonding amount available. Smaller cities need help.

Commissioner Hollingsworth reported that the Pipestone County Township vacancy on the Commission has been filled. Scott Blom will be the new representative. Scott will be on the March agenda for approval.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Pipestone County Townships, Murray County Townships, Region 8 School Boards, Lower Sioux and Cultural Diversity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Eric Hartman  
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth  
SRDC Chairman



**Southwest Regional Development Commission**  
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register  
 From 1/1/2026 Through 1/31/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	2,044.48	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	2,317.57	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	378.12	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	1,680.53	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	65.23	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	1,428.30	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	13.59	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	9.07	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	2,238.32	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	1,771.71	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	1,615.75	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	171.69	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	55.39	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	3,117.00	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	2,519.77	1/8/2026
PRS010826	01082...	1/8/2026	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 1/8/2026	1,971.35	1/8/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	2,061.55	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 1/8 and 1/9/26 Meetings	100.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 1/8 and 1/9/26 Meetings	210.25	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Steven A. Kellen	Steven Kellen 1/8/26 Meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Steven A. Kellen	Steven Kellen 1/8/26 Meeting	50.75	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	2,611.82	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	292.95	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	1,614.34	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	130.88	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 1/8/26 meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 1/8/26 meeting	50.75	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 11/13/25 Meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 11/13/25 Meeting	57.40	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	1,438.20	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	18.20	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	2,205.45	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	63.39	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Jenny L. Quade	Jenny Quade 1/8/26 Meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Mark A. Haberman	Mark Haberman 1/8/26 meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APSO12226	01222...	1/22/2026	Mark A. Haberman	Mark Haberman 1/8/26 meeting	47.13	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	1,811.92	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	1,871.76	1/22/2026

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**  
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register  
 From 1/1/2026 Through 1/31/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	94.73	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	78.03	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 1/8/26	50.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 1/8/26	42.78	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 1/8/26 Meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 1/8/26 Meeting	55.10	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	3,136.73	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	2,530.65	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 1/8/26 meeting	50.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Ronald Kottke	Ron Kottke 1/8/26	50.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Ronald Kottke	Ron Kottke 1/8/26	37.70	1/22/2026
PRS012226	01222...	1/22/2026	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 1/22/2026	2,127.59	1/22/2026
CD012526	1225	1/25/2026	Wex Health, Inc.	Dec 2025 Wex Fees	25.75	1/25/2026
APS010826	61390	1/8/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/1/25 - 12/30/25	26.45	1/8/2026
APS010826	61390	1/8/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 12/1/25 - 12/30/25	24.41	1/8/2026
APS010826	61391	1/8/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	4 bottles water, 4 bags salt, cooler rental	65.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61391	1/8/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	4 bottles water, 4 bags salt, cooler rental	26.40	1/8/2026
APS010826	61392	1/8/2026	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 12.3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 19, 29, 2025	495.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61392	1/8/2026	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 12.3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 19, 29, 2025	330.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61393	1/8/2026	MN Association of County Pla...	2026 Membership Dues (Non-Voting)	85.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61394	1/8/2026	Minnesota Counties Intergov...	PC Renewal 1-1-26 - 1-1-27	3,045.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61395	1/8/2026	Minnesota Counties Intergov...	PC646026-1 & WC646026-1 2026 Renewal	8,617.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61396	1/8/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Replace water heater, freon, charge mini split, fix urinal	842.58	1/8/2026
APS010826	61396	1/8/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Replace water heater, freon, charge mini split, fix urinal	561.72	1/8/2026
APS010826	61397	1/8/2026	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 11/19/25 - 12/19/25	345.95	1/8/2026
APS010826	61397	1/8/2026	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 11/19/25 - 12/19/25	230.64	1/8/2026
APS010826	61398	1/8/2026	One Office Solution	Meter reading, copy paper	229.45	1/8/2026
APS010826	61399	1/8/2026	Quill Corporation	Date stamp, felt pad black, 2x2 sticky notes	7.35	1/8/2026
APS010826	61400	1/8/2026	Redwood County Auditor/Tre...	PACE assessment 2026	20.00	1/8/2026
APS010826	61401	1/8/2026	Slayton EDA	EDA Lease Jan 2026	5,003.67	1/8/2026
APS010826	61402	1/8/2026	Woodstock Communications	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2026	74.98	1/8/2026
APS010826	61402	1/8/2026	Woodstock Communications	Jan 1 - Jan 31, 2026	74.97	1/8/2026
APS010826	61403	1/8/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 12/3/25 - 1/5/26	264.33	1/8/2026
APS010826	61403	1/8/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 12/3/25 - 1/5/26	176.22	1/8/2026
APS011526	61404	1/15/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 1/10/26 - 2/9/26	897.18	1/15/2026
APS011526	61404	1/15/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 1/10/26 - 2/9/26	483.10	1/15/2026

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**  
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register  
 From 1/1/2026 Through 1/31/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS011526	61405	1/15/2026	Murray County Christmas Fund	Murray Co Xmas Project	2,100.00	1/15/2026
APS011526	61406	1/15/2026	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS Feb 2026	64.00	1/15/2026
APS011526	61407	1/15/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 1/1/26 - 1/31/26	44.99	1/15/2026
APS011526	61407	1/15/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 1/1/26 - 1/31/26	30.00	1/15/2026
APS011526	61408	1/15/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 1/1/26	3,524.51	1/15/2026
APS011526	61408	1/15/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 1/1/26	20.00	1/15/2026
APS011526	61408	1/15/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 1/1/26	10.50	1/15/2026
APS011526	61409	1/15/2026	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 12/2/25 - 1/1/26	42.60	1/15/2026
APS012226	61410	1/22/2026	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Dec 2025	58.58	1/22/2026
APS012226	61411	1/22/2026	Fleet Services Division	Monthly lease rent 12/1/25 - 12/31/25	773.10	1/22/2026
APS012226	61412	1/22/2026	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Jan 2026	472.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	61412	1/22/2026	Marilyn Samuelson	Janitorial services Jan 2026	328.00	1/22/2026
APS012226	61413	1/22/2026	Quill Corporation	32GB USB 5 pk	26.59	1/22/2026
APS012926 ...	61414	1/29/2026	Joyful Eyes Optometry, PLLC	RLF - Joyful Eyes Optometry Loan Disb	19,466.38	1/29/2026
CD012026 B...	BCBS...	1/20/2026	BlueCross Blue Shield of MN	BCBS Feb 2026	16,061.68	1/20/2026
Report Total					<u>109,563.00</u>	

**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.

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

**EXHIBIT A**

**SCOPE OF WORK**

<b>Term of Agreement:</b> Start Date: 01/14/2025 and shall remain in effect until End Date: 08/15/2026					
Line	Item / Description	Quantity	UOM	Unit Price	Extended Amt
1	Solar for All project	1.00	LOT	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00

**TOTAL OBLIGATION:**

The University's total obligation to Contractor under this agreement, including compensation for goods, services and reimbursable expenses, shall not exceed **\$9,000.00** without the prior written approval of the University.

The University's previous total obligation to Contractor before this change was **\$9,000.00**

**ABOVE CONTRACT IS ELECTRONICALLY APPROVED BY UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.**

**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 3

Amendment # 1 TO QCPS # 0002719739

(Include all digits on submitted invoice)

Line	Sched	Dist	Amount
1	1	1	0.00

Fund	Deptid	Program	PC BU	Project	Act	Account	Fin EmplID	Chartfield1	Chartfield2	CS
1701	10774	20080				730299	8013191	UMF00082	46	

Line	Sched	Dist	Amount
1	1	2	9,000.00

Fund	Deptid	Program	PC BU	Project	Act	Account	Fin EmplID	Chartfield1	Chartfield2	CS
1701	10774	20080				730299	8013191	UMF00082	46	

COPY



## Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Grant Program Agreement

This Agreement is made and entered into on February 17, 2026 between Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) and Rock County for the Rural Water Facilities Energy Audit (PROJECT). The PROJECT defined within this agreement directly supports energy and climate resiliency efforts of the SRDC Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

*Therefore, it is hereby mutually agreed that:*

1) PROJECT:

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

2) GRANT AMOUNT(S):

Energy efficiency and climate resilience plan: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Energy audit: \$ 20,000

Technical assistance services: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

3) PAYMENT:

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

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

4) POLICIES:

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

5) LIABILITY:

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

6) SRDC/GRANTEE RELATIONSHIP:

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

7) MODIFICATION:

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

8) ACCESS AND RETENTION RECORDS:

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

9) CANCELLATION:

- a) SRDC may cancel this Grant Agreement for just cause. Just cause means that the GRANTEE is not using funds or disbursing funds in accordance with established procedures and/or has otherwise breached a term of this Agreement. The GRANTEE will be given written or electronic notice fourteen (14) calendar days prior to cancellation. The cancellation shall be effective on the beginning of the 15th day after such notice is delivered unless an agreement is reached within such fourteen (14) day period and SRDC allows an extension or withdrawal of the cancellation in writing.
- b) In the event of cancellation by SRDC, the GRANTEE will only be entitled to payment of reimbursable expenses for the portion of work completed as determined by SRDC. If SRDC cancels this grant agreement for just cause, the GRANTEE may not be eligible for reimbursement of expenses that were approved in its application.
- c) In the event of cancellation by GRANTEE, the GRANTEE will only be entitled to payment of reimbursable expenses for the portion of work completed as determined by SRDC.

10) TERMINATION AND SURVIVABILITY

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect until November 30, 2026, unless earlier terminated by mutual agreement of the GRANTEE and SRDC. Those portions that must survive to attribute meaning to them shall continue after expiration. However, the obligation to reimburse for expenses under the grant shall terminate upon expiration of the agreement.

11) LIMITATION OF PAYMENTS

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

a. Termination of Contract.

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

12) DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

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

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

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Jayme I Trusty, Executive Director**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Rock County**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

3 March 20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

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

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

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 200 hours of technical assistance, to be completed between April 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.
- b. Work elements specified in this contract shall be completed before June 30, 2027, unless the contract period is extended by mutual agreement between the parties.
- c. Change of Scope of Consulting Services. City of Slayton 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 Slayton'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 Slayton before proceeding with the additional services. No additional services shall be performed until written authorization is received from the City of Slayton. 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.
- d. Termination of Work: City of Slayton may terminate all or a portion of the Work covered by this Agreement for its convenience at any time. City of Slayton 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 Slayton. 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. Consultant 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 Slayton 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 \$20,000 unless modified by mutual agreement. The invoice shall be submitted to:

**Josh Malchow**  
City Clerk/Administrator  
City of Slayton  
[cityadmin@slayton.govoffice.com](mailto:cityadmin@slayton.govoffice.com)  
507-836-8534

3. Payment for Services Performed

- a. Payment of funds to the Commission by the City of Slayton 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 Slayton along with invoices. Reports and invoices will be due by the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Slayton
- b. Hold Harmless: The City of Slayton 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 Slayton 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 Slayton 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 Slayton employees and is not eligible for worker's or unemployment compensation benefits under the City of Slayton. 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 Slayton has caused the same to be duly executed on its behalf.

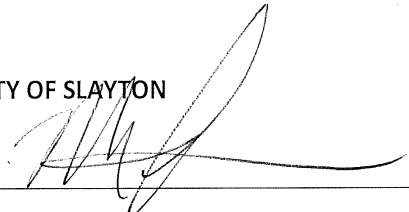
**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

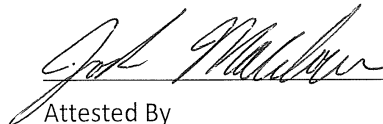
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested By

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

**CITY OF SLAYTON**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Official

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested By

Date: 3/2/2026

## **Scope of Work: City of Slayton Land Use Plan with Active Living Component Update**

Work elements for the City of Slayton 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 Slayton

### Data Gathering

Collect, review, and analyze the City of Slayton's available documents related to planning efforts. Update maps, 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, maps, images, goals, objectives, and text where relevant. Staff will attend a city council meeting to present the final plan for approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
MONTH END February 28, 2026**

**Bank Account Information**

**INVESTMENTS -General Fund**

Bank	Amount	Due Date	APY Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	\$ 109,839.04	5/30/2026	3.70%
Minnwest Bank	100,000.00	02/21/27	3.50%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X8562)	122,909.79	09/02/26	3.90%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X0010)	104,318.21	08/26/26	3.90%
First Independent Bank (X8022)	100,000.00	01/22/27	3.91%
First Independent Bank (X2281)	100,000.00	01/22/27	3.91%
Magic Fund	100,013.07	11/27/26	4.55%

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

<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>737,080.11</b>
--------------------------	-------------------

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

		<u>2/28/2026</u>
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	\$ 3,348.94
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings	498,984.27
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H	36,402.18
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings	86,393.51
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings	61,149.39
Jackson Federal S&L-Jackson	Savings	85,130.42
<b>TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>771,408.71</b>

<b>Committed to: Employee Transition Designation</b>	(8,625.70)
<b>Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Equipment</b>	(70,000.00)
<b>Committed to: Acquisition of Capital Assets-Building</b>	(274,279.29)
<b>Committed to: Unemployment Claims</b>	(83,859.63)
<b>TOTAL DEDICATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ (436,764.62)</b>

	<u>2/28/2026</u>	<u>2/28/2025</u>
Total Investments	\$ 737,080.11	\$ 741,107.96
Total Cash Accounts	\$ 771,408.71	\$ 833,798.77
Total Dedicated Funds	\$ (436,764.62)	\$ (466,254.20)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW (</b>	<b>\$ 1,071,724.20</b>	<b>\$ 1,108,652.53</b>

**SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative**

EDA Planning Funds	\$ 50	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	554,711	
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	335,628	
PACE Funds-EE-RLF	79,514	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	119,559	
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	58,638	
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off Counties & admin)	26,729	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) \$88,704	-	starting December 2026
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 1,174,828</b>	

PACE Loan Funds <b>257,711</b>
-----------------------------------

Account Title	January 2026 Actual	Total Budget - FY26 Revised Operating Budget	FY26 YTD Actual	Total Budget Variance - FY26 Operating Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
Tax Revenue	4,389	471,544	195,958	275,586	58.33%	YTD Comparison % of Budget
R9 McKnight (balance of what we rec'd upfront)	9,756	132,927	40,974	91,953	41.6%	When current taxes rec'd, pymts primarily rec'd in Dec and June
RLF Admin (Covid and Regular)	4,648	60,000	66,692	(6,692)	30.8%	Monthly amount is what was used of what we have
Contract Revenue	21,434	329,840	216,627	113,213	111.2%	
PACE Loan Orig/Misc	0	6,800	13,066	(6,266)	65.7%	Based on activity to date
Rental Revenue	687	1,500	936	564	192.1%	Loan Orig fee mostly received in Dec & June (code 4321)
Bank Savings and CD Interest Revenue	2,345	68,340	36,064	32,276	62.4%	GL 4648
MnDOT Revenue	0	75,000	37,500	37,500	52.8%	GL 4651
Dept.Commerce Revenue.	11,888	222,790	123,956	98,834	50.0%	Based on Billings - Yearly amt is \$75000, bill 3 times a year, 1st one is in Dec
EDA Revenue	0	70,000	46,364	23,636	55.6%	Certs (Regular), EECBG and State Comp. Grant
PACE Loan Interest Received	409	12,766	18,188	(5,422)	66.2%	Federal Share - Sept amt is for April-June 2025. Have to request quarterly payments now
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>55,556</b>	<b>1,451,507</b>	<b>796,325</b>	<b>655,182</b>	<b>142.5%</b>	GL 4656, funds 70,72,73,75,76
Salaries & Fringe	84,990	1,142,572	616,943	525,629	54.0%	Includes FY26 Salaries/Fringe (including 15% increase to Health Insurance/H.S.A.) also includes MN Pd Leave that starts Jan 2026
Travel	4,367	60,000	32,736	27,264	54.6%	Staff Travel
Committee Expenses	1,645	34,000	11,000	23,000	32.4%	Includes Board Retreat, Orientation & Annual Meeting
Postage Expenses	10	5,349	2,124	3,225	39.7%	not including housing reimbursement
Insurance	24	10,000	6,355	3,645	63.6%	Insurance Dividend/Our portion of Bldg Ins,Cyber Security Ins
Office Space Costs	1,095	15,000	5,605	9,395	37.4%	Utilities
Equipment/Building Updates	562	5,000	864	4,136	17.3%	
Communications	601	9,219	4,479	4,740	48.6%	
Printing/Publication	230	8,000	3,405	4,595	42.6%	Annual Report designed in house, sent out for printing, includes outreach items/mktg
Office Supply/Meeting Expense	372	8,000	2,301	5,699	28.8%	
Program Supply	193	0	2,330	(2,330)		Reimbursed by Contracts
Computer	99	56,000	20,926	35,074	37.4%	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	85	5,000	4,085	915	81.7%	Includes MADO Coordination (\$2,000 per region)
Finance Fees & Exp	136	1,000	337	663	33.7%	Includes bank fees
Lease Payment	2,115	23,360	14,585	8,775	62.4%	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)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>96,524</b>	<b>1,457,513</b>	<b>793,285</b>	<b>664,228</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	
<b>Revenues over Expenses</b>	<b>(40,969)</b>	<b>(6,006)</b>	<b>3,039</b>			

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

2026

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

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

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

### Current CEDS (2022-2027)

[https://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2022/08/CEDS-2022-2027.pdf](https://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2022/08/CEDS-2022-2027.pdf)

The SRDC CEDS committee covers all key regional areas and is in alignment with guidance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

### Recent Activity:

- Kickoff meeting held January 21
- Approx. 100 Surveys Received

**NEXT CEDS DUE:  
DECEMBER 31, 2026**



### 2026 CEDS Cornerstone Meetings

**1:00-3:00 p.m. In Person or Hybrid**

- March 2 Human Capital
- March 16 Economic Competitiveness
- April 13 Community Resources
- April 27 Foundational Assets

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85140729062> • April 13 Community Resources

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

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

### Additional CEDS Engagement

- \* Lower Sioux Indian Community Meeting Held Dec. 8
- Potential Housing Forum with SW MN Housing Partnership



## ED PROs Network

Next Meeting: **Monday, May 4 at 1:00 p.m.**



### EDA - INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

#### EDA Investment Priorities

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

#### Active Infrastructure Projects:

- Minnesota West Facility Upgrades
- City of Windom Infrastructure Improvements
- City of Jackson Industrial Park Expansion

**EDA DISASTER NOFO  
80% GRANT RATE**

- Eligible Areas:
- Cottonwood
  - Jackson
  - Murray
  - Nobles
  - Pipestone
  - Redwood
  - Rock



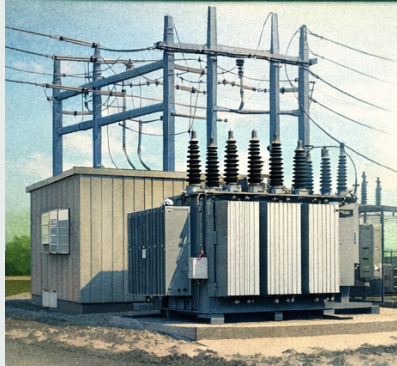
# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

CEDS | EDA PLANNING

## City of Adrian – Electric Substation Project

SRDC Assisting the City of Adrian with EDA Grant Administration



**\$3.26 Million** Total Project Cost

**\$1.63 Million** EDA Grant Award  
(50% Funding)

**Projected Completion: October 2027**

Transformer Lead Times Remain Lengthy

Final Timeline Dependent on Material Bid Awards

SRDC continues to assist the City of Adrian with administration of its funded Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (PWEAA) grant for construction of a new electric substation. SRDC provides administrative and financial services for the grant and serves as the liaison between the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering, and the EDA.

### Project progress includes:

- Submission of the revised site certificate to EDA for review
- Submission of the revised transformer and circuit breaker
- Request for Proposals (RFP) to EDA for review
- Ongoing development of the construction bid package



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG)

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program supports planning efforts designed to help small communities reduce energy use, lower fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency.

Eligible applicants include cities and counties with **populations under 15,000**. All cities within the SRDC region and the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Pipestone and Rock are eligible.

SRDC received **\$99,999.78** in EECBG funding with 10% allocated for project administration. Communities may receive grants of up to **\$20,000** to support planning. Planning efforts could include resiliency plans, energy audits, engineering studies, etc.

The CEDS Committee has approved projects with four local governments:

- ✓ City of Slayton
- ✓ City of Pipestone
- ✓ City of Hadley
- ✓ Rock County

SRDC staff are currently in discussion with an additional city interested in completing a resiliency plan through this program.



## ELLSWORTH GROCERY STORE REDEVELOPMENT



SRDC recently assisted the City of Ellsworth with a DEED Redevelopment Grant Application to revamp the Ellsworth Grocery Store.

### Proposed 54' x 100' Building Addition to Include:

- ✓ Retail Meat Sales Space
- ✓ Expanded Sausage Kitchen
- ✓ Dedicated Baking Room
- ✓ Additional Walk-In Cooler & Freezer Space
- ✓ Large Inventory Storage Area
- ✓ Restroom Facilities

This expansion aims to restore local food access, reintroduce groceries to Ellsworth (pop. 497), and support the growth of the meat locker business.



## BUSINESS ASSISTANCE & ENTREPRENEUR SUPPORT

### Emergency Relief Support

The Latino Economic Development Center recently launched the Latino & Immigrant Business Emergency Relief Fund, designed to provide financial assistance to Latino-owned businesses affected by recent ICE activity.

In alignment with SRDC's commitment to supporting regional entrepreneurs, staff assisted one small business owner in preparing and submitting an application for this relief funding.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

CEDS | EDA PLANNING



## OPPORTUNITY ZONES

### Opportunity Zones (OZ) 2.0 Update

New U.S. Census Bureau data will determine eligibility for Opportunity Zones 2.0 and expected to be released soon and this announcement will include the U.S. Treasury Department's official list of eligible census tracts.

SRDC staff will review the data once available and evaluate potential impacts and opportunities for communities in the region.



## STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES

### Redwood Falls Industrial Park Strategic Planning

Through SRDC's EDA planning grant, staff are working with the City of Redwood Falls on industrial park strategic planning efforts. A working session with city council and staff is scheduled for March 31 to further develop strategies for future industrial growth and site development.

### Vision for Windom – Childcare Initiative

SRDC is participating in a childcare subcommittee known as Windom Way Forward, part of the broader Vision for Windom Initiative.

Windom Area Schools are exploring the possibility of using four classrooms at the Highland location to create a childcare center.

- 16 Infants • 21 Toddlers • 40 Pre-school aged children



The subcommittee is focused on identifying financing and sustainability. The next session will address options for covering a projected \$140,000 annual opening deficit.



## WORKFORCE & REGIONAL COLLABORATION



### Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee

The Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee meets quarterly to support career and technical education programs and to help inform students and parents of regional career and training opportunities.

The committee last met on February 5, 2026, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2026.



### Friends in the Field

The Friends in the Field networking event will celebrate its 20th anniversary on April 8, 2026 bringing together professionals and partners working in community and economic development across all regions.

### Future Leaders Network – Rock County

SRDC staff member Weis participated as one of nine panelists at the Future Leaders Network event in Rock County on February 23. The session focused on economic development.



## UPCOMING LEARNING & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



### March 12 – Nobles County State of the Region

11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Hosted by FORWARD Worthington

### April 15 – Navigating the Currents, Charting the Course Conference

8:30 am - 5:00 pm | Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel 39375 County Highway 24, Morton, Southwest Minnesota nonprofit professionals and SWIF fund partner advisory board members are invited to join us for a day of learning and connection.



## Food Systems Initiatives

### Bulk Milk Initiative in Schools:

There is growing interest in introducing bulk milk dispensers in school child nutrition programs throughout the region. These dispensers provide an innovative method of delivering cold milk while significantly reducing packaging waste.



## Funding Opportunities

Staff recently participated in the Minnesota Climate Smart Food Systems 2026 Funding Programs webinar. One opportunity highlighted was the Prevention of Wasted Food and Organic Management Grant, which is open through April 28, 2026. This program aligns with the bulk milk initiative by supporting initiatives that reduce packaging waste and improve sustainability.

Another potential funding opportunity - The Food to Livestock Grant is expected to open late in 2026.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

CEDS | EDA PLANNING



## AGRI Works Grant Application

### AGRI Works Grant Application

SRDC has applied for the Minnesota Department of Ag Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Works Grant Program. The application has advanced in the evaluation process, and staff are awaiting formal award notification.

If awarded, the funding will support outreach to sustainable farmers and food producers in Southwest Minnesota, helping build a collaborative network that provides peer mentoring networking and educational resources.



## Ellsworth Food Retail Improvement Grant

SRDC staff assisted the owners of the Ellsworth Food Center in applying for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture **Food Retail Improvement & Development Grant (FRIG)**. The application was submitted on March 10, 2026.

Funding would support the purchase of refrigeration equipment, HVAC systems, and commercial appliances for the new combined Ellsworth Locker/Grocery Store facility, Award notifications are expected in May 2026.



## Food Technical Assistance Grant

SRDC staff also submitted an application to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for the Food Technical Assistance Grant.

If awarded, this funding will support ongoing technical assistance efforts related to food security initiatives across the region



## Southwest Minnesota Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has allocated **\$250,000** to the SRDC through the Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant Program to support the **Southwest Minnesota Meat Processor Workforce Development Initiative**.

This funding assists small-to-medium sized meat and poultry processors with hiring, training, and retaining employees.

The program has entered **Year Two** of the grant contract.



### Program updates include:

- Seven individuals have participated in **On-the-Job Training (OJT)** experiences supported by the **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council** for Career Services.
- **Central Minnesota Jobs and Training** has begun working with Happy Halal Meats in Willmar, where four individuals have been hired for OJT training.
- **Ridgewater College** currently has one student who transferred from the Agriculture Program to the Meat Cutting Program this fall.



# REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT

C-RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF PROGRAMS

MARCH 2026

## SRDC RLF - C-RLF & Traditional RLF

### Committee

- Five member committee meet as needed.
- Oversees both COVID-19 and Traditional RLF
- Recent loans closed in Cottonwood and Nobles counties

### Interest Rates

- Financing currently at 75% of Prime, consistent with RLF regulations.

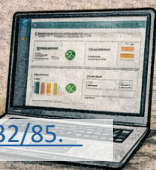
### Client Activity

- Staff assisting clients with minor loan modifications
- Winter weather can make some businesses seasonal during storms and cold spells

### Funds Available for Lending

RLF (2-19-26) **\$554,40.27**  
CRLF (2-9-26) **\$335,283.95**  
CRLF funds remain federalized for 7 years

Presta - Financial Software Applications submitted online through Presta  
<https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/85>



## Contracted Revolving Loan Funds

SRDC provides assistance with business start-ups, retention, expansions, and financing. In addition to administering its own Revolving Loan Fund programs, SRDC currently assists with three contracted revolving loan funds within the region and is in communication with another potential partner.

### Falcon Development Commission (FDC)

Information about Falcon Development Corporation can be found at:  
<https://www.swrdc.org/revolving-loan-funds/>

FDC is a local organization that supports economic development within a **30-mile radius of Heron Lake**. Because FDC funds are not federalized, Davis-Bacon wage requirements do not apply to construction projects funded through the program.

The **FDC Board currently has six members** (seven is the maximum). The board last met on **February 19, 2026**, and the next meeting is scheduled for **May 6, 2026**. FDC currently has approximately **\$10,000** available for lending.

### Heron Lake RLF

The Heron Lake Revolving Loan Fund supports economic development within a **20-mile radius of Heron Lake**. These funds originate from the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program**. SRDC continues to assist with **GMS data entry and amortization schedules** as requested. Funds remain available for businesses within the service area that require gap financing.

### Jackson RLF

The Jackson County RLF currently has five active loans. As of the latest reporting period, **\$187,254.33** is available for lending, with **\$293,410.08** in outstanding principal yet to be repaid.

## Site Visits

Site visits are required every **three years**; however, they are conducted more frequently as needed. Staff continue to collect annual business tax documentation for program files. Site visits are often combined with communication audits and client interviews, which help identify opportunities for **storytelling and highlighting business successes**.

Recent business success stories supported through the Revolving Loan Fund program can be viewed at: <https://www.swrdc.org/regional-spotlight/>

# PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) REPORT

MARCH 2026

## General Information

The **Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)** program is available to property owners of small businesses, including agricultural businesses and certain nonprofit organizations based on facility usage. **PACE financing** helps property owners complete building improvements that reduce energy consumption and operating costs.

Interest rates for new PACE projects are currently set at **3 percent below the Prime Rate**, with a **minimum rate (floor) of 3 percent**.

Commissioners are encouraged to help spread the word about this program to property owners interested in **improving energy efficiency within their facilities**.



## Funds Available for Lending

Current available funds include:

- PACE EE-RLF (as of 1-30-26): \$79,490.09
- PACE ARRA (as of 1-30-26): \$119,512.81
- PACE SEP (as of 1-30-26): \$58,619.75



## PACE Delinquencies

Following receipt of Fall 2025 payments from counties, six PACE clients **were reported as delinquent**.

- One client has since **paid in full**.
- One client is **working with their county on a payment plan** to become current.
- **Three clients received certified letters**, including one client who has not **paid property taxes for 2024 or 2025**.

Staff continue to monitor these accounts and work with counties as appropriate.



## PACE Committee

The PACE Committee meets as needed and often coordinates meetings alongside the Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) schedule.

**Current committee members** include:  
Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere, and Paap.



## Energy Audits and Assessments

**Energy assessments and audits** provide property owners with information about potential cost-saving improvements and often serve as the first step toward PACE financing.

The typical process begins with:

1. **An energy assessment/audit, and**
2. **Contractor estimates for proposed improvements.**

Staff frequently refer property owners to organizations that provide energy assessments, including:

- RETAP
- MNTAP
- Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)
- EnergySmart

SRDC staff recently received a letter of support request from MnTAP related to a proposal submitted to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LC-CMR) for **water assessment initiatives**.



## PACE Success Stories

<https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/lodge/>

## PACE Applications

PACE applications can now be submitted through the online Presta platform:

<https://app.letspresta.com/signup/32/91>

## Contact Information

For questions regarding the PACE program or energy audits, please contact:

**Robin Weis, Deputy Director**

Phone: 507-836-1638

Email: [robin@swrdc.org](mailto:robin@swrdc.org)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

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



## Energy

### Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB)

The Rural Minnesota Energy Board met on **January 26** at 1:00 p.m. During the meeting, Ted Smith, Vice President of Engineering and Operations at Sioux Valley Energy, and Brandon Lane, Economic Development and Community Relations Executive, provided an overview of their organization and shared perspectives on current energy trends.

**Rob Davis, Chief Growth Officer with CleanCount**, also presented on the organization's work related to renewable energy certificates, wind curtailment, and a potential distributed green ammonia solution.

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

### State Competitiveness Funding (R-STEP Grant)

The **Reliable Energy Siting Through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP)** grant totaling **\$1.2 million**, which had previously been paused, is now moving forward. The **U.S. Department of Energy and the University of Minnesota** have reached a contract agreement, and signatures were pending at the time this report was prepared.

Through this grant:

#### Year One – \$50,000 to SRDC

- Develop outreach materials
- Inventory existing resources related to energy siting
- Engage RMEB members
- Develop informational fact sheets

#### Year Two – \$100,000 to SRDC

- Conduct outreach with Regional Development Organizations (RDOs) and local governments
- Develop training modules
- Host community benefits workshops
- Co-host trainings
- Assist with planning processes related to energy siting

### Regional Community Listening Tour

SRDC staff continue to visit communities across the region to learn about local priorities and connect communities with resources that support their energy and development goals.



## Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) Project

The **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)** is partnering with the **Great Plains Institute (GPI)** and other organizations to evaluate the use of solar energy as a renewable power source while providing economically viable and environmentally sustainable land use options in southwest Minnesota. The project focuses on areas where **nitrate levels in drinking water remain a concern**.

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



## Great Plains Institute (GPI)

SRDC is subcontracting with the Great Plains Institute on a \$30,000 project running from August 2025 through December 2026. The project will help identify high-priority community benefits associated with renewable energy development.

Key activities include:

- Community stakeholder engagement
- Participation in statewide discussions related to the Public Utilities Commission permitting process



## CERTs - McKnight Foundation

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

The current webpages contain outdated information, and the siting landscape has changed significantly in recent years. Updates will ensure communities and stakeholders have access to **accurate and up-to-date resources**.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

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



## Energy Program Updates

### City of New Ulm Energy Assistance Project

The City of New Ulm received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Climate Action grant to connect residents in an identified low-income census tract with weatherization and energy assistance services.

Under the project structure, the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) will receive the majority of the funding to conduct energy audits and install energy efficiency upgrades. The Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) will assist with outreach and community engagement efforts.

The grant period runs through June 30, 2026. Outreach activities are currently being planned and will include mailings and direct community engagement.

An outreach event will be held in New Ulm on March 11, with representatives from CERTs, RNDC, New Ulm Public Utilities, and MVAC available to share information about energy efficiency programs, audits, and upgrade opportunities.



## Solar for Public Buildings

The Solar for Public Buildings grant program, also administered by the Minnesota Department of Commerce, accepted applications from local governments last fall.

Statewide results included:

- 92 grantees
- 199 projects awarded funding

Projects in the Southwest CERTs region that received funding include:

- City of St. James
- City of Mountain Lake
- City of Windom
- New Ulm Public Utilities
- Madelia Municipal Light and Power



## Energy Program Updates

### Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) – Idea Briefs

RSDP Idea Brief proposals were due February 14.

The program supports local innovation by connecting community projects with University of Minnesota expertise and resources.

Eligible projects must:

- Address a community-identified need or opportunity related to one or more RSDP focus areas:
  - Sustainable agriculture and food systems
  - Clean energy
  - Natural resources
  - Resilient communities
- Support environmental, social, and economic sustainability for public benefit
- Include active leadership roles for both community partners and University of Minnesota faculty, staff, or students

The Southwest RSDP received 28 Idea Brief submissions, including three Clean Energy proposals.

The Rauenhorst Farm Agrivoltaics Project returned for a third year of funding, as it is structured as a multi-year partnership designed to collect sufficient research data.

Final funding decisions will be made in May, following submission and review of full project proposals.



## Southwest CERTs Steering Committee

The Southwest CERTs Steering Committee held its first meeting of the year on February 26.

Primary topics included:

- Review of RSDP Idea Brief proposals
- Updates on the Community Energy Ambassadors program

The committee also discussed goals for future meetings and engagement strategies with CERTs and local communities.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

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



## Solar for Schools

The **Solar for Schools** grant program, administered by the **Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources**, opened its **2026 Round 1 application process on February 2**.

Grant funding has increased and now covers **70–90% of the cost** to purchase and install solar energy systems, compared to the previous 40–70% range.

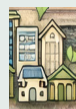
- Schools in the region currently applying include:
  - **Red Rock Central (RRC)**
  - **Heron Lake–Okabena**

The grant process includes two steps:

**Step 1:** Notice of Intent – School Readiness Application Due **March 2, 2026**. Schools determined to be ready may proceed to the next step.

**Step 2:** Full Grant Application

Eligible schools will be invited to submit a full application, due **July 3, 2026**.



## Solar for All - Planning Efforts

SRDC received **\$9,000** from the **Energy Foundation** to support **solar planning initiatives** focused on **low-income communities**.

Although the federal **Solar for All** program (through the EPA) has been terminated, the Energy Foundation funding will allow SRDC to begin planning for future implementation.

Planning efforts will explore solar access opportunities for:

- **Manufactured home parks**
- **Multi-family residential buildings**
- **Single-family homes in low-income communities**

SRDC will collaborate with partners to develop strategies that expand solar access for underserved communities across the region.



## Solid Waste & Natural Resources

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

During the meeting, **Jim Eidem of Barr Engineering Company** presented findings from a study examining the occurrence and distribution of **PFAS in groundwater** at Minnesota landfills. The presentation provided insight into current research and monitoring efforts related to PFAS contamination.

Commission members also shared updates on **solid waste activities and developments** occurring within their respective counties.

SRDC Executive Director Jay Trusty presented the Executive **Summary of the Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Regional 10-Year Plan**. The commission approved the plan, which will now be released for public comment. Following the comment period, the plan will be submitted to the **SRDC Board of Directors** for approval and then forwarded to each county for final endorsement.

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

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

MARCH 2026

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



## Land Use

### Minneota Public Schools – Playground Fundraising Campaign

Planner Webb prepared two grant applications to support Minneota Public Schools’ playground fundraising campaign. Applications were submitted to:

- Box Car Wind
- Otter Tail Power Community Foundation

### City of Jasper – Zoning Ordinance Update

Planner Webb has completed the **first draft of the zoning ordinance review**. Next steps include meeting with city staff to review the proposed updates, followed by a presentation to the **Jasper City Council in April or May** to discuss implementation.

### Nobles County Comprehensive Plan

The next **Steering Committee** meeting for the Nobles County Comprehensive Plan will take place on **March 11 from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Worthington**.

The committee will finalize the Land Use Chapter draft and develop goals for the chapter.

### Marshall Master Parks Plan

SRDC staff, in partnership with the City of Marshall, have conducted significant community outreach for the Master Parks Plan, including:

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

Results from the survey, focus groups, and interviews will be analyzed and incorporated into the draft Master Parks Plan.

The next phase will involve developing visual concepts based on community input. These visuals will be presented to residents for **voting and prioritization of park improvements** to be included in the final plan.



In December, SRDC staff completed an initial draft of an economic impact analysis for a proposed low-density, six-building data center scenario.

Following this draft, Geronimo requested evaluation of a high-density scenario with fewer buildings. The revised analysis was completed and published in early January.

The full report is available on the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Geronimo-impact-layout.pdf>

**Providing professional expertise and leadership to enhance regional opportunities.**

**SRDC**  
Southwest Regional Development Commission

At Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), we are listeners and connectors to help you find the resources needed to address your concerns.

**Cities Counties Townships**

Together we can channel progressive collaboration between cities, counties, and townships so that shared knowledge and resources can be used to help you and the region prepare for a future where people and businesses thrive.

# TRANSPORTATION REPORT

MARCH 2026

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



## Transportation Planning

### Stop Arm Camera Case Study

Planner Webb recently completed a research case study on the implementation of **stop arm cameras installed on 30 school buses in Marshall, Minnesota**. The study examines how the cameras were implemented and their effectiveness in improving student safety.

### Safe Streets for All Planning Grant

Planner Webb is working with **Lincoln, Lyon, and Murray Counties** on a proposal to develop **countywide Safe Routes to School plans** through the **USDOT Safe Streets for All program**.

Traditionally, Safe Routes to School planning has focused on a single community at a time through state programs. This federal grant would allow SRDC to expand planning efforts to multiple communities simultaneously.

Proposed focus areas include:

- **Lincoln County:** Hendricks and Lake Benton
- **Lyon County:** Minneota and Cottonwood
- **Murray County:** Slayton and Fulda



## Trail and Transportation Data Collection

### Portable Trail Counters Available

SRDC has **portable trail counters** available for communities considering trail improvements or planning to apply for **MnDOT or other transportation-related funding opportunities**.

These counters collect valuable usage data that can strengthen grant applications and support planning efforts.

Communities interested in utilizing the counters are encouraged to contact **Planner Chris Webb** for additional information.

### Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Planner Webb has begun the process of restructuring the **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**. Initial discussions have taken place with **MnDOT staff** and **MnDOT Planning Directors** to help guide the restructuring process.

The next step will be to engage current **TAC members** and invite them to participate in the restructuring effort moving forward. Additional information will be shared with TAC members over the next several months.

The next **TAC meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m. in Slayton**. The meeting will be offered in a hybrid format, allowing both in-person and virtual participation.

### Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP)

Upcoming meetings for regional Area Transportation Partnerships include:

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

The **City of Marshall** was recently awarded **two Federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) grants** through MnDOT District 8.

### Highway 59 Trail Rehabilitation (TH 23 to Boyer Drive)

- Local Match: **\$78,036**
- TA Award: **\$341,964**
- **Total Project Cost: \$420,000**

### Country Club Trail Rehabilitation (Southview Drive to 4th Street)

- Local Match: **\$72,462**
- TA Award: **\$317,538**
- **Total Project Cost: \$390,000**

# EXECUTIVE REPORT

MARCH 2026

## Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission

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

## MADO Executive Directors Meeting

SRDC hosted the **Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) Executive Directors** meeting in Slayton on **February 25–26**. Although I was unfortunately recovering from bronchitis and had to participate virtually, the meeting was a success.

Special thanks to Sheila for taking over the in-person hosting responsibilities, and to the rest of the staff for assisting as needed.

During the meeting, the group focused on:

- **Planning the upcoming MADO All-Staff Retreat, scheduled for April 29–May 1 in St. Cloud**
- **Reviewing organizational progress on our Strategic Doing initiatives**

A **draft agenda** for the retreat has been developed, and the Executive Directors are currently **confirming presenters and speakers**. Much of the retreat and training costs will be supported through a grant from the **McKnight Foundation**.

Additionally, **East Central Regional Development Commission (Region 7E)** in Mora recently named **Natalie Koerber** as its new Executive Director, and she attended the February meeting. The next MADO Executive Directors meeting will be hosted by **Upper Minnesota Valley RDC (Region 6W)** in Appleton.

## Building Ownership Transition

SRDC and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership are scheduled to assume ownership of the building in June. The organizations are exploring the formation of an LLC structure to jointly own the building, with ownership shares reflecting the initial agreement between the two entities.

The SRDC Board of Directors directed staff to work with the Housing Partnership and legal counsel to develop potential ownership structures, including an LLC.

## SRDC Board Retreat

Sheila and I have begun planning for the **SRDC Board Retreat**, scheduled for **April 8–9 in Okoboji**. While the retreat is typically held in the fall, scheduling challenges this year required a spring event.

Thank you to **Commissioner Anderson** for suggesting that the retreat focus on **SRDC's organizational history**, including how the organization became involved in certain program areas and how current operational approaches developed.

At the February Board meeting, members provided input on which **historical programs** they would like to explore further. A **draft agenda** has been distributed to staff as planning continues.

## Legislative Update

The **Legislative Committee** met in December prior to the Board meeting to discuss priorities for the **upcoming legislative session**.

A key SRDC priority will be supporting a state bonding bill to assist local communities with infrastructure improvements. Information was compiled regarding bonding requests submitted through the Office of Management and Budget, including:

- **Total Regional Requests: \$70,836,000**
- **Total Local Requests (Statewide): \$3,193,162,000**
- **Governor's Budget Proposal: \$35,000,000**

SRDC will also support **MADO's efforts to increase planning grant funding through MnDOT**.

**Significant legislative turnover** is expected in the region with the upcoming retirements of **Senators Dahms and Weber** and **Representatives Torkelson and Schumacker**. At the federal level, **Senator Tina Smith** is retiring, and **Senator Amy Klobuchar** has announced her candidacy for Governor, indicating additional leadership changes ahead.

## Staff Christmas Party

The **SRDC staff Christmas party** was held in **February at Nena's in Heron Lake**, one of SRDC's Revolving Loan Fund clients. The restaurant offers excellent food, particularly for those who enjoy seafood or Mexican cuisine.

Thank you to Robin and Sheila for organizing this year's event.

*Dress in your best 1920s-inspired attire  
and join us for a night of  
fun, fundraising, and fellowship*

**SPEAK-EASY THEMED**  
*Gala*  
**SATURDAY  
APRIL 11,  
2026**  
*Hosted by: Friends of the Casey Jones Trail*  
**HADLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**

**Social Hour: 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

**Supper Served: 6:00 p.m.**

**Live Music: 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

*Featuring the*

**FULDA AREA BIG BAND**



*Enjoy an evening of great food,  
lively conversation,  
and toe-tapping big band sounds -  
all while supporting the continued  
enhancement and promotion of the  
Casey Jones State Trail*

**MENU:**

- Glazed Ham
- Pork Loin
- Rosemary Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Apple Raspberry Fruit Salad
- Dessert

**\$50 PER  
PERSON**

**\$500  
TABLE OF 8**

**Tickets may be purchased at:**

- **Houser Homes**
- **2500 Maple Ave., Slayton**
- **Southwest Regional  
Development Commission,**
- **2401 Broadway Ave., Slayton**
- **Or from Myron Koets, Pipestone**





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