SRDC

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

November Full Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2026

3:30 p.m.

Murray County 4-H Building, Slayton, MN



2401 Broadway Ave., Slayton, MN • 507-836-8547 • srdc@swrdc.org

Serving the following counties:

Cottonwood • Jackson • Lincoln • Lyon • Murray • Nobles • Pipestone • Redwood • Rock

Southwest Regional Development Commission—Full Commission

* Board of Directors

Commissioner	Representing
Rick Anderson	Lyon County Commissioners, SRDC Treasurer*
Kent Bargfrede	Jackson County Commissioners
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
Tim Jones	SW Private Industry Council
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, November 12, 2026
3:30 pm

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

AGENDA

#	Time		Page
1	3:30	**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**	
2	3:31	**Introductions**	
3	3:35	**Approval of Agenda** **Action Needed: Approve Agenda**	
4	3:37	**Commissioner Appointments** • Matt Widboom, School Board • Jeff Cordes, SW MN Housing Partnership **Action Needed: Approve Appointment**	
5	3:40	**Consent Agenda Items** • Sept. Receipts & Expenditures • Sept. & Oct. meeting minutes • Explore SW MN Contract **Action Needed: Approve of Consent Agenda Items**	5-8 9-16 17-19
6	3:45	**Finance Reports**—*Treasurer Anderson & Finance Director Nelson* • Treasurer's Report, including bank accounts & investments **Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer's Report** • Administrative Report through September 2026 **Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report**	20 21
7	3:50	**B & P Update**	
8	3:55	**Legislative Report –** *Chair Miron Carney / Executive Director Trusty*	
9	4:05	**Election Results –** *Executive Director Trusty*	H-1
10	4:10	**Deep Dive ~ R-Step** — *Community Development Director Walker*	
		Committee & Staff Reports	
11	4:30	**Economic Development Report**—*Deputy Director Weis & Planner Murphy*	22-27
12	4:35	**Revolving Loan Funds Report**— *Committee Chair Byrnes & Deputy Director Weis*	28-31
13	4:40	**Community Development Report**— *Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, and Webb*	32-35
14	4:45	**Transportation Report**— *Committee Chair VanDeVere & Development Planner Webb*	36-37

15	4:50	**Executive Director's Report**—*Executive Director Trusty*	38-39
16	5:00	**Chairman's Report**—*Chairman Langseth*	
17	5:05	**Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government & Public Interest Groups** • Bob Van Hee, Redwood County Commissioners • Craig Rubis, Jackson County Townships	
18	5:10	**Unfinished Business**	
19	5:10	**New Business**	
20	5:10	**Other Issues**	
21	5:10	**Announcements** • SRDC will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26th and Friday, Nov. 27th in observance of Thanksgiving • SRDC Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, December 10 at 3:30 pm at the SRDC Office • SRDC Office will be closing at noon on Thurs., Dec. 24th and will be closed all day on December 25th in observance of Christmas • SRDC will be closed on Friday, January 1, 2027 • SRDC Full Commission Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2027 at 3:30 pm at Murray County 4-H Building • Commissioner vacancies: Murray County Townships, Rock County Townships, Lower Sioux, and Cultural Diversity	
22	5:15	**Adjourn**	

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SRDC CASH RECEIPTS SUMMARY

DATE REC'D	RECEIVED FROM	CHECK #	AMOUNT	BY
09/08/26	C-RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	20,127.87	JK
09/08/26	Falcon Loan Borrowers	ACH	3,452.39	JK
09/08/26	RLF Loan Borrowers	ACH	19,438.05	JK
09/03/26	Dept of Ag - Agriworks grant	ACH	1,296.39	JK
09/08/26	Nobles Co-Comp Plan admin	29911	2,045.60	KS
09/14/26	ACE of SW MN-Copies	56945	95.90	KS
09/14/26	MMDC RDC-AMC booth	53913	120.00	KS
09/14/26	SWOT-copies and envelopes	3885	67.46	KS
09/14/26	Lincoln Co-taxes	29443	64.54	KS
09/15/26	Schneider & Madsen Law Firm (Belview Bar & Grill-RLF pay-off + ucc release)	deposit	6,685.58	MN
09/17/26	Casey Jones-June admin	1381	442.78	KS
09/17/26	Casey Jones-July admin	1382	100.00	KS
09/17/26	Casey Jones-August admin	1383	200.00	KS
09/21/26	Dept of Commerce - State Competitiveness Grant	ACH	4,024.47	JK
09/25/26	Edgerton Bakery - Sept loan payment	ACH	704.98	JK
09/28/26	Prairie Home Hospice-RLF&CRLF loan orig fees	10035	914.67	KS
09/28/26	Lyon Co-Comp Plan admin	193852	800.00	KS
09/28/26	SWMHP-Aug expenses and admin support	35872	2,735.55	KS
09/29/26	Dept of Commerce - EECBG	ACH	302.51	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - Health Account - Checking Interest	Per Bank	0.56	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - Checking Account - Checking Interest	Per Bank	1.89	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - PACE Electric - Savings Interest	Per Bank	12.15	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - PACE EE-RLF - Savings Interest	Per Bank	29.04	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - Falcon Dev - Savings Interest	Per Bank	13.15	JK
09/30/26	First Independent Bank - Savings interest	Per Bank	71.42	JK
09/30/26	Worthington Federal Savind Bank-Savings interest	Per Bank	70.36	JK
09/30/26	United Prairie - Jackson - Adm Savings Interest	Per Bank	1.51	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - RMEB Savings interest	Per Bank	91.37	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - RLF Savings interest	Per Bank	575.27	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - Adm Savings interest	Per Bank	522.59	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - PACE SEP - Savings Interest	Per Bank	23.46	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - PACE ARRA - Savings Interest	Per Bank	63.57	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - CRLF Savings	Per Bank	70.19	JK
09/30/26	Minnwest Bank - EDA Savings	Per Bank		JK
09/30/26	Minnest Bank - Explore SW MN	Per Bank	4.81	JK

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 9/1/2026 Through 9/30/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	2,210.99	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	2,483.86	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	556.87	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	1,820.84	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	1,507.66	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	9.55	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	9.55	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	1,852.92	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Melissa Nelson	Employee: NelsonM; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	2,416.60	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	1,738.39	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	75.83	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	52.49	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	3,456.75	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	2,646.45	9/3/2026
PRS090326	09032...	9/3/2026	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 9/3/2026	2,098.11	9/3/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	2,227.55	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	2,051.92	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	944.99	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	1,820.84	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	1,517.18	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	9.58	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	1,852.91	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Melissa Nelson	Employee: NelsonM; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	2,416.59	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	1,750.05	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	70.00	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	46.67	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Jayme I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	3,370.95	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	2,646.45	9/17/2026
PRS091726	09172...	9/17/2026	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 9/17/2026	2,167.07	9/17/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 9/10/26 Meeting	60.80	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Craig Rubis	Craig Rubis 9/10/26 Meeting	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 9/10/26 Meeting	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 7/9/26 and 9/10/26 Meetings	206.72	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Dennis Madison	Dennis Madison 7/9/26 and 9/10/26 Meetings	100.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Kent Bargfrede	Kent Bargfrede 9/10/26 Meeting	85.12	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Kent Bargfrede	Kent Bargfrede 9/10/26 Meeting	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	SW MN Housing Partnership -...	Kristie Blankenship 9/10/26 meeting	83.44	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 9/10/26 Meeting	50.00	9/28/2026

Southwest Regional Development Commission
Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register
From 9/1/2026 Through 9/30/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 9/10/26 Meeting	35.72	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman	87.40	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 9/10/26 meeting	69.92	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 9/10/26 meeting	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 9/10/26 meeting	50.16	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 9/10/26 meeting	50.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 8/4/26, 9/3/26 & 9/10/26 Meetings	100.00	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 8/4/26, 9/3/26 & 9/10/26 Meetings	65.36	9/28/2026
APS092426 Commissioners	09282...	9/28/2026	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 8/4/26, 9/3/26 & 9/10/26 Meetings	50.00	9/28/2026
APS090226	61676	9/2/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 7/28/26 - 8/24/26	63.45	9/2/2026
APS090226	61676	9/2/2026	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 7/28/26 - 8/24/26	58.55	9/2/2026
APS090226	61677	9/2/2026	City of Westbrook	Rent of Westbrook Comm Ctr room for Full Commission mtg	65.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61678	9/2/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	3 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	50.15	9/2/2026
APS090226	61678	9/2/2026	Culligan Water Conditioning	3 bottles water, 2 bags salt, cooler rental	13.80	9/2/2026
APS090226	61679	9/2/2026	David R. Samuelson	Mow 8/15 & 8/29	66.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61679	9/2/2026	David R. Samuelson	Mow 8/15 & 8/29	44.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61680	9/2/2026	Fleet Services Division	Monthly lease rent 7/1/26 - 7/31/26	777.33	9/2/2026
APS090226	61681	9/2/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	125.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61681	9/2/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service and support	45.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61682	9/2/2026	MN Association of County Pla...	MACPZA 2026 Annual Conf registration	275.00	9/2/2026
APS090226	61683	9/2/2026	One Office Solution	Meter reading	81.99	9/2/2026
APS090226	61684	9/2/2026	Redwood County Auditor/Tre...	Redwood Co 2025 tax refund to Lower Sioux	1.24	9/2/2026
APS090926	61685	9/9/2026	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop August 2026	52.45	9/9/2026
APS090926	61686	9/9/2026	Country House	Annual Mtg 2026 catering	918.00	9/9/2026
APS090926	61687	9/9/2026	Forum Communications Com...	Explore: SW MN Tourism Digital globe.com	2,000.00	9/9/2026
APS090926	61688	9/9/2026	Jason Nielsen	Jason Nielsen 9/3/26 RLF Meeting	50.00	9/9/2026
APS090926	61689	9/9/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Charge up mini-split, labor	74.52	9/9/2026
APS090926	61689	9/9/2026	Mike's Plumbing & Heating, I...	Charge up mini-split, labor	49.68	9/9/2026
APS090926	61690	9/9/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 9/1/26 - 9/30/26	44.99	9/9/2026
APS090926	61690	9/9/2026	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 9/1/26 - 9/30/26	30.00	9/9/2026
APS090926	61691	9/9/2026	The Computer Man, Inc.	Veeam Data Cloud Microsoft 365 per user monthly - May	26.30	9/9/2026
APS090926	61692	9/9/2026	Western Print Group	2026 Annual Report - 250	1,662.75	9/9/2026
APS090926	61693	9/9/2026	Woodstock Communications	Sept 1 - Sept 30, 2026	74.98	9/9/2026
APS090926	61693	9/9/2026	Woodstock Communications	Sept 1 - Sept 30, 2026	74.97	9/9/2026
APS090926	61694	9/9/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 8/4/26 - 9/2/26	339.03	9/9/2026

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register

From 9/1/2026 Through 9/30/2026

Session ID	Check...	Docume...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amo...	Effective Date
APS090926	61694	9/9/2026	XCEL Energy	Xcel Energy 8/4/26 - 9/2/26	226.02	9/9/2026
APS091726	61695	9/17/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 9/10/26 - 10/9/26	901.20	9/17/2026
APS091726	61695	9/17/2026	Frontier Communications	Frontier 5078360034 9/10/26 - 10/9/26	485.26	9/17/2026
APS091726	61696	9/17/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service & support; final invoices	250.00	9/17/2026
APS091726	61696	9/17/2026	Grants Management Systems...	Monthly license, warranty, service & support; final invoices	90.00	9/17/2026
APS091726	61697	9/17/2026	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS October 2026	64.00	9/17/2026
APS091726	61698	9/17/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 9/1/26	2,755.92	9/17/2026
APS091726	61698	9/17/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 9/1/26	40.00	9/17/2026
APS091726	61698	9/17/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 9/1/26	40.00	9/17/2026
APS091726	61698	9/17/2026	TCM Bank NA	TCM Bank closing date 9/1/26	10.50	9/17/2026
APS091726	61699	9/17/2026	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 8/2/26 - 9/1/26	42.60	9/17/2026
APS092126	61700	9/21/2026	Prairie Home Hospice, Inc	CRLF+RLF Loan Disbursement: Prairie Home Hospice	35,869.24	9/21/2026
APS092126	61700	9/21/2026	Prairie Home Hospice, Inc	CRLF+RLF Loan Disbursement: Prairie Home Hospice	25,108.22	9/21/2026
APS092426	61701	9/24/2026	Malone & Mailander	Legal services re the LLC & Murray Co recorder fee ($10)	260.00	9/24/2026
APS092426	61702	9/24/2026	Carlos and Yolanda Barahona...	Refund: FDC Loan Agreement Balance - Nena's	150.00	9/24/2026
APS092426	61704	9/24/2026	Quill Corporation	Sticky notes, pkg tape, pens, colored copy paper	149.64	9/24/2026
APS092426	61704	9/24/2026	Quill Corporation	Sticky notes, pkg tape, pens, colored copy paper	37.32	9/24/2026
APS092426	61705	9/24/2026	Valley Tree Farm	Refund: CRLF Loan Agreement Balance - Valley Tree Farm	70.50	9/24/2026
CD092426 Aflac	Aflac ...	9/25/2026		Aflac Sept 2026	241.92	9/25/2026
CD092426 Aflac	Aflac ...	9/25/2026		Aflac Sept 2026	37.26	9/25/2026
CD092426 Aflac	Aflac ...	9/25/2026		Aflac Sept 2026	130.26	9/25/2026
CD092226 BCBS	BCBS...	9/21/2026	BlueCross Blue Shield of MN	BCBS Oct 2026	14,993.57	9/21/2026
CD091626 Wex	Wex8...	9/25/2026	Wex Health, Inc.	August 2026 Wex Fees	25.75	9/25/2026
Report Total					136,217.61	

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Kent Bargfrede, Carol Biren, Leah Bittner, Kristie Blankenship, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Pam Cooreman, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Eric Hartman, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, Dennis Madison, Jenny Quade, Craig Rubis, Sherri Thompson, Rick Von Holdt, and Dennis Welgraven
MEMBERS PRESENT VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY:	Commissioner Bob Van Hee
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioners Scott Blom, Dan Delaney, Rod Hamilton (excused), Chris Hollingsworth (excused), Lyndon Johnson, Tim Jones (excused), Steve Kellen (excused), Ron Kottke, Jeff Moen (excused), Bob Paplow, David Sturrock and Mic VanDeVere (excused)
STAFF PRESENT:	Executive Director Jay Trusty, Nadya Bucklin, Sheila Crowley, 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 Bittner to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Bargfrede and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the June & July 2026 receipts and expenditures, July annual meeting minutes and the CERTS contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT
Treasurer Anderson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2026 and August 31, 2026, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Hartman to approve the July 31, 2026 and August 31, 2026 treasurer's report. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the Administrative Report through the end of June, 2026 (end of the fiscal year) and July 2026. She pointed out some line items. There were no questions

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Bittner and seconded by Commissioner Rubis to approve the June 2026 and July 2026 administrative reports. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Nelson gave an update on the progress on the FY25 audit. The auditors anticipate it being done this fall. Then work will begin on the FY26 audit which will put us back on track.

PROJECT REVIEWS

Transportation Planner Webb presented a project review for the City of Fulda's fire hall expansion.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Madison and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve the project review as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-21, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Legislative Report

Committee Chair Carney remarked we are getting into the general election season. The biggest challenge will be that our area will have a lot of new legislators with the retirement of many of our current legislators. Only one incumbent is seeking re-election from the area.

The Coalition of Greater MN Cities (CGMC) and Greater MN Partnership (GMP) will hold their legislative conference on November 12-13 in Waite Park. CGMC/GMP is looking at moving to one conference per year.

NADO's annual training conference will take place in Reno NV on October 19-22.

B. Deep Dive

Webb gave a deep dive on the City of Marshall's Marshall Parks Plan.

C. Economic Development Report

Deputy Director Weis reported that the CEDS committee will meet in September to review the draft CEDS document. The 30-day comment period will be the month of November with submission by the end of December.

Staff have been working on three potential projects to submit for EDA funding. Minnesota West is asking for funding to update equipment for some of their degree areas. They are currently waiting for their SHPO response and public notice requirements. The City of Jackson is looking at an approximately $3.8 million project to add 11 business lots to their industrial park. The Cit of Mountain Lake is looking at building a transloading site.

EECBG has received a 6 month extension. SRDC is also looking for more funds to help a couple more potential projects.

Southwest Initiative Foundation is inviting staff and board members to their Rally Your Region event on September 29.

Staff will be participating in the Career Expos in Worthington and Marshall on September 22 and 23.

Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources has grant money available for removal or treatment of ash trees. Staff have been working with the cities of Jeffers, Storden, Tyler, Ellsworth and Hardwick on submitting grant applications. The grant has a total of $1.7 million with the top ask per grant of $150,000.

D. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Funds available are approximately $514,500 in the RLF account and $168,000 in the CRLF account. Three loans were recently approved.

Staff have been working with the City of Heron Lake to transfer two current loans and an additional $100,000 to Falcon Development Corporation to be used for revolving loans.

PACE

Funds available are approximately $88,000 in the EE-RLF account, $154,600 in the ARRA account and $71,000 in the SEP account. One loan has been approved but has not closed yet.

A few RMEB board members and a few SRDC staff had a call with a credit union out of the cities to be a participatory lender on PACE loans that we do not have the capacity to fund. More discussion is being held by the RMEB committee regarding this partnership.

E. Community Development Report

On August 12 staff assisted MN Energy Resources at a manufactured home park energy efficiency event at Sungold Heights in Worthington.

Grant applications are open for National Electric Infrastructure (NEVI) funding for building convenient, affordable and reliable charging networks along Highways 71, 75, 14 and 59. They are due November 2, 2026.

RMEB will be discussing the 765kwh transmission lines at their next meeting. Another Community Energy Ambassador cohort will be starting soon.

The Nobles County Comprehensive draft plan is being finalized. August 31 will be the kick-off for the Pipestone County Comprehensive plan. The Lyon County Zoning update is about half done.

Staff wrote a grant for the Minneota Public Schools for playground equipment that was awarded for $5,000.

F. Transportation Report
Transportation Advisory Committee will meet on October 8 to build awareness of the upcoming round of MnDOT grant solicitations.

Area Transportation Partnerships (ATP) will meet. ATP 7 on October 9 in Mankato and ATP 8 on October 2 in Marshall.

MnDOT announced that Active Transportation (AT) and Safe Routes to School (SRTS) infrastructure grant solicitation will open September 14.

SRDC will be the lead on the Local Human Services Transit Plan update. This will start in early 2027.

G. Executive Director's Report
Trusty announced that The McKnight Foundation funding was used to update MADO presentation materials and order some swag. The McKnight Foundation has also invited the executive directors to meet at the end of September in Duluth to discuss how everyone can work together to assist the communities we all serve. SRDC offices will be closed Friday, September 25 for carpet cleaning. Staff will work from home or take leave.

H. Chairman's Report
Chair Langseth recognized staff that had employment anniversaries. With Commissioner Benson resigning from the commission that created a vacancy on the Budget & Personnel committee. Commissioner Lori Grant has been appointed to fill that vacancy. Commissioner Mark Haberman has been appointed to fill the ATP 7 SRDC representative position. Langseth encouraged everyone to be safe on the roads during the upcoming harvest season.

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

A. Cottonwood County Commissioners
Commissioner Donna Gravley gave an update on what's been going on in Cottonwood County. Some highlights are: They hired a public works engineer who is working on

getting his license as well as a new veteran's service officer. The county is negotiating with three unions this year. Engineering is happening on a new department of human services campus. New windows have been installed on the courthouse. The county is looking into insurance options and a budget increase of around 6%.

B. Pipestone County Municipalities
No report.

C. City of Worthington
Commissioner Rick Von Holdt gave an update on what's been going on in the City of Worthington. Some highlights are: New bridges have started on the crossovers on I-90 and there will be three new roundabouts in the city. Several apartment buildings have been going up. Fixing of roads, curbs and gutters along with updating infrastructure and sidewalks around the city has been happening. A walking/biking trail from JBS field house to the park has started. Upgrades to Chautauqua Park include a large checkerboard, bean bags and all-inclusive playground equipment. Algae bloom is an issue so the city is experimenting with a $75,000 buoy to work on cleaning it up. Power On Midwest presentation was well attended. Events in Worthington include the International Festival, Windsurfing Regatta, and King Turkey Days. In 2027 delegates from Worthington will travel to their sister city of Crailsheim, Germany to attend the 80th anniversary of being sister cities.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Eric Hartman
SRDC Secretary

Approved by:

Paul Langseth
SRDC Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Vice-Chairman Dennis Welgraven, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Dennis Madison, Mic VanDeVere, and Rick Von Holdt
MEMBERS PRESENT VIA INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY:	Bob Van Hee
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Commissioners Eric Hartman (excused), Chris Hollingsworth and Paul Langseth (excused)
STAFF PRESENT:	Executive Director Jay Trusty, Nadya Bucklin, Sheila Crowley, Kim Murphy, Melissa Nelson, Kathy Schreiber, and Jason Walker

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Byrnes to approve the agenda as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the August receipts and expenditures. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

FINANCE REPORT
Treasurer Anderson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of September 30, 2026, showing bank accounts and fund designations. Welgraven questioned the Magic Fund rate and if it was better than the banks.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Gravley and seconded by Commissioner VanDeVere to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson reviewed the Administrative Report through the end of August 2026. She pointed out some line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner Haberman to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-10, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

A. Legislative Committee Report
Committee Chair Carney commented that early voting has started. Senator Klobuchar recently visited the region and stopped to see the Wonder World project in Slayton.

B. Deep Dive
Trusty gave a deep dive on the SRDC's 5-year assessment.

C. Executive Director's Report
Trusty reported that the CERTs executive directors met via zoom to discuss their strategic plan. The Great Plains Institute (GPI) has hired Lotte Schlegel as their new director.

Weis, Trusty and Carney will attend the NADO Annual Training Conference this month in Reno, Nevada.

Commissioner Anderson gave an update on the Lyon County landfill annual meeting because Trusty could not attend.

Trusty attended the Brookings County zoning meeting to see how they are handling the 765kw transmission line project. Discussion followed by commissioners.

The auditors have asked for the MD&A report from Trusty. The audit will be wrapped up soon and they will start FY2026 audit.

D. Chairman's Report
N/A

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

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

ADJOURNMENT
Vice-Chairman Welgraven adjourned the meeting at 4:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:	Approved by:
Eric Hartman SRDC Secretary	Paul Langseth SRDC Chairman

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
CONTRACT WITH
EXPLORE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
FOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES

THIS CONTRACT for technical services is entered into this 1st day of January, 2027, by and between the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC), and Explore Southwest Minnesota (CLIENT).

WITNESSED; In consideration of the mutual promises and covenants herein contained, the SRDC and CLIENT agree to the following terms and conditions:

The Term of this agreement commences January 1, 2027, and shall continue through December 31, 2027. The following work activities will be provided:

I. **Financial Services will be provided to Explore SW MN as per the attached work activity list-including Explore SW MN responsibilities. (Exhibit A)**

II. **Payment for Services**

A. Explore SW MN will make payment to the SRDC. Statements will be billed in conjunction with regular meetings of Explore SW MN.

B. The following rates apply for Calendar Year 2027 and are based on the activity to be performed as per Exhibits A.

i. Exhibit A - $85.00

III. **Hold Harmless**

Explore SW MN agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the SRDC 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.

IV. **Cancellation**

This contract may be cancelled by Explore SW MN or SRDC at any time, with cause, upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party. In the event of such a cancellation, SRDC shall be entitled to payment, determined on a pro-rata basis, for work or services satisfactorily performed.

V. **Assignment**

SRDC shall neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this contract without prior written consent of Explore SW MN. SRDC reserves the right to utilize the most appropriate personnel and/or time availability of staff members to perform the stated activities.

EXHIBIT A — FINANCIAL SERVICES

- Maintain an accounting system with a separate fund code for Explore SW MN activities on a Calendar Year basis. All revenues and expenses will be included by separate project areas as set up to track activities of Explore SW MN.

- A financial status report will be provided to all regular meetings of Explore SW MN and other meetings as requested.

- Financial sections of any required grant/contract reports and updates will be prepared as needed.

- Requests of funds will be completed as instructed annually for county membership fees or as indicated in grant or contract agreements.

- A separate savings account will be maintained with transfers made to the general SRDC checking account as expenditures are paid on behalf of Explore SW MN.

- Prepare general financial administration assistance and/or referrals to agencies that can address concerns of Explore SW MN in relation to tax information, insurance, etc.

- Explore SW MN financial information will be included in the annual SRDC audit.

Explore SW MN Responsibilities

- Provide the SRDC with all approved expenditures and financial information necessary to properly account for Explore SW MN project funds in a timely manner.

- Keep all contract/grant information current with any grantor organizations and provide any necessary information in completing reports.

- Provide information to SRDC to request membership fees and any other funds.

- Pay the SRDC $300 for inclusion of financial records in the annual fiscal year audit.

VI. 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.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION	**EXPLORE SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA**
_____	Jane M Langseth
Chairperson	Chairperson
_____	Kenzi Klein
Executive Director	Board Member
Date _____	Date 10-27-26

It should be noted that billable expenses will be limited to tasks not normal to the Overall Work Program of the SRDC.

f:\...\finance\board\BANKACCT INFO\BANKACCT -Current FY\bankacctFY27Entire Year.xls

TREASURER'S REPORT
MONTH END October 31, 2026

Bank Account Information

INVESTMENTS -General Fund

Bank	Amount	Due Date	APY Interest Rate
United Prairie Bank - Worthington	$ 114,178.82	5/30/2027	3.81%
Minnwest Bank	100,000.00	02/21/27	3.50%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X8562)	127,697.92	09/02/27	4.00%
Currie State Bank-Currie (X0010)	108,382.07	08/26/27	4.00%
First Independent Bank/Intrafi (X8022 - X4763)	101,997.72	01/22/27	3.91%
First Independent Bank/Intrafi (X2281 - X4747)	101,997.72	01/22/27	3.91%
Magic Fund	100,013.53	11/27/26	4.55%

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

TOTAL INVESTMENTS	**754,267.78**

ACCOUNTS-Dedicated and Undedicated Funds Program Accounts			**10/31/2026**
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Checking	$	2,968.03
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings		379,910.38
Minnwest Bank South-Slayton	Savings-F & H		8,426.17
First Independent Bank-Russell	Savings		87,039.35
United Prairie Bank-Worthington	Savings		61,160.21
Jackson Federal S&L (Worthington Federal S&L)	Savings		85,745.81
	TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS	**$**	**625,249.95**

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

	10/31/2026	**10/31/2025**
Total Investments	$ 754,267.78	$ 758,230.28
Total Cash Accounts	$ 625,249.95	$ 612,045.15
Total Dedicated Funds	$ (436,764.62)	$ (453,628.56)
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CASHFLOW (	**$ 942,753.11**	**$ 916,646.87**

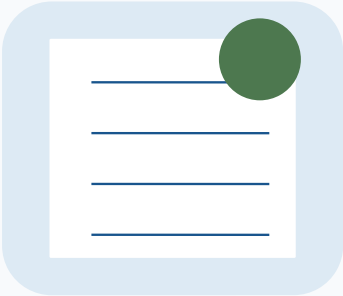
SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNTS-NonAdministrative		
EDA Planning Funds	$ 51	
EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	289,901	
C-EDA Revolving Loan Funds-(business loans only)	203,136	
PACE Funds-EE-RLF	88,391	
PACE Funds-(loans only)	155,210	PACE Loan Funds
PACE Funds-SEP-(loans only)	71,902	**315,503**
PACE Funds-(Electric Companies-funds to pay off Counties & admin)	37,235	
PACE (County Funds used to pay down on REED loan) $88,704	-	starting December 2026
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS	**$ 845,826**	

Account Title	September 2026 Actual	Total Budget - FY27 Operating Budget	FY27 YTD Actual	Total Budget Variance - FY27 Operating Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
					25.00	YTD Comparison % of Budget
Tax Revenue	63	485,000	1,773	483,227	0.4%	When current taxes rec'd, pymts primarily rec'd in Dec and June
RLF Admin (Covid and Regular)	7,353	98,000	21,733	76,267	22.2%	
Contract Revenue	61,216	524,557	116,499	408,058	22.2%	Based on actiivity to date
PACE Loan Orig/Misc	0	6,800	0	6,800	0.0%	Loan Orig fee mostly received in Dec & June (code 4321)
Rental Revenue/Other Revenue	0	1,700	875	825	51.5%	GL 4648, 4628
Bank Savings and CD Interest Revenue	4,214	68,340	6,748	61,592	9.9%	GL 4651
MnDOT Revenue	0	75,000	0	75,000	0.0%	Based on Billings - Yearly amt is $75000, bill 3 times a year, 1st one is in Dec
Dept.Commerce Revenue.	9,774	112,000	28,507	83,493	25.5%	Certs (Regular), EECBG and State Comp. Grant
EDA Revenue	8,075	70,000	26,685	43,315	38.1%	Federal Share
PACE Loan Interest Received	0	18,000	9,843	8,157	54.7%	GL 4656, funds 70,72,73,75,76
Total Revenue	**90,696**	**1,459,397**	**212,664**	**1,246,733**	**14.6%**	
Salaries & Fringe	93,084	1,203,194	247,462	955,732	20.6%	Includes FY27 Salaries/Fringe (including 15% increase to Health Insurance/H.S.A.) also includes MN Pd Leave
Travel	4,466	60,000	8,519	51,481	14.2%	Staff Travel
Committee Expenses	1,975	30,000	6,726	23,274	22.4%	Includes Board Retreat, Orientation & Annual Meeting
Postage Expenses	10	5,349	30	5,319	0.6%	not including housing reimbursement
Insurance	0	10,000	2,184	7,816	21.8%	Insurance Dividend/Our portion of Bldg Ins,Cyber Security Ins
Office Space Costs	737	15,000	2,347	12,653	15.6%	Utilities
Equipment/Building Updates	50	5,000	50	4,950	1.0%	
Communications	603	9,219	1,809	7,410	19.6%	
Printing/Publication	2,633	8,000	4,423	3,577	55.3%	Annual Report designed in house, sent out for printing, includes outreach items/mktg
Office Supply/Meeting Expense	232	8,000	1,292	6,708	16.1%	
Program Supply	34	0	34	(34)		Reimbursed by Contracts
Computer	76	53,000	12,668	40,332	23.9%	Includes 2 laptops
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	260	5,000	410	4,590	8.2%	
Audit	0	21,000	0	21,000	0.0%	Audits that may get done by Kinner & Co during FY27
Dues/Memberships/Other	0	5,000	0	5,000	0.0%	
Finance Fees &Exp	43	1,000	119	882	11.9%	Includes bank fees
County repayment for USDA REED loan	0	7,000	0	7,000	0.0%	Paid in December
Debt Service-Principal/Interest	0	10,000	0	10,000	0.0%	Paid in December to the State of MN (Princ paid, but Int is internal tracking)
Total Expenses	**104,201**	**1,455,762**	**288,071**	**1,167,691**	**19.8%**	
Revenues over Expenses	**(13,505)**	**3,635**	**(75,407)**			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | CEDS | EDA PLANNING

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)



2027-2031 CEDS

The CEDS Committee reviewed the draft September 28. November is the 30-day public comment period. The SRDC Board will consider approval in December before submission to EDA.

DEC 31
EDA SUBMISSION DUE

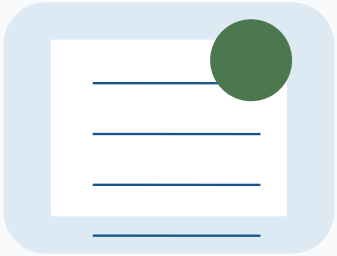
CEDS TIMELINE

SEP 28	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	DEC 31
Committee review	Public comment	Board review	EDA deadline

ED PROS NETWORK

NOVEMBER 2 | 1:00 PM

Regional economic development professionals will meet with Andrew Gag of USDA to discuss business and community programs. The August 3 meeting focused on housing and small-business financing. All interested regional partners are welcome.



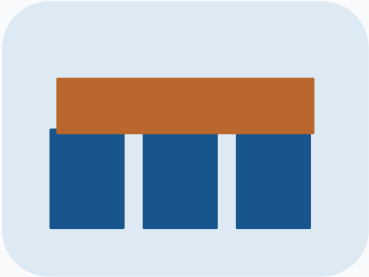
EDA INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | EDA INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

EDA DISASTER FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



EDA is accepting disaster NOFO applications. An 80% grant rate may be available when applicants meet two qualifying distress criteria.

UP TO 80%
POTENTIAL GRANT RATE

Eligible counties

Cottonwood • Jackson • Murray • Nobles
Pipestone • Redwood • Rock

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

MINNESOTA WEST	Facility and equipment upgrades	**Application submitted**
CITY OF JACKSON	Industrial park expansion	**Application submitted**
MOUNTAIN LAKE	Municipal electric improvements	**Potential project**

MINNESOTA WEST: EDA APPLICATION

$6.95M
PROJECT COST

$5.56M
EDA CONSIDERATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | ACTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

CITY OF JACKSON | INDUSTRIAL PARK

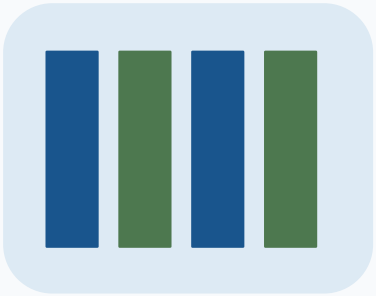


11
NEW INDUSTRIAL LOTS

$2.54M
EDA REQUEST | 60%

Jackson Economic Development Corporation and the City of Jackson submitted a $4,238,580 project application to create 11 industrial lots.

CITY OF ADRIAN | ELECTRIC SUBSTATION



$3.26M
TOTAL PROJECT

$1.63M
EDA GRANT | 50%

SRDC administers the PWEAA grant and provides financial services, coordinating with the City of Adrian, DGR Engineering and EDA.

PROJECT PROGRESS

- Revised site certificate submitted for EDA review
- Transformer and circuit breaker RFP submitted for review
- Construction bid package design underway

OCTOBER 2027 — Projected completion; transformer lead times may affect the schedule.

CITY OF JACKSON | INDUSTRIAL PARK EXPANSION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | ENERGY PLANNING & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT

Energy Planning for Small Communities

EECBG supports energy audits, engineering studies and resiliency planning to help communities reduce energy use and emissions and improve efficiency. No local match is required.

$99,959.78	$20,000	10%
SRDC GRANT AWARD	MAX PER GRANT	ADMINISTRATION

ELIGIBILITY & EXTENSION

Current eligibility: all regional cities and Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Pipestone and Rock counties (under 15,000 population).

Proposed revision: May 31, 2027 end date; 20,000 population limit, adding Redwood County. Extension is pending formal contract revision.

APPROVED PROJECTS | APPLICATIONS STILL OPEN

SLAYTON | HADLEY | COMFREY | ROCK COUNTY | CITY OF PIPESTONE

REGIONAL COLLABORATION & EVENTS

Youth Committee	Quarterly career and technical education support. Last met May 7; next meeting Nov. 5, 2026.
Manufacturing Association	Initial discussions on a regional association, including food manufacturers.
Rally Your Region	Sept. 29 event fostered education and economic development partnerships.

Rural Voice Town Hall: Housing focus, Oct. 6 in Marshall | RTCC: SRDC serves as a regional economic development leader

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | CONFERENCES, CAREERS & WORKFORCE

NADO ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

October 19–22, 2026 | Reno, Nevada

4 DAYS

SRDC participated in sessions on regional collaboration, revolving loan funds, data, food systems, energy and funding strategies.

LAKE TAHOE

Regional collaboration

Governance and partnerships, followed by an interactive Mini Business Walk.

RLF PRACTICE

Grow America session

Survey findings and participant priorities for future action.

IMPACT AWARDS

Project showcase

Attendees explored award-winning projects and shared ideas.

Conference information: nado.org/nado-events/2026-annual-training-conference/

CAREER EXPOS | CONNECTING STUDENTS & EMPLOYERS

The Career Is Right

SRDC helped facilitate career expos and hosted an interactive student booth.

1,960

SMSU | SEPT. 22

1,200

MN WEST | SEPT. 23

REGIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT

MURRAY / LYON CEO

Oct. 7: MCC, TMB and RTR students learned about SRDC programs, including RLF and PACE.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Nov. 12: Minnesota West roadshow explores workforce data, talent retention and regional opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | FOOD SYSTEM INITIATIVES

MDA AGRI WORKS GRANT AWARDED

SW MN GROWERS CONNECTION

A three-year effort to connect regional farmers and food producers.



The award will support outreach, business relationships, peer mentoring, networking and educational resources for local producers.

AGRI MEAT, POULTRY, EGG & MILK GRANTS

EGAN'S MARKET

Advanced to second review

Requested a compliant scale/printer, meat saw and hydraulic stuffers to replace aging equipment and address worker safety.

EDGERTON FOOD CENTER

Application not awarded

Requested a meat former and two efficient coolers. SRDC encouraged an energy audit and consideration of PACE financing.

ADDITIONAL RETAIL GRANT ASSISTANCE

CO-RETAIL INTEGRATION GRANT

After attending the 2026 National Rural Grocery Summit in Fargo, Edgerton Food Center requested SRDC assistance strengthening a new grant application. Awards are expected later this fall.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | C-RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF

SRDC REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

A five-member committee oversees the COVID-19 RLF and Traditional RLF, meeting as needed. Four new projects were approved at the October 14 and October 29 meetings.

FINANCING LOCAL BUSINESS GROWTH

SRDC RLF projects are generally financed with an interest rate at 75% of prime. The committee may consider the lowest allowable rate for eligible child care applications, subject to review.

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR LENDING | OCTOBER 9, 2026

$438,695.63
TRADITIONAL RLF

$181,910.32
COVID-19 RLF

APPROVED, NOT YET CLOSED

Redwood County $150,000
Pipestone County $25,000
Lyon County $80,000
Nobles County $57,500

APPROVED, NOT YET CLOSED

Nobles County $60,000
Pipestone County $35,000

C-RLF funds remain federalized for seven years.

APPLICATIONS + BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS

Apply online through Presta: app.letspresta.com/signup/32/85
Site visits occur at least every three years and may include business interviews and communications spotlights.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | CONTRACTED RLF | REGIONAL SERVICES

BUSINESS SUPPORT + CONTRACTED FUNDS

SRDC assists with business start-ups, retention, expansion, financing and administration of three contracted revolving loan fund programs.

JACKSON COUNTY RLF

5 active loans. Funds are available for new projects.

HERON LAKE RLF

CDBG-funded lending within a 20-mile radius of Heron Lake. SRDC assists with GMS entries and amortization schedules. Funds are available for eligible gap financing.

FALCON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Local economic development lending within 30 miles of Heron Lake. FDC funds are not federalized; Davis-Bacon requirements do not apply to construction financed by these funds.

$10,000

CURRENT FDC LENDING CAPACITY

+$100,000

ANTICIPATED CAPACITY + TRANSFERS

FDC has six board members and last met May 6, 2026, with MN DEED regarding CDBG funds and Local Development Organizations. Two Heron Lake RLF loan transfers are also anticipated.

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

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY

PACE REPORT | November 2026

FINANCING ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS | PACE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PACE FINANCING FOR LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS

PACE helps eligible small businesses, agri-businesses and certain nonprofits finance improvements that reduce energy use. Property owners are encouraged to explore projects that improve efficiency and lower operating costs.

NEW FINANCING OPPORTUNITY

RMEB is working with a credit union to support larger projects. Outreach materials and the PACE application are being updated.

FUNDS AVAILABLE | AUGUST 31, 2026

EE-RLF	ARRA	SEP
$88,332.44	**$154,694.47**	**$71,365.59**

$314,392.50 Combined reported balances (before the pending $150,000 solar loan)

PROJECTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

$150,000 solar project approved in Faribault County; not yet closed. Two additional projects are in the application phase.

PACE Committee

Met September 28. Members: Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere and Paap. Meetings are held as needed, often alongside RMEB.

DELINQUENCY: One Pipestone County property owner has unpaid 2024 and 2025 property taxes.

PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY

PACE REPORT | November 2026

ENERGY AUDITS | APPLICATIONS | SUCCESS STORIES

HOW PACE FINANCING BEGINS

01

ENERGY AUDIT

An energy assessment identifies potential improvements and savings.

02

CONTRACTOR ESTIMATE

Obtain project costs and scope from a qualified contractor.

03

PACE APPLICATION

Submit the application through SRDC's online platform.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Audit referrals may be made to RETAP, MnTAP, CEE or EnergySmart. SRDC staff will also explore opportunities with MnCIFA to expand PACE financing options in Southwest Minnesota.

BUSINESS SUCCESS STORIES

BROADWAY BEAUTY SALON

TALLY HO KOFFIEE

Read the stories at swrdc.org or contact SRDC for details about PACE-supported business improvements.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PACE OR ENERGY AUDITS?

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | SOLID WASTE & NATURAL RESOURCES | ENERGY

SOLID WASTE COMMISSION

The Southwest Solid Waste Commission convened September 28, 2026. Members shared updates on developments in their respective counties.

NOV 23

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Regional coordination

County representatives continue to share local solid waste and natural resource updates.

RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD (RMEB)

RMEB met September 28 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss current regional energy projects. The Garvin construction-site tour was postponed until the first half of 2027.

POWERON 765 kV TRANSMISSION

Community Development Director Walker presented and answered questions at the Lincoln County Board meeting on October 20. Community Director Walker is available to present to other county boards.

GREEN AMMONIA PROJECT

$100K

RURAL CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

RMEB received funding to study using curtailed wind energy to produce ammonia locally in Minnesota. Great Plains Institute is developing a policy roadmap; Conservative Energy Network will convene the MN Made Ammonia Coalition and advance policy discussions.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | RENEWABLE ENERGY | SITING & PARTNERSHIPS

GREEN AMMONIA & REGIONAL ENERGY ENGAGEMENT

October 14 | Midwest Funders Panel

Community Development Director Walker participated in a McKnight Foundation session on green ammonia, industrial decarbonization and community support for clean energy.

R-STEP | MINNESOTA SITING COLLABORATIVE

SRDC helped develop content for the Minnesota Siting Collaborative website, a one-stop resource on renewable energy and data-center siting. Staff engaged RMEB, developers, farmers and city leaders on Community Benefits Agreements (CBAs).

September 30 | MnSEIA Annual Conference

Walker joined the “Scaling Solar Through Smarter Siting” panel, discussing more predictable siting, permitting and collaborative solar development.

Morrison County | Technical Assistance

Walker is assisting with comprehensive-plan and renewable-energy ordinance updates during the county’s renewable-energy moratorium.

UPCOMING | NOVEMBER 20

Walker is scheduled to speak at the Minnesota Farmers Union Conference on “Understanding Data Center Development through Policy.”

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | ENERGY | WATER & COMMUNITY BENEFITS

DWSMA | DRINKING WATER SUPPLY MANAGEMENT AREAS

GPI and SRDC hosted a July 23 workshop with the City of Adrian on potential solar development within its drinking water supply management area. Staff updated regional development organizations in September and are discussing possible solar sites with Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water.

GREAT PLAINS INSTITUTE | CAROLYN FOUNDATION

$30K

SUBCONTRACT

August 2025–December 2026: SRDC is identifying priority community benefits from renewable energy. Staff helped create a CERTs online siting resource and gathered input from RMEB, communities and other partners about solar community-based agreements.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT ROUNDTABLES

Virtual discussions held October 22 and November 5 following a GPI webinar.

CERTS – MCKNIGHT | SITING INFORMATION

SRDC is working with CERTs at the University of Minnesota to refresh information about siting wind, solar, energy storage and transmission projects, reflecting recent changes in the siting landscape.

RESOURCE cleanenergyresourceteams.org/minnesota-siting-collaborative

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | LAND USE | PLANNING & ZONING

LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

400

SLAYTON SURVEY RESPONSES

City of Slayton: Planner Webb and Community Development Director Walker held the second steering committee meeting October 13. The November final meeting will prioritize plan action steps.

Nobles County | Comprehensive Plan

County staff and the steering committee completed review. A 30-day public comment period is next.

Pipestone County | Comprehensive Plan Update

The kickoff meeting was August 31 in Pipestone. Fall activities include a community survey and a November SOAR analysis meeting.

PARKS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Marshall | Master Parks Plan

Development Planner Webb and Community Director Walker presented to the Marshall Community Services Board, DEI Commission and City Council.

MACPZA Annual Conference

Development Planner Webb attended the Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators conference in Mankato, October 7–9.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | RSDP | ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES

SW RSDP ANNUAL MEETING

NOV 17

MADISON, MINNESOTA

Southwest RSDP will hold its annual meeting Tuesday, November 17, at the Madison Mercantile, a community hub, coffee house and small business incubator in a former lumber yard and hardware store. Work groups and steering committees from all four RSDP focus areas, along with the Southwest board, are invited to celebrate the year's work and look ahead.

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

$1.7 MILLION **AVAILABLE ACROSS BOTH APPLICATIONS**

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is accepting two concurrent applications. Eligible applicants may apply to either or both programs. Independent and special school districts, Tribal contract schools, and transportation providers or utilities representing a district may apply.

EQUIPMENT

Up to three new electric school buses or repowering existing buses; charging infrastructure; and vehicle and charger procurement administration.

PLANNING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Readiness plans, needs assessments, scoping, engagement, equipment research, and federal grant application preparation.

80–90% of bus cost; 65–95% of other eligible expenses, based on district criteria.



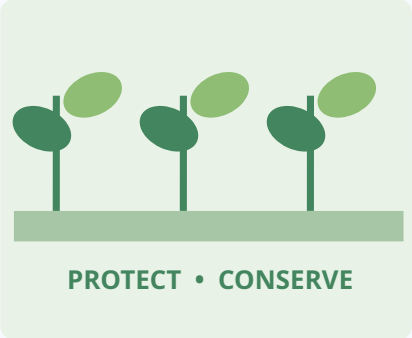
Planning awards: up to $27,000

Deadline: December 31, 2026 · 5 PM CT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | ENRTF GRANTS | CERTs

ENRTF COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM



The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Community Grants Program supports projects that protect, conserve, preserve or enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. It seeks to broaden access to funding, particularly for communities adversely affected by pollution and environmental degradation.

TWO-STAGE APPLICATION PROCESS

01 CONCEPT NOTE

Brief outline of the project idea, objectives and planned approach.

02 FULL APPLICATION

Only applicants invited to Stage 2 submit a full application.

CERTs is helping communities and organizations develop concept note ideas.

CERTS STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

OCT

19

CERTs staff attended a retreat at the University of Minnesota East Bank campus on October 19. The day focused on developing a new strategic plan, to be completed in 2027 and implemented over the following four years. CERTs is gathering input from staff, steering committee members and partners through surveys, interviews and in-person meetings.

2027 New strategic plan scheduled for completion

TRANSPORTATION REPORT | NOVEMBER 2026

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | ATPs | PLANNING | ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SRTS

AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATPs)

ATP 7 • MANKATO

Friday, January 8 | 10 AM

ATP 8 • WILLMAR

Friday, December 11 | 10 AM

MnDOT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SRTS GRANTS

2026 Infrastructure Solicitations

MnDOT State Aid opened concurrent solicitations September 14, 2026, supporting bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements for eligible local entities.

$4.8M
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

$4.0M
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

AWARD RANGE

$50,000 – $600,000

No local match requirement stated in the supplied announcement.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

SEP 14	OCT 26	JAN 22	MAY 28
Solicitations open	Full applications begin	Applications close	Selections by

AT: Greater Minnesota outside the seven-county metro • SRTS: Statewide

TRANSPORTATION REPORT | NOVEMBER 2026

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE | ATPs | PLANNING | ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SRTS

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL & TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

NATIONAL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

Minneapolis | October 20–22, 2026

400+
PARTICIPANTS

46
STATES



Planner Webb attended.

Conference sessions explored creative SRTS planning, crossing guard programs, microtransit safety, and use of Strava data for grant writing and trail management.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CTS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5 • MINNEAPOLIS

Planner Webb will present a case study on school bus stop-arm cameras in Marshall and their impact on student safety outcomes.

PORTABLE TRAIL COUNTERS AVAILABLE

COUNT TRAIL USERS. STRENGTHEN GRANT APPLICATIONS.

SRDC portable counters provide trail-use data for funding applications and planning. Contact Planner Webb to request a counter.

chrisw@swrdc.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | OPERATIONS & NADO CONFERENCE

BUILDING OWNERSHIP TRANSITION

Melissa and Jay continue coordinating the transfer of the building from the City to SRDC. Paul Malone is assisting with legal work as the ownership structure is developed.

FINANCIAL AUDITS

FY 2025
AUDIT APPROVED

The FY 2025 audit is complete and was approved by the Audit Committee on November 6. Melissa and the audit team have begun work on FY 2026 to return the organization to its regular audit schedule, with progress planned before tax season.

NADO ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE | RENO, OCTOBER 19–22



Minnesota delegation to NADO (left to right): Robin Weis, SRDC; Miron Carney, SRDC; Darla Waldner, NWRDC and NADO Board Member; Jay Trusty, SRDC; Staci Headley, R5DC; Cal Larson, HRDC; Jim Retka, NWRDC; Jeff Phillips, R5DC.

Conference highlights: AI, data centers and regional development

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NOVEMBER 2026 | REGIONAL LEADERSHIP & LOOKING AHEAD

NADO: LEARNING AND FUTURE CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Robin Weis, Miron Carney and Jay Trusty attended NADO's Annual Training Conference in Reno. Jay participated in sessions on artificial intelligence and data centers; additional details are included in the NADO ATC report.

2027 **BUFFALO, NEW YORK**

2028 **MINNEAPOLIS**

The 2028 conference in Minneapolis could provide an opportunity for senior staff and Executive Committee members to attend, as SRDC offered during the previous Minneapolis conference. This may be considered during FY 2029 budget planning.

MADO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS | SHARED PRIORITIES

01 Planning assistance for small communities

02 Staff capacity for work without dedicated funding sources

MADO Executive Directors met via Zoom near the end of October to discuss shared priorities for the McKnight Foundation. Jay was also asked to develop a short orientation curriculum for RDC boards and commissions about the Regional Development Act and commission responsibilities.

REGIONAL ELECTION REVIEW

A brief synopsis of regional election results will be prepared, including how changes may affect SRDC Commission membership.

NADO ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT | NOVEMBER 12, 2026

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 | RENO, NEVADA



October 19–22, 2026 • Peppermill Resort Spa Casino • Reno, Nevada

Learning Lab — Crisis Communications Essentials: Proactive Planning for the Unpredictable

Sarah Broberg, Formation PR + Brand, led the participants in some exercises in crisis communications including dealing with reporters, Mayors and social media. The most interesting part of the session for me was searching for the AI response from Google and ChatGPT to the question, "What are the public perception vulnerabilities for the Southwest Regional Development Commission?" Both sources returned similar information, most of it sourced from the SRDC's website and social media accounts. This is a positive for us as an organization as it means we are adequately controlling the flow of information about ourselves.

Conversation Café: Housing Solutions

As most of us are aware, Housing continues to be a challenge to development, especially in rural America. There were many NADO members in attendance who asked questions and shared insights into things that they were trying to address their own specific needs. Many regions, even if they could find financing and contractors willing to do the work, are suffering from a lack of availability, with projects being pushed 2 or 3 years into the future to accommodate construction timelines. Childcare also dovetails with this problem as shortages of workers require as much participation in the workforce as possible.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 | RENO, NEVADA | CONTINUED

Opening Plenary: Main Street Matters

The conference opening plenary session featured remarks from Jen Tune, Executive Director of Main Street Gardnerville. Located an hour south of Reno, Gardnerville is a community of approximately 6,200 residents and holds the distinction of being the first community in Nevada to earn the Main Street designation. Jen gave a presentation on the team that put together the Main Street program and how many volunteer hours and local investment dollars went into shoring up the main street business community. Jen was introduced by Christine Brandon, Executive Director of the Western Nevada Development District. Like the SRDC, Western Nevada covers nine counties. Unlike Minnesota, Nevada only has 17 counties.



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | KEYNOTE & WORKFORCE

Keynote Plenary: Why You Need to Think Like a Hacker

Ted Harrington, Executive Partner, Independent Security Evaluators gave the keynote. Ted leads a team of ethical (white hat) hackers that tries to solve security issues before they occur. Drawing on his experience leading teams that have helped organizations such as Google, Amazon, and Netflix identify and address security vulnerabilities, Ted explored the mindset that drives hackers to question assumptions, uncover hidden weaknesses, and see opportunities others miss. In his presentation he highlighted that hackers are:

- Curious
- Non-conforming
- Committed
- Creative

The Hacker Ethos is
- Break the rules
- Challenge assumptions
- Ask "What if…"

He also highlighted three of the common problem-solving misconceptions.

1. It'll work the way it's supposed to (no, it won't).
2. People will do what you expect (lol, no, they won't).
3. No one would think to do that (lol! Yes, they will).



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 | KEYNOTE & WORKFORCE | CONTINUED

Breakout Session — Childcare as Economic Infrastructure: Workforce Strategies That Work

This was a panel made up of Megan Ressler, Senior Program Officer, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Mark Farley, Executive Director Upper Cumberland Development District, Megan Spurgeon, Director, Empower Upper Cumberland, and Sheridan Penney, Childcare Fellow, Working Families Bipartisan Policy Center.
The discussion was all about the barriers to establishing center-based childcare and how local communities can overcome them. The most intriguing idea that I saw was retrofitting existing vacant storefronts in the downtown area into childcare centers. The weak point of the discussion was a lack of much discussion at all of in-home models.



Breakout Session — Inside Out AI: Mastering Internal AI Policies and External AI Relations

This session highlighted how best to make a strong internal AI use policy for RDOs. Discussion about using a software called GOVAI that is being used in the Southeast within the SERDI footprint. The key take away for me from this session was that the primary users of our website are not the public directly, but AI engines trying to answer questions. Since the primary target of our website is AI, our website should be optimized for AI. In June of 2026 a threshold was reached where 58% of all web-searches were AI driven.

NADO Midwest Chapter Meeting

As always, it was interesting to see what the other Midwest states were up to. The Midwest chapter includes the six states in the Chicago EDA region, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Each state gave a brief update on anything new happening in their state. There was much discussion around data centers and AI and the impacts on local, regional and state policy. NADO Secretary Melissa Kramer Batke, Executive Director of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has taken over the Executive Committee position held by former Region 9 Executive Director Nicole Griensewic.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21 | DATA CENTERS

Breakout Session: Centering Development — Industry Perspectives on Data Centers

An interesting set of speakers representing actual leaders in data center development brought a different perspective than what we usually hear. Jennifer Paedon, Amazon Web Services, Jose Burnes, QTS, Manager for Economic Development and Khara Boender, Data Center Coalition spoke about the industry's needs and history. I liken it to the beginning of the wind industry in our region; developers came out of the woodwork and not all of them were reputable or knew what they were doing. Jose spoke to the opposition to data centers and basically said if a community doesn't want them, they pick somewhere else, there are lots of places they can go. If the proposed developer is keeping everything a secret and making everyone sign NDAs chances are they are building on spec and don't have an actual client yet. I basically heard the same thing from the session later in the day from the RDO perspective that the data center players who know what they are doing are very easy to work with but the "sketchy" developers raise all sorts of red flags.

A key thing for a region, is maybe start at a different place by identifying what the "best size" data center would be for a community rather than waiting to be approached. Khara spoke about the furor surrounding decommissioning and stated that they really don't know what that looks like as it has yet to be done. Data centers typically just get retrofitted and keep being used so they don't really have any boots on the ground data and what they have is primarily theoretical at this point.

Breakout Session: Data Centers 201 — Growing Your Expertise in a Growing Field

Building on the earlier session, this session was all about what NADO members are seeing in the field around data center development. Celena Green from Northwestern Indiana RPC spoke about the 5 existing data centers in her region, all of which are contributing to the economic growth of a region that hasn't seen much in the last few decades. Texas is working on developing some model documents, especially Community Benefits Agreements and has put together a "Rapid Response Team" made up of County Judges to deal with the challenges around data center development. Jeremy Smith from the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency, just across the border from Reno, discussed how the scale of the project should identify which zoning policy should govern and that small data centers in mixed use developments may be the ideal solutions to empty storefronts and strip malls.

NADO ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT | NOVEMBER 12, 2026

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 | LEADERSHIP & RECREATION

Conversation Café: Building and Sustaining a High-Performing Team

An interesting session on recruitment and retention strategies that ended up being more focused on the different generations in the workplace and how to mesh their different working styles into a cohesive team. There was much discussion about remote work and its impact on talent recruitment and how it affects the team aspects of an organization both positively and negatively. The group only got through the first question and felt that a whole day could have been dedicated to just personnel and organizational issues.

Closing Plenary: Building Economies Through Outdoor Recreation with the Confluence of States

The Confluence of States, a bipartisan coalition of state offices of outdoor recreation, is helping communities harness the $1.3 trillion outdoor recreation industry for economic development, community prosperity, public health, and conservation. Now with 22 outdoor recreation offices, these leaders provide critical conduits within state governments, connecting internally across agencies and externally to industry, local and federal government, and the broader outdoor recreation community. A panel of Confluence member state outdoor recreation directors facilitated by the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable connected real examples from across the country to the pressing needs and emerging opportunities in front of Regional Development Organizations. The discussion highlighted the role of partnerships among government, regional organizations, businesses and industry, and community leaders and local organizations.





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