



HELLO  
*May*

**FULL COMMISSION MEETING**

**PUBLIC HEARING - 3:30 p.m.**

**Full Commission Meeting immediately following**

Thursday, May 9, 2024

Community Center - Balaton, MN



**SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

# Southwest Regional Development Commission— Full Commission

\* Board of Directors

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

## SRDC Full Commission Membership

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

## SRDC Board of Director Membership

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



Thursday, May 9, 2024  
3:30 pm

Community Center  
134 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Balaton, MN

## AGENDA

<b>#</b>	<b>Time</b>		<b>Page</b>
1	3:30	<b>Call to Order &amp; Pledge of Allegiance</b>	
2	3:35	<b>Introductions</b>	
3	3:40	<b>Additions to and Approval of Agenda</b> <b>Action Needed: Approve Agenda</b>	
4	3:45	<b>Commissioner Appointments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Carrie Bendix – SW MN Private Industry Council (Two-year term)</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approve Appointment</b>	
5	3:50	<b>Consent Agenda Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> March Receipts &amp; Expenditures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> March 14, 2024 FC Meeting Minutes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> April 11, 2024 BOD Meeting Minutes</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Consent Agenda Items</b>	5-9 10-18 19-22
7	3:55	<b>Finance Reports</b> — <i>Treasurer Peterson &amp; Finance Director Nelson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasurer’s Report, including bank accounts &amp; investments</li> <li>• Administrative March 2024</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Treasurer’s Report</b> <b>Action Needed: Approval of Administrative Report</b>	23 H
8	4:05	<b>FY2025 Public Hearing Results – Chairman Langseth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports on results of SRDC’s FY2025 Public Hearing held prior to today’s meeting</li> </ul>	
9	4:10	<b>Legislative Report – Chair Miron Carney</b>	
10	4:20	<b>Deep Dive: Strategic &amp; Land Use Planning – Planner Webb</b>	
11	4:40	<b>Economic Development Report</b> — <i>Deputy Director Weis</i>	24
12	4:50	<b>Revolving Loan Fund Report</b> — <i>Deputy Director Weis &amp; Committee Chair Brynes</i>	25-27
13	5:00	<b>Community Development Report</b> — <i>Development Planners Walker, Bucklin, Webb, Murphy</i>	28-30

14	5:10	<b>Transportation Report</b> — <i>Planner Webb and Walker</i>	31-32
15	5:15	<b>Executive Director’s Report</b> — <i>Executive Director Trusty</i>	33
16	5:25	<b>Chairman’s Report</b> — <i>Chairman Langseth</i>	
17	5:35	<b>Reports from SRDC Commissioners Representing Local Units of Government &amp; Public Interest Groups</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rick Anderson, Lyon County Commissioners</li> <li>• Mark Haberman, Jackson County Municipalities</li> </ul>	
18	5:55	<b>Unfinished Business</b>	
19	6:00	<b>New Business</b>	
20	6:05	<b>Annual Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appoint a nominating committee for the election of officers in July Treasurer: eligible for reelection Secretary: eligible for reelection</li> </ul> <b>Action Needed: Chairman makes Committee Appointments</b>	
21		<b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the following representation: Lower Sioux Community, Cultural Diversity, Pipestone County Townships, Murray County Townships</li> <li>• SRDC Office will be closed Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day</li> <li>• SRDC Board meeting Thursday, June 13, 2024</li> <li>• SRDC will be closed Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> in observance of Juneteenth day</li> <li>• SRDC office will be closed Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of the signing of the Declaration of Independence</li> <li>• SRDC annual meeting: Thursday, July 11, 2024 at the Windom Community Center</li> </ul>	
22		<b>Adjourn</b>	



**Southwest Regional Development Commission**  
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register  
 From 3/1/2024 Through 3/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
CD030824 W...	009	3/25/2024		Feb 2024 Wex Fees	22.00	3/25/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	2,108.06	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,619.89	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	680.82	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	67.00	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,464.54	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	133.92	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,381.82	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	13.08	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,775.20	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,601.63	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,535.48	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	122.63	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	47.98	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	3,544.20	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	2,514.31	3/7/2024
PRS030724	03072...	3/7/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 3/7/2024	1,561.81	3/7/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Nadya N. Bucklin	Employee: BucklinN; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,876.37	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,860.78	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Robin R. Weis	Employee: WeisR; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	428.23	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,485.15	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Sheila F. Crowley	Employee: CrowleyS; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	99.02	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,360.03	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Jodi L. Klein	Employee: KleinJ; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	34.87	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Melissa Nelson	Employee: MansonM; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,775.20	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Kimberly Murphy	Employee: MurphyK; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,601.63	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,626.12	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	58.65	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Kathleen M. Schreiber	Employee: SchreiberK; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	21.32	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Jayne I. Trusty	Employee: TrustyJ; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	4,847.29	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Jason L. Walker	Employee: WalkerJ; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	2,475.46	3/21/2024
PRS032124	03212...	3/21/2024	Christopher S. Webb	Employee: WebbC; Pay Date: 3/21/2024	1,897.33	3/21/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	David E. Sturrock	David Sturrock 3/14/24 Meeting	44.22	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 12/14/23 to 2/8/24 Meetings	150.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Rick Von Holdt	Rick VonHoldt 12/14/23 to 2/8/24 Meetings	123.69	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 3/1/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	100.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Robert J. Byrnes	Robert Byrnes 3/1/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	85.76	3/27/2024

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**

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From 3/1/2024 Through 3/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 3/14/24 Meetings	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Robert H. Van Hee	Bob VanHee 3/14/24 Meetings	93.80	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Ronald Kottke	Ronald Kottke 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Ronald Kottke	Ronald Kottke 3/14/24 Meeting	34.84	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Scott McClure	Scott McClure 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Scott McClure	Scott McClure 3/14/24 Meeting	67.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Stephen P. Schnieder	Stephen Schnieder 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Stephen P. Schnieder	Stephen Schnieder 3/14/24 Meeting	44.22	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Steven A Kellen	Steven Kellen 3/14/24 Meeting	46.90	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Tiffany L. Lesmeister-Knott	Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott 3/14/24 Meeting	80.40	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	William R. Crowley	Bill Crowley 3/14/24 Meeting	14.74	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Dennis A. Klingbile	Dennis Klingbile 1/11/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	150.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Dennis A. Klingbile	Dennis Klingbile 1/11/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	249.24	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	JoEllen M. Benson	JoEllen Benson 3/14/24 Meeting	81.74	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Keith A. Elbers	Keith Elbers 3/14/24 Meeting	80.40	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Mark A Haberman	Mark Haberman 3/14/24 Meeting	43.55	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDevere 3/1/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	100.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Michael L. VanDeVere	Mic VanDevere 3/1/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	129.98	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 1/11/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	100.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Pamela J. Stimpert Cooreman	Pamela Stimpert Cooreman 1/11/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	72.36	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 3/14/24 Meeting	50.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Richard Anderson	Rick Anderson 3/14/24 Meeting	30.82	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Richard D. Peterson	Richard Peterson 2/8/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	200.00	3/27/2024
APS032724	03272...	3/27/2024	Richard D. Peterson	Richard Peterson 2/8/24 to 3/14/24 Meetings	324.28	3/27/2024
APS030624	60538	3/6/2024	AFLAC	Aflac 3/5/24	225.12	3/6/2024
APS030624	60539	3/6/2024	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 1/23/24 to 2/21/24	22.08	3/6/2024
APS030624	60539	3/6/2024	City of Slayton	City of Slayton 1/23/24 to 2/21/24	23.92	3/6/2024
APS030624	60540	3/6/2024	Culligan Water Conditioning	Water (6) and cooler rental	63.90	3/6/2024
APS030624	60541	3/6/2024	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 2/15 & 2/28/24	68.00	3/6/2024
APS030624	60541	3/6/2024	Darren Veldhuisen	Snow removal 2/15 & 2/28/24	102.00	3/6/2024

**Southwest Regional Development Commission**  
 Check/Voucher Register - Board Check Register  
 From 3/1/2024 Through 3/31/2024

Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS030624	60542	3/6/2024	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Tex Inv 0748790; soap	32.25	3/6/2024
APS030624	60542	3/6/2024	Dust Tex Service Inc.	Dust-Tex Inv 0748790; soap	48.37	3/6/2024
APS030624	60543	3/6/2024	Grants Management Systems ...	GMS Monthly License & Warranty, Service & Support Feb 2024	100.00	3/6/2024
APS030624	60543	3/6/2024	Grants Management Systems ...	GMS Monthly License & Warranty, Service & Support Feb 2024	40.00	3/6/2024
APS030624	60544	3/6/2024	Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel	Jackpot Junction: Food and Room Rent for MADO 2/27 - 2/29/24	573.66	3/6/2024
APS030624	60545	3/6/2024	Marco	Contract base rate charge for 2/27/24 to 5/26/24	114.40	3/6/2024
APS030624	60546	3/6/2024	Minnesota Trails Magazine	Explore SW: 1st half payment for blog featuring 9 counties	3,600.00	3/6/2024
APS030624	60547	3/6/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 1/18/24 to 2/24/24	182.38	3/6/2024
APS030624	60547	3/6/2024	Northwest Gas	NW Gas 1/18/24 to 2/24/24	273.56	3/6/2024
APS030624	60548	3/6/2024	One Office Solution	One Office Meter Reading 1/15/24 to 2/20/24	187.60	3/6/2024
APS030624	60549	3/6/2024	Slayton EDA	Lease - March 2024	4,848.63	3/6/2024
APS030624	60550	3/6/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	ZixMail 3 year Commit; Year 1 Mar 2024; 3 users	90.00	3/6/2024
APS030624	60550	3/6/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	ZixMail 3 year Commit; Year 1 Mar 2024; 3 users	180.00	3/6/2024
APS031324	60551	3/13/2024	Chandler Co-Op	Chandler Coop Feb 2024	69.22	3/13/2024
CD032024 B...	60551	3/20/2024		BCBS Apr 2024: Norm Prem 12,822.77; cr 4279.48; removed Glen	8,543.29	3/20/2024
APS031324	60552	3/13/2024	Frontier Communications	Frontier 3/4/24 to 4/3/24	300.37	3/13/2024
APS031324	60552	3/13/2024	Frontier Communications	Frontier 3/4/24 to 4/3/24	557.83	3/13/2024
APS031324	60553	3/13/2024	Quill Corporation	5 pk printer ink, pens	222.20	3/13/2024
APS031324	60554	3/13/2024	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 3/1/24 to 3/31/24	37.29	3/13/2024
APS031324	60554	3/13/2024	Schaap Sanitation	Schaap 3/1/24 to 3/31/24	55.93	3/13/2024
APS031324	60555	3/13/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Server Maint, SSL Cert/UCC Cert; server in-house Tech labor	167.50	3/13/2024
APS031324	60555	3/13/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Server Maint, SSL Cert/UCC Cert; server in-house Tech labor	167.49	3/13/2024
APS031324	60556	3/13/2024	Verizon Wireless	Verizon 2/2/24 to 3/1/24	41.06	3/13/2024
APS031324	60557	3/13/2024	XCEL Energy	Xcel 2/5/24 to 3/6/24	198.62	3/13/2024
APS031324	60557	3/13/2024	XCEL Energy	Xcel 2/5/24 to 3/6/24	297.94	3/13/2024
APS032124	60558	3/21/2024	AFLAC	Aflac 3/19/24	225.12	3/21/2024
APS032824	60558	3/28/2024	Abila	Abila Multiple Clouds 4/26/24 to 5/25/24	760.53	3/28/2024
APS032124	60559	3/21/2024	Fleet Services Division	Fleet Services monthly lease rent 2/1/24 to 2/28/24	540.12	3/21/2024
APS032824	60559	3/28/2024	Adler Counseling PLLC	Reissue checks: Refunds to Adler 9/29/22 and 12/14/23	365.50	3/28/2024



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Session ID	Check ...	Document...	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Check Amount	Effective Date
APS032124	60560	3/21/2024	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	NCPERS 4/1/24 to 4/30/24	48.00	3/21/2024
APS032824	60560	3/28/2024	AFLAC	Aflac: Billing period - Feb 2024	253.62	3/28/2024
APS032124	60561	3/21/2024	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 3/10/24 to 3/14/24 NADO and Meetings	250.00	3/21/2024
APS032124	60561	3/21/2024	Paul Langseth	Paul Langseth 3/10/24 to 3/14/24 NADO and Meetings	258.67	3/21/2024
APS032824	60561	3/28/2024	Audacy Operations, Inc.	Audacy Operations: Apr thru June 2024 Social Media Ads	9,000.00	3/28/2024
APS032124	60562	3/21/2024	The Computer Man, Inc.	Domain Renewal - swrdc.org - 5 years	90.00	3/21/2024
APS032824	60562	3/28/2024	Bluepeak	Bluepeak internet and telephone 3/24/24 to 4/23/24	59.99	3/28/2024
APS032824	60562	3/28/2024	Bluepeak	Bluepeak internet and telephone 3/24/24 to 4/23/24	60.28	3/28/2024
APS032824	60563	3/28/2024	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 2/15/24 to 3/14/24	4,595.27	3/28/2024
APS032824	60563	3/28/2024	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 2/15/24 to 3/14/24	10.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60563	3/28/2024	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 2/15/24 to 3/14/24	20.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60563	3/28/2024	Cardmember Services	Cardmember Services 2/15/24 to 3/14/24	20.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60564	3/28/2024	Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith &...	RMEB: Fryberger Jan - Feb 2024	4,250.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60565	3/28/2024	Kurt Richardson	Kurt Richardson 1/16/24 to 3/26/24 Meetings	100.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60566	3/28/2024	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Services March 2024	328.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60566	3/28/2024	Marilyn Samuelson	Marilyn Samuelson Janitorial Services March 2024	472.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60567	3/28/2024	Minnesota Resource Recovery ...	MN Resource Recovery Assn: 2024 Membership Dues	750.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60568	3/28/2024	One Office Solution	One Office meter reading 2/25/24 to 3/18/24	160.33	3/28/2024
APS032824	60568	3/28/2024	One Office Solution	One Office: Paper 8.5x11 and 11x17	313.97	3/28/2024
APS032824	60569	3/28/2024	Quill Corporation	Quill: HP black toner	249.29	3/28/2024
APS032824	60570	3/28/2024	SRDC	PACE Outreach Jan - Feb 2024	2,250.00	3/28/2024
APS032824	60571	3/28/2024	SRDC	RMEB Jan - Feb 2024	3,270.00	3/28/2024
Report Total					94,825.06	



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Carrie Bendix, JoEllen Benson, Leah Bittner, Kristie Blankenship, Bob Byrnes, Miron Carney, Pam Cooreman, Bill Crowley, Keith Elbers, Lori Grant, Donna Gravley, Mark Haberman, Chris Hollingsworth, Steve Kellen, Dennis Klingbile, Ron Kottke, Tiffany Lesmeister-Knott, Scott McClure, See Moua-Leske, Richard Peterson, Stephen Schnieder, David Sturrock, Sherri Thompson, Mic VandeVere, Bob Van Hee, Dennis Welgraven, and Beth Wilms

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Elliot Christensen, Dan Delaney (excused), Eric Hartman (excused), Jeff Moen, Bob Paplow, Jenny Quade, Rick VonHoldt (excused) and Justine Wettschreck (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 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

### **AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL**

The Pipestone County Municipalities Commissioner report was taken off the agenda.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner McClure to approve the agenda with change. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Klingbile and seconded by Commissioner Byrnes to approve the following 3-year appointments to the Board of Directors: Richard Peterson, Jackson County, Paul Langseth, Nobles County and Chris Hollingsworth, Pipestone County. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner VandeVere to approve the January Receipts and Expenditures Report, January 11, 2024 Full Commission meeting minutes, February 8, 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes and the McKnight CERTs contract. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Treasurer Peterson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of February 29, 2024, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of January 2024 pointing out some line items. There were no questions.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Bittner and seconded by Commissioner Thompson to approve the Administrative Report as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## **PROJECT REVIEWS**

Development Planner Webb presented a project review for a used Jetter Truck for the City of Minnesota.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the project review as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## **COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report**

The Budget & Personnel Committee recommended moving Planners Bucklin and Webb and Communications Specialist Crowley from probationary status to permanent status.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Byrnes and seconded by Commissioner McClure to approve moving Bucklin, Webb and Crowley from probationary status to permanent status. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

The Budget & Personnel Committee recommended adopting the timeline for the FY2025 Budget and Work Plan.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Schnieder and seconded by Commissioner Benson to approve the FY2025 Budget and Work Plan timeline. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

The Budget & Personnel Committee recommended updating the Personnel Policies to include the Crown Act verbiage to the Equal Opportunity Employment section. This adds racial traits to the list of what you cannot discriminate against.

The air travel sections were updated to include when booking airfare for traveling for SRDC business, the office credit card must be used to pay for the ticket. If an employee has family

traveling with them and want to book their tickets at the same time, they will need to reimburse the office for the family member’s expenses. Commissioners traveling on SRDC business will book their air travel through the office using the Executive Director’s credit card.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Hollingsworth to approve the Personnel Policy changes as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

**B. Legislative Committee Report**

Legislative Chair Carney reviewed the SRDC Legislative issues for 2024 which are to support the Greater MN Partnership’s Childcare Facility Grants, the elimination of the income restrictions for Tax Increment Financing, support 100% SCORE funding for solid waste and recycling activities and to support all local bonding projects. Carney asked that if anyone has bonding projects to let them know so the SRDC could support them.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Carney and seconded by Commissioner Grant to approve the 2024 SRDC Legislative Priorities. Upon vote taken: Ayes-29, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Carney and Executive Director Trusty will attend the Coalition of Greater MN Cities’ Day on the Hill on March 20, 2024, and will meet with all local legislators.

**C. Economic Development Report**

Deputy Director Weis reported that the EDA grants submitted for the City of Adrian and the City of Lamberton were not funded. The City of Adrian is looking into re-submitting their grant under the public works NOFO that has 50% match criteria. The City of Lamberton will apply under the Congressionally Directed Spending Request (CDSR) application.

Staff provided letters of support for the cities of Holland, Revere, Okabena, Ruthton, Russell and Lamberton for their CDSR applications.

The Hills Childcare project final report was submitted. After discussions with the City of Tyler, they submitted a proposal to the DEED Childcare Economic Development grant. Staff also met with Westbrook/Walnut Grove regarding their Little Chargers Daycare Center and the DEED grant opportunity.

Weis met with the City of Mountain Lake to discuss applying for a USDA grant to increase their EDA RLF funds. This would be a 20% grant match. The State Competitiveness Grant could be used to cover the cost to write this grant for the city.

The annual Broadband Conference was held March 12. Diane Wells, Deputy Director of the Office of Broadband, was named the 2024 Broadband Champion Award for her service and dedication to broadband access and equity to Minnesota.

Weis and Trusty, as part of the MADDO Executive Director agenda, toured the Lower Sioux Hemprete facility and duplex. Hemprete is fireproof, mold proof and bug proof material that

is highly energy efficient. The reservation is one of only a few locations that grow, process and are building with hemp.

D. Revolving Loan Fund Report

Traditional RLF has approximately \$269,800 available to lend out. One loan for a business in Pipestone County is in the works.

CRLF has approximately \$154,500 available to lend out. One loan for \$71,500 in Nobles County closed in February.

Weis attended a non-traditional lenders forum in Worthington. There were several other members of the panel. The RLF and PACE programs were part of the presentation.

PACE

There are approximately \$145,000 in ARRA funds and \$137,000 in SEP funds available to lend out. There are two applications going to committee soon.

Energy assessment/audit is the first step in the PACE application process. This gives property owners information on cost-saving improvements that can be done. There has been an increase in the number of referrals made to RETAP.

Weis will present on PACE at an EDA Lunch and Learn in St. James on March 21.

E. Community Development Report

Community Development Director Walker reported the Rural MN Energy Board (RMEB) met on January 22. The board voted to become members of the Minnesota Resource Recovery Association (MRRA) to advocate for waste-to-energy facilities.

NextEra presenters gave updates on current and upcoming projects, led discussions about how developers can best work with communities, and answered questions.

The Board will tour the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN on June 3. Tours include ground source heat pumps, agrivoltaics, EV charging, solar robotic projects, mobile solar stations, green hydrogen/ammonia plant and wind turbines.

The next RMEB meeting will be March 25 and will focus on Site Permitting Reform. There will be a presentation on Exhaust Plans also.

Development Planner Bucklin gave an update on the CERTs Seed Grants.

RSDP has been meeting to discuss the idea briefs submitted. Projects that have been voted on to submit a full proposal are MnTAP-Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction for Grocers and Rauenhorst Farm Agrivoltaics. Idea brief proposals are for projects that can improve sustainability in communities, by addressing a community identified need or opportunity related to one or more of the RSDP focus areas.

The Cities of Currie, Comfrey, Edgerton, Lamberton, Lynd and Tyler submitted applications to the RSDP Empowering Small MN Communities program. More information on the actual projects will be given at future meetings.

CERTs Steering Committee met in February to discuss updates and various outreach opportunities, as well as the structure of future meetings. The Committee is looking to add to their membership over the next few years. Many of the current members have served for many years.

Southwest CERT Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Ambassador Networking Event has had a name update to Community Energy Ambassador Program. The event will take place in April. The event will bring together steering committee members, some current and former Seed grant recipients, some community-based organizations and nonprofits who are doing work in the renewable energy and energy efficiency realm.

Work on completing the World Mart battery and module solar panel installation is still underway. Battery system installation will happen soon. Monitoring and assessing of the battery system will then take place. Mounting of the solar panels will not happen before the project deadline in June as time is needed to monitor the system and research appropriate panels.

Development Planner Webb gave an update on the City of Hills Strategic Plan. Over 115 surveys have been returned. A community engagement meeting was held. Planners Webb and Murphy met with the City Council on March 12 to provide an update on the progress made. The final Strategic Plan is expected in March/April and will be presented to the City Council in May.

Planners Webb and Murphy are beginning work on the Murray County 5-year Comprehensive Plan update. A meeting with county staff has happened and the first two meetings have been scheduled.

Work on the Lyon County Comprehensive Plan will start in June.

Staff have conducted interviews with SWHHS non-supervisory public health staff. SRDC staff will host at least three strategic planning sessions with the first one in March.

F. Solid Waste & Natural Resources

Solid Waste Commission met on January 22. In addition to county reports, discussion continued on the MPCA's proposed rulemaking on demolition landfills. The next meeting will be March 25.

Work on the Solid Waste Regional Plan continues. The request for an extension has been denied but MPCA will be flexible as long as work is progressing. A draft plan is due to MPCA by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Planner Murphy is working with 3 grocery stores and 1 meat locker interested in applying for a MN Department of Agriculture grant. There are a couple other grants available for training and retraining meat locker staff.

There is interest to invest in a creamery on a farm. Staff will meet with them along with Region 9 staff.

#### G. Transportation Report

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) met on March 14 to work on the draft FY2025 work plan, corridor coalition updates, and updates from MnDOT District 7 & 8.

ATP-8 Transportation Alternative Scoring Subcommittee met in February. The subcommittee will bring their funding recommendations to the full ATP-8 on March 1st. ATP-7 will meet March 8th.

For FY2025-FY2026 ATP-8 is receiving \$1.49 million through the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP). Funding is available for projects that reduce emissions from on-road sources with a 20% match component. Commissioners received a handout outlining information.

If Cities or Counties in District 8 have projects in their five-year plan that would be eligible for CRP funding, they should submit an application by noon on March 15th. A subcommittee will review and prioritize CRP projects based on their carbon reduction potential and deliverability. Recommendations will then be made to the ATP at their April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The City of Tracy was awarded a SRTS Design Assistance Grant. These funds will be used for the City to have an engineering study done using strategies and goals identified in their SRTS plan.

Rock County was awarded over \$500,000 in TAP federal grant funds to complete rehab on the Blue Mounds County Trail. The county will coordinate with the DNR to complete this project in 2025.

The City of Marshall was awarded over \$600,000 in TAP federal grant funds to complete a bridge replacement and rehab 7 city blocks of trails. Scheduled completion of the project is 2028.

Regional Trails planning is ramping up again. A stakeholder meeting is scheduled for March 20. The latest updates and next steps will be discussed along with developing a survey.

Friends of the Casey Jones State Trail will meet March 14<sup>th</sup>. They have requested a \$1.32 million bonding bill for the development of the trail. Exploration of land acquisition funding through DNR is taking place and engaging with landowners between Woodstock to Lake Wilson is also taking place. The RFP is out for the paving of the final 2 miles into Woodstock. The reconstruction of the Currie loop is slated to start in 2024.

H. Communications Report

The SRDC quarterly newsletter went out. Crowley gave an update on the data for the SRDC website and Facebook page. She encouraged members to keep sharing the Facebook posts.

RLF Success stories, site visits and social media audits will be taking place with current borrowers soon.

I. Executive Director's Report

The MADO all state staff retreat is scheduled for the first week of October. Crowley is working on securing a venue.

Work continues on the Solid Waste Regional Plan. The extension was denied but MPCA will be flexible as long as work is still being completed.

MADO Executive Directors met in February with Region 8 hosting. The meeting was held at Lower Sioux. Directors met with RSDP, AMC and McKnight staff. A tour of the Lower Sioux Incubator space and Hempcrete plant and duplex took place.

SRDC will partner with Region 9 on a McKnight Grant that will be \$83,000/year for 3 years. These funds will be added to the State Competitiveness Grant to provide grant writing to communities free of charge.

Trusty and Chairman Langseth attended the NADO Legislative Conference and were able to meet with Minnesota legislators Klobuchar, Smith and Finstad.

We will be partnering with Regions 4, 6E, 6W and 9 on a regional grant application to be an intermediary lender for federal dollars to do solar on public buildings. Region 9 is leading the coalition of RDCs for EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program (CPRG).

J. Chairman's Report

Langseth attended the NADO Legislative Conference and was able to reconnect with people and legislators. He attended a session on Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI is in the early stages of development. Langseth also attended a session on Recovery to Work after the Opioid crisis. Discussion surrounded how those with chemical and alcohol addictions are being re-instated into the workforce.

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

A. Lincoln County Commissioners

Commissioner Mic VandeVere gave a report on the happenings in Lincoln County. Some things he highlighted were: The City of Hendricks is building some affordable housing/duplexes. The city received a \$100,000 DNR parks improvements grant. The City of Ivanhoe has disbanded their police department and is contracting with the Lincoln County Sheriff's office. Tyler is the only city left in Lincoln County with their own police department. The City of Lake Benton



approved the \$1million Phase 1 improvements to Hole in the Mountain Park, however the archeology study found things, so the improvements are on hold for now. The City of Arco's only business is the post office. The City of Tyler approved and bid out a \$6 million sewer project. The city is in discussions with Avera to build a new hospital (4 beds) and clinic. They have a 30-bed nursing home already. The Lincoln County sheriff's office is fully staffed right now. The County is 100% covered with fiber optic infrastructure.

B. Pipestone County Municipalities

No report.

C. Rock County Townships

Commissioner JoEllen Benson from Beaver Creek Township gave a report. Some of the items she talked about were: The Walleye Wind project is up and running. There are 42 wind towers in Beaver Creek Township. The township receives \$60,000-\$70,000 of revenue from the wind towers each year. Elk Creek Solar is working on a 160-megawatt solar farm by Magnolia. They would be taking 1,500 acres of cropland out of production (about 2 1/3 sections). The county has no say in the setback requirements from homes, the state makes that rule. A judge will decide in March on whether the project can proceed as presented.

**RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSON MEMBERS**

Chair Langseth presented Bill Crowley and See Moua-Leske with Certificates of Appreciation for their years of service to the Commission. Bill has served 13 years and See has served 2. He thanked them for their commitment to the SRDC.

**OTHER ISSUES**

Chair Langseth asked for volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee to decide what the Project/Program of the Year will be that is given out at the SRDC Annual Meeting in July. He will be contacting Commissioners to get members.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from the Minority Representation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Keith Elbers  
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth  
SRDC Chairman



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Paul Langseth, Commissioners Rick Anderson, Miron Carney, Keith Elbers, Donna Gravley, Eric Hartman, Chris Hollingsworth, Dennis Klingbile, Richard Peterson, Bob VanHee, Rick VonHoldt and Dennis Welgraven

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Bob Byrnes (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 3:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and introductions.

### **AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL**

The agenda was updated with handout information.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Klingbile and seconded by Commissioner Welgraven to approve the updated agenda. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Elbers and seconded by Commissioner Carney to approve February Receipts and Expenditures Report and the Resolution for Safe Routes to School Planning Grant. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0.

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Treasurer Peterson referred Commissioners to the Treasurer's Report as of March 31, 2024, showing bank accounts and fund designations. There were no questions.

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

Finance Director Nelson went over the Administrative Report through the end of February 2024 pointing out some line items. There were no questions.

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

## PROJECT REVIEWS

Development Planner Webb presented a project review for a new ambulance for the Tracy Ambulance service.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner VonHoldt to approve the project review as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

## COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### A. Budget & Personnel Committee Report

The committee recommended for approval a 3% plus a step COLA for all staff and for Deputy Director Weis to receive an extra step for FY25 which will be effective the first full pay period in July 2024.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Gravley to approve the FY25 COLA as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

The committee recommended taking the FY25 Budget to the Public Hearing before the May 9, 2024 Full Commission meeting.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Klingbile to approve recommending the FY25 Budget go to Public Hearing. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

The committee recommended approval of the FY25 Work Program.

M/S/P Motion made by Commissioner Peterson and seconded by Commissioner Van Hee to approve the FY25 Work Program as presented. Upon vote taken: Ayes-12, Nays-0. Motion Carried.

Finance Director Nelson gave an update on the audit. The auditors were able to get FY21 to tie out. Nelson has been fixing some starting balances on the FY22 audit.

### B. Legislative Committee Report

Legislative Chair Carney updated Commissioners on the Legislative Session. Some of the committee members attended the Coalition of Greater MN Cities/Greater MN Partnership's Day on the Hill. They were able to meet with all local legislators except Torkelson.

SRDC Legislative Committee Members Carney, Langseth, Elbers and Trusty will be visiting the Capitol on April 15 and have meetings setup with everyone except Dahms at this point.

The Governor's budget is about \$875 million, the House budget is about \$1.1 billion and the Senate budget is about \$900 million. Talks are still happening to come up with a budget.

There will be a legislative breakfast in Worthington on April 13, 2024. Commissioner Von Holdt invited Commissioners to attend.

C. Deep Dive

Community Development Director Walker gave a deep dive into the new State Competitiveness Grant the SRDC received.

D. Executive Director's Report

Trusty is finishing up a grant application for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) through the MN Department of Commerce. The grant would be for \$100,000 for the SRDC to help local communities with energy planning and assessments. Ninety percent of the grant needs to go to local communities with the maximum grant amount per community being \$20,000. The SRDC will get the other 10% for admin costs.

Trusty and Weis met with the City of Round Lake's clerk and public works staff on projects they are trying to pursue.

The narrative for the McKnight Foundation grant is done. The grant application is asking for \$750,000 over three years to be split between eight regions. This money would be used with the State Competitiveness Grant money.

Trusty's report from NADO's Washington Policy Conference was in the handout.

E. Chairman's Report

The Township Association held its legislative day. Langseth was unable to attend. The Association is still in disarray. He has a County Township Association meeting this evening. Langseth talked with a Renville County Commissioner regarding the North Star Act which would make Minnesota a sanctuary state. There will be a lot going on with this if this is approved. Langseth will be visiting the Capitol on Monday with other SRDC Legislative Committee members.

## **OTHER ISSUES**

Langseth appointed Commissioners Carney, Klingbile, Van Hee and himself to the SRDC Awards Committee to select the program/project of the year to be presented at the annual meeting in July.

Commissioner Van Hee asked what happens to wind towers and solar panels when they are decommissioned. Discussion followed with no clear answers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

SRDC Commissioner vacancies exist from Murray County and Pipestone County Townships along with a Minority Rep.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Langseth adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

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**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kathy Schreiber, Administrative Specialist.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Keith Elbers  
SRDC Secretary

Paul Langseth  
SRDC Chairman



# Southwest Regional Development Commission

## Month End March 2024 Fiscal Year 2024

YTD Comparison % of Budget 75.00

Revenues	FY24 Budget	Month End March 2024 Fiscal Year 2024				Year to Date	Under / Over Budget	% of Overall Budget	Explanation/Comments
		July - September	October - December	January - March	February - March				
Taxes	443,445	1,022.58	182,016.78	255,597.66	0.00	255,597.66	4,807.98	98.9%	When current taxes received, payments primarily received in Dec and Jun
Contract for Services	202,935	26,712.01	43,667.71	11,820.40	18,125.45	22,323.02	80,286.41	60.4%	Based on activity earned to date.
MnDOT-Regional	75,000	0.00	37,500.00	0.00	0.00	37,500.00	37,500.00	50.0%	Based on Billings Yearly amt is \$75000
Economic Development Adm	70,000	14,133.26	17,333.29	3,008.05	3,819.05	3,357.31	28,349.04	59.5%	Grant Earned (Federal share)
EDA Trails Grant	150,000	4,919.28	15,910.15	6,743.19	5,796.24	3,889.66	112,741.48	24.8%	Based on activity earned to date. (Federal share)
RLF Admin (Covid & Regular)	60,000	16,442.03	16,286.53	4,786.89	5,316.15	16,092.49	11,178.95	81.4%	Based on activity earned to date.
CERT's Funds	70,910	15,207.73	44,321.50	9,758.12	4,116.45	13,874.57	-2,493.80	103.5%	Based on activity earned to date - main Certs (not subprojects), includes seed grants (additional funds for seed grants, which equals more time)
PACE loan origin/initialmisc	19,184	78.32	11,662.33	0.00	0.00	865.00	6,573.35	65.7%	Loan in/loan orig fee mostly received in Dec and June (code 4656/6321)
USDA Food Grant	60,000	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	75.0%	Based on Billings (600 hours at \$75/hr for the year)
Interest & Miscellaneous	6,800	2,254.04	5,070.01	1,881.87	819.46	4,265.51	-7,490.89	210.2%	Bank in/loan orig fee **Bank interest is coming in higher than estimated**
Total Revenues	1,158,274	95,769.25	388,768.30	293,596.18	37,992.80	55,689.95	286,457.52	75.3%	33,894
<b>Expenditures</b>									
Committee Expenses	30,300	6,691.31	11,788.75	1,581.14	2,172.18	7,092.49	4,727.45	84.4%	
Salaries & Fringe	984,339	166,574.63	263,644.36	81,063.63	75,532.25	78,126.15	319,397.98	67.6%	October includes unemployment paid
Travel	55,000	12,804.19	14,899.65	2,723.97	2,693.41	4,837.61	17,041.17	69.0%	
Office Space Costs	44,194	2,184.21	2,293.98	958.59	692.44	900.27	37,164.51	15.9%	
Postage (on hand, not including Hsg Reimb)	4,863	84.92	1,029.97	9.99	1,009.99	1,029.97	2,144.86	44.1%	
Communications	6,819	1,277.92	1,224.74	401.42	401.42	1,204.26	3,706.92	54.4%	
Printing/Publication	20,504	5,258.12	5,147.39	3,036.93	3,195.29	661.90	17,299.63	84.4%	copier/printer too **this includes advertising/hiring for 4 positions**
Insurance	5,917	0.00	94.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,823.00	1.6%	Insurance dividend/Building Insurance
Supplies	17,000	906.35	3,550.78	178.97	693.94	1,045.15	10,624.81	37.5%	
Program Supply (Trails EDA)	0	0.00	840.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-840.00	#DIV/0!	Reimbursed by Trails EDA
Program Supply (City of Hills)	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	28.96	0.00	-28.96	#DIV/0!	Reimbursed by Hills Strategic Plan
Computer	37,750	11,399.45	5,442.92	1,231.41	984.53	1,616.83	17,074.86	54.8%	
Audits	40,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.0%	
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	2,750	746.25	1,559.72	227.86	190.00	417.86	2,723.83	99.0%	**Includes payments to Dianne Crowley for helping + Nichole Johnson-Explore SW** Did not know what to estimate for them
Dues/Memberships & Other	7,200	1,000.00	3,000.00	14.63	360.68	750.00	2,074.69	71.2%	
Financing Fees & Expenses	5,500	174.87	2,531.17	0.00	55.00	0.00	2,736.96	50.2%	
Equipment/Building Updates	31,207	9,029.36	258.26	0.00	84.00	0.00	21,835.38	30.0%	
PACE loan interest paid	508	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	508.00	0.0%	Paid in December and June **an amt will be in January 2024**
Debt Service: Prin. & Int.	11,633	0.00	8,080.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,552.01	69.5%	Paid in December
Building Lease Principal Pymt	23,085	5,370.01	5,445.04	1,831.82	1,840.29	1,848.81	6,749.03	70.8%	Our portion of lease pymt
Total Expenditures	1,328,569	223,501.59	330,831.72	93,260.36	89,934.38	93,537.30	497,503.65	62.6%	
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	-170,295	-127,732.34	57,936.58	200,335.82	-51,941.58	-37,847.35	40,751		

# Economic Development Report

CEDS | EDA | PLANNING

## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

Our current CEDS can be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CEDS-2022-2027.pdf>. CEDS in MN across the EDA (Economic Development Administration) Economic Development Districts (EDDs) follow the format of the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) DevelopMN. The latest DevelopMN can be found at <http://www.mnado.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DevelopMN-1.pdf>. Every five years, EDA requires an updated CEDS for the region. Our next CEDS is due 12/31/2026.

## EDA PLANNING

EDA Investment Opportunities: Priorities can be found at <https://eda.gov/about/investment-priorities/>. The following information is important to remember: Priorities for economic development include Equity, Recovery and Resilience, Workforce Development, Manufacturing, Technology-Based Economic Development, Environmentally Sustainable Development, and Exports and Foreign Direct Investment. You can find EDA funding opportunities at [eda.gov](http://eda.gov).



SRDC is working with the City of Adrian on their grant submission to EDA for an electric substation under the public works NOFO. The City of Adrian request to the EDA will be 50% of the total cost of \$3,258.00.

SRDC had a meeting with the staff of the City of Round Lake where multiple projects were discussed. A follow-up e-mail was sent to them with various options.

Southwest Minnesota Youth Committee: The committee meets quarterly to gather members who support career and technical education programs, and to educate students and parents about local career and training opportunities. Their last meeting was on February 1st and they will meet again on May 2nd.

Southwest Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC): The group had their last meeting on December 20th and the date for their next meeting is yet to be determined. SRDC is responsible for representing economic development on the council. There has been an advocacy initiative to pass PCA driver legislation which has recently been passed. This has been a long-standing effort spanning several years and is a significant victory for the aging and disabled community.

**Friends in the Field:** The group last met on April 10 with a focus on housing. The group next meets on July 10 with a focus on clean energy.

**Southwest and South-Central Regional Community and Economic Developers Meeting:** DEED once again activated this group with Lisa Hughes as the primary contact. The group last met March 21.

**Career Expo:** 2024 Career Expo is September 24 at SMSU in Marshall and September 25 at MinnesotaWest in Worthington. SRDC participates in the Career Expo by facilitating the "Career is Right."

## AURI New Uses Forum:

This year the location was Mankato on April 9 with a pre-conference tour in Waseca at AURI's new Bioindustrial Innovation Center on April 8. New contacts were made, particularly staff from Brad Finstad's office and a staff from Evergreen International Sustainability Solutions who provided a resiliency plan template.

**RLF Recapitalization:** SRDC was approached by the City of Mountain Lake for grant writing to recapitalize their RLF. State Competitiveness Funds were used to research options within USDA. City staff are considering their options.



## Meat Processing Grant via MN Department of Agriculture:

SRDC submitted a grant application to MDA for a multi-regional application to train and retain employees within the meat and poultry food processors. The funding request amounts to \$250,000, and the project aims to cover 18 counties in the RDC regions of 6E, 6W, and 8. If the request is approved, the project will commence on or around July 1 and will continue for two years. Direct and supportive services will be outsourced to Southwest Private Industry Council and Central MN Jobs and Training Service.



# Revolving loan fund

COVID-19 RLF | TRADITIONAL RLF | CONTRACTED RLF

## RLF

The committee consists of five members and meets as needed. The committee covers both the COVID-19 RLF and Traditional RLF. The committee last met on March 26 and will soon meet again to consider an application for a business acquisition in Nobles County.

Interest Rates: EDA's guideline for minimum interest rate is 4% under prime, which equates to 4.5% currently, or 75% of prime, whichever is less. SRDC RLF has been using 75% of the WSJ (Wall Street Journal) Prime Rate for recent loans, which adheres to regulations governing RLF awards.

Application and Checklist: The Application (fillable — same application for both RLF programs) and Requirements Checklist (this is currently being updated to include both SRDC RLF and COVID-19) are online and can be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/>.

## COVID-19 RLF (C-RLF)

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$163,221.96 (as of 4/12/2024). Our latest loan closed was for \$50,000 for a business acquisition in Pipestone County. These funds will remain federalized until seven years have passed. Reporting is required twice per year. There was a loan payoff from a Murray County business on 4/11/2024.

## Traditional RLF

Funds Available: Funds on hand are in the approximate amount of \$322,135.08 (as of 4/18/2024). These funds are defederalized. There was a loan payoff from a Cottonwood County business on 4/17/24.



Ruben Valdez

## Dreams Do Come True....

Ruben Valdez, a certified mechanic with over two decades of experience, fulfilled his lifelong dream of owning an auto mechanic shop after working at a Ford dealership for 14 years.

With the help of Southwest Minnesota Small Business Development Center consultant Berny Berger and Southwest Regional Development Commission, he finally opened his shop, Auto Nation LLC, at 99 Airport Road in Redwood Falls. Ruben takes pride in his work and offers a range of services, including engine and transmission repair, brake repair, oil changes, and more. Call 507-644-2886 to schedule an appointment.

Business hours are Monday and Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays by appointment only from 8 a.m. to noon.

For complete story see the SRDC website: <https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/dreams-do-come-true-copy/>

## Site Visits

Staff are scheduling site visits. Site visits are required every three years; however, they are done more often as the need arises. Site visits are being combined with communication audits and interviews for storytelling. Success stories can now be found at <http://www.swrdc.org/economic-development/revolving-loan-funds/rlf-business-spotlights/>.

**LOOKING  
TO START  
GROW, OR  
EXPAND  
YOUR  
BUSINESS?**

The SRDC  
Revolving Loan  
Fund can assist.



For more information see [www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org)

Serving the  
following counties:  
Cottonwood,  
Jackson, Lincoln,  
Lyon, Murray,  
Nobles, Pipestone,  
Redwood, and  
Rock



Jamie Gillund opened Little Explorers Child Care Center in Ghent

## Helping to fill the childcare void

Jamie Gillund has always had a passion for working with children. After graduating with a degree in Early Childhood Education, she opened an in-home daycare in Ghent, which she operated for 17 years. In 2020, Jamie opened a childcare center in Ghent to help solve the childcare crisis in surrounding communities. The center offers preschool curriculum and provides a safe environment for children while their parents are at work. The center employs 20 staff members and has a waiting list of at least 40 children. Jamie and her husband, Kurt, received funding from the State Bank of Taunton and the Southwest Regional Development Commission's Revolving Loan Fund to build the center. <https://www.swrdc.org/spotlight/filling-child-care-void/>

### MINNESOTA BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION SPRING FORUM

SRDC attended to learn more about SBA 504. SBA can now be involved in refinance projects, as can SRDC's RLF. One current loan client may benefit from this new information.

### CDFA ADVANCED RLF COURSE

SRDC will be presenting on a panel during the Portfolio Management session on May 16.

### Contracted RLFs

Staff provides assistance with business start-ups, retentions, expansions, and financing. Additionally, they assist with three revolving loan fund programs within the region.

**Jackson County RLF:** There are six active loans. Approximately \$140,000 is available for lending.

**Heron Lake RLF:** HLRLF focuses on economic development within a 20-mile radius of Heron Lake. These are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. SRDC continues to assist them with GMS entry and amortization schedules as requested. There are funds available for businesses in their service area that have gap financing needs.

**Falcon Development Corporation (FDC):** Information on FDC can be found online at <https://www.swrdc.org/revolving-loan-funds/>. FDC is a local organization that focuses on improving economic development within a 30-mile radius of Heron Lake. The funds provided by FDC are not federalized, which means that Davis Bacon is not applicable to construction projects. The interest rates for these funds can now go as low as 75% of the prime rate. The FDC Board has a maximum of 7 members. The next meeting of the FDC committee will be held on May 1 at 9 a.m. at the Heron Lake City Hall. Currently, approximately \$78,000 is available for lending purposes.

If you have questions about the business lending via SRDC RLF or its contracted RLFs, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at [robin@swrdc.org](mailto:robin@swrdc.org).

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP**

### Funding Opportunities for Businesses and Entrepreneurs

SRDC administers several funding opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs in Southwest Minnesota. Financing from the SRDC makes projects possible when gap financing or up-front funds are not available. Two primary funding opportunities include the SRDC Revolving Loan (RLF) and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

**SRDC**  
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

2401 Broadway Ave  
Slayton, MN  
507-836-8547

For more information check out the website at [www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org)

# Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Report

**General Information:** PACE is available to property owners of small businesses, including agri-businesses and some non-profits based on usage. Please help spread the word about PACE to property owners looking to make improvements that lower their energy usage.

**Funds Available:** Funds are currently available in the approximate amount of PACE ARRA \$145,029.08 (as of 4-4-24) and PACE SEP \$137,338.54 (as of 4-4-24). These amounts do not account for the four applications that were considered and approved. Three of the four are waiting to hear about their grant application to Good Food Access Program (GFAP). One of those in Redwood County closed their loan (\$17,000), but no funds have been requested as of this writing.

**PACE Committee:** The committee meets as needed, often in conjunction with RMEB (Rural Minnesota Energy Board) meeting dates. Committee members are Metz, Wildermuth, Wachal, VanDeVere, and Paap. Interest rates for new projects are set at 3% under Prime, with a floor of 3%. The committee last met on March 25.

**C-PACE Statewide Discussions:** The MN Department of Commerce is working to expand commercial PACE programs in MN. The DOC included within their application non-competitive funds of \$300,000 to expand the financing capacity of the RMEB PACE program. DOC has recently indicated a delay.

**Energy Audits:** Energy assessments/audits are informational to property owners and may be the start to cost-saving energy improvements. MN DOC is working on increasing access to energy auditors. Contractor estimates and the energy assessment/audit are the two first steps to PACE financing. There has been an increase in the number of recent referrals made to RETAP, MNTAP, CEE, EnergySmart, USDA REAP, and MDA Good Food Access Program.

**EDAM Summer Conference:** Staff will be collaborating on a session on June 20 entitled Maximize Your PACE Program with MinnPACE Director of Lending, Holly Huston.

#### PACE Success Stories

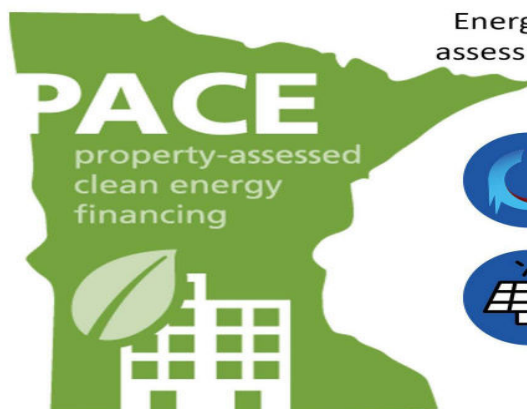
A few recent success stories can be found at <https://www.swrdc.org/broadway-beauty-salon/> and <https://www.swrdc.org/tally-ho-koffee/>.

The PACE application that includes a checklist can be found at <http://rmeb.org/pace.htm>.

If you have questions about the PACE or energy audits, please contact Robin Weis, Deputy Director, at 507-836-1638 or via email at [robin@swrdc.org](mailto:robin@swrdc.org).

## Are you looking to cut your energy bill?

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



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



- Heating/Cooling
- Lighting
- Refrigeration
- Insulation • Air Sealing



- Solar Energy Systems
- Wind Turbines
- Geothermal



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

#### COUNTIES SERVED

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

# Community Development Report

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

## World Mart

Work on completing the battery and modular solar panel installations is still under way. The plan is to install the battery system the last week of April. In order to give plenty of time to monitor and assess how the battery system is functioning, the mounting of the solar panels will not happen before the original project deadline in June. The team will need time to monitor the system and do adequate research on appropriate panels before a decision can be made on the type of solar panels that need to be installed. This will also give the engineering students involved in the project an opportunity for educational research and will give the team valuable information to share with other food truck vendors.

## CERT Steering Committee Updates

The next meeting is May 9, at 10:30am. The main item on the agenda will be an overview of CERTs and some highlights of recent CERTs work. We will be joined by one of the directors who will contribute to the overview and highlights.

## Southwest CERT Community Energy Ambassador Networking Event

The SW region helped plan a community energy ambassador networking event, which took place on April 30th, from 2-4:30pm, in the Farmer's Room at the Government Center building in Worthington. The event brought together the steering committee, some current and former Seed grant recipients, and some community-based organizations and nonprofits who are doing work in the renewable energy and energy efficiency realm. It consisted of a short presentation, a workshop and small group discussion, and a networking hour, to get people acquainted with the IRA and current updates as well as other energy incentives, and get them thinking about how they can serve their communities with this knowledge.



## Renew America's Schools Prize

As a result of the money received through the State Competitiveness Fund, SRDC staff will be working on gathering interest for a coalition of schools and educational agencies, to apply for the Renew America's Schools Prize. The focus will be on our nine-county region but could also be expanded to include schools in other RDO and CERTs areas.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) launched the \$500 million Renew America's Schools Program to promote the implementation of clean energy improvements at K-12 public schools across the country. This first-of-its-kind investment aims to help school communities make energy upgrades that will decrease energy use and costs, improve indoor air quality, and foster healthier learning environments. The 2024 Renew America's Schools Prize implements a prize-to-cooperative-agreement funding model, requiring a coalition of 10+ schools to apply for the prize money together. This three-phase opportunity will help districts build capacity, perform energy audits, and plan/implement energy improvement projects across a portfolio of school facilities.



## National Planning Conference – April 13 – 16

Community Development Director, Jason Walker, attended the National Planning Conference in downtown Minneapolis from April 13 to April 16. He networked with planners from across the country, but also made some key connections with staff from the Great Plains Institute, MnDOT, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, and West Central Initiative. Key sessions he attended include "Planning Ethics and AI," "Community Climate Planning and Action Toolbox," and "Engaging Diverse Rural Audiences in Food System Planning."



## ENERGY

Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB): The RMEB met on March 25, 2024, at 1 PM. Topics covered included possible changes to the PACE program, grant opportunities, potential site permitting reform, approval of the Lake Wilson solar project, and a growing opposition group called Tactical Civics that has been organizing in Rock County. The next meeting will be the tour of the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN on June 3rd.

# RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD

## Land Use, Planning & Zoning



**City of Hills, Strategic Plan:** Planner Webb and Planner Murphy have finished the City of Hills Strategic Plan. They are scheduled to present the Strategic Plan document to the Hills City Council on Tuesday, May 14th. After the presentation, Planner Webb will start working with the city council to revise the city's land use and zoning ordinances. The ultimate objective is to have the updated zoning ordinance in place by September.

**Murray County, 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Update:** Planner Webb and Planner Murphy have led the first two meetings regarding the update of the Murray County Comprehensive Plan. The first meeting, which took place on March 25th, focused on Chapter 8, particularly the goals and objectives identified in the plan. The second meeting was held on April 22nd and primarily dealt with recent data changes and trends that have affected the county since the last plan was written in 2016. The third meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17th, and will concentrate on updating the SWOT analysis of each chapter.

**Lyon County, Comprehensive Plan:** Planner Webb has had a meeting with Lyon County staff to initiate the process of updating the Lyon County Comprehensive Plan. The plan will be worked on by Planner Murphy and Communications Specialist Crowley, in addition to Planner Webb. The kick-off meeting for this project is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11.



**SWHHS Strategic Plan:** Staff conducted the second strategic planning session on April 22nd with 21 participants including staff, supervisors, and board members. Participants selected key goal areas at the meeting and prioritized four objectives under each. They then did group work to create an action plan for each objective. Next, SRDC

will draft the strategic plan, send it to participants to review, and get additional feedback at the next Public Health Supervisors Meeting on May 6. Then staff will finalize the plan and present it to the SWHHS board in the third week of May or June depending on the time it takes to complete. Finally, staff will conduct a 6-month implementation review meeting in November to monitor progress.

**Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota One Watershed, One Plan:** Planner Webb is representing the SRDC on the Advisory Committee for the Cottonwood-Middle MN One Watershed Plan. The last advisory committee meeting was held on Wednesday, April 17 in Springfield.

# Community Development Report

## Solid Waste & Natural Resources

### Solid Waste Commission:

On April 1, 2024, the regular meeting of the Southwest Solid Waste Commission took place. During the meeting, the attendees continued to discuss the upcoming construction and demolition rule changes proposed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).



Earlier, the Commission had submitted a request to extend the existing Solid Waste Plan by two years until the MPCA defines and implements the new rules. However, the MPCA denied the request. Nevertheless, the MPCA agreed to be flexible with the plan due date if progress towards completion is made.

On June 3, the Southwest Solid Waste Commission will be touring the Renewable Hydrogen Pilot Plant in Morris, MN, along with the Southwest Rural Minnesota Energy Board. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2024.

### Solid Waste Regional Plan:

All counties in Minnesota must submit a solid waste plan to receive SCORE funds and apply for additional grants from the MPCA. Doing this as a 12-county Joint Powers Agreement decreases individual county costs, helps pull together resources, and arranges materials exchange for counties in the Southwest Minnesota Solid Waste Commission.

Several issues and topics will be addressed in the plan. This includes support for 100% SCORE funding to counties for Solid Waste and Recycling activities, staff constraints on individual counties, Construction and Demolitions landfill capacity and the need for financial support from the state, and the education of the public and policymakers on the importance of sanitation services as a foundation for public health.

The Solid Waste Administrators met on April 26, 2024. Work continues to write the new 10-year Solid Waste Regional Plan. A draft plan is due to the MPCA by June 1, 2024. The final Solid Waste Regional plan is due December 4, 2024.



## USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Regional Food Business Center

The USDA Regional Food Business Center has a goal to promote economic opportunities within their respective regions and establish a more diverse and resilient food system. The North Central Food Business Center (NCFBC) was established to serve Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, with a grant of \$15 million over five years. The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) has been assigned to provide technical assistance in our area, with an annual compensation of \$60,000.

### North Central Regional Food Business Center:

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is committed to seeking ideas and suggestions from various groups and individuals. To foster growth and development in the next five years, the North Central RFBC (Regional Food Business Centers) Action Plan was created and drafted.

The Business Builder Sub-Award grants are now open for applications as of April 2, 2024. These grants are geared towards supporting regional businesses and projects with the goal of expansion and growth. The average award amount is expected to be between \$35,000 to \$50,000. The grant funds have been allocated to strengthen and support food businesses in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Eligible applicants include growers, producers of commodities, fruits, vegetables, and livestock, as well as aggregators, distributors, and food access points like farmers' markets. Grants can be used for various purposes, including staff time, business planning, software implementation, equipment purchase, supply chain coordination, product development, and marketing. We have several businesses in our region preparing to apply for the Business Builder Sub-Award grants which were due April 30, 2024.

The SRDC recently collaborated with three business owners in our region to apply for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Equipment Grant. We also submitted an application for the 2024 Minnesota Department of Agriculture Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant in partnership with regions 6E & 6W. This grant will provide funding to partner organizations that aim to assist small and medium-sized meat & poultry processors with hiring, training, and retaining employees.

# Transportation Report

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

## TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC met on Thursday, March 14 at 2:00 pm. MnDOT planners from District 7 & District 8 were in attendance to go over the ATIP (Road/Bridge Projects in 2025-2028). Commissioner Mic VanDeVere was re-elected as TAC Chair.

## AREAS TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

On Friday, March 29, the ATP-8 CRP & PROTECT Scoring Subcommittee convened virtually. During the meeting, two projects were scored, and the subcommittee presented their funding recommendations to the full ATP-8 on April 5. The next ATP-7 and ATP-8 meetings are both scheduled for Friday, June 14.

## TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**Portable Counter Borrowing Program:** MnDOT provides portable counters to partner agencies like cities, counties, MPOs, RDCs, and active transportation advocacy groups. These counters help to collect essential data on pedestrian traffic that can be used for various purposes such as planning projects, applying for funding, and more. The counters are available through each MnDOT District Office and can be reserved online. For more information, please visit <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike-ped-counting/borrow.html>.

**Quarterly Transportation Planners Meeting:** Planner Webb and Community Development Director Walker virtually attended the quarterly meeting for Transportation Planners on February 29. Future meetings are scheduled for May in St. Cloud, August in Bemidji, and November in St. Cloud.

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## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION & SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

### SRTS Design Assistance Grant

City of Tracy was awarded the MnDOT SRTS Design Assistance Grant. Design assistance is a new form of engineering studies. It intends to bridge the gap between safe routes to school plan strategies and implementation. Design assistance reports will verify existing methods and identify new engineering strategies to improve walking and bicycling routes to and from schools. The resulting document will include project summary sheets with concept-level drawings and a list of potential infrastructure projects prioritized by effectiveness in addressing safety risks, possible usage, and cost. Additional details are available in the solicitation guide.

#### *How does this program work?*

Selected applicants will receive consultant services to develop a design report. This report will identify up to four community locations where students walk or bike to school. Consultants will assist recipients in the spring/summer and fall to identify areas and determine potential improvements for each site.

### Active Transportation Safety Education

- Required training for all schools within the first 3 weeks
- K-3 Pedestrian safety education
- 4-8 Bicycle and Pedestrian safety education
- \$500,000 each year for education

If funds are left over after meeting the needs of 5–14-year-olds, additional funding may support 15–17-year-olds and adult education, and adults learn to ride.

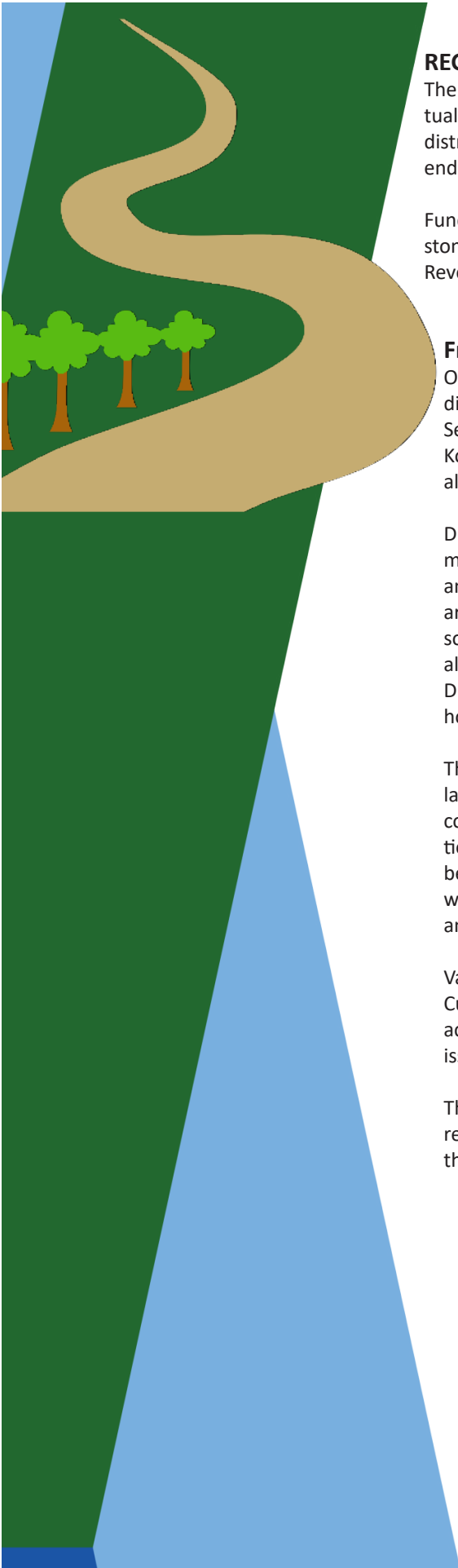
### Transportation Alternative Infrastructure Grant (Federal)

This 80%/20% funded grant covers construction costs to implement infrastructure improvements to make walking, biking, and rolling better and safer in your community.

Rock County was awarded \$573,902 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete rehab of the Blue Mounds County Trail that connects the City of Luverne's Trail Loop to the Blue Mounds State Park. The rehab project also includes 3.2 miles of trail inside of the Blue Mounds State Park. The county will coordinate with the DNR to complete this project in 2025.

City of Marshall was awarded \$325,680 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete rehab of 3 city blocks of trail that runs adjacent to County Club Drive. The project will also improve drainage in the area. This project is scheduled for completion in 2028.

City of Marshall was awarded \$361,039 in TAP Federal Grant Funds to complete a bridge replacement and rehab of 4 city blocks of trail that runs in Justice Park. This project will replace the oldest pedestrian bridge in town and improve ADA accessibility for all city trail users traversing over the Redwood River to enter Justice Park and the Camden Regional Trail that runs next to the park. This project is scheduled for completion in 2028.



## **REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING**

The most recent quarterly stakeholder meeting was held at the SRDC Office and virtually on Wednesday, March 20 at 1 pm. The group outlined the next steps to take in distributing the Tourism Survey and finalized the list of focus groups to wrap up by the end of April.

Funding partners include Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock Counties, and the Cities of Wabasso, Lamberton, Walnut Grove, and Revere.

## **Friends of Casey Jones Trail update**

On April 11th, the Friends of the Casey Jones Trail had their monthly meeting and discussed their legislative activities. They talked about their upcoming meeting with Senator Weber and shared updates on their various regional trail projects. Myron Koets is currently working on the regional trail from Pipestone to Luverne, which is also being considered as part of the regional parks and trails group.

During the meeting, they also discussed the Walnut Grove trail and a preliminary meeting concerning a regional trail report. They talked about grant opportunities and funding constraints, and raised concerns about the categorization of certain areas. The group explored the potential for increased funding for greater Minnesota parks and trails through the Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association. They also discussed potential land acquisitions and decided to continue working with the DNR. The progress of the Indian Lakes Trail project was discussed, and they plan to hold a public engagement meeting.

The group discussed strategies to get bills heard in the House and Senate, particularly for trails in Greater Minnesota. They explored options such as seeking legislator connections, offering amendments, and pursuing federal funding. Maintaining relationships with legislators was emphasized and the importance of a trail designation before pursuing these options was clarified. Colleen and Deb planned a meeting with Myron Koets, and Senator Dahms for support to address the Casey Jones case and trail rehabilitation.

Various issues related to their projects were discussed, including updates on the Currie loop, regional trail design, and the need to secure additional funding for land acquisition. It was agreed to contact key stakeholders to clarify the status of these issues.

The group recognized the need to increase fundraising efforts, and Deb suggested reaching out to new members of the Facebook group to boost engagement. Finally, they scheduled their next meeting for May 9th.



# Executive Director Report

April was a busy month for pursuing funding opportunities. I wrote and submitted an application to the Minnesota Department of Commerce for the Minnesota Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies for Small Town Government Program. This is funding that is only available to the RDOs. Each RDO could apply for up to \$100,000, ninety percent of which has to be passed through dollars to communities less than 15,000 in population. Since this includes all of our cities, they are all eligible for this program. The funds may be used for:

1. Climate and resiliency planning grants
2. Energy audits on government buildings
3. Engineering and technical assistance services
4. Other energy related studies for public buildings and community plans

Awards to local governments can be between \$2,000 and \$20,000. The application deadline was April 12th.

Robin and I met with the City Clerk and the Public Works Director in Round Lake on a number of issues. Of primary concern for the city are a number of issues with their water system. They are currently in the process of valving the system so they can isolate different parts of the water system while they work on it. As they are already doing this, it will not be eligible for funding. However, they are also showing a large amount of unaccounted for water usage in their system. They are having a sewer viewing done this summer to determine if the system I&I is coming from their water system. If they can locate the source of any leaking, we may be able to help them get funding to fix the problems. There are also some economic development issues with a couple of businesses in town as well as a possible PACE project.



SRDC Legislative Day was held on April 15th. I was joined by SRDC Chair Paul Langseth, Legislative Chair Miron Carney and members of the Legislative Committee Tiffany Knott-Lesmeister, and Keith Elbers. We were able to meet with everyone except Representative Swedzinski. Senator Dahms was unable to meet with us in person, but we did get to visit with his long time legislative assistant Wendy Haavisto.



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Slayton, MN 56172  
[www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org)