



**EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**100 Park Street South**  
**Mora, MN 55051**  
**December 15, 2014**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Commission Members Present:**

Karen Amundson – Kanabec Co. Public Interest  
Greg Anderson – Isanti Co. Commissioner  
Jill Behnke – Chisago Co. Municipalities  
Kathi Ellis – Kanabec Co. Commissioner  
Linda Evans – Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest  
Frank Grundmeier – Pine Co. Townships  
Steve Hallan – Pine Co. Commissioner  
Richard Hansen – Isanti Co. Townships  
Robert Jensen – Kanabec Co. Municipalities  
Steven Kimmel – Chisago Co. Public Interest  
Sue Larson – Isanti Co. Public Interest  
Tom Lawlor – Southern School Board  
Ben Montzka – Chisago Co. Commissioner  
Steve Odegard – Northern School Board  
Dave Patenaude – Kanabec Co. Townships  
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner  
Paul Venhuizen -- Pine Co. Municipalities  
Thom Walker – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities

**Commission Members Absent:**

Carla Dunkley – Tribal Representative  
Diane Larkin – Chisago Co. Townships  
Marlys Palmer – Isanti Co. Municipalities  
Barb Welty – Mille Lacs Co. Townships  
Lynn Zeleny – Pine Co. Public Interest  
City of North Branch

**Staff Present:**

Bob Voss – Executive Director  
Bob Bollenbeck – Transportation/TZD Program  
Tammie Bremer – Finance Officer  
Jennifer Russell – Economic Development Director  
Trish Rydlund – Office Manager  
Penny Simonsen – East Central Sr. Resource Center

1. **WELCOME:** Chairman Montzka called to order the meeting of the East Central Regional Development Commission at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Lawlor moved to approve the agenda with a change to move item #5 Executive Director report to follow item #7 Personnel & Budget Committee Report. Larson seconded – motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Evans moved to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2014 regular meeting. Larson seconded – motion carried.
4. **TREASURERS REPORT:** Ellis presented the October and November 2014 Treasurer's report. Hanson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written from October 1 to November 30, 2014. Larson seconded – motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the time period October 1 to November 30, 2014.
5. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET (P&B) COMMITTEE:** The Personnel and Budget Committee met prior to the Commission:  
**UNITED WAY/FAMILY PATHWAYS RESPITE PROGRAM UPDATE:** The Commission discussed further a proposal offered by Family Pathways to transition a respite care program to the ECRDC utilizing interim funding from their agency and a grant from the Twin Cities United Way. Concern was expressed about the long-term financial sustainability of the program with

particularly in light of the 3 year phase out of the funding from Family Pathways. The P&B also had significant concern as to whether the expansion of human service functions – especially a direct service program – actually fit the overall mission of the ECRDC. Given the uncertainties, no further action was taken.

6. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss reported on a number of items including:

**2015 CENTRAL MN COUNCIL ON AGING CONTRACTS:** The P&B discussed the CMCOA contracts. Following the discussion it was determined that the ECRDC is financially unable to continue the Information and Assistance and Caregiver Consulting programs. The hope is that the aging program staff will be able to be employed with CMCOA and continue working the older adults in our region. Walker moved to not sign the proposed CMCOA annual contracts. Further, that negotiation take place with CMCOA about the future of the programs, staffing, etc. in our area. Odegard seconded – motion carried.

**MILLE LACS COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN:** Application was submitted to the MN Dept. of Homeland Security (DHSEM) to secure funding to assist Mille Lacs County in updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan. Penny Simonsen will be primary staff person working on the update project along with assistance from Trish Rydlund.

**EDA EVALUATION:** EDA's Chicago Regional Office (CRO) conducted a performance evaluation of our Economic Development District (EDD) program on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chairman Montzka and CEDS Committee Chair Paul Venhuizen joined the evaluation as well. A written report should be available at the next Commission meeting.

**ECRDC BOARD VACANCIES:** Vacancies currently exist for Chisago County Municipalities formerly held by Jill Behnke, Kanabec County Municipalities formerly held by Bob Jensen, and Pine County Public Interest formerly held by Lynn Zeleny. Recruitment for these vacancies will be sent out early in January 2015.

**REGION 7W EDA UPDATE:** Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties have passed resolutions in support of creating an EDA sponsored Economic Development District. The effort now is to identify and appropriate governance structure for the District. EDA has stated that there is a possibility of applying for a short-term planning grant to create/update the 7W CEDS and develop the governance model. Walker moved to have ECRDC staff use their discretion to move forward with assisting to create/update the CEDS and develop a governance model for Region 7W but to have limited ECRDC staffing time. Region 7W will need to obtain their own staffing to fulfill the majority of these duties. Evans seconded – motion carried.

7. **TRANSPORTATION:** Bob Bollenbeck showed a video on distracted driving. He then reported on TZD data. First, he noted the number of traffic fatalities statewide was lower than the previous year. It appeared there would be less than 350 in all, which is the lowest number in many years.

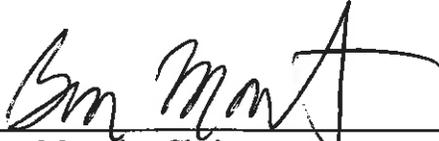
Bollenbeck also noted the number of impaired driving arrests in Isanti County have steadily declined since the inception of the Safe Cab program. The success of the program is attributed to the great partnerships working in Isanti County.

8. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Russell reported that the Revolving Loan Fund Committee met on November 6<sup>th</sup> and successfully approved a loan in the amount of \$50,000 to Isanti Spirits located in Isanti County. We currently have about \$90,000 to loan out plus what is sequestered.

9. **EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER:** Simonsen report that the ECRDC was approved to be a designated "Blandin Broadband Community", focusing on the northern portions of Mille Lacs, Kanabec, and Pine Counties. In addition, businesses, agencies, and organizations can apply for up to \$100,000 to bring more high speed internet options to the 'community'. Staff are working on bringing project recommendations forward, with possible additional work and associated funding.
  
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be February 23, 2015 held at the ECRDC office in Mora at 7:00 p.m. Behnke moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the ECRDC. Larson seconded – motion carried.

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Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



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Ben Montzka, Chairman