



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051
August 25, 2014
7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present:

Karen Amundson – Kanabec Co. Public Interest
Greg Anderson – Isanti Co. Commissioner
Jill Behnke – Chisago Co. Municipalities
Carla Dunkley – Tribal Representative
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
Diane Larkin – Chisago Co. Townships
Sue Larson – Isanti Co. Public Interest
Tom Lawlor – Southern School Board
Ben Montzka – Chisago Co. Commissioner
Steve Odegard – Northern School Board
Marlys Palmer – Isanti Co. Municipalities
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner
Thom Walker – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities
Barb Welty – Mille Lacs Co. Townships
Lynn Zeleny – Pine Co. Public Interest

Commission Members Absent:

Dave Patenaude – Kanabec Co. Townships
Paul Venhuizen – Pine Co. Municipalities
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:** Moved by Larson to approve the agenda as presented. Jensen seconded – motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Larson moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2014 annual meeting. Odegard seconded – motion carried.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss reported on a number of items including:

PLANNING CONTRACTS: A number of planning contract have been finalized in the past couple of weeks including Hinckley and Kanabec County Safe Routes to Schools (\$38,000); MnDOT Planning to include Veterans Evergreen Memorial and St. Croix Scenic Byways (\$95,775); Kanabec Safe Roads (\$20,877); and Isanti Toward Zero Deaths (\$23,926).

POSSIBLE CONTRACTS: The RDC's are collectively working with the MN Department of Health to pursue a Transportation Investments Generation Economic Recover (TIGER) grant for Active Living by Design. If approved, each region would receive \$150,000 grant which would span two years.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (LDO): Attended a workshop put on by DEED at the Initiative Foundation on August 1st to learn about the proper implementation of the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF), and the role of a LDO in ensuring the reuse of these funds in accordance with federal guidelines.

ANNUAL AUDIT: CliftonAllenLarson auditing firm is scheduled to conduct field work for the fiscal year end 2014 agency-wide audit September 9th – 11th.

5. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET (P&B) COMMITTEE**: The Personnel and Budget Committee met on August 20, 2014. The main focus of the meeting was to update the Committee on the results of a recent site assessment of the Caregiver Consulting program conducted on July 16th by the Central MN Council on Aging.
5. **TREASURERS REPORT**: Ellis presented the June and July 2014 Treasurer's report. Evans moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written from June 1 to July 31, 2014. Welty seconded – motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the time period June 1 through July 31, 2014.
6. **TRANSPORTATION**: Bollenbeck brought before the Commission a recommendation from the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to approve Fred Sawatzky as the Kanabec County Township Representative to the TAC. Larson moved to approve Sawatzky to the TAC. Welty seconded – motion carried.

The MnDOT Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program is looking for regional implementation partners to distribute up to \$125,000 in mini-grants to schools and communities throughout regions. Grants can be used to purchase items to support local SRTS programs. Items may include bicycle repair tools, crossing guard supplies, and funds to support a Walk or Bike to School Day event, and purchase of bike racks, etc. This would be \$5,000 to \$10,000 grants plus administration costs for our region. The estimated timeline would be October 2014 through June 2015. Larson moved to go forward with the application process for the SRTS Mini-grants. Jensen seconded – motion carried.

A number of years ago, the Mille Lacs Band received federal funds from the ATP through the ECRDC process. The funds were allocated to a project that was to connect Hwy 169 to Mille Lacs CR 25 through the Reservation. The intent was to provide an alternate to Vineland Road. The funds were eventually sent to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the Mille Lacs Band's project. We have now found out that, despite efforts to move ahead, the project will not be going forward for several reasons. Welty moved to have the ECRDC recommend to District 3 ATP to fund an upgrade to Vineland Road should the funds from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe project become available. Hansen seconded – motion carried.

7. **EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER**: Simonsen reported the ECRDC is continuing to pursue additional United Way funding in cooperation with Family Pathways and Second Harvest. A request for funding transfer was made in mid-August from Family Pathways to United Way to allow ECRDC to provide older adult services in Chisago and Isanti counties through a \$51,000 United Way Twin Cities grant. Family Pathways has a verbal commitment to continue support of \$60,000 to continue their respite services, and potentially an expanded cooperative effort related to food. The process of transferring some/all could come as early as this fall, pending approvals by all involved.

Simonsen provided technical assistance to Hinckley and Kanabec County (Ogilvie and Mora) schools in submitting applications for funding to develop strategies for more walkable/bikeable communities. Presently, Hinckley-Finlayson school has completed the first two sets of surveys for the Safe Routes to School project. Braham schools have also contacted the ECRDC regarding the next solicitation.

Other items discussed:

- Progress is being made in northern Mille Lacs County with Mille Lacs Health System taking the lead on ACT on Alzheimer's Initiative in Onamia/Wahkon/Isle communities.
- All ECSRC staff continue to perform above expectation with over half of the year completed. Senior LinkAge® Line staff are on pace to exceed last year's work of reaching 1,145 person and responding to 8,539 callers.
- Annual volunteer recognition was held August 14th at Father Hennepin State Park in Isle.
- In addition to New to Medicare and Senior Surf Day classes, Frances Nelson has started Tech Tuesdays at the ECRDC office in Mora.
- Simonsen is finishing work on the Isanti County Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

8. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Russell brought forth the resolution for the annual Revolving Loan Fund Plan Certification. Evans moved to approve the Revolving Loan Fund Plan Certification Resolution. Larson seconded – motion carried.

Other items discuss:

- The Revolving Loan Fund Committee elected Mike Weinand as the new Chairman and Frank Christopherson the new Vice-chairman.
- The RLF committee approved a loan to the Freedom Center in Princeton for \$30,000.
- Planning for the St. Croix Scenic byways is in progress.
- GPS 45:93 continues to focus on the growth of the region and to collaborate on business retention and expansion.
- Pine Technical College Business Incubator was completed March 2014. The goal of this incubator is to create jobs in the community, enhance a community's entrepreneurial climate and retain business in the community

9. **OPEN DISCUSSION/NETWORKING:** Items discussed were:

- Transportation bussing from East Bethel to downtown Minneapolis. The Heartland Express will be looking into connecting Isanti County to East Bethel
- Paradise Theater expansion is completed and they are looking into adding other screen.
- Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission has Minnesota Legacy money available through the MN Dept. Natural Resources for parks and trails development.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be the on October 27, 2014 at the ECRDC office in Mora at 7:00 p.m. Odegard moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the ECRDC. Evans seconded – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Chairman