



## EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

100 Park Street South

Mora, MN 55051

August 22, 2016

7:00 P.M.

### Commission Members Present:

Karen Amundson – Kanabec Co. Public Interest  
Greg Anderson – Isanti Co. Commissioner  
Loren Davis – Isanti Co. Public Interest  
Kathi Ellis – Kanabec Co. Commissioner  
Linda Evans – Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest  
Steve Hallan – Pine Co. Commissioner  
Richard Hansen – Isanti Co. Townships  
Kirsten Kennedy – City of North Branch  
Jeannette Kester – Pine Co. Public Interest  
Steven Kimmel – Chisago Co. Public Interest  
Diane Larkin – Chisago Co. Townships  
Tom Lawlor – Southern School Board  
Marlys Palmer – Isanti Co. Municipalities  
Dave Patenaude – Kanabec Co. Townships  
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner  
Thom Walker – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities  
Glen Williamson – Pine Co. Townships

### Commission Members Absent:

Carla Dunkley – Tribal Representative  
Tim Franklin – Pine Co. Municipalities  
Gordon Gullixson – Kanabec Co. Municipalities  
Ben Montzka – Chisago Co. Commissioner  
Steve Odegard – Northern School Board  
Bill Schlumbohm, Sr. – Chisago Co. Municipal  
Barb Welty – Mille Lacs Co. Townships

### Staff Present:

Bob Voss – Executive Director  
Bob Bollenbeck – Transportation/TZD Program  
Trish Rydlund – Office Manager  
Penny Simonsen – Community Development

### Others Present:

Rick Greene – Chisago Co. Commissioner  
Chad Gramentz – Kanabec Co. Highway Dept.  
Liz Walton – MN/Dot

1. **WELCOME:** Vice Chairman Hallan called the regular meeting of the East Central Regional Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Hansen moved to approve the agenda as presented. Davis seconded – motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Lawlor moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2016 annual meeting. Ellis seconded – motion carried.
4. **U.S. BICYCLE ROUTE 41 PRESENTATION:** Liz Walton from MnDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Section presented information on efforts to pursue a designation and develop U.S. Bicycle Route 41 (USBR 41) from St. Paul to Grand Portage State Park. Evans moved to approve a resolution supporting the designation of USBR 41 and requesting that the appropriate government officials take action to officially designate the route accordingly. Kennedy seconded – motion carried.
5. **KANABEC SAFE ROADS COALITION PRESENTATION/REQUEST:** The ECRDC received notification on June 28<sup>th</sup> that the MN Dept. of Public Safety will not be able to provide a grant for Coalition activities this year due to indicators (i.e. impaired driving, seatbelts, and speeding) being below statewide averages. Chad Gramentz, Kanabec County Highway Engineer, gave a presentation on behalf of the Kanabec County Safe Roads Coalition relating to the program and requested funding to help continue the program. Gramentz indicated that Kanabec County is able to contribute \$6,000 to continue the program for another year starting on October 1, 2016. Hansen moved to table the request until the October ECRDC board meeting to look into alternative funding opportunities

from the hospital, cities, etc. and to look at what funding may be possible from the ECRDC.  
Anderson seconded – motion carried.

6. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss reported on a number of items including:
  - a. ECRDC ANNUAL AUDIT: The accounting firm of CliftonAllenLarson will conduct field work for the Commission's fiscal year end 2016 audit on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Ellis moved to authorize the Executive Director to sign the engagement for CliftonAllenLarson to perform the FY16 audit. Davis seconded – motion carried.
  - b. PUBLIC INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES FOR MILLE LACS AND KANABEC COUNTIES: Vice Chairman Hallan called a five-minute break to allow representatives from Mille Lacs and Kanabec counties to caucus and bring forth nominations for their respective county's public interest representatives on the Commission. Nominations for Karen Amundson (Kanabec County) and Linda Evans (Mille Lacs County) were brought forth for consideration. Kester moved to approve the appointments as recommended. Hansen seconded – motion carried.
  - c. MN/DOT DISTRICT 3 AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIP: Nominations were made for the District 3 Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) representative. Ellis moved to appoint Genny Reynolds (elected official) as the District 3 ATP Representative. Walker seconded – motion carried.
  - d. ECRDC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Nominations were made for the ECRDC liaison Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) representative. Palmer moved to appoint Kirsten Kennedy as the ECRDC TAC liaison representative. Evans seconded – motion carried.
7. **TREASURERS REPORT:** Ellis presented the Treasurer's report. Davis moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written along with ACH payments from June 1 to July 31, 2016, check #9000 through #9060. Kennedy seconded – motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the time period June 1 through July 31, 2016.
8. **TRANSPORTATION:** Bollenbeck brought before the Commission a resolution authorizing Executive Director Robert Voss and Commission Chairman Ben Montzka to execute and enter into an agreement to complete the Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan. The State of Minnesota is providing \$26,000 to the ECRDC for conducting this planning project. Lawlor moved to enter into this agreement. Hallan seconded – motion carried.
9. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Simonsen reported on the following items:
  - The City of Taylors Falls was successful in their application to MnDOT and received funding to conduct Safe Routes to Schools planning.
  - We received word from MnDOT that our proposal to lead an initial Scenic Byway Designation Study process was approved. We are waiting on the finalized contract before beginning work on this project.
  - Working with Wilma Township in Pine County on a broadband pilot project funded by the Blandin Foundation. The project involves bringing internet services to underserved rural areas utilizing a Wi-Fi hot spot at their town hall along with a wireless MESH network. To date, equipment has been purchased for the project and efforts are underway to finalize a subscription with a suitable internet service provider.

10. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Voss brought forth the resolution for the annual Revolving Loan Fund Plan Certification. Palmer moved to approve the Revolving Loan Fund Plan Certification Resolution. Davis seconded – motion carried.

Other items discuss:

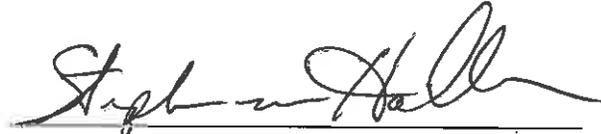
- Economic Development Summit was discussed and the following items were suggested as possible topics: workforce training, housing, movie opportunities, community gardens, and sister cities.
- At the last Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee meeting Karen Amundson was elected chair and Steve Kimmel was elected vice-chair.

11. **TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST:** Items of regional interest discussed were freight/passenger rail, student housing, and senior dining.

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** Hallan announced the next meeting will be the on October 24, 2016 at the ECRDC office in Mora at 7:00 p.m. Davis moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the ECRDC. Hansen seconded – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Stephen Hallan, Vice Chairman