



## **EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

February 26, 2018  
100 Park Street South  
Mora, MN 55051  
7:00 p.m.

### **Commission Members Present:**

Karen Amundson – Kanabec Co. Public Interest  
Greg Anderson – Isanti Co. Commissioner  
Loren Davis – Isanti Co. Public Interest  
Carla Dunkley – Tribal Representative  
Kathi Ellis – Kanabec Co. Commissioner  
Linda Evans – Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest  
Tim Franklin – Pine Co. Municipalities  
Gordon Gullixson – Kanabec Co. Municipalities  
Richard Hansen – Isanti Co. Townships  
Robert Hoefert – Mille Lacs Co. Townships  
Jeannette Kester – Pine Co. Public Interest  
Tom Lawlor – Southern School Board  
John Mikrot, Jr. – Pine Co. Commissioner  
Ben Montzka – Chisago Co. Commissioner  
Marlys Palmer – Isanti Co. Municipalities  
Dave Patenaude – Kanabec Co. Townships  
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner  
Kevin Stenson – Chisago Co. Municipalities  
Thom Walker – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities  
Glen Williamson – Pine Co. Townships

### **Commission Members Absent:**

Diane Larkin – Chisago Co. Townships  
Frank Storm – Chisago Co. Public Interest  
Jim Swenson – City of North Branch

### **Staff Present:**

Bob Voss – Executive Director  
Trish Rydlund – Office Manager  
Penny Simonsen – Trans/Community Dev  
Jordan Zeller – Economic Dev.

1. **WELCOME:** Chairman Montzka 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:** Ellis moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2017 ECRDC board meeting. Hansen seconded – motion carried.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss provided a written report and highlighted several items including:
  - a. **PINE COUNTY PUBLIC INTEREST REPRESENTATIVE:** Motioned by Franklin to re-appoint Jeannette Kester as the Pine County Public Interest Representative. Mikrot seconded – motion carried.
  - b. **ECRDC WEBSITE:** Sandy Juettner is working to revamp the ECRDC website (ecrdc.org). To date we have a draft webpage framework in development. We are working to change our website “host” to a local company.
  - c. **LEGISLATIVE FORUM ON BROADBAND:** The Legislative Forum was held February 5<sup>th</sup>. Bill Coleman of Community Ventures Advisors Group gave a presentation on the status of broadband in our region and facilitated discussion with local stakeholders. All five counties were represented on a panel discussion to convey concerns/obstacles to the region.

- d. **REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION COUNCILS (RTCC)**: A letter of intent was submitted to the Office of Transit to establish an RTCC. Next step will involve getting letters of support from stakeholders, developing plan budgets w/staffing etc. The full application for the Organization Planning Grant is due by March 31, 2018.
5. **TREASURERS REPORT**: The Board reviewed the December 2017 and January 2018 Treasurer's report as presented by Commissioner Ellis. Williamson moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written #9595 through #9657 along with ACH payments from December 1, 2017 and January 30, 2018. Palmer seconded – motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the period December 1, 2017 and January 30, 2018.
6. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET (P&B) COMMITTEE**: The P&B met prior to the Commission and brought before the full Commission the following recommendations:
  - a. **PAY EQUITY**: Lawlor moved to ratify the Pay Equity Implementation report as prepared and to submit it to the Minnesota Office of Management and Budget. Ellis seconded – motion carried.
  - b. **AUDIT ENGAGEMENT LETTER**: Motioned by Amundson to sign the audit agreement letter for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to audit the financial statements for FY2018. The cost will be \$9,850. This is the second year of the three-year audit agreement. Seconded by Evans – motion carried.
  - c. **CARPET QUOTES**: Quotes were received from three companies in the region to replace the carpeting in the ECRDC offices. P&B Chairman Loren Davis stated that a variety of approaches to the project are contained in the proposals and costs have ranged between \$12,231 and \$20,571. Davis also reminded the Commission that \$15,000 was appropriated in the current year's indirect cost budget for the carpet project. The P&B, however, recommends that Commission authorize the Executive Director to select the contractor with the best overall value, including availability, up to \$16,500 if needed. Amundson moved to accept the P&B recommendation. Stenson seconded – motion carried.
7. **TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**: Simonsen reported the Transportation Advisory Committee met and the following recommendation were brought forth:
  - a. **TAC FY22-23 FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS-ROADS** Six applications were received for the 2022-23 federal funding cycle. The TAC recommended. FY22 Isanti County CSAH 5 receive \$1,326,000. FY23 Isanti County CSAH 5 receive remaining \$293,300 and \$33,400; and Kanabec County CSAH 3 receive \$1,000,000. Hansen motioned to approved the recommendation from the TAC as presented. Palmer seconded – motion carried.
  - b. **TAC FY22-23 TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE (TA)RECOMMENDATION**: The TAC ranked the TA projects: 1. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe HAWK pedestrian crossing project (10 points for regional first rank, plus 9 points district-wide equity points awarded); and 2. City of Mora Wood Street sidewalk improvement project (5 points for regional second rank, no additional district-wide equity points can be awarded for second ranked projects). Motioned by Palmer to approved the TACS's recommendation for the TA projects as presented. Hansen seconded – motion carried.
8. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**: Zeller reported the following items:
  - a. **OPPORTUNITY ZONES**: Motioned by Williamson to amend the agenda to include Opportunity Zones. Hansen seconded – motion carried. Opportunity Zones are a new community development program established by Congress in the Tax Cut and Jobs Act

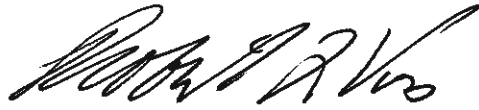
of 2017 to encourage long-term investments in low-income and urban communities nationwide. Motioned by Walk to have the ECRDC write letters of support for each county requesting letters of support for Opportunity Zones. Evans seconded – motion carried.

- b. REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF): The ECRDC RLF met on February 7, 2018 in Askov and approved a new loan to NorthWoods Granite L.L.C. to assist with their expansion project.

9. **TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST:**

- a. GPS45:93 POST ROAD FOUNDATION APPLICATION: Motioned by Anderson to amend the agenda to include GPS45:93 Post Road application. Evans seconded – motion carried. GPS45:93 is applying for \$200,000 for broadband internet planning. Motioned by Evans to pledge up to \$2,000 match for the GPS45:93 Post Road grant if funded. Amundson seconded – motion carried.
- b. “THE MOVING WALL”: “The Moving Wall” will be displayed in Princeton July 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. “The Moving Wall” is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for thirty plus years.
- c. ANNUAL MEETING: Discussion regarding disparity in funding for schools in Region 7E would be a topic for the upcoming annual meeting. An options would be to have Brad Lundel come and speak on this topic along with legislators.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**: Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be on April 23, 2018 at the ECRDC offices. Franklin moved to adjourn the annual meeting of the ECRDC. Hansen seconded – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Chairman