



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

December 18, 2017
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
Gordon Gullixson – Kanabec Co. Municipalities
Richard Hansen – Isanti Co. Townships
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
Frank Storm – Chisago Co. Public Interest
Jim Swenson – City of North Branch
Thom Walker – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities
Glen Williamson – Pine Co. Townships

Commission Members Absent:

Tim Franklin – Pine Co. Municipalities
Jeannette Kester – Pine Co. Public Interest
Diane Larkin – Chisago Co. Townships
Steve Odegard – Northern School Board

Staff Present:

Bob Voss – Executive Director
Trish Rydlund – Office Manager
Penny Simonsen – Trans/Community 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. Ellis seconded – motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Evans moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 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. **ISANTI COUNTY PUBLIC INTEREST REPRESENTATIVE:** Motioned by Palmer to re-appoint Loren Davis as the Isanti County Public Interest Representative. Anderson seconded – motion carried.
 - b. **WEB SITE:** A couple of different options for updating the ECRDC website (www.ecrdc.org) were reviewed. It appears the best option for us is to work with Sandy Juettner who is a local webpage designer who has a number of local clients including the East Central Solid Waste Commission, the Mora Area Chamber of Commerce, and others. Juettner is in the process of giving us a final cost but it is an expense that is within our current year's budget.

5. **TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the October and November 2017 Treasurer's report as presented by Commissioner Ellis. Hansen moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written #9536 through #9594 along with ACH payments from October 1 through November 30, 2017. Stenson seconded – motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the period October 1 through November 30, 2017.
6. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET (P&B) COMMITTEE:** A resolution was brought forth from the P&B to apply for the Regional Transit Coordination Council planning grant. This grant would authorize agreement with Mn/DOT and the ECRDC to conduct organizational planning and development for the establishment of the Regional Transit Coordinating Council. Moved by Swenson to authorize such resolution. Amundson seconded – motion carried.
7. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Zeller reported the following items:
 - a. **CEDS ANNUAL UPDATE:** The EDA requires that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) plan to be updated annually. As part of this process, the CEDS Strategy Committee undertook a survey of local businesses to learn more about the current climate, and entrepreneur's assessment and plans for the future. The CEDS Strategy Committee also undertook a survey of local units of government to learn more about future economic development related plans, and the current state of their infrastructure and community / economic development initiatives. Davis moved to approve the CEDS Annual Update as presented. Dunkley seconded – motion carried.
 - b. **CY2018 CEDS WORK PLAN:** In an effort to aid the needs of our region's business economy and implement the goals and action items spelled out in the CEDS, a CY2018 work plan was developed under the guidance of the CEDS Strategy Committee. Moved by Hansen to approve the CY2018 CEDS Work Plan as presented. Williamson seconded – motion carried.
 - c. **PINE COUNTY RLF REPRESENTATIVE:** Due to a resignation from the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Board (Dr. Robert Musgrove) from Pine County, we have an open seat on the RLF Board. One letter of application was received from Kevin Hofstad, Pine City. Motion by Mikrot to approve Kevin Hofstad as the new Pine County Representative to the RLF Board. Williamson seconded – motion carried.
8. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:** Simonsen reported the Transportation Alternatives (TA) and the Central MN Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) Local Surface Transportation Block Grant Program solicitations are currently underway. There appears to be interest from several communities to make application in early 2018.

The Safe Routes to Schools project for Isanti County is moving along as planned. Rush City and Pine City school districts/communities have indicated an interest in making application in early 2018 for Safe Routes to School planning project.

9. **TOPICS OF REGIONAL INTEREST:** Planning for the Developing Rural Businesses in a Global Economy summit is well underway. This event will be held February 8, 2018 at the Grant Event Center in Mora from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Genny Reynolds reported that the Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant for Mille Lacs county had been unsuccessful. There was discussion regarding what the ECRDC can do to help obtain future funding. A legislative forum is being planned with some discussion revolving around rural broadband. The Blandin Foundation will be invited to give a presentation on rural broadband.

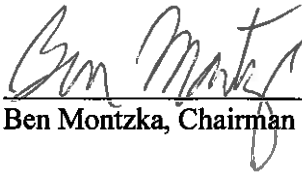
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10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be on February 26, 2018 at the ECRDC offices. Evans moved to adjourn the annual meeting of the ECRDC. Hansen seconded – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Chairman