



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 25, 2022
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051

Commission Members Present:

Bob Bollenbeck - Kanabec Co. Public Interest
Tish Carlson – Isanti Co. Municipalities
Loren Davis - Isanti Co. Public Interest
Dave Dillan – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities
Richard Hansen - Isanti Co. Townships
Robert Hoefert, Mille Lacs Co. Townships
Jeanette Kester - Pine Co. Public Interest
Rick Mattson – Kanabec Co. Commissioner
Scott Moe - Northern School Boards
Ben Montzka - Chisago Co. Commissioner
Dave Patenaude - Kanabec Co. Townships
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner
Kevin Stenson - Chisago Co. Municipalities
Jim Swenson - City of North Branch
Terry Turnquist - Isanti Co. Commissioner
JJ Waldhalm - Pine Co. Commissioner
Glen Williamson - Pine Co. Townships

Commission Members Absent:

Carolyn Cagle – Chisago Co. Townships
Carla Dunkley- Tribal Representative
Linda Evans - Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest
Tom Lawlor – Chisago Co. Public Interest
Jeremy Miller – Kanabec Co. Municipalities
Peter Spartz – Pine Co. Municipalities

Staff Present:

Bob Voss - Executive Director
Samantha Fleming – Finance Officer
Karen Onan - Community Development
Trish Rydlund - Office Manager
Michelle Thomas - Resiliency Coordinator
Penny Simonsen – Transportation

1. **WELCOME:** Chairman Montzka called the meeting of the East Central Regional Development Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Reynold moved to approve the agenda with addition of item a under the Executive Director's Report. – Local Human Services Resolution and Agreement. Williamson seconded - motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Moe moved to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2022 meeting. Bollenbeck seconded- motion carried.
4. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET (P&B) REPORT:** Loren Davis reported on the following items:
 - a. Classification / Compensation Study: P&B Chair Loren Davis and Bob Voss met with Dr. Tessia Melvin of Dave Drown & Associates to review/discuss salary comparison data and a draft salary schedule. Tentatively, the revised salary schedule would revise pay rates (includes 3% COLA), reduce to only 10 steps, and eliminate longevity steps. Job descriptions have been updated and include such things as ADA compliance, etc.
 - b. FY23 Budget Planning: Implementation of the new salary schedule will be incorporated into the FY23 budget. FY23 budgeting will also include a 3% tax levy increase.
5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss provided his report and brought forth the following action items:
 - a. Local Human Services Human Services Plan Resolution: Motioned by Hoefert to sign a resolution authorizing an amendment to extend agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to assist in the completion of the Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan to December 31, 2022. Stenson seconded – motion carried.

- b. **ARPA Funding:** We have received word of potential funding available to slow greenhouse effects. Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) will be applying for the \$750,000 for this effort. This entails that each Regional Development Commission in Minnesota could subcontract to receive \$75,000. Potential projects could include funding for: charging stations, pedestrian crossings, biking, hiking, etc. The deadline for application is May 4, 2022.
- c. **EDA Visit:** U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Alejandra Castillo visited Pine Technical and Community College (PTCC) on April 12th to observe and discuss how EDA’s investments at PTCC have supported their workforce innovation objectives for the future.

6. **TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the February and March 2022 Treasurer's report. Hoefert moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written #11179 through #11235 along with ACH payments for February 1 through March 31, 2022. Kester seconded - motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the period February 1 through March 31, 2022.

7. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESILIENCY UPDATE:** Bob Voss reported on the following items:

- a. **YTD COVID RLF:** To date the COVID RLF has loaned out \$523,550. The following are the loans that have been approved to date:

Loan Recipient	Loan Amt	Loan Recipient	Loan Amt
Glockenspiel/Deutschland Meats (Lindstrom)	\$ 25,000	Central Fence (Isanti)	\$ 30,000
Denham Run Bar & Grill (Sturgeon Lake)	\$ 30,000	Siya Hotels/Quality Inn (Finlayson)	\$ 60,000
Pizza Pub (Braham)	\$ 32,500	Woods Edge Vet (Hinckley)	\$ 40,000
Betabfit Personal Training (Princeton)	\$ 30,000	Loban Home (Pine City)	\$ 15,000
All Mac (Stacy)	\$ 41,050	Titan Forestry (Grasston)	\$ 40,000
Cambridge Bar and Grill (Cambridge)	\$ 40,000	Farmaste Animal Sanctuary (Lindstrom)	\$ 30,000
Veritas Academy (Chisago City)	\$ 40,000	Herman’s Bakery and Deli (Cambridge)	\$ 30,000
C&C Consulting	\$40,000	Bopha Sar Custom Wedding Shop	\$10,000

- b. **Other Items:** Others items being worked on include: Pine County Childcare Study, Regional Tourism and Kanabec County Broadband Feasibility Study.

a. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:** Thomas reported that federal EDA requested us to prepare a new 5-year CEDS document for our region to align with the other EDA regions in the State of Minnesota. Staff prepared the 2022-2027 Five-Year CEDS under the oversight of the CEDS Strategy Committee and needs formal approval by the Commission. Motioned by Davis to approve the 5-year CEDS as presented. Seconded by Moe – motion carried.

b. **TRANSPORTATION:** Simonsen reported that the Active Transportation (AT) Program provides grants to make walking, biking and rolling more accessible. These grants aim to increase the number of people using these modes of transportation by providing funding for: planning, education and encouragement, engineering studies, and infrastructure investment.

8. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COUNCIL (ECRTCC):** Ashley Eckdahl and Karen Onan reported on the following items:

- a. Interviews are being aired on KBK 95.5 radio every other Friday at 8:45 a.m to talk about transportation needs. All previous interviews can be listened to on the East Central Transit website, www.eastcentraltransit.com.
- b. Continued work on the Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan.
- c. The Hop/Scott project is being discussed as a possible pilot project in Isanti County. We are hoping to

- implement this program with public providers in Mille Lacs and Kanabec Counties.
- d. Working on marketing strategies for transit providers.
 - e. GIS mapping is being built by MnDOT.
 - f. Continued conversation with Senior Network to learn of vehicles used/needed at senior facilities.
9. **MISSION MOMENTS:** Mayor Jim Swenson reported the State Legislature was voting on Senate File 409. on March 26th. This would place limitations on one of the PUD tools developers use to create mutually beneficial solutions to facilitate new housing starts. Any limitation placed on PUD's could serve to constrain housing starts, abridges the public hearing processes, and place an unnecessary preemption on local authority decision making. In short, the proposed change would replace local decision making with a *one-size-fits* all mandate across the 850+ cities in Minnesota. Motioned my Swenson to have the ECRDC write a letter asking that they confront the false narrative of the special interest groups, that rather, you take special interest in opposing the PUD preemptions in **SF4019**. Seconded by Stenson – motion carried.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be the ECRDC annual meeting on June 27, 2022. Location to be determined. Davis moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the ECRDC. Williamson seconded- motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Chairman