



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

October 28, 2024
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051

Commission Members Present:

Tom Anderson – Isanti Co. Townships
Alan Duff – Isanti Co. Commissioner
Jack Edmonds – Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest
Bruce Fitzwater – Chisago Co. Townships
Robert Hoefert, Mille Lacs Co. Townships
Shelly Johnson – Southern School Boards
Jeannette Kester - Pine Co. Public Interest
Scott Moe - Northern School Boards
Ben Montzka- Chisago Co. Commissioner
Dave Patenaude -Kanabec Co. Townships
Genny Reynolds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner
Peter Ripka – Kanabec Co. Commissioner
Brent Switzer – Pine Co. Municipalities
JJ Waldhalm, Pine Co. Commissioner
Dave Waldoch – Chisago Co. Municipalities
Glen Williamson-Pine Co. Townships
Dave Youngquist-Kanabec Co. Municipalities

Commission Members Absent:

Dave Dillan – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities
Nate George – Isanti Co. Municipalities
Kevin Schieber - City of North Branch
Sara Treiber – Kanabec Co. Public Interest

Staff Present:

Bob Voss - Executive Director
Nicole Klosner, Regional Dev. & Grant Specialist
Karen Onan, RTCC
Darcy Rylander – Finance Director
Trish Rydlund - Office Manager
Penny Simonsen – Transportation Planner
Jordan Zeller – Economic Development Planner

Others Present

Stephanie Rahn

- A. **WELCOME:** Chairman Montzka called the East Central Regional Development Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- B. **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Patenaude moved to approve the agenda as presented. Moe seconded - motion carried.
- C. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Ripka moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting. Kester seconded- motion carried.
- D. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss brought before the Commission the following items:
 1. Kanabec and Pine County Public Interest Representatives: Notices were sent to local newspapers and media to fill the Kanabec and Pine County Public Interest positions. One application was received for each position. Motioned by Williamson to approve Jeanette Kester, Pine County, and Sara Jayne Treiber, Kanabec County, as Public Interest Representatives. Waldhalm seconded – motion carried.
 2. Annual Audit: Fieldwork for the FY2024 agency-wide audit was conducted on October 8th. A full audit report is expected to be presented at the December 16th regular Commission meeting.
 3. ECRDC Building: A-Brite Painting finished painting the office building on October 9th. The original estimate was \$5,270 with the final cost being \$5,620 because of painting/installing the replacement shutters and painting the window boxes.
- E. **TREASURERS REPORT:** The Board reviewed the August and September 2024 Treasurer's report. Youngquist moved to accept the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written #11948 through #11997 along with

ACH payments for August and September 2024. Williamson seconded - motion carried. General Journals were reviewed and approved for the period August and September 2024.

- F. **CLIMATE AND ENERGY (C&E):** Nicole Klosner reported on the following:
1. Working with Mille Lacs County on a Small-town Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) for solar panels.
 2. Klosner has been accepted into the I Like That (ILT) Phase 1 of the Mobility plan for Pine Technical and Community College's 6-passenger Electric Golf Cart.
 3. Providing technical assistance to Hunter Farm for a Beginning Farmer Grant to expand storage capacity, higher customer base, an Agri Poultry grant to host butchering clinics, and farm classes.
- G. **TRANSPORTATION UPDATE:** Penny Simonsen reported on the following:
1. Providing technical assistance for upcoming TA and AT applications. Letters of Intent are due Friday, November 1st.
 2. Surface Transportation Block Grants (STBG): District 3 counties (Isanti Kanabec, and Mille Lacs) will have an opportunity to apply for STBG funding for local road projects this fall/winter, in the every-other-year solicitation. Chisago County is a yearly allocation for these funds. Pine County through District 1 receives funding on a rotation basis.
- H. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:** Jordan Zeller reported on Economic Development and brought forth the following item for discussion:
1. RLF Vacancies: Chisago County has an opening on the Revolving Loan Fund committee. We will be seeking applications for this position this fall.
 2. Holly Jolly Hustle: The ECRDC and local units of government are partnering with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to undertake a training for local businesses on marketing tools to capitalize on Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.
- I. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COUNCIL (ECRTCC):** Karen Onan reported on the following:
1. Onan was nominated to be on the National Research Council's Transit Cooperative Research Program J-07/Topic SH-25 Panel.
 2. Focus Group Meetings: Preparing for three upcoming University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies focus groups. These focus groups will meet with transit providers, rider/would-be riders, and transit stakeholders/partners this fall.
- J. **ECONOMIC RESILIENCY COORDINATOR UPDATE:** Michelle Thomas reported on the following items:
1. Childcare Across the Region: Development Partnership along with Michelle Thomas planned the 2024 Annual Meeting. The theme was "The Impact Child Care Can Have on Our Communities". Jeff Andrews The Business of Child Care, was the keynote speaker.
 2. Child Care Summit: Planning continues with the Small Business Development Center regional office for the upcoming Building the "Future of Child Care Summit" to be held at Central Lakes College in Brainerd on October 24th.
 - 3.
- K. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Montzka announced the next meeting will be December 16, 2024, at the ECRDC offices. Ripka moved to adjourn the meeting. Duff seconded- motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Chairman