

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN. Chair Laven was excused.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Auringer, Elliot Belgard, Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Steve Cooling, Brad DeVos, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Dawn Kratzke, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Gary Richter, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Scott Schlueter, Gary Sturm, Brigid Tuck, Juliann Wiersma

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chris Dalton, Elroy Glidden, Calvin Howard, Mike Laven, Ayan Omar, Pam Rodewald, Chera Sevcik

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Goblirsch, Steve Holmseth, Christian Lilienthal, Tom Loveall, Michele Miller, Blair Nelson, Keira Oeltjenbruns, Roy Srp, Jim Whitlock, Scott Windschitl

OTHERS PRESENT: David Borchert, Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Kristian Braekkan, Joel Hanif, Leah Petricka, Sabri Fair, Nate George, Frances Long, Paola Ferrario, Aaron Pacheco, Heather Bartelt

There was a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Femrite moved to approve the agenda as presented, Belgard seconded. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2022 MINUTES

Sturm moved to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes as presented, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

Rohlfing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Branstad seconded. Motion carried.

VII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Battern introduced the new Finance Specialist, Frances Long to the Commission.

Battern shared that the RNDC audit started on September 6 and is still in process. Battern shared that the Abdo audit team is completely new to RNDC this year.

Battern shared that the preliminary numbers of the audit show a large growth in RNDC's unreserved fund balance due to deferred revenue accruals for many years. Discussion followed.

The Finance Department has been working towards cleaning up all RLF loan client files and transitioning them into a digital format.

Battern shared that in the upcoming month he will be sending out a request for the Loan Committee to meet to discuss updating RNDC's Revolving Loan Plan, committee terms and to have a general discussion on RLF procedures. Discussion followed.

Battern shared that RNAI was the fiscal host for "The Reconciliation Learning Journey". This event occurred on October 8th.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Boettger noted that Chair Laven is excused from the meeting tonight and there were no items to report.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Griensewic shared that she and Vice Chair Boettger will be in Pittsburg, PA at the NADO Annual Training Conference from October 15-18.

Griensewic shared that a lunch and learn was held earlier today for staff. Griensewic shared her experiences from the Harvard Kennedy School course she took this past July titled "Senior Executives in Local & State Government".

Griensewic shared the RNDC "Diversity of Thought" event is taking place on November 1st. This event is a precursor to the MADO All Staff Retreat taking place November 2 & 3. Griensewic invited commissioners who are interested in the opportunity to attend.

Griensewic noted that Calvin Howard, Faribault County, Cities under 10k, as resigned from the Full Commission.

Griensewic shared that Tim Auringer, Mayor of Eagle Lake, who represents Blue Earth County, Cities under 10K, is not seeking re-election.

Griensewic noted the RNDC team continues doing follow up from the MarksNelson training.

Griensewic shared that at September's Board of Directors Meeting, Commissioner Lillienthal brought forward the "what if" concept of Sibley County hypothetically vacating Region Nine's boundaries and becoming a part of Mid-Minnesota Development Organization. Griensewic explained the process that would have to occur at the state, local and federal level. Discussion followed.

X. INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

Ferrario presented that she, Kristian, Nicole and Aaron have been working on tools to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the region. FDI would allow for current business expansion as well as opportunities for new businesses. Ferrario went on to explain there are four initiatives that have been set in action: "Guide to Doing Business", Foreign Trade Zones (Tax Free Zones), Exchange of Knowledge and Academic Exchange Opportunities.

Ferrario noted that the exchange is imperative on several levels that include:

- Strengthening existing and new relationships
- Attracting new international business opportunities
- New learning opportunities and collaborations in the region

The goal in the region is to:

- Obtain higher paying jobs
- Retain and attract talent
- Secure investments to our region
- Grow our supply chain integration
- Foster economic resilience
- Mitigate economic shocks towards a more digitalized industry while considering generational transitions

XI. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND LINK TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

Braekkan gave a presentation on identified needs as they pertain to the economic resilience differences throughout the region. He identified in our region there are performance indicators as they pertain to varying degrees of per capita income by census tracts. 13 census tracts are currently in the "economically distressed category" (i.e., below eighty percent of the national average).

XII. COMMISSIONER INPUT WORK – SESSION | PLANNING FOR 2023

Petricka noted the mission of RNDC is to "promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning, and technical assistance". Petricka requested the commissioners to use this time to break out into

small groups by their roles as township, city, county officials or special interest. They were to discuss the same three questions in each of their groups and report back. Petricka shared the purpose of the work session is to gather perspectives of the issues throughout the region for RNDC to prioritize future work. Discussion followed.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

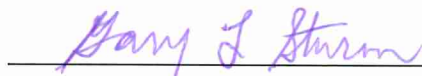
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Belgard moved to adjourn, Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Andrea Boettger, Vice Chair



Gary Sturm, Secretary