

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at RNDC in Mankato, MN.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Marie Dranttel, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal, Tom Loveall, Blair Nelson, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Gary Sturm, Juliann Wiersma

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Schlueter, Ky Battern, Leah Petricka, Nicole Griensewic, Heather Bartelt

There was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2022 MINUTES

Schafer moved to approve the August 10, 2022 minutes as presented, Sturm seconded.
Motion carried.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

Battern noted that there were some difficulties reporting credit card transactions with the current RNDC software. Battern shared that going forward, the reporting will be revised.

Commissioner Schafer inquired about the off-site storage unit. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Lilienthal inquired about out of state travel request charges for Ecuador and Louisiana. Griensewic provided previous meeting minutes that referenced prior approval.

Schafer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

VI. PRESENTATION - IJA OPPORTUNITIES

Chair Laven introduced the virtual presenter, Kellye Rose, Federal Grants Development Director at the MN Department of Commerce. Rose shared with the board information on the following items:

- What's all in the IJA
- Formula Grants vs. Competitive Grants
- Justice40 and Workforce Development
- Current Formula Grant Proposals
- Local Government Eligible Opportunities
- Other Grid Resilience Opportunities

Chair Laven thanked Rose for her presentation and noted that RNDC will follow up with sharing her slides on the Board Portal.

VII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Audit Updates

Battern shared that much of his time has been preparing for the year end audit. Battern noted Abdo had started the virtual audit on September 6th.

Battern shared that RNDC has looked at couple different software options on a trial basis in hopes of incorporating one within the RLF program. ProFx Systems is the new software that best fit RNDC's needs.

Battern updated the board that the project with RNAI, a "The Reconciliation Learning Journey" has been rescheduled to October 6th.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Laven noted he has nothing to report at this time.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Upcoming Commissioner Vacancies

Griensewic shared that Tim Auringer will not run for re-election as Mayor of Eagle Lake; Small Cities Blue Earth County.

Griensewic noted that Gary Sturm will not run for re-election as Mayor of St. James; Watonwan County Cities under 10K.

Roy Srp will not run for re-election as Mayor of Waseca; Waseca County Cities under 10K.

B. Out of State Travel Request

Griensewic shared with the board she potentially would like Paola Ferrario to join her at ACE in October. Griensewic noted that Ferrario may be eligible for a travel stipend through the RIAC as a representative with a university in Paraguay. If Ferrario is awarded travel funds, RNDC's only cost would be her staff time which can be charge to EDA planning grant. Chair Laven made a motion to collaborate with other agencies on travel expenses for ACE if possible.

Sturm moved to approve the motion to collaborate with other agencies on travel expenses for ACE, Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

C. Le Sueur County Plan Recap

Petricka shared the work she had been doing in Le Sueur County. The project has been to study what it could look like for Le Sueur County to create an economic development position. She provided an overview of the timeline, key responsibilities if a position was created, and mentioned the options the county could consider in addition to the staffing position. She reviewed the recommendations that have been made so far in the process and covered the next steps in the project. Petricka is slated to present at the Le Sueur County Board of Commissioners on September 20th.

D. RNDC 50th Celebration

Griensewic noted that the RNDC 50th Celebration that was scheduled for October 2022 will be rescheduled to January 2023 considering the upcoming elections in November.

Chair Laven requested Petricka to give an update on the corrective action plan with MnDOT. Petricka noted that the finalized plan went into effect on September 1, 2022. Petricka clarified that herself and Joel Hanif are aware of all expectations.

Griensewic asked the board for their thoughts from the MarksNelson training that took place in August. Commissioners shared their input, and all were positive reviews.

Griensewic shared that RNDC will be hosting the All Staff MADO Training November 2-3, 2022. Griensewic noted that Chair Laven and Mayor Massad have been invited to the welcoming presentation at opening of the MADO All Staff Training.

Griensewic shared that RNDC has posted for an Energy Planner Position.

Griensewic shared that MADO will be having a booth at the AMC Conference in Bloomington.

Griensewic noted that the meeting with the Federal EDA in Chicago went well and had a positive conversation.

Griensewic shared that the Blandin Foundation has changed their direction and are no longer doing broadband planning and technical assistance. Blandin will be moving forward with the vision to welcome diversity, address injustice, and embrace changes to create a sustainable and equitable future.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Updates

Boettger shared that mixed-use family housing was approved in New Ulm.

Nelson shared that Waseca County is amid budget talks and looking at a 3% increase on property taxes.

Lilienthal shared that he is looking into a jurisdiction boundary modification for Sibley County as their boundary and regional issues do align with Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission in Willmar. Discussion followed.

Rohlfing shared that improvements to trails on Lake Washington will be completed by the end of September. Rohlfing noted that budget talks will be occurring and looking at an increase of 7.5 % on property taxes.

Wiersma shared the focus in Blue Earth County has been Human Services and addressing the childcare shortage. Griensewic asked Wiersma for an update on the Rapidan Dam project. Wiersma shared that the public survey results have been collected, however the board currently does not have a consensus on the future of the project.

Sturm shared that the official groundbreaking for Central Farm Service has occurred. Sturm also noted that the Multi-Cultural Fiesta is September 17th in St. James.

Schafer noted that Martin County has completed ditch reassessments.

Dranttel shared that Nicollet County is looking at a 4.5% levy. Dranttel noted that Rock Bend Music Festival is taking place in St. Peter September 10 & 11th.

Chair Laven noted that Mankato is looking at 9.5% and will be using some CARES Act funds. Laven also shared that Mankato is having Pride Fest September 10 & 11th.

B. Meeting Evaluation

Chair Laven reminded the members of the Board to fill out the evaluation handout.

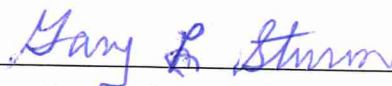
XI. ADJOURNMENT

Lilienthal moved to adjourn. Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.



Mike Laven, Chair



Gary Sturm, Secretary

