



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.



3 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 310, Mankato, Minnesota



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 13, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. | Region Nine Development Commission

CONSENT AGENDA

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Action</u>
I. Call to Order	4:30		
II. Roll Call – <i>Secretary Branstad</i>			
III. Approval of Consent Agenda			Action
IV. December 13, 2023 Minutes		1	
V. MN GreenCorps Member Resolution 2024-01		4	
VI. Treasurer’s Report – <i>Treasurer Dranttel</i>		5	
VII. Finance Director’s Report – <i>Ky Battern</i>	4:35	9	
VIII. Chair’s Report – <i>Chair Laven</i>	4:50		
IX. Executive Director’s Report – <i>Kristian Braekkan</i>	5:00		
X. Other Business	5:45		
A. Budget & Personnel Meeting Update			
B. Commissioner Updates			
C. Meeting Evaluation		Handout	
XI. Adjournment	6:00		Action

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. at RNDC in Mankato, MN

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal (late), Tom Loveall, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Rob Wilkening (virtual)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

OTHERS PRESENT: Ky Battern, Alejandra Bejarano, Mireille Ghassan

There was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rohlfig moved to approve the agenda. Branstad seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 8, 2023 MINUTES

Rohlfig moved to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes as presented, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

Audit presented by Abdo. Audit went well, no notable concerns. Continue to follow GAP policies.

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

VI. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Audit Presentation

Abdo presented the audit report to the board. Abdo has not found any findings or needed adjustments made while completing the audit. Drop in fund balance due to increase in expenditures for this year.

Fund balance at the 59% mark. General Fund revenues came under this year due to federal dollars that were expected to come in but did not. Overall, there was a slight decrease of \$239,000 in the fund balance.

Finalized report is in the works and will be completed soon.

Battern shared the largest decrease in the Fund Balance due to the USDA grant overbudgeted at the start of the year.

Battern noted that there was some internal miscommunication regarding if the MSU-M contract was reoccurring which led to \$34,000 shortfall.

Battern had conversations with Abdo expressing interest in having a complete audit wrap up for FY24 by October next year.

B. Recommend Audit to Full Commission

Battern shared that currently RNDC has an Auto Fund and a Capital Equipment Fund. Battern requested that the Auto Fund be incorporated into the Capital Equipment Fund.

Discussion followed.

Lilienthal moved to approve the Audit to Full Commission as presented, Boettger seconded. Motion carried.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Laven cautioned Commissioners about possible concrete shortages for future projects requiring large amounts of concrete.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Annual Performance Report Presentation – CEDS – Alejandra Bejarano

Alejandra presented the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the board.

B. Resolution 2023 – 11 APR

Braekkan shared the Twin Cities was awarded a large grant from the Federal EDA for MedTech 3.0. Braekkan noted that Greater MSP is the recipient in partnership with the U of M. Braekkan shared that MSU-M contacted RNDC to see if any funds would be available for them. RNDC has set up a meeting with U of M to clarify and explore opportunities for all to be involved in that work.

Femrite moved to approve Resolution 2023 – 11 APR as presented, Dranttel seconded. Motion carried.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Budget & Personnel Meeting Update

Discussion was had about the January meeting, code of conduct and succession plan.

B. Commissioner Updates

Commissioners shared updates from the municipalities.

C. Meeting Evaluation

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Branstad moved to adjourn. Laven seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Mike Laven, Chair

Jim Branstad, Secretary



RESOLUTION

Region Nine Development Commission
2024 – 01

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF 2024-2025 MINNESOTA GREENCORPS MEMBER APPLICATION

- Whereas,** The State of Minnesota established Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) to work with and on behalf of the nine counties, seventy-two cities, and one hundred forty-seven townships on economic, social, physical and governmental issues of a regional nature; and
- Whereas,** The Minnesota GreenCorps program, coordinated by the MPCA, aims to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. Each year, the program places AmeriCorps members with host site organizations around the state to help increase community and environmental resilience.
- Whereas,** The goal of the proposed member project and associated activities to become a Community Readiness and Outreach Fellow is to empower local communities in Region Nine, to adopt sustainable practices, enhance environmental stewardship, and build resilience through targeted outreach, education, and capacity-building initiatives

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Region Nine Development Commission hereby approves and authorizes the Region Nine Development Commission's application to the Minnesota GreenCorps Host site Program.

Dated this 13th of March 2024

Signed:

Mike Laven, Chair

Jim Branstad, Secretary

Region Nine Development Commission

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2024

	<u>General</u>	<u>Legacy RLF</u>	<u>CARES Act RLF</u>	<u>Auto Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Assets					
Cash	\$ 186,253	\$ 2,014,776	\$ 143,272	\$ 81,113	\$ 2,425,414
Receivables					
Taxes - Current	714,271	-	-	-	714,271
General Accounts Receivable	6,550	-	-	-	6,550
Grants Accounts Receivable	313,061	-	-	-	313,061
Revolving Loan - Current	-	139,298	116,982	-	256,280
Revolving Loan - Long-Term	-	1,001,567	715,046	-	1,716,613
Revolving Loan - Delinquent	-	24,747	29,000	-	53,747
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	14,201	-	-	-	14,201
Prepays	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	<u>1,234,336</u>	<u>3,180,388</u>	<u>1,004,300</u>	<u>81,113</u>	<u>5,500,137</u>
Liabilities					
Accounts Payable	29,461	-	-	-	29,461
Due to Other Funds	(191,405)	176,424	(3,528)	18,509	-
Accrued Wages Payable	-	-	-	-	-
Accrued Payroll Liabilities	6,345	-	-	-	6,345
Unearned Revenue	13,466	-	-	-	13,466
Accrued Leave Payable	26,363	-	-	-	26,363
Variance to be Reconciled	-	-	-	-	-
Total Liabilities	<u>(115,770)</u>	<u>176,424</u>	<u>(3,528)</u>	<u>18,509</u>	<u>75,635</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources					
Property Taxes Levied for Subsequent Year	640,848	-	-	-	640,848
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>640,848</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>640,848</u>
Fund Balances					
Non-Spendable - Prepaid Items	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted for Future Loans	-	3,003,964	981,872	-	3,985,836
Restricted Fund Balance	-	-	-	62,604	62,604
Unassigned	709,258	-	25,956	-	735,214
Total Fund Balances	<u>709,258</u>	<u>3,003,964</u>	<u>1,007,828</u>	<u>62,604</u>	<u>4,783,654</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	<u>1,234,336</u>	<u>3,180,388</u>	<u>1,004,300</u>	<u>81,113</u>	<u>5,500,137</u>
	-	-	-	-	-

Region Nine Development Commission
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes
As of January, 2024

	<u>General</u>	<u>Legacy RLF</u>	<u>CARES Act RLF</u>	<u>Auto Fund</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues					
Levy					
Taxes	366,106	-	-	-	366,106
Federal Grants					
EDA Planning Grant	13,016	-	-	-	13,016
Other Federal Grants	108,428	-	-	-	108,428
Transportation					
Transportation - MnDOT Contract	52,043	-	-	-	52,043
Transportation - Other	-	-	-	-	-
Other Grants	112,484	-	-	-	112,484
Contract Revenue	7,277	-	-	-	7,277
Deposit Interest & Dividends	17,461	28,988	1,655	-	48,104
Loan Interest Earned	-	34,272	6,216	-	40,488
Transfer Funds	(2,495)	6,681	(4,186)	-	-
Other Revenue	132	49	61	2,384	2,626
Total Revenues	<u>674,452</u>	<u>70,008</u>	<u>4,396</u>	<u>2,384</u>	<u>751,240</u>
Expenses					
Salary & Wages	425,894	41,380	178	-	467,452
Fringe Benefits	111,790	12,211	53	-	124,054
Indirect Costs	152,226	12,326	53	-	164,605
Consultants	155,880	-	-	-	155,880
Staff Travel	15,066	530	-	617	16,213
Supplies	3,432	60	-	-	3,492
Copying	1,640	-	-	-	1,640
Postage	312	-	-	-	312
Phone	1,051	-	-	-	1,051
Staff Development	7,311	843	-	-	8,154
Software	23,863	280	-	-	24,143
Dues, Membership, Registration	18,211	-	-	20	18,231
Marketing & Publication	6,550	-	-	-	6,550
Rentals	580	-	-	518	1,098
Bank Service Charges	3,077	2,086	816	-	5,979
Service Fees	2,335	126	-	-	2,461
Insurance	-	-	-	114	114
Legal Fees	4,031	166	3,048	-	7,245
Catering & Event Meals	2,248	-	-	-	2,248
Equipment	2,681	-	-	19,290	21,971
Commission					
Per Diems	3,598	-	-	-	3,598
Travel	5,751	-	-	-	5,751
Catering	2,061	-	-	-	2,061
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Bus Tour	7	-	-	-	7
Miscellaneous	3,878	-	248	429	4,555
Total Current	<u>954,807</u>	<u>70,008</u>	<u>4,396</u>	<u>20,988</u>	<u>1,050,199</u>
Debt Service					
Copier Lease Payment	3,113	-	-	-	3,113
Total Debt Service	<u>3,113</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,113</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>957,920</u>	<u>70,008</u>	<u>4,396</u>	<u>20,988</u>	<u>1,053,312</u>
Net Changes in Fund Balances	(283,468)	-	-	(18,604)	(302,072)
Fund Balances, July 1, 2023	<u>992,726</u>	<u>3,003,964</u>	<u>1,007,828</u>	<u>81,208</u>	<u>5,085,726</u>
Fund Balances as of January, 2024	<u>\$ 709,258</u>	<u>\$ 3,003,964</u>	<u>\$ 1,007,828</u>	<u>\$ 62,604</u>	<u>\$ 4,783,654</u>

Region Nine Development Commission
Board Payment Listing - December & January

Check#	Check Date	Vendor Name	Check Amount	Description
116184	01/24/2024	Georgetown University	(1,600.00)	VOID
116185	01/24/2024	Sodexo, Inc	(244.20)	VOID
116255	01/24/2024	Greater Mankato Area United Way	(795.00)	VOID
116292	01/24/2024	Blethen Berens	(216.00)	VOID
116305	12/04/2023	NGSW Properties LLC	65,000.00	NGSW Loan Disbursement - Approved 10/26/23
116306	12/14/2023	Creative Ad Solutions Inc	20.00	Plaque with Acrylic Holder - INV 251840
116307	12/14/2023	American Solutions for Business	34.48	Business Cards - Mercede - INV 07123720
116308	12/14/2023	Principal Life Insurance Company	651.50	Life Insurance Policy Premiums - Acct 1125885-10001
116309	12/14/2023	City of Mankato	258.90	Quarterly Bill for Vehicle Parking - INV 20358
116310	12/14/2023	Blue Dirt Farm LLC	6,356.31	VOID
	01/24/2024		6,356.31	VOID
116311	12/14/2023	GHG Corporation	80.00	Teamkeeper Timesheet Software - December 2023 - INV 97465
116312	12/14/2023	Thriveon Inc	3,711.96	Monthly IT & Microsoft Costs - December 2023 - INV 182645
116313	12/14/2023	Shred-It, C/O Stericycle Inc	138.63	Shredding Service - INV 8005292967
116314	12/14/2023	Metro Sales Inc	377.25	Copier Lease Charge - 11/27 to 12/26 - INV 2411429
116315	12/14/2023	Spirited Journeys LLC	1,305.00	USDA NRCS Consultant Work - November 2023 - INV 681A
116316	12/14/2023	Living Earth Center	746.20	USDA NRCS Consultant - November 2023 - INV 1026
116317	12/14/2023	Security Storage Systems	200.00	Offsite Storage - INV 24545 & 24546
116318	12/14/2023	Friedrichs Law Office, PA	1,305.00	RLF Services & Audit Letter Response
116319	12/14/2023	NADO	510.00	2024 DDAA Member Registration - Boettger, Andrea - INV 23222-C1F6Z3
116320	12/14/2023	NADO	510.00	2024 DDAA Member Registration - Griensewic, Nicole - INV 23223-F7K4Q2
116321	12/14/2023	NADO	4,000.00	Sustaining Membership Level for 2024
116322	12/14/2023	George, Nathan	1,600.00	VOID
	01/24/2024		1,600.00	VOID
116323	12/14/2023	Virgina Mooty Rutter	1,215.00	SAF Project & Grant Application Support
116324	12/14/2023	Blethen Berens	190.00	RLF Legal Fees - Acct 12541.009 Stmt 2
116325	12/14/2023	Blethen Berens	907.50	RLF Template Creation Legal Services - Acct 12541.010 Stmt 1
116326	12/14/2023	NADO	350.00	2023 Summer Board Meeting Main Registration - INV 22300-J2G9Q2
116327	12/14/2023	Rohlfing, Steve J	67.51	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116328	12/14/2023	Schafer, Philip H	118.00	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116329	12/14/2023	Branstad, Jim	92.00	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116330	12/14/2023	Lilienthal, Christian	88.47	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116331	12/14/2023	Laven, Mike	40.00	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Per Diem
116332	12/14/2023	Femrite, Lyle	50.48	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116333	12/14/2023	Boettger, Andrea S	114.06	12/7 CSM Meeting & 12/13 Board Meeting - Mileage & Per Diems
116334	12/14/2023	Loveall, Tom H	85.85	Board Meeting - 12/13 - Mileage & Per Diem
116335	12/14/2023	Nicollet County Recorder Office	46.00	Satisfaction of Mortgage for NGSW Properties
116336	12/14/2023	Wells Fargo	17.25	Zoom - Monthly Cost - 10/22 - HB
			49.05	Amazon - Basic Office Supplies - 11/10 - HB
116337	12/19/2023	US Bank	131.85	Gallup - CliftonStrenghths Team Activities Guide - 10/4 - HB
			50.00	MI Parks - Michigan State Park Pass (Wellness) - 10/4 - HB
			550.00	Minnesota State Parks - Park Passes (Wellness) - 10/4 - HB
			51.50	IN Department of Natural Resources - State Park Pass (Wellness) - 10/4 - HB
			4.96	HyVee - Snacks & Refreshments for Committee/Board Meetings - 10/11 - HB
			97.56	Wine Cafe - NADO Group Pizza from 10/17 - 10/17 - KB
			22.34	HyVee FF - Fuel for Traverse - 10/7 - KB
			144.09	Mi Mexico - Staff/Commissioner Lunch for trip to Morris - 10/10 - SF
			38.61	HyVee FF - Fuel for Traverse - 10/18 - SF
			100.00	Old Town Association - Tabling/Rental for Day of the Dead - 10/18 - SF
			120.00	Renewing the Country Side - Farmland Summit Registration - 10/20 - SF
			10.00	U of M Parking - Nicole Event - 10/4 - NG
			27.81	HyVee FF - Fuel for Traverse - 10/5 - NG
			111.30	Johan's Bar & Grill - Staff Wellness Day Lunch - 10/6 - NG
			70.00	Greater Mankato Growth - REDA Registration (2) - 9/29 - SS
			29.55	Allianz Travel Insurance - Travel Insurance for Cleveland NADO Trip - 9/29 - SS
			437.80	Delta Airlines - MSP to Cleveland Flight for NADO - 9/29 - SS
			204.30	DEED Business - MN DEED and Community Development Registration - 10/2 - SS
116338	12/19/2023	US Bank	98.75	Target - Wellness Supplies - 10/28 - HB
			5.99	HyVee - Cookies for Board Meeting - 11/7 - HB
			468.00	SurveyMonkey - Advantage Annual Plan - 11/9 - HB
			23.82	Walgreens - File Folders - 11/12 - KB
			13.25	Jimmy Johns - Sabri Lunch for USDA NRCS Meeting - 11/14 - SF
			124.64	Holiday Inn Chanhassen - USDA NRCS Hotel Stay - 11/17 - SF
			943.50	Constant Contact - Marketing/Communication Subscription - 11/9 - NateG
			80.70	KLM Airline - Denmark Flight Luggage Cost - 11/5 - NG
			50.39	SAS Ground - Denmark Travel - 11/10 - NG
			91.28	KLM PassServ - Denmark Luggage Costs - 11/10 - NG
			25.00	Agricultural Utilization - MN Renewable Energy Roundtable Registration - 10/26 - SS
			37.55	Lyft - Ride to NADO Conference - 11/7 - SS
			30.00	Delta Air - Baggage Fee for Cleveland NADO Conference - 11/6 - SS
			33.00	Winking Lizard - Cleveland NADO Conference Sam & Andrea Dinner - 11/7 - SS
			143.67	Blue Point Grille - Andrea/Sam Dinner NADO Cleveland - 11/9 - SS
			19.52	Doordash - NADO Cleveland Sam Dinner - 11/10 - SS
			29.49	Lyft - NADO Cleveland Conference Ride to Airport - 11/11 - SS
			30.00	Delta Air - Baggage Fees NADO Cleveland - 11/10 - SS
			60.22	Elliot's Bar - Sam/Andrea Dinner NADO Cleveland - 11/9 - SS
			1,227.90	Hilton - Sam Hotel Stay NADO Cleveland - 11/10 - SS
			24.55	Kwik Trip Mankato - Fuel for Traverse - 11/16 - CW
116339	01/05/2024	Monday.com, LTD	7,920.00	Project Management Software Renewal - 12/30/23 to 12/29/24 - INV IN23010022740
116340	01/05/2024	GHG Corporation	165.00	Clocksystem Monthly Invoice - INV 97100 & 97832
116341	01/05/2024	Absolute Catering	1,327.65	Commission Meal & Server Cost - 1/10 - INV969
116342	01/05/2024	GMS	160.00	GMS Monthly Billing - INV 293404,294278,295461,296715
116343	01/05/2024	Spirited Journeys LLC	945.00	USDA NRCS Consulting for December 2023 - INV 683A
116344	01/05/2024	Spectrum	119.98	Internet Service for December - INV 0820665122323
116345	01/05/2024	Metro Sales Inc	377.25	Copeir Base Rate Charges - INV 2433008
116346	01/05/2024	Xcel Energy	64.22	Electric Utilities - 11/13 to 12/16 - Account 51-0012085064-9, Statement 857583485

116347	01/05/2024	Georgetown University	1,600.00	Student Impact Intern - INV 81676 (Check Reissue)
116348	01/05/2024	Blue Dirt Farm LLC	5,448.11	Local Food Assitance Program - Wooden Spoon Delivery
116349	01/05/2024	Living Earth Center	673.40	USDA NRCS Contract Payment - December 2023 - INV 1026
116350	01/05/2024	Vanderberg Cleaning Services LLC	360.00	Janitorial Services for January 2024 - INV 16951
116351	01/05/2024	Neubau Holdings LLC	3,208.00	Building Rent - January 2024
116352	01/05/2024	Thriveon Inc	3,818.28	IT Services Monthly Billing
116353	01/05/2024	Lime Valley Advertising Inc	28.75	Programming Services - Screenshot Instructions for County Map
116354	01/05/2024	Friedrichs Law Office, PA	1,180.00	VOID
	01/24/2024		1,180.00	VOID
116355	01/05/2024	Verizon Wireless	228.13	Nicole Cell & RNDC Tablet Monthly Charge - INV 9951225406
116356	01/05/2024	Green Mill & Sterling Catering	1,019.06	Transportation Planners Meeting - Room Rental & Catering - INV 87549-87553
116357	01/16/2024	Wells Fargo	17.25	Zoom - Monthly Charge - 11/22 - HB
			170.98	Hilton Minneapolis - Dawn Hegland Cancel Charge (To Be Reimbursed) - 11/30 - HB
			3,632.14	Hilton Minneapolis - MADO Retreat (To be invoiced to other RDCs) - 12/2 - HB
116358	01/16/2024	Wells Fargo	49.05	Uber Eats - Accidental Charge (To Be Reimbursed) - 12/9 - PF
116359	01/19/2024	Region Nine Development Commission	49,578.07	Legacy RLF Funds Transfer to US Bank/MAGIC
116360	01/19/2024	Region Nine Development Commission	19,316.19	Savings Transfer to US Bank/MAGIC
116361	01/19/2024	Region Nine Development Commission	131,013.38	RLF CARES Transfer to US Bank
116362	01/22/2024	Lynn, Andrea	400.00	Growers Network Presentation - 1.10.24
116363	01/22/2024	Colin Scharf	1,040.00	Grant Writing & Consulting for Welcome America, Welcoming Initiative, General Services - January 2024
116364	01/22/2024	Abdo	7,700.00	FY23 Audit Services Final Billing
116365	01/22/2024	Vanderberg Cleaning Services LLC	360.00	Cleaning Services - December 2023
116366	01/22/2024	Friesen's LLC dba Wooden Spoon	1,518.00	Food Assistance Admin Grant Reimbursement - INV 4213
116367	01/22/2024	South Central Service Coop	15.00	Coffee Fee for Full Commission Meeting
116368	01/22/2024	Blethen Berens	40.56	Legal Mailing Fees
116369	01/22/2024	Security Storage Systems	200.00	January & February Storage - INV 26142 & 26143
116370	01/22/2024	The Free Press	435.36	52 Week Subscription - Account #123512903
116371	01/22/2024	Cedar Crate Farm	440.00	USDA NRCS Registration Reimbursement - INV 123456
116372	01/22/2024	Ecostrat	100,000.00	BDO Zone Rating Designation (Prize Money Funded) - INV ECO-6748
116373	01/22/2024	Johnson, Corree	4,320.00	Administrative Consulting - 48 hours in Dec/Jan
116374	01/22/2024	Welcoming America	500.00	2024 General Membership Dues - INV WA 4219
116375	01/22/2024	Backlund Acres	540.00	Local Food Purchase Assistance Grant - Local Foods Reimbursement
116376	01/22/2024	Verizon Wireless	131.94	Cell & Tablet Bill - INV 9953698035
116377	01/22/2024	Neubau Holdings LLC	3,208.00	February Office Rent
Check Total		455,549.15		
Report Total:		455,549.15		

Finance Director's Report

Submitted by Ky Battern

March 13, 2024 Board Meeting

Finance

- January and February were mostly consumed by year end reporting and work related to the revised budget for FY24. The revised budget along with a preliminary budget for FY25 will be brought to the B&P committee come April.
- All of our Revolving Loan Fund has been successfully transitioned to the MAGIC Fund and US Bank. Earnings within these funds have greatly out paced that of what we were realizing within Wells Fargo. Our banking fees are a small fraction of what we incurred prior to the switch.
- Certificate of Deposits will be explored in the upcoming months to lock in favorable rates for available cash on hand within our RLF program.
- New R9 Vehicle (Toyota RAV4) will be available for pickup by end of March.

Revolving Loan Fund

- RLF
 - Current Principal Outstanding = \$2,026,640
 - Approximately \$1.9M Available to Lend
- See Courtney Wright's Staff Report for more information regarding the Revolving Loan Fund.

Region Nine Area, Inc.

- RNAI will be the fiscal host for the Reconciliation Learning Journey Project. They plan to create their own non-profit within this upcoming year. This organization's mission is to educate the public on historical events and the repercussions of such actions on the indigenous people of the local area.

Staff Updates – March 2024

Nicole Griensewic

It has been an extremely busy time at Region Nine. We are excited to share that Sarah Janovsky started with us on March 4th as the Executive Assistant. The team did a great job running short-staffed while Nate and I conducted interviews and went through the hiring process. We believe we have a new record of applications, having received at least 30 complete applications for the position. I believe this is a compliment to the team's reputation for doing impactful work that brings purpose.

The team and I have pursued technical assistance from the University of Minnesota through their Regional Sustainable Partnership new grant program that we discussed at the January Commission meeting. The project from the city of Welcome was selected for their Rapid Response category to receive assistance with replacing trees, and recommendations on varieties as well as creating communication for the city residents on the project. Another project that RNDP submitted was for the city of New Ulm on the conversion and expansion of their district heating system. This will be a competitive project, as it is much more labor-intensive and technical. RNDP also submitted the issue on rural EMS, as the topic was addressed at the January meeting. Commissioners Borchert and Boettger helped explain the issue to the U of M. Communities will be informed by the end of March if their project was selected by the regional boards.

The Legislative Committee has been meeting to narrow in on regional issues to be addressed during a bonding year. The committee identified water quality and water infrastructure as a main topic to pursue due to numerous communities in the region needing replacement and/or to address manganese levels, etc. The committee met w. Senator Frentz, as he represents a large portion of the region as well as holding leadership positions in the Senate.

We are continually looking for innovative and affordable ways to add staff capacity. Some programs we have been looking into include:

- Connection Corps, to have a dedicated individual focused on broadband expansion in the region. The cost to for a host site would be \$35k/ year, however scholarships may be available to offset the cost.
- GreenCorps, to have a member be focused on Community Outreach & Engagement for sustainability projects throughout the region.
- Climate Impact Corps, to have a member be focused on assisting municipalities with tree plans and & replacement, as well as an inventory of impacting trees. This idea came from the conversation with the U of M and the city of Welcome.

- Georgetown Impact Fellow, the U of M provided funding to support Maggie Ahren's continued work w. Kristian & team. Maggie will be with us until the end of August and is working on medical device clustering, economic impact and supply chain analysis.

I will be traveling for the NADO Annual Policy Conference during the board meeting. Vice Chair Boettger will be attending and joining for Hill visits. Chair Laven may join for some NADO events, as he is also in D.C. at the same time for National League of Cities. This will be my first NADO conference serving on the Executive Board. I have pushed NADO to pursue relationships with Dept. of Energy and USDA-RD. I am pleased that the organization has taken that direction. Our main federal partner, EDA has not been able to fund our proposed work, nor have had adequate funding that rural areas are able to compete for.

While in D.C., I have meetings set with USDA's National Renewable Energy Advisor, Chris Cassidy. As discussed at the January meeting, Cassidy was also a delegate and presenter in Denmark. I have asked Vice Chair Boettger to join me, as the City of New Ulm has aspirational goals of expanding their district heating system and converting from steam to hot water. Cassidy is the individual who can help bring on the right partners and funding for these types of projects that could truly be transformative. He also alerted me to the Advanced Bioeconomy Leadership Conference will be taking place on the 14th. I have asked Boettger to join me, as the event will have key players and other connections present that could be valuable to our region and our pending projects.

Update for funding, we did receive the final contract for the State Competitiveness Fund. These funds will allow Sam and Paola to work directly with our communities to pursue federal funding via the IRA or IIJA. We have also been written into a grant the state is leading. We are only one of two development commissions to be specifically written in. The grant would be to decarbonize residences in the region. Sam and Sabri are also leading a grant application for federal funding to put solar on publicly- owned buildings and/or land. I am especially proud of the team to be leading these efforts. Our focus for the past 1.5 years on building relationships is proving to pay off with these recent grant applications.

One relationship that has been paramount this past year has been the McKnight Foundation. I submitted a grant request that we, MADO were invited to apply for to compliment the State Competitiveness Funding, ensuring rural MN is not left out. The McKnight Foundation asked me to take the lead in applying for funding, as we have an established relationship with the foundation. The current request for their board to review in May would be for a total of \$750k for six regions, including Region Nine. McKnight has assured me that they would like to further support our work, however they want to ensure funds can start flowing. I expect they will ask us to lead in a second grant proposal in a few months once other funders join their effort.

Related to funding, a date has been set for our Grants Opportunity Forum, (GOF). Paola has taken the lead on organizing the event that will be aimed at city administrators/ clerks, chambers, economic developers, and other regional grant writers. The GOF will be April 12th at SCSC. This is the Friday after the Commission meeting. I was successful at asking Tim Penny to have SMIF be the lunch sponsor. This will ensure the GOF can be cost-free to attendees while still encouraging folks to network and attend. Funders that will be present to talk include: MPCA, Dept. of Commerce, U of M Extension Office of Regional Sustainability, and SMIF w. childcare grants.

The Budget and Personnel committee will be meeting on March 7th. Items on the agenda include suggested policy manual revisions from our employment law attorney, as well as a timeline for strategic planning and the executive director's annual performance evaluation.

The annual bus tour committee has set an agenda for the annual event on June 12th. The tour will include New Ulm's District Heating System, Lower Sioux Community's housing project w. using hempcrete, catered lunch at Schell's brewery and discussion on how we are assisting the brewery and other private sector employers with clean energy technical assistance. While in New Ulm, the tour will highlight the city's unique pod model childcare center. On the way back to Mankato, the HWY 14 project will be the last stop to hear from MnDOT District Engineer Zac Tess on the project.

Alejandra Bejarano

Alejandra and Mercedes attended different regional events to promote the regional employer survey and international student survey as part of the Workforce Task Force. These events included a networking event with the Southern MN Human Resource Association (SMAHRA) and the Engineering Career and Internship Fair at Minnesota State University.

Alejandra submitted an application to the American Connection Corps program, which centers around strengthening local capacity and fostering economic prosperity in rural communities and legacy cities across the nation. As part of this initiative, RNDC hopes to serve as a host organization for an ACC member, who would provide further support for broadband initiatives in the region.

Alejandra remains actively involved in supporting and participating in meetings as part of the Informal Economy Project, led by HACER and supported by the University of Minnesota Extension and RNDC. The project is dedicated to researching Latina entrepreneurs who are managing businesses in non-traditional forms. Recently, a series of workshops and training sessions started in Southern Minnesota and the Twin Cities Area. Alejandra, along with other RNDC staff, has played a key role in contributing to the design and execution of the training, as well as participating in outreach and promotional activities.

Alejandra completed the renewal application for the Partnership Planning grant through the Economic Development Administration.

Alejandra and Sabri attended the Regional Economic Development Alliance Advisory Committee at Eagle Lake City Hall that focused on discussing the Inflation Reduction Act, the Minnesota Site Readiness Project, and the 2024 REDA Marketing & Communications Plan, among other REDA-related items.

Alejandra joined a discussion led by Greater Mankato Growth, and joined by RNDC staff, Waseca County, and RMI to discuss the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and conduct supply chain mapping to identify employers that could benefit now or in the benefit from this and other funding streams.

Alejandra joined the February meeting of Regional Education Workforce Development (RED) which focuses on the growth of the region by promoting and enhancing talent development, recruitment, and retention. The group discussed and learned about a Health Science Mobile Lab Pilot Project that provides hands-on experiences and equipment for middle and high school students interested in the healthcare field. The project was led by the South-Central Service Cooperative and South-Central College.

RNDC was invited to join the International Student Retention Peer Learning Cohort, led by Global Detroit, as part of the ongoing efforts by the task force. This national learning cohort aims to bring together organizations from across the country with a focus on international talent retention, allowing them to collaborate through monthly meetings. Members of this cohort include the State of Utah's Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, the University of Southern Maine, City of South Bend, Indiana, among others.

Kristian Braekkan

Kristian finalized RNDC's final deliverable for the federal EDA funded New Ulm Robotics and Automation Plan in February in partnership with NUBRIC. The feasibility study was the second of three deliverables as part of this grant, with NUBRIC's implementation plan (non-R9 deliverable) being the third component to be finalized before the grant ends in June. Kristian has also supported the work with the Faribault and Sibley County strategic economic development plans, in partnership with Mercedes, Mireille, Saga, and Maggie (Georgetown University practicum student). He has also begun cluster analyses aimed at identifying potential Inflation Reduction Act industry partnerships across various manufacturing industry segments of the industry, in addition to ongoing cluster analyses with Aaron. He is also working with Saga on a possible EDA application to explore industry and community impacts of the *North Star Promise*, in addition to a workforce application with Alejandra.

Sabri Fair

Sabri and Sam have continued their work on the Comfrey Climate Resilience plan and will be hosting an Open House at the Comfrey Community Center on March 12th to showcase the results of their efforts thus far and get more community input especially on projects. This event will feature the steps leading up to the plan's conclusion and will allow Comfrey community members to see solar panels up close, hear from energy experts in the region, and get access to resources for energy efficiency and possible funding opportunities.

Sabri has also been involved in two federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) applications. The first, led by the MPCA, focuses on equitable residential decarbonization and connecting disadvantaged communities to funding and resources designed for saving on energy costs and improving energy efficiency of their homes. Region Nine was invited to collaborate on this federal funding opportunity due to RNDC's proven success and ongoing commitment to supporting communities in need of energy assistance. If funding is awarded RNDC would receive two fully funded staff positions who would be in charge of dispersing \$6 million through various public and private avenues over the next 5 years. The application deadline is 4/1.

The second CPRG application, led by RNDC, focuses on providing solar for public buildings (i.e. wastewater treatment plants, community centers, city halls, etc.). This application features a coalition of regional development organizations across the state and will serve to prioritize disadvantaged rural communities by implementing a cost-friendly resilient energy system for their public buildings. Samuel and Sabri have been leading meetings with RDO partners to work collaboratively in developing the application. Efforts in shaping this application include taking inventory of every utility provider within the region, identifying potential communities that would be eligible for this funding, and overseeing the partnering RDO's in their respective data collection. This application deadline is also 4/1.

Sabri organized and hosted two introductory farm transition webinars which had 25 attendees at each one. The events were developed in partnership with the Farmland Access Hub and were meant to provide a first step for landowners thinking about transitioning their farms to the next generation.

Sabri has been working with the Living Earth Center on their land transition work by setting up meetings with non-profits and others who have successfully purchased farmland. The Living Earth Center which runs one of Minnesota's largest community gardens with 180 plots is losing access to their land and needs to find a new home in the next 2 -5 years.

Sabri has started outreach for Local Foods Week by identifying interested farmers. Last year he was able to connect seven farmers with 8 local restaurants and this year he hopes to expand and improve his efforts.

Sabri has continued conversations with North Mankato about having our local foods interns manage the market to implement SNAP and EBT and increase the local community's awareness of and engagement with the market. This summer the interns will also work on a regional commercial kitchen analysis to identify commercial kitchens in the region and catalog what infrastructure they have and how food entrepreneurs can utilize them.

Paola Ferrario

Paola has been actively involved with putting together the Grant Opportunities Forum, taking place on April 12 at the South-Central Service Cooperative. This forum will feature a variety of speakers representing the USDA, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Rural Water Association, and RNDC. This event is designed to showcase the vast amount of funding available to communities and highlight the services RNDC can provide in working through the funding application landscape.

Paola and Samuel worked collaboratively to develop an application to the MN Department of Commerce's State Competitiveness Funds, in which RNDC was awarded \$290K over the next three years to partially cover Paola and Samuel's time to continue supporting communities in applying for federal funding pools.

Paola and Samuel have been working to form a press release for the recently concluded BDO Zone regional biofuels assessment and will be collaborating with Ecostrat to schedule a webinar and coordinate an effective, wide-reaching marketing push to attract investors and development to the region. Additionally, as a result of winning the Phase I funding through NREL's Energizing Rural Communities Prize, Paola and Samuel were invited to attend a training opportunity hosted in Golden, CO at the NREL Headquarters to prepare for the upcoming Phase II funding opportunity for \$200K due in July.

Lastly, Paola and Mireille recently attended the legislative committee, where Paola led the coordination of meetings and served to facilitate conversation throughout the event.

Sarah Janovsky

Sarah started her role on Monday, March 4th, having previously served as the assistant to the Superintendent of Saint Peter Schools. During her initial week, she dedicated her time to familiarizing herself with RNDC and collaborating with fellow staff members on assembling meeting packets.

Nathan George

In February, Nate began the planning for the 2024 Region Nine Bus Tour along with the bus tour committee. Nate will be leading this project along with Nicole. The proposed stops have been decided and the bus has been reserved. The committee will work with the proposed locations in the next step to finalize the logistics.

Nate worked with the Center for Transportation Studies to help promote the “Industry Clusters on the Prairie” event. This included social media, email invitations, and word-of-mouth methods. The event was well attended and included a presentation from Kristian and was moderated by Nicole.

Nate has also been working with Lime Valley to fix minor issues with the website and implement new features. This has included updating the website’s Google integration so Google Maps would be updated. Nate has also updated the Resources page to include more funding options and make navigation easier. One new feature that Nate added was a search function to the reports on the website.

Nate is working with Paola and Sam to create the digital and print collateral for the upcoming Grant Opportunity Forum on April 12th. This includes creating the event page and graphics, as well as text for emails, the newsletter, and marketing copy.

Nate has been assisting Mercedes with material for the Faribault County Community and International Student and Employers surveys. This includes formatting the print version of the surveys, flyers to encourage participation, and creating the physical surveys for distribution.

Nate assisted Nicole with the hiring process for the Executive Assistant position. This included posting the job opening on multiple websites, promoting the position, managing the submissions through the website, answering applicant questions, and helping conduct the interviews. Due to his work, this job opening had the highest number of applicants in recent years.

Nate is also pursuing a research grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct an Arts and Culture Needs Assessment for Region Nine. The proposed project's goal is to provide primary research on the economic and community benefits of art programs. The hope is that by creating this report, future grant applicants will have quantitative data to support their applications. Another desire is to identify ways to support art programs in rural areas.

Mireille Ghassan

Mireille has been working with Alejandra and Mercedes on the Workforce Taskforce. Both the student and employer surveys were deployed and received decent feedback. Mireille worked on getting contact information from various companies in the region who have sponsored H-1B visas and reached out via email with a link to the employer survey.

Mireille has been working with Kristian, Mercedes, and Saga on the Sibley County Assessment, which involved meeting with the County Commissioners and two City Administrators. These meetings include the collection of valuable information, insights and feedback from city and county officials which will help initiate a survey with a needs assessment and feasibility study to follow.

Mireille has been helping Mercedes with the Faribault County survey analysis. This analysis includes a comprehensive break-down of individual survey responses, giving insight to challenges facing the community and notable strengths.

Mireille has been working on creating a plan for updating the RNDC dashboard. The plan is to focus more on the cornerstones and how they align with the global sustainable development goals.

Mireille has also been helping with Executive Assistant tasks as the position has been vacant since December, however, a replacement has been hired.

Finally, Mireille has been taking notes for the Legislative Committee meetings and doing research on the EMS challenges across the region.

Joel Hanif

Joel's work on the Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Safe Routes to School plan has continued with the second team meeting taking place in February. Teachers at some schools conducted student travel tallies during the week of February 26-March 1. The remainder will conduct their travel tallies during the first week of April. Joel also assisted the Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop Schools on both a Safe Routes to School infrastructure grant application and a Transportation Alternatives application to support the development of bike and pedestrian facilities at the new campus to be built in Gibbon.

Joel completed his first year as co-chair of the Regional Development Organizations Transportation Planners. In this role, he most recently organized and facilitated a quarterly meeting with other RDO transportation planners, MnDOT staff, and several guest presenters on a variety of topics like connected and autonomous vehicles, the Carbon Reduction Program, and best practices in facilitating Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs). Joel's term as co-chair will continue through February 2025.

Joel met with the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce to discuss possibly applying for a U.S. DOT RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant to fund the construction of the Czech Heritage Trail, but after further discussion, RAISE did not seem like a good fit at the present time. Joel has continued to seek possible funding streams for that project.

Joel and other staff met with Al Christensen of Tri-County Solid Waste on March 6 to discuss the possibility of RNDC writing the Tri-County Solid Waste Plan. Staff agreed that the timeline of the plan and capacity of the team would enable the team to complete the plan, and Joel is now working with finance to draft a contract.

Joel has also been serving as a representative for transportation-related issues on VINE's initiative to have Mankato and North Mankato join AARP's Age-Friendly Communities network. This effort will guide the Mankato-North Mankato area towards improving the quality of life for older adults as demographic shifts show growth in that population segment.

Aaron Pacheco

Aaron Pacheco has completed his industry diversity study with Kristian Braekkan and is finalizing details for a finished manuscript. The project looks at measures of economic outcomes used by the EDA (Economic Development Administration) and examines their associations across the region in relation to industry diversity. The goal is to mitigate the risks of single sector (or anchor employer) dependencies that are commonly associated with rural economies. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach to national and regional economic development, the impact of industry diversity on small rural communities, especially those disconnected from the urban complexity of cities, are more likely to have other barriers that would hinder the positive development or impact of industry diversity within the local economy. The study suggests communities and larger collaborative geographies like Region Nine, rather than looking at singular objectives such as job creation, foreign investment, and even industry diversity itself, begin strengthening economies by addressing those factors related to the impact and effects of diversification on outcomes with comprehensive plans that leverage communities' strengths to solve their own particular situations. Once these barriers are addressed, more specific programs targeting diversification or job creation will be less restricted to produce desired positive outcomes.

Along with this industry diversity study, Aaron has worked with Kristian Braekkan on the collaborative project with the University of Redlands and University of Minnesota to map economic flows in the region. His contribution to the project of mapping clusters by industry are used to connect the geographic and economic relationships that are seen through shared commerce and indirect investments across sectors. Though this may be

visible through the lens of transportation by the physical movement of products, the relationships between individual firms in these industries may be indirectly facilitated by unseen exchanges between shared points along supply chains. For example, investment and interest in a particular firm or industry would produce an intangible exchange while still measurable as economic activity between two seemingly unrelated geographies.

Saga Rydaaker

Saga has been working with Kristian, Mercedes and Mireille on the strategic economic development plan for Faribault County, which included compiling the survey answers and analyzing each age group.

Saga has been working on the Strategic economic development plan for Sibley County with Kristian, Mercedes and Mireille, which has involved meetings with the city Administration and County commissioners. Saga has also gathered data on the area to later conduct a more in-depth analysis of the challenges facing the County.

Saga has also been working on the North Star Promise project along with Kristian and Jason Bruns. She has been collecting data regarding every public college in MN. She also collected data on several industries in each county and compiled the starting salary, the gender pay gap, and the percentage of the county's population working in that industry. Furthermore, she has also compiled all the collected data in order to study which areas in Minnesota will potentially benefit best/worst from the North Star Promise.

Mercedes Sempe

Mercedes has been working with Alejandra in the Taskforce/workforce project. She has organized and attended three tabling events at MNSU to promote the survey for international students and employers. She has also participated in an HR event to connect with potential employers for international students and share the survey with them. She attended a RedGroup meeting to continue conversations about employment and education in South Central Minnesota.

Mercedes wrapped up the survey for Faribault County Residents and has started analyzing the results as well as writing the report. She has been working on this project with Kristian, Saga, and Mireille.

Mercedes has been part of the Sibley County Economic Development Plan project, which involved having conversations with commissioners and city administrators about Sibley, as well as starting a to develop a survey for Sibley County residents.

Mercedes has provided feedback and consultation to HACER, and helped advertise their projects that HACER is carrying out in the area.

She has also been working with Nate and Collin on the Culture and Arts projects, interviewing stakeholders and researching grants to start writing applications and developing a survey.

Sam Sharp

Samuel and Sabri have continued their work on the Comfrey Climate Resilience plan and will be hosting an “open house” at the Comfrey Community Center in mid-March to showcase the results of their efforts thus far. This event will feature the steps leading up to the plan’s conclusion and will allow Comfrey community members to see solar panels up close, hear from energy experts in the region, and get access to resources for energy efficiency and possible funding opportunities. Additionally, community members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts on the plan and the future of Comfrey as it relates to climate and community resilience. This feedback will be incorporated into the final draft of the plan.

Samuel has been involved in two federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) applications. The first, led by the MPCA, focuses on equitable residential decarbonization and connecting disadvantaged communities to funding and resources designed for saving on energy costs and improving energy efficiency. Region Nine was invited to collaborate on this federal funding opportunity due to RNDC’s proven success and ongoing commitment to supporting communities in need of energy assistance. Deliverables for this project include \$6 million over the next 5 years and extended staff capacity – budgeted separately from the \$6 million – to bring on an additional two personnel supported by this funding. Additionally, forming strategic regional partnerships with the Minnesota Valley Action Council and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership are currently underway to help distribute and extend the impact and implementation of these funds if awarded. The application deadline is 4/1.

The second CPRG application, led by RNDC, focuses on providing solar for public buildings (i.e. wastewater treatment plants, community centers, city halls, etc.). This application features a coalition of regional development organizations across the state and will serve to prioritize disadvantaged rural communities by implementing a cost-friendly resilient energy system for their public buildings. Samuel and Sabri have been leading meetings with RDO partners to work collaboratively in developing the application. Efforts in shaping this application include taking inventory of every utility provider within the region, identifying potential communities that would be eligible for this funding, and overseeing

the partnering RDO's in their respective data collection. This application deadline is also 4/1.

Samuel has been working with Paola on several projects including preparation for the BDO Zone press release, supporting planning efforts for the Grant Opportunities Forum, continuing the conversation with potential sustainable aviation fuel site locations, and attending the NREL Energizing Rural Communities Prize Training in Golden, CO to prepare for the Phase II funding application due in July. Lastly, Samuel has been supporting New Ulm with a proposed district-heating system upgrade in which the planning and project formation would be augmented by the UMN's Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) program.

Courtney Wright

Courtney has been a part of the RLF Community of Practice Cohort Group. Each training cohort lasts about six months and includes several virtual classes. Topics of the classes include general RLF tactics, underwriting, loan committee and board development. The classes are intended to enhance RLF lenders skillsets and improve the capacity of your RLF.

Courtney has recently joined Greater Mankato Growth's Young Professional Social Committee. This committee meets monthly to plan the social events of GMG's Young Professional Group. The Social Committee plans, sets-up, registration, and tear-down of the social events throughout the year.

On February 14th, Courtney met with Steve Cooling, President of the Pioneer Bank in Madelia, to discuss a future loan client. She is working with Steve and Christopher Jones on this project.

Courtney is hoping to present two loan applications to the loan committee the week of March 11th. Those loan applications are Lykke's Books LLC of New Ulm and Korte's Welding and Repair LLC of Fairmont. She is also working with a couple of other business clients to gather information for their loan applications. We are hoping to present these loans to the Loan Committee within the next couple of weeks.

Terms & Abbreviations

APR – Annual Performance Reports (CEDS)
ATP – Area Transportation Partnership
AURI – Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
BDO – Bioeconomy Development Opportunity
CRP – Carbon Reduction Program
CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
COPAL – Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (Communities Organizing Latino Power and Action)
CGMC – Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
CSET – College of Science, Engineering & Technology
CSM – Climate Smart Municipalities
CSSJ – Climate Smart St. James
CTS – Center for Transportation Studies
DEED – Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
DHS – Minnesota Department of Human Services
DOE – Department of Energy
EDA – Economic Development Administration
EDD – Economic Development District
GAC – Gustavus Adolphus College
GIS – Geographic Information Systems
GMG – Greater Mankato Growth
GMDC – Greater Mankato Diversity Council
GMNP – Greater Minnesota Partnership
HACER – Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research0
IRC – Independent Review Committee
LGU – Local Government Unit
LMI – Labor Market Information
LMI – Low-to-Moderate Income
MADO – Minnesota Association of Development Organizations

MAPO – Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization
MCLA – Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
MDH – Minnesota Department of Health
MnDOT – Minnesota Department of Transportation
MnSCU – Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System
MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area
MSU-M – Minnesota State University, Mankato
MYLAP – MN Young America Leaders Program
NEA – National Endowment for the Arts
NEH – National Endowment for the Humanities
NUBRIC – New Ulm Business Resource Innovation Center
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Services
PI - Prosperity Initiative
PROTECT – Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation
REDA – Regional Economic Development Alliance
REV – Rural Entrepreneurial Venture
RLF – Revolving Loan Fund
RNAI – Region Nine Area Inc.
RNDC – Region Nine Development Commission
SACE – Southern Agricultural Center for Excellence
SAF – Sustainable Aviation Fuel
SBDC – Small Business Development Center
SCC – South Central College
SHIP – Statewide Health Improvement Partnership
SMIF – Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
SRTS – Safe Routes to Schools
STIP – State Transportation Improvement Program
TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee