



## Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 6:00 p.m.



## AGENDA

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>Time</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Action</u>          |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1.  | <b>Call to Order</b> - Chair Laven                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 6:00        |             |                        |
| 2.  | <b>Approval of Agenda</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |             |             | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| 3.  | <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |             |             |                        |
| 4.  | <b>Roll Call</b> - Secretary Branstad                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |             |                        |
| 5.  | <b>Approval of New Commission Members</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |             |             | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| 6.  | <b>Introductions</b><br>Returning Commission Members: Tom Loveall, Mary Milbrath<br>New Commission Members: Liz Krocak, James Kotewa, Billeye Rabbe,<br>Lynda Kruse, Jean Anderson<br>New Staff Members: Mark Plotz, Tom Polich, Melissa Reintjes |             |             |                        |
| 7.  | <b>Approval of Consent Agenda</b><br>A. Approval of January 8, 2025 Minutes<br>B. Financial Reports                                                                                                                                               |             | 3           | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| 8.  | <b>Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) Accessibility Presentation</b> – Eric Lind, Director of the Accessibility Observatory<br>at CTS & Kyle Shelton, Director of the University of Minnesota Center for<br>Transportation Studies           | 6:20        | 9           |                        |
| 9.  | <b>Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP) Presentation</b> – Nathan Meyer, PhD, Associate Director & Extension<br>Program Leader                                                                                                         | 6:40        | 30          |                        |
| 10. | <b>Chair’s Report</b> – Chair Laven<br>A. Overview of Committees & Caucus Process<br>B. Caucus for Committee Seats                                                                                                                                | 7:00        | 68          |                        |
| 11. | <b>Executive Director’s Report</b> – Jessica Beyer<br>A. <b>Out-of-State Travel Request – NADO Summer Board Mtg (Nicole)</b>                                                                                                                      | 7:30        | 80          | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| 12. | <b>Finance Director’s Report</b> – Melissa Reintjes                                                                                                                                                                                               |             | 81          |                        |
| 13. | <b>Other Business</b><br>A. Commissioner Updates<br>B. Meeting Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                         | 7:40        |             | Handout                |
| 14. | <b>Adjournment</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 8:00        |             | <a href="#">Action</a> |

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at South Central Service Cooperative.

## 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 3. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Dave Borchert, Jim Branstad, Steve Cooling, Marie Dranttel, Elroy Glidden, Robert Goblirsch, Paul Harris, Katelyn Kratz, Dawn Kratzke, Brad Krause, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal, Shanon Nowell, Mike Pfeil, Rita Rassbach, Gary Richter, Pam Rodewald, Steve Rohlffing, Phil Schafer, Scott Schlueter, Julie Tesch, Rob Wilkening

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lee Baarts, Sarah Berry, Bob Nielsen, Matt Peterson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chris Dalton, Patty O'Connor, Ayan Omar

OTHERS PRESENT: Sabri Fair, Jazmine Flores, Nate George, Nicole Griensewic, Joel Hanif, Sarah Janovsky, Samuel Sharp, Lisa Callahan, Giselle Lo, Stephanie Hilpipe

There was a quorum.

## 4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Rohlffing moved to approve the consent agenda. Wilkening seconded. Motion carried.

## 5. FINANCE DIRECTORS REPORT

### A. Audit Presentation

Layne Kockelman from Abdo presented the 2024 Audit, previously shared with the Board of Directors in December. The audit received a clean, unmodified opinion, with no findings of non-compliance.

Nowell moved to approve the Audit Report. Harris seconded. Motion carried.

### B. Pay Equity Report

Local government units are required to report earnings by pay grade, categorized by minority populations and employees, every three years. The most recent report was submitted last week and approved yesterday.

Kratzke moved to approve the Pay Equity Report. Borchert seconded. Motion carried.

## **6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Laven acknowledged and thanked outgoing commissioners Lyle Femrite, Stephanie Hilpipre, and Mary Milbrath for their service to RNDC.

## **7. APPROVAL OF RNDC STRATEGIC PLAN**

Meredith Vadis reviewed Playbook Strategies' process for developing the RNDC Strategic Plan and provided a high-level overview for approval.

Boettger moved to approve the RNDC Strategic Plan. Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

## **8. APPROVAL OF POLICY MANUAL**

Board Chair Laven presented the narrative on the policy manual updates on behalf of Budget & Personnel Committee Chair Ayan Omar.

Richter moved to approve the RNDC Policy Manual. Nowell seconded. Motion carried.

## **9. DENMARK DELEGATION PRESENTATION**

Brown County Commissioner Dave Borchert delivered a presentation on the delegation he attended to Denmark in November 2024. He highlighted several key takeaways from his visit, including the promotion of increased bicycle usage as a sustainable transportation option. Commissioner Borchert also discussed Copenhill, a large waste-to-energy facility, and expressed interest in implementing similar initiatives to enhance sustainability and environmental efforts within the region. He emphasized the importance of adopting innovative approaches and shared his enthusiasm for applying lessons learned from his visit.

Le Sueur County Township Commissioner Stephanie Hilpipre, also part of the delegation, shared her key takeaways, including the potential of using existing infrastructure, anaerobic biodigesters for waste management and energy, and the development of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). She expressed interest in adapting these innovations locally to support sustainability efforts.

## **10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Sam reported that he and Lisa worked on two grant applications with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The first, for New Ulm, focused on energy audits and upgrades for disadvantaged populations. Second, for the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota, aimed to fund the last four of seven recommended energy efficiency upgrades. Sam expressed confidence in both applications and praised Lisa's contributions.

Nicole announced that Mark Plotz would be joining RNDC as the Road Safety Transportation Planner. She highlighted his key role in the Saint Peter Active Transportation Planning Grant with RNDC, and Joel spoke about why Mark would be a strong addition to the team.

The team received seven applications for the Regional Food Recovery Coordinator position, with five completed. The hiring process is moving forward with application scoring and interview scheduling. There has been significant enthusiasm around this initiative, with strong support from the Mankato Area Foundation and community partners.

Nicole reported that she and Nate met with True Facade to align media efforts with the strategic plan. She and Sam recorded a Region Nine update for KTOE's *Talk of the Town*, which aired on Friday, with monthly segments planned.

Sabri joined her to discuss food recovery. Nicole also joined the *Free Press* advisory committee to highlight regional topics.

Nicole emphasized the value of partnerships in advancing community projects. She shared a productive meeting with Benya Krause from Resource Rural and Dr. Leah Ru from MSU, discussing potential student design projects, including the Babe Ruth field in Sleepy Eye. Nicole also connected Dr. Ru with Andrea to explore Turner Hall and mentioned projects with Commissioner Dave Borchert in Brown County. She highlighted how RNDC excels at fostering connections to achieve shared goals.

Jazmine Flores, who has been with RNDC for six months, has stepped in to support finance operations during the Finance Director vacancy. Her positive attitude and strong performance are greatly appreciated.

Kristian has been working on a mountain bike park project at a former quarry near 3rd Ave. in Lime Township, which aims to develop a recreational area. He and Joel Holtmeier have participated in meetings to explore potential feasibility studies and grant funding.

Alejandra and Kristian have also been collaborating with the city of Springfield on a community plan funded by SMIF. This project will include a strategic plan for the city and a housing study.

Nicole announced that Tim Penny, CEO and president of SMIF, will be retiring soon. He reached out to her personally to ensure a smooth transition, as SMIF has been a key partner for RNDC.

Nicole encouraged the commissioners to keep engaging with RNDC regarding the needs and priorities within their communities.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioners gave updates from their communities.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Schafer moved to adjourn. Pfeil seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

**Region Nine Development Commision**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes**  
**As of February 28th, 2025**

|                     |                                       | <u>General</u>             | <u>Legacy RLF</u>            | <u>Cares Act RLF</u>       | <u>Auto Fund</u>          | <u>McKnight Fund</u> | <u>Total</u>                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>     |                                       |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
|                     | Levy                                  |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
| 2                   | Taxes                                 | \$423,891.40               |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$423,891.40                 |
|                     | Federal Grants                        |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
| 4                   | EDA Planning Grant                    | \$13,841.09                |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$13,841.09                  |
| 5                   | Other Federal Grants                  |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$0.00                       |
|                     | Transportation                        |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
| 7                   | Transportation - MnDOT Contract       | \$0.00                     |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$0.00                       |
| 8                   | Other Grants                          | \$471,261.16               |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$471,261.16                 |
| 9                   | McKnight Pass Through                 | \$0.00                     |                              |                            |                           | \$75,000.00          | \$75,000.00                  |
| 10                  | Contract Revenue                      | \$13,000.00                |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$13,000.00                  |
| 11                  | Deposit Interest & Dividends          | \$35,061.25                |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$35,061.25                  |
| 12                  | Loan Interest Earned                  |                            | \$101,139.54                 | \$20,171.08                |                           |                      | \$121,310.62                 |
| 13                  | Loan Administration Revenue           | \$15,814.17                | \$1,000.00                   | \$0.00                     |                           |                      | \$16,814.17                  |
| 14                  | Other Revenue                         |                            | \$0.00                       | \$37.56                    |                           |                      | \$37.56                      |
|                     | <b>Total Revenues</b>                 |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      | <b><u>\$1,170,217.25</u></b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>     |                                       |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
| 15                  | Salary & Wages                        | \$537,503.01               | \$50,669.57                  |                            |                           |                      | \$588,172.58                 |
| 16                  | Fringe Benefits                       | \$134,134.83               | \$12,667.39                  |                            |                           |                      | \$146,802.22                 |
| 17                  | Indirect Costs                        | \$169,044.20               |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$169,044.20                 |
| 18                  | Consultants                           | \$43,775.46                |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$43,775.46                  |
| 19                  | Staff Travel                          | \$9,576.47                 |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$9,576.47                   |
| 20                  | Bank Service Charges                  | \$4,204.00                 |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$4,204.00                   |
| 21                  | Service Fees                          | \$50,595.68                |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$50,595.68                  |
| 22                  | Subgrantee                            | \$140,738.10               |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$140,738.10                 |
| 23                  | Miscellaneous                         |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      | \$0.00                       |
|                     | <b>Total Current</b>                  |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      | <b><u>\$1,152,908.71</u></b> |
| <b>Debt Service</b> |                                       |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
| 24                  | Copier Lease Payment                  | \$377.25                   |                              |                            |                           |                      |                              |
|                     | <b>Total Debt Service</b>             | <b><u>\$377.25</u></b>     | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b>         | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b>       | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b>      | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b>         |
|                     | <b>Total Expenditures</b>             |                            |                              |                            |                           |                      | <b><u>\$1,152,908.71</u></b> |
|                     | Net Changes in Fund Balances          | \$ (137,397.17)            | \$ 18,415.11                 | \$ 12,786.97               | \$ (4,832.61)             | \$ -                 | \$ (111,027.70)              |
|                     | Fund Balances, July 1, 2024           | <b><u>\$671,682.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$3,001,854.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$964,489.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$67,388.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$4,705,413.00</u></b> |
|                     | Fund Balances as of February 28 ,2025 | <b><u>\$534,284.83</u></b> | <b><u>\$3,020,269.11</u></b> | <b><u>\$977,275.97</u></b> | <b><u>\$62,555.39</u></b> | <b><u>\$0.00</u></b> | <b><u>\$4,594,385.30</u></b> |

## Region Nine Development Commission

### Board Payment Listing - February 2025

| Check# | Check Date | Vendor Name                            | Check Amount | Description                                            |
|--------|------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 117592 | 02/03/2025 | Flores, Jazmine                        | (1.00)       | Testing Printer                                        |
| 117630 | 02/03/2025 | US Bank                                | 14.60        | USPS - 12-06 - JazmineF                                |
| 117631 | 02/12/2025 | Wooden Spoon                           | 759.00       | Wooden Spoon - Invoice 4288 - 1.19.25                  |
| 117632 | 02/12/2025 | South Central Service Coop             | 45.00        | South Central Service Coop - Invoice 23397 - 1.9.2025  |
| 117633 | 02/12/2025 | State of Minnesota                     | 311.00       | MN Unemployment Insurance - 1.14.25                    |
| 117634 | 02/12/2025 | Verizon Wireless                       | 138.04       | Verizon - Inv 6103092839 - 2.7.25                      |
| 117635 | 02/12/2025 | GMS                                    | 40.00        | Invoice 940122024                                      |
| 117636 | 02/12/2025 | GMS                                    | 607.83       | GMS - Invoice 69122024                                 |
| 117637 | 02/12/2025 | Security Storage Systems               | 100.00       |                                                        |
| 117638 | 02/12/2025 | Abdo                                   | 3,000.00     | Invoice 07172 - 1.22.25                                |
| 117639 | 02/12/2025 | HEather Curling Club                   | 220.00       | Heather Curling Club - 1.22.25                         |
| 117640 | 02/12/2025 | Thriveon Inc                           | 4,496.67     | Thriveon - Invoice 196231 - 1.24.25                    |
| 117641 | 02/12/2025 | Thriveon Inc                           | 97.73        | Thriveon - Invoice 196207 - 1.24.25                    |
| 117642 | 02/12/2025 | Metro Sales Inc                        | 581.21       | Metro Sales - Invoice 2698564 - 1.27.25                |
| 117643 | 02/12/2025 | Metro Sales Inc                        | 377.25       | Metro Sales - Invoice 2698563                          |
| 117644 | 02/12/2025 | SFM                                    | 736.00       | SFM - 1.25.25                                          |
| 117645 | 02/12/2025 | Xcel Energy                            | 104.56       | Xcel Energy - 2.14.25                                  |
| 117646 | 02/12/2025 | Creative Ad Solutions Inc              | 521.83       | Creative Art Solution - Invoice 27272 - 1.29.25        |
| 117647 | 02/12/2025 | Thriveon Inc                           | 3,649.16     | Thriveon - Invoice 196381 - 2.1.25                     |
| 117648 | 02/12/2025 | Ahern & Fruitman LLC                   | 1,070.00     | Ahern and Fruitman LLC                                 |
| 117649 | 02/12/2025 | Abdo                                   | 1,000.00     | Abdo - Invoice 500742 - 1.27.25                        |
| 117650 | 02/12/2025 | Playbook Strategies LLC                | 3,500.00     | Playbook Strategies LLC - Invoice 1014 - 1.31.25       |
| 117651 | 02/12/2025 | Creative Ad Solutions Inc              | 521.83       | Creative Add Soutlions - 1.29.25                       |
| 117652 | 02/12/2025 | Lime Valley Advertising Inc            | 62.50        | Invoice 25026 - 1.2.25                                 |
| 117653 | 02/12/2025 | Vanderberg Cleaning Services LLC       | 360.00       | Invoice 1095 - 2.1.25                                  |
| 117654 | 02/12/2025 | Spectrum                               | 347.86       | Invoice 820665012325 - 1.23.25                         |
| 117655 | 02/12/2025 | GMS                                    | 40.00        | Invoice 1197                                           |
| 117656 | 02/12/2025 | GMS                                    | 40.00        | Invoice 1634                                           |
| 117657 | 02/12/2025 | Spirited Journeys LLC                  | 585.00       | Invoice 725A                                           |
| 117658 | 02/12/2025 | Spirited Journeys LLC                  | 90.00        | Invoice 722A -                                         |
| 117659 | 02/12/2025 | Principal Life Insurance Company       | 255.01       | Principal - 2.15.25                                    |
| 117660 | 02/12/2025 | Lime Valley Advertising Inc            | 177.50       | Invoice 1246                                           |
| 117661 | 02/12/2025 | TeamKeeper, Harris Local Governement S | 86.25        | Invoice 102198                                         |
| 117662 | 02/12/2025 | Wooden Spoon                           | 2,277.00     | Invoice 4282,4288,4291 - Nov, Jan, Feb                 |
| 117663 | 02/12/2025 | Center for Energy and Environment      | 18,051.46    | CEE - Invoice 25954 - 1.28.25                          |
| 117664 | 02/18/2025 | Sempe, Mercedes                        | 1,012.50     | February Consultant Hours - Inv 0004-00000008          |
| 117665 | 02/20/2025 | Watonwan County Recorder               | 207.00       | Mortgage Satisfaction, Recording and (1.00) Test Run 2 |
|        |            |                                        | 75.59        | Apple - 12-03 - Nicole G                               |
|        |            |                                        | 119.57       | Facebook - 11-30 - Nate G                              |
|        |            |                                        | 40.31        | Indeed Jobs - 12/02 - Nate G                           |
|        |            |                                        | 503.07       | Indeed Jobs - 12-20 - Nate G                           |
|        |            |                                        | 40.58        | Chabelitas - 11-26 - Sam S                             |
|        |            |                                        | 123.71       | Global Minnesota - 11-27 - Sam S                       |

|          |                                                            |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.00     | U of M Parking - 12-05 - Sam S                             |
| 2.50     | On Street - 12-19 - Sam S                                  |
| 39.97    | Walmart - 11-22 - Sarah J                                  |
| 17.91    | Walmart - 11-22 - Sarah J                                  |
| 16.98    | Amazon - 11-24 - Sarah J                                   |
| 144.18   | Amazon - 11-24 - Sarah J                                   |
| 19.77    | Univ Catering - 12-03 - Sarah J                            |
| 195.00   | Nado - 12-04 - Sarah J                                     |
| 138.58   | Cobblestone Hotel - 12-06 - Sarah J                        |
| 374.25   | Cobblestone - 12-06 - Sarah J                              |
| 10.98    | Hyvee - 12-12- Sarah J                                     |
| 20.77    | Kwik Trip - 11-23 Sabri                                    |
| 34.86    | Lunds and Byerlys - 12-03 - Sabri F                        |
| 87.95    | Elephant and Castle - 12-03 - Sabri F                      |
| 23.82    | Lowertown Coffee Shop and Bike Shop -<br>12-03- Sabri Fair |
| 65.80    | El Tecolote - 12-5 - Sabri F                               |
| 2,000.52 | CQ Chicago Central Loop -                                  |
| 18.00    | CQ Cicago Central Loop - 12-6- Sabri F                     |
| 9.00     | CQ Chicago Central Loop - 12-06 - Sabri F                  |
| 103.86   | Maana Salvadorian Restaurant - 12-6 -<br>Sabri F           |
| 38.00    | Union Depot - 12-10 - Sabri F                              |
| 24.75    | Tandem - 12-10 - Sabri F                                   |
| 28.24    | Hyvee - 12-16 - Sabri F                                    |

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Check Total</b> | <b>49,807.31</b> |
| <b>Report</b>      | <b>49,807.31</b> |



# Accessibility Observatory: measuring opportunities at scale

Eric Lind, PhD

Director, Accessibility Observatory

# Center for Transportation Studies

- University-wide Center within Research & Innovation Office
- Established by the Minnesota legislature in 1987 to apply U of M research to solve real-world issues
- Work closely with faculty and research staff in more than 30 colleges and departments
- 31 staff; \$20.7 million budget



# Accessibility Observatory



*Eric Lind*



*Shirley Shiqin Liu*



*Andrew Owen*



*Matthew Hockett*



*Tiansheng Tan*

- Research unit in CTS
- grant-funded projects
  - FHWA pooled fund
  - state DOTs
  - MPOs
  - Regional & Local
  - USDOT collaborations

# How should we measure transportation?

## **network performance**

- speed, delay, volume
- vehicle movement
- fastest is best

## **people performance**

- can people reach destinations?
- slower is safer, closer is better
- easiest is best

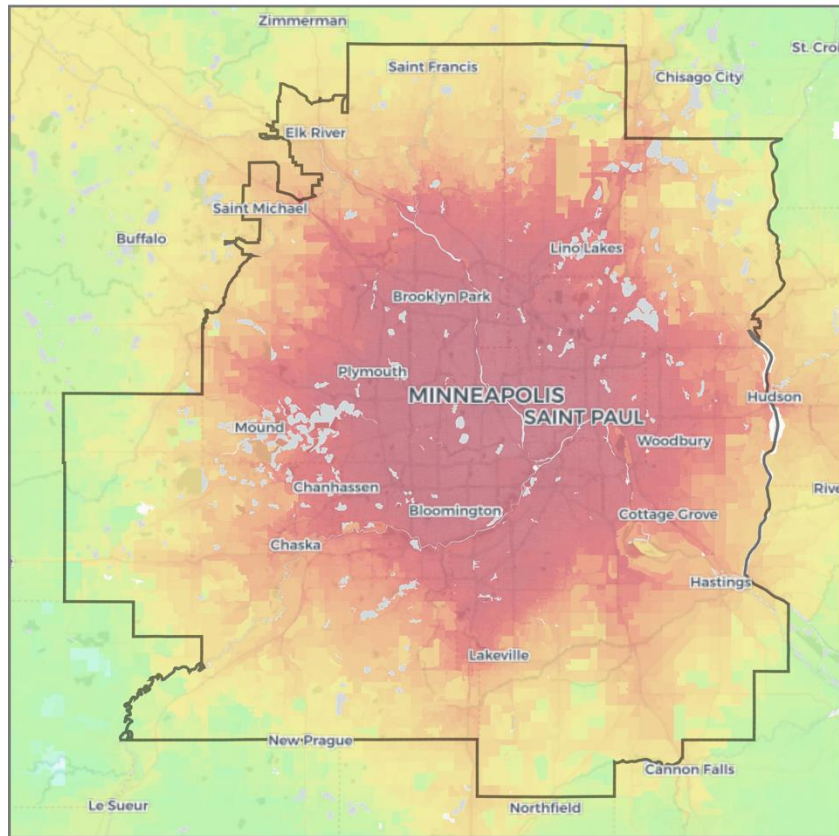
# What is Accessibility?



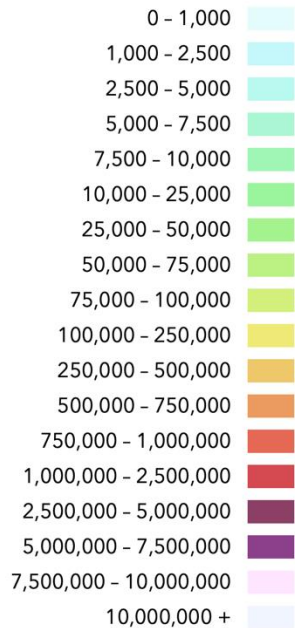
The *ease* with which  
a traveler *could* reach  
valued destinations



# Metropolitan Council



Jobs within 30 minutes  
(Driving, AM peak)



State border —  
MPO boundary —

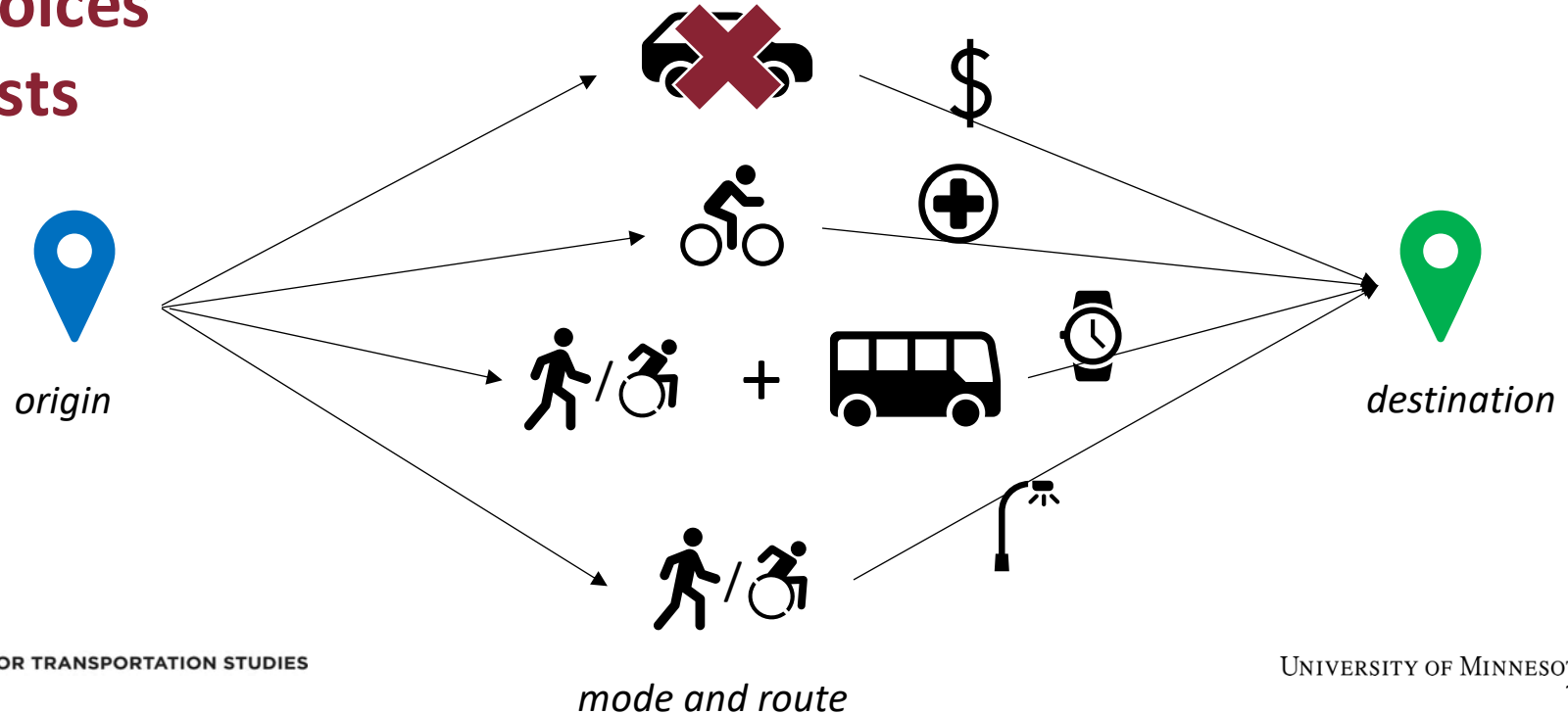


what  
opportunities  
can be  
reached?

# How is Accessibility Measured?



choices  
costs



# Calculating Accessibility: network inputs



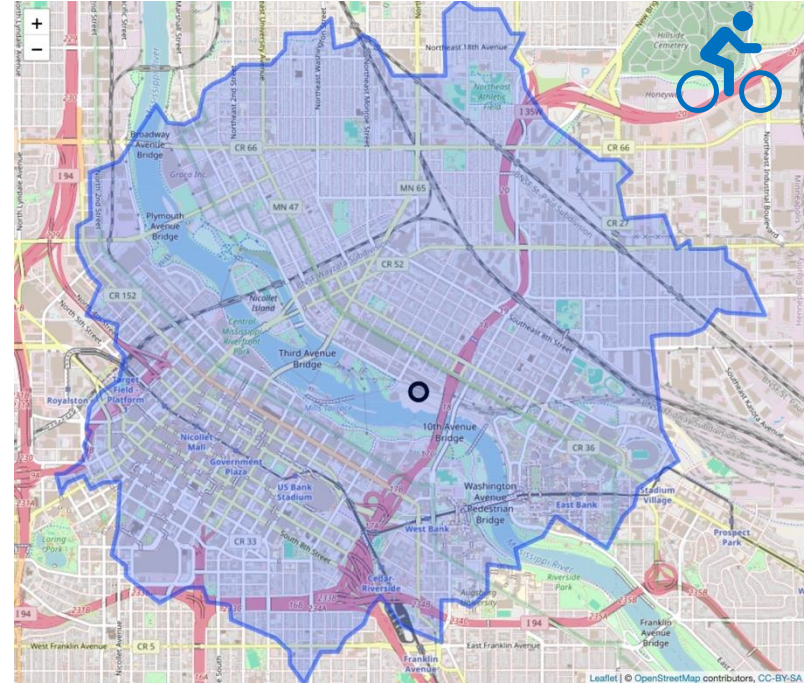
|                                                                                   |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|  | purchase observed speeds by segment, time of day      |
|  | GTFS schedule feeds (1000+ nationwide)                |
|  | Open Street Maps, algorithm to score safety + comfort |
|  | Open Street Maps                                      |

# Calculating Accessibility



for each origin,  
for each mode,  
for each time of day,  
measure *travel times* to  
destinations

for each travel time,  
what can be reached?





# Access to what kinds of Destinations?

## Jobs



- Enumerated job sectors

## Education



- Childcare centers
- Public and Private K-12
- Post-secondary schools

## Healthcare



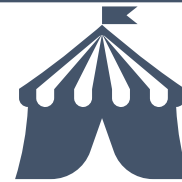
- Primary care clinics
- Urgent Care
- Trauma Centers

## Food



- Grocery Stores (SNAP retailers)

## Entertainment



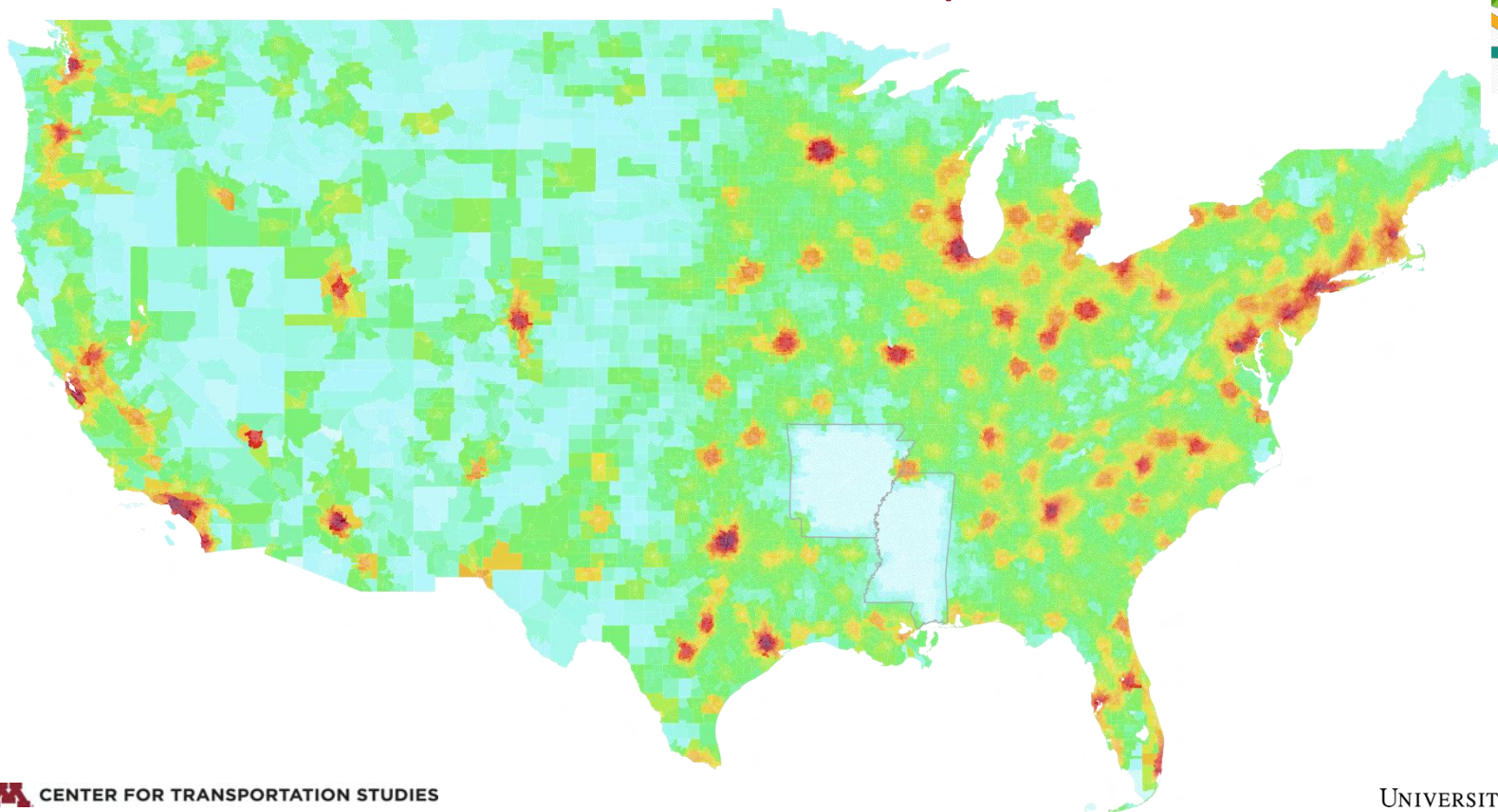
- Convention Centers
- Major Sports Venue
- Fairgrounds

## Intermodal Freight

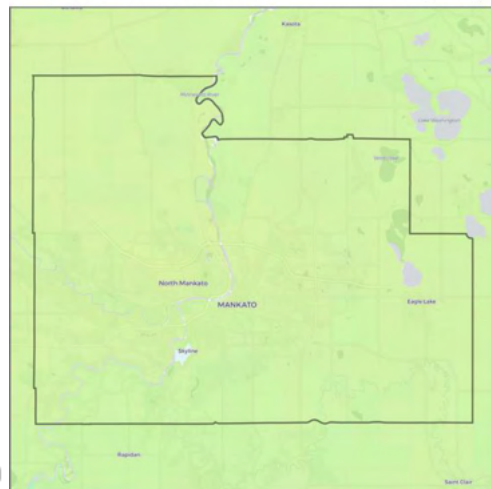


- Airports with Cargo Facility
- Pipeline terminals
- Rail terminals
- Ports

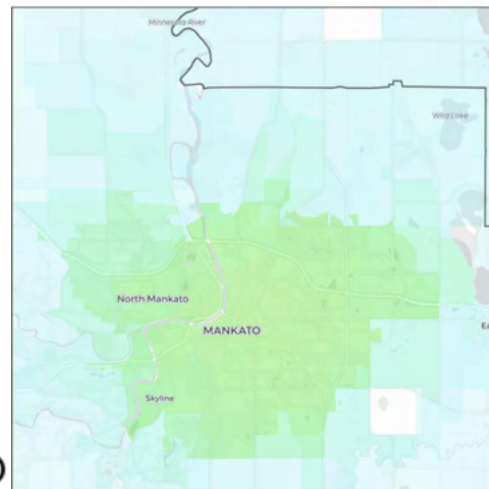
# Multimodal Access for every\* US block



## Mankato / North Mankato Area Planning Organization

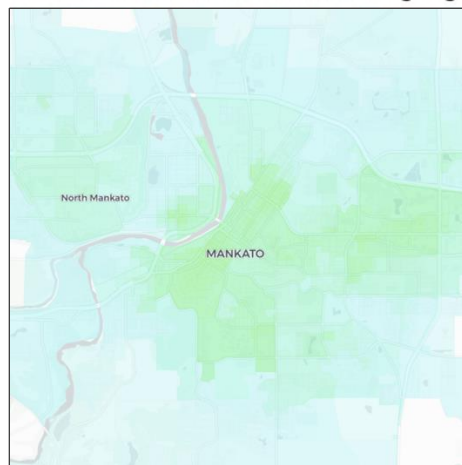


## Mankato / North Mankato Area Planning Organization

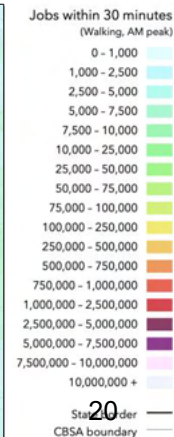
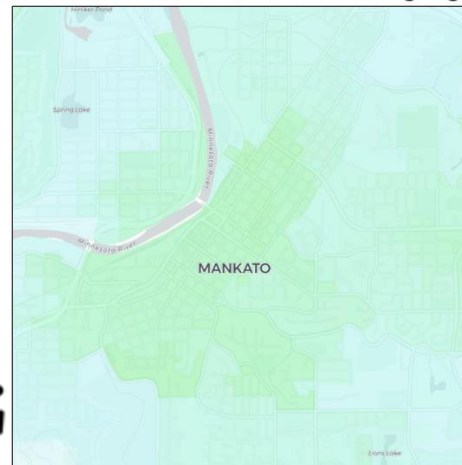


## Mankato / North Mankato Area Planning Organization

Access is  
Local



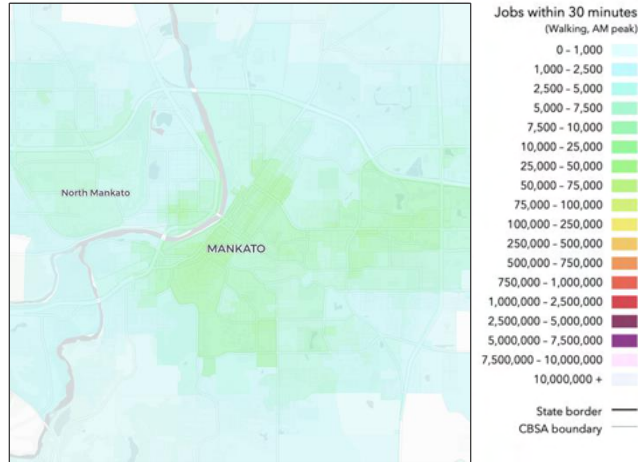
## Mankato / North Mankato Area Planning Organization



# Minnesota annual reports

Census: 38,642 jobs in MPO region

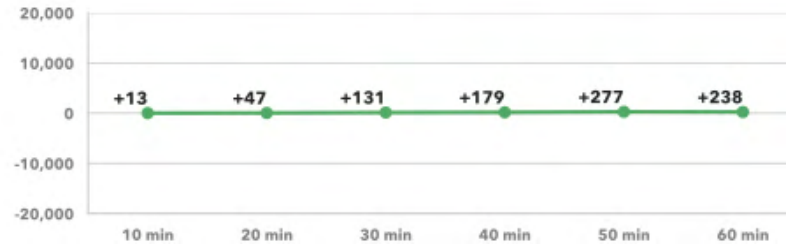
**Mankato / North Mankato Area Planning Organization**



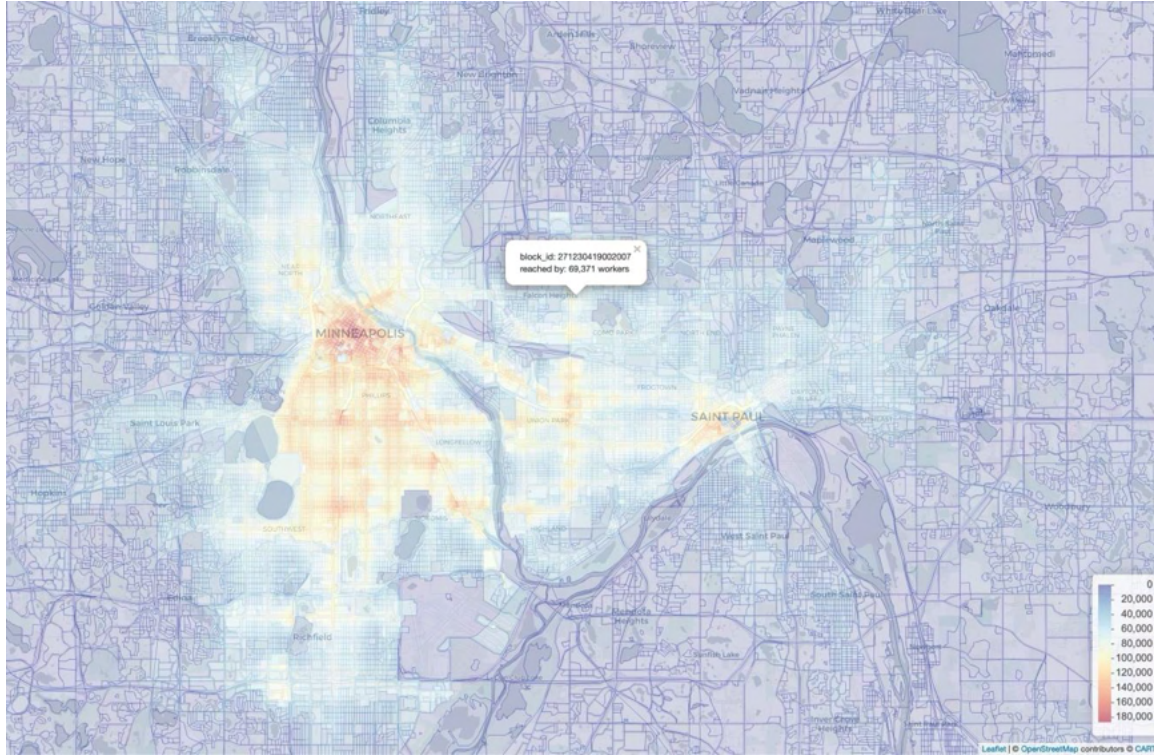
*what can the typical worker reach?*



*how has it changed year over year?*

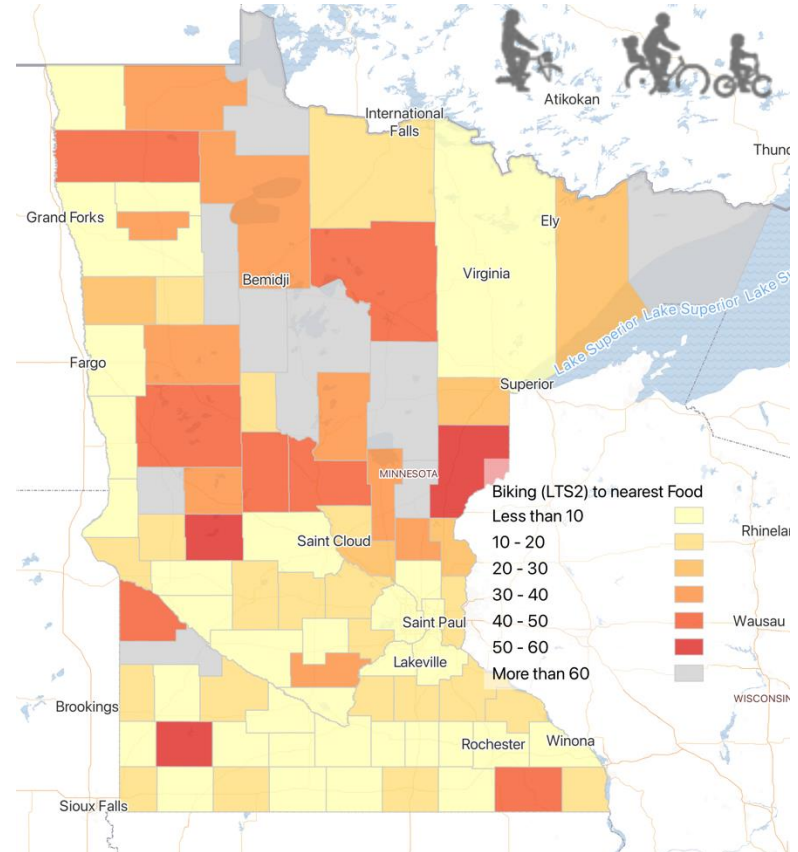
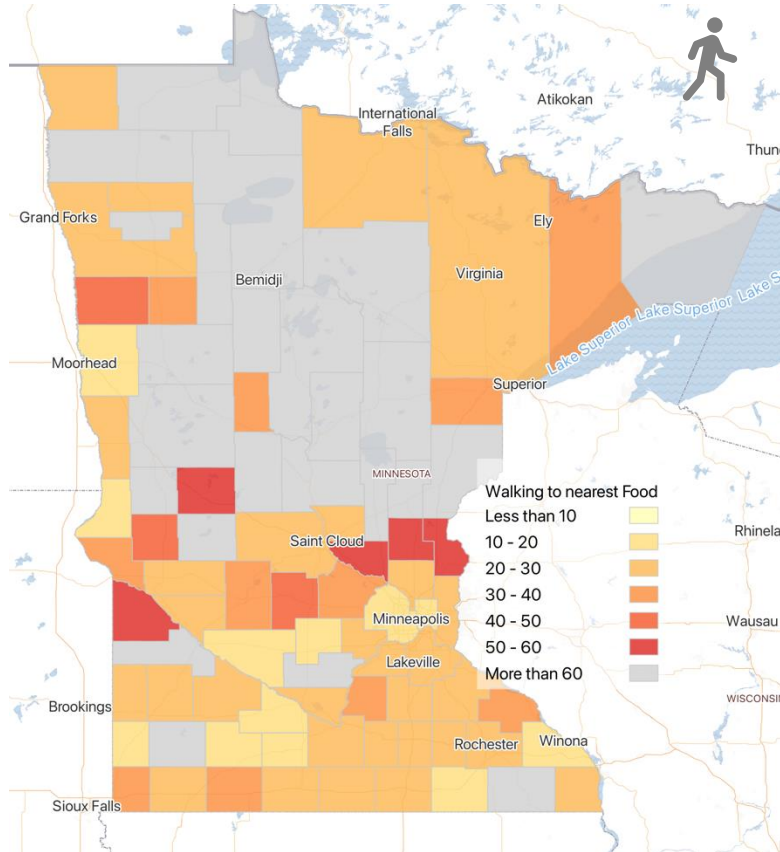


# We work on urban access

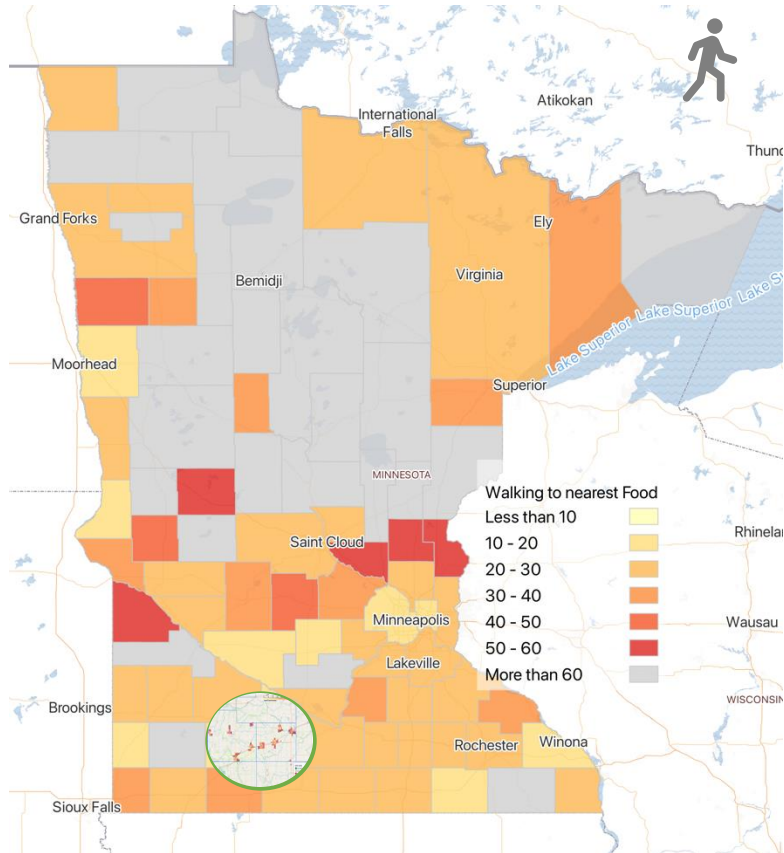


*How many **workers** can reach each place in 45 min via walk+transit at 8AM?*

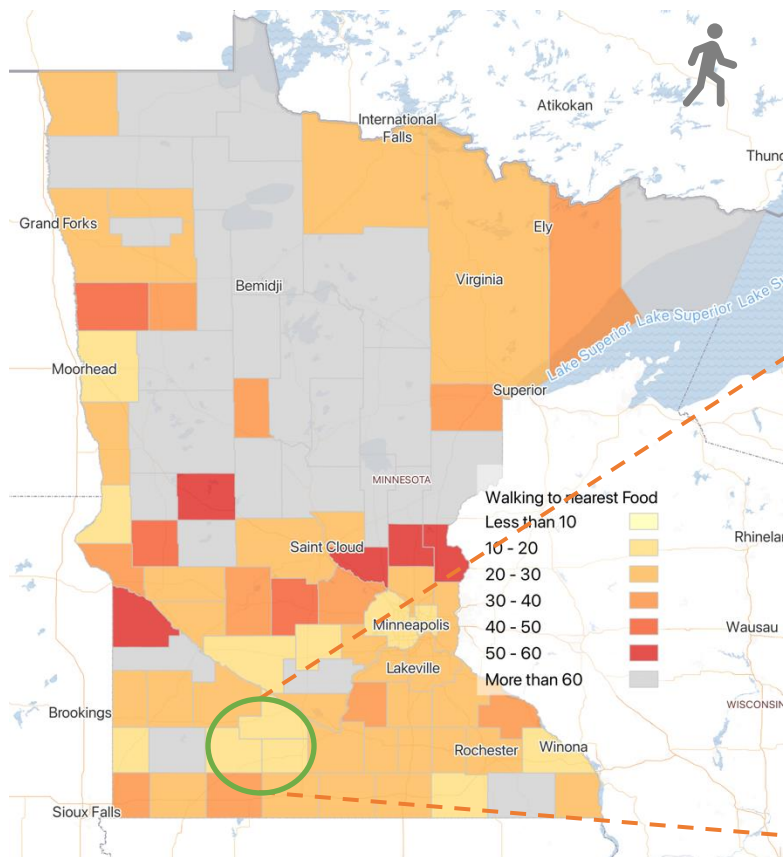
# We work on rural access



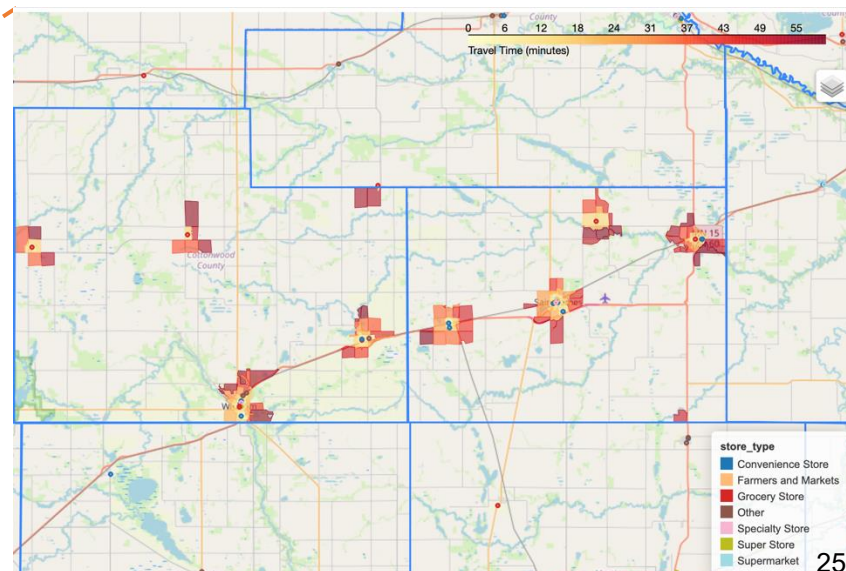
# We work on rural access



# We work on rural access



| County Name       | Urbanicity       | Weighted Travel Time |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Ramsey County     | Urban (Large)    | 12 minutes           |
| Watsonwan County  | Rural (Adjacent) | 14 minutes           |
| Cottonwood County | Rural (Isolated) | 15 minutes           |
| Hennepin County   | Urban (Large)    | 15 minutes           |

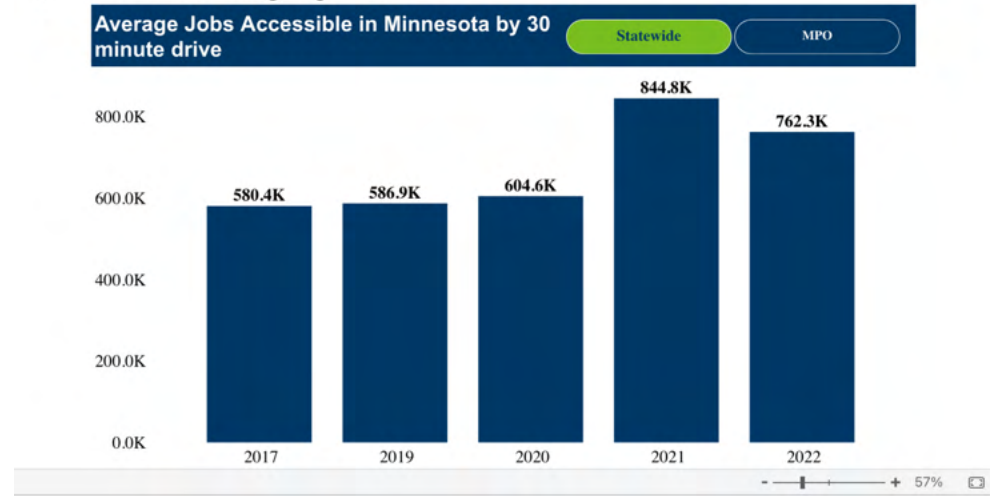


# We work with state DOTs



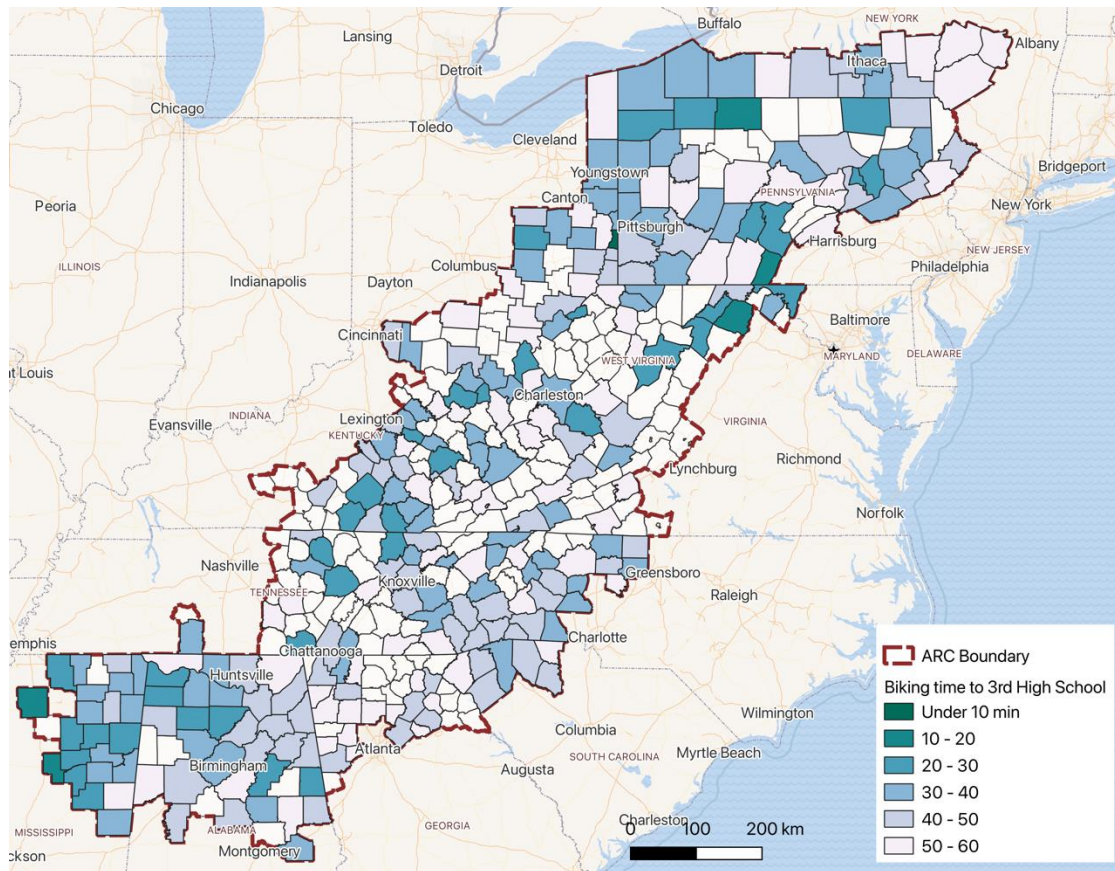
*pooled fund partner state DOTs*

## Job Accessibility by Car



*MnDOT Performance Measure Dashboard*

# We work in multi-state regions

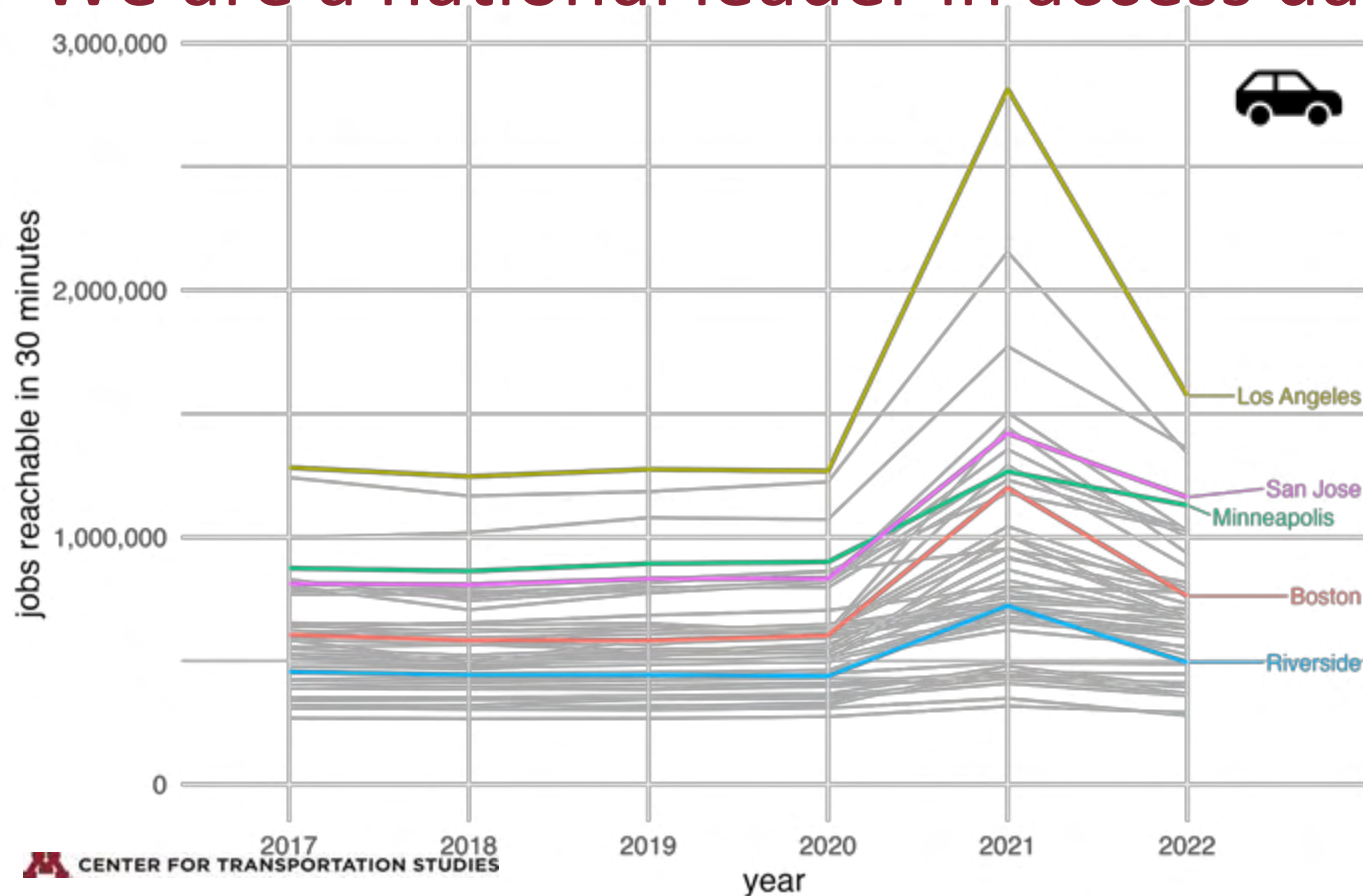


## *Appalachian Regional Commission*



*How long would it take  
to bike to a choice of  
high schools?*

# We are a national leader in access data



*auto access  
timeseries showing  
COVID impacts*



we are always interested in ideas

Questions & Suggestions?

# Science-Informed Action for Changing Extremes

A focus on partnerships, projects & programs for Region 9



**Heidi Roop, Nate Meyer & Amanda Farris**  
University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP)

# Hello! I'm glad to be here today.



**Nate Meyer**

Associate Director & Extension Program Leader



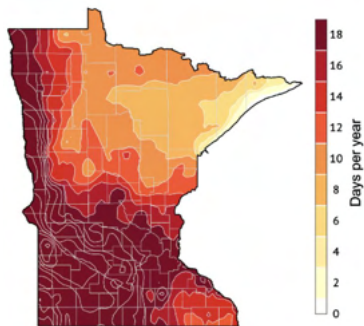
# The MCAP approach

- **Focused on preparing for and adapting to future climate conditions**
- **Sector-specific expertise**
- **Research-based education and technical assistance**
- **Partnering across sectors and scales**



**CFANS**  
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL  
AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

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**EXTENSION**  
Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>



High-resolution climate projections



New climate records

# Minnesota's Climate Action Framework

Adaptation indicators, metrics & monitoring



Dedicated Extension programs including adaptation & scenario planning



Analysis & Communication Research



Coordinated Climate Resilience Extension



Public engagement & training



State & Federal Engagement

# Our team



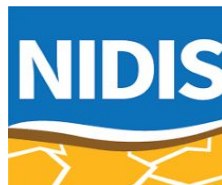
[climate.umn.edu/our-team](https://climate.umn.edu/our-team)

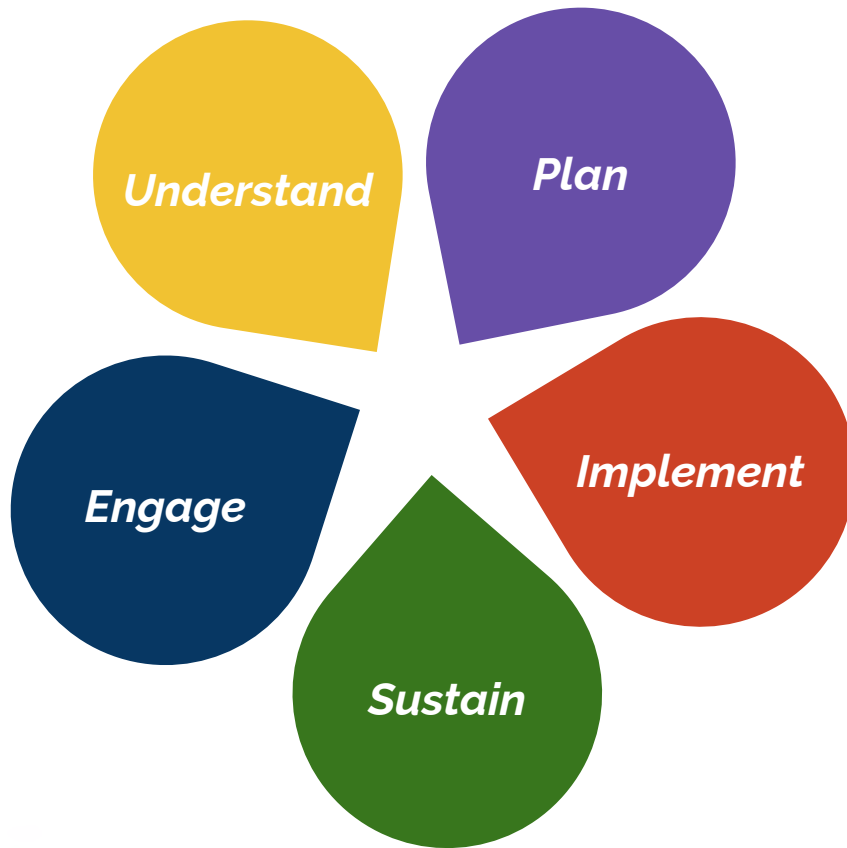


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# Partnering across sectors and scales





## Action guided by Adaptation Leading Practices

[wucaonline.org/adaptation-in-practice/leading-practices](https://wucaonline.org/adaptation-in-practice/leading-practices)



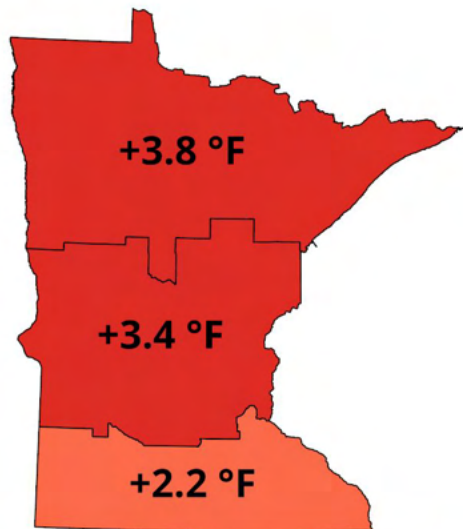
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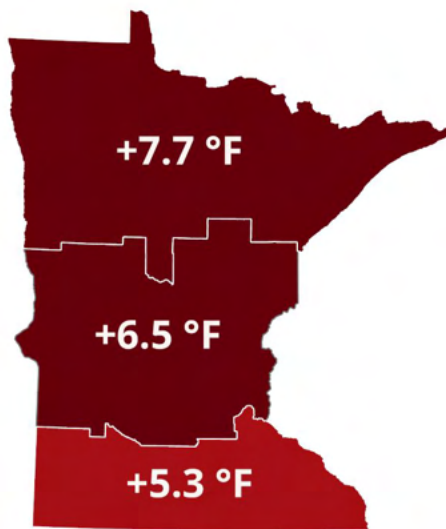
36

# Observed Temperature Change in Minnesota (1895-2024)

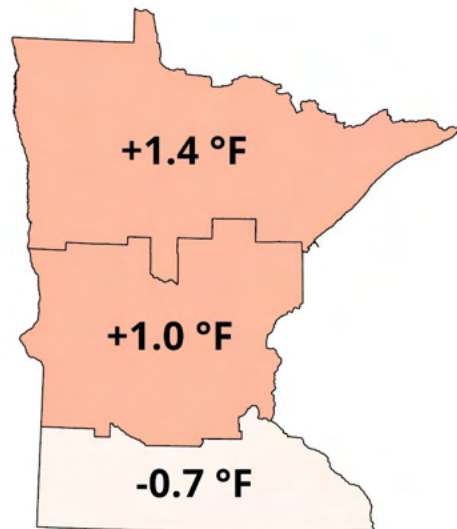
Average Annual



Winter Lows



Summer Highs



**Average annual temperature has increased by 3.2°F**

Data: MN DNR, 2024



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# 2022/23 & 2023/24 Winters



In 2022-23, Duluth MN received over 140 inches of snow.  
Photo: MN DNR State Climatology Office



In 2023-24, much of MN experienced record high temperatures, record high minimum temperatures, all-time monthly high temperatures and little snowfall  
Photo: MN DNR State Climatology Office

# Projected Changes



**INCREASING  
TEMPERATURES**



**REDUCED SNOW  
COVER**



**EARLIER SPRING THAW**



**INCREASED  
FREEZE-THAW CYCLES**

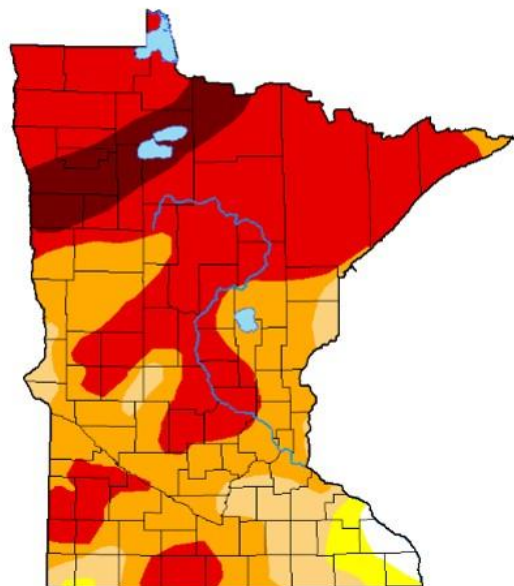


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# 2021 Drought

## U.S. Drought Monitor Minnesota



**August 24, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 26, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

|                                      | None  | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4   |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current                              | 1.15  | 98.85 | 96.58 | 87.63 | 57.65 | 8.07 |
| Last Week<br>08-17-2021              | 1.15  | 98.85 | 96.56 | 88.29 | 49.77 | 8.07 |
| 3 Months Ago<br>05-25-2021           | 26.79 | 73.21 | 13.42 | 0.18  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year<br>12-28-2020 | 1.60  | 98.40 | 23.40 | 0.28  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year<br>09-28-2020    | 54.95 | 45.05 | 8.39  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago<br>08-25-2020           | 68.89 | 31.11 | 12.23 | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |

Intensity:

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| None                | D2 Severe Drought      |
| D0 Abnormally Dry   | D3 Extreme Drought     |
| D1 Moderate Drought | D4 Exceptional Drought |

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the  
Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:  
Curtis Riganti  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



Photo: Eric Hylden/Grand Forks Herald

July 2021 was the driest on record for  
the northern Red River Valley

**Estimated costs of billion-dollar drought  
events to affect Minnesota from 1980 to  
2024 (CPI-Adjusted): \$10-20 Billion**

NOAA, 2025

# 2024 June Floods

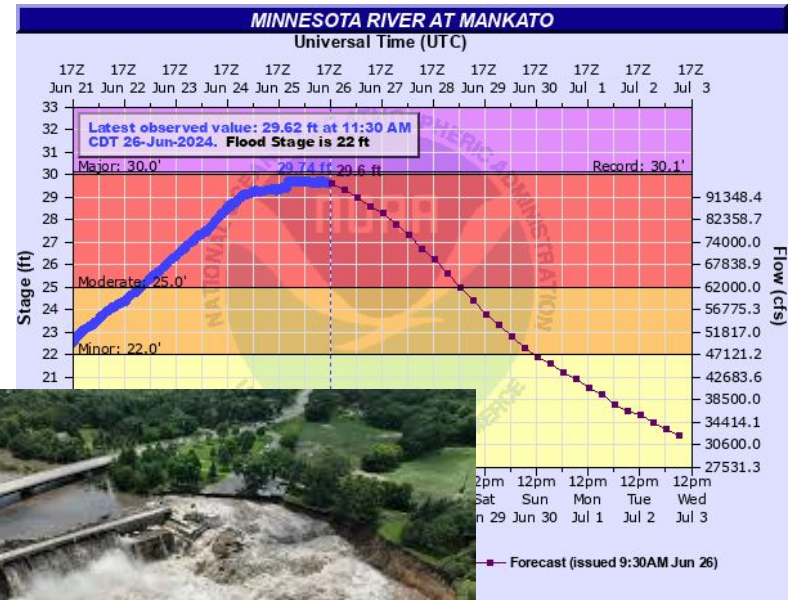
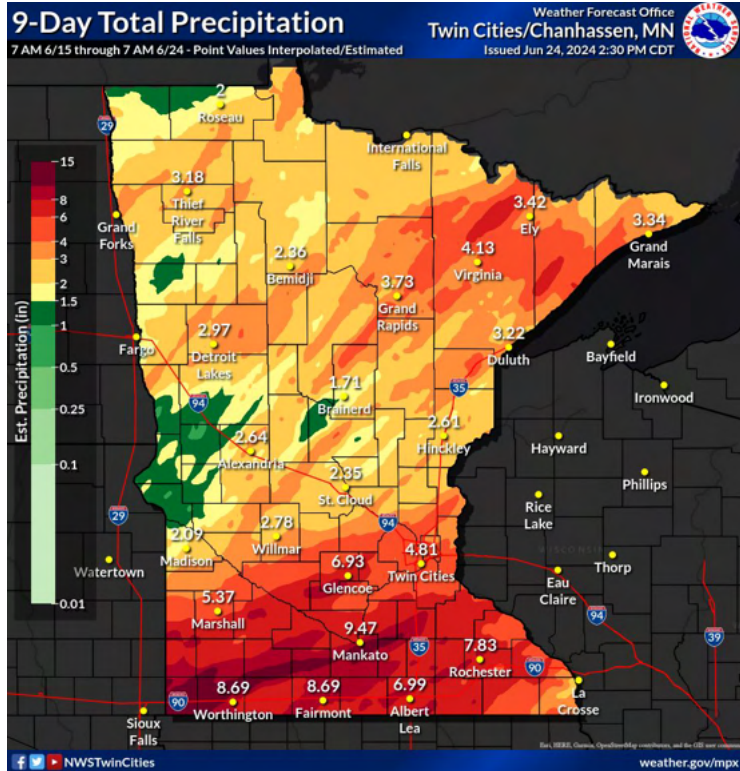


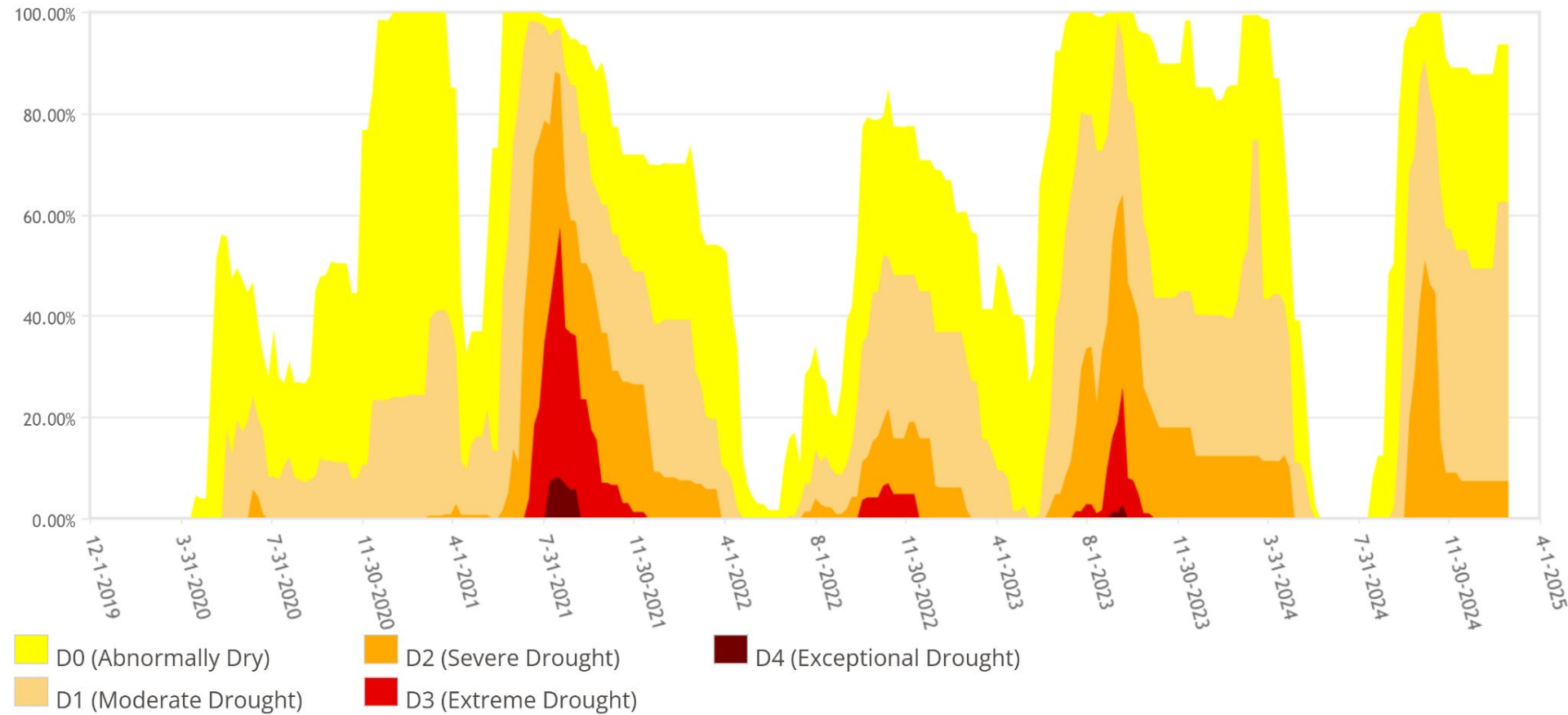
Photo: CNN

Rapidan Dam, flooding on the Blue Earth River, June 2024; Blue Earth County

**CPI-Adjusted Estimated Cost: \$1.1 billion**  
**(total flood events 1980-2024: \$5-10 billion)**

NOAA, 2025

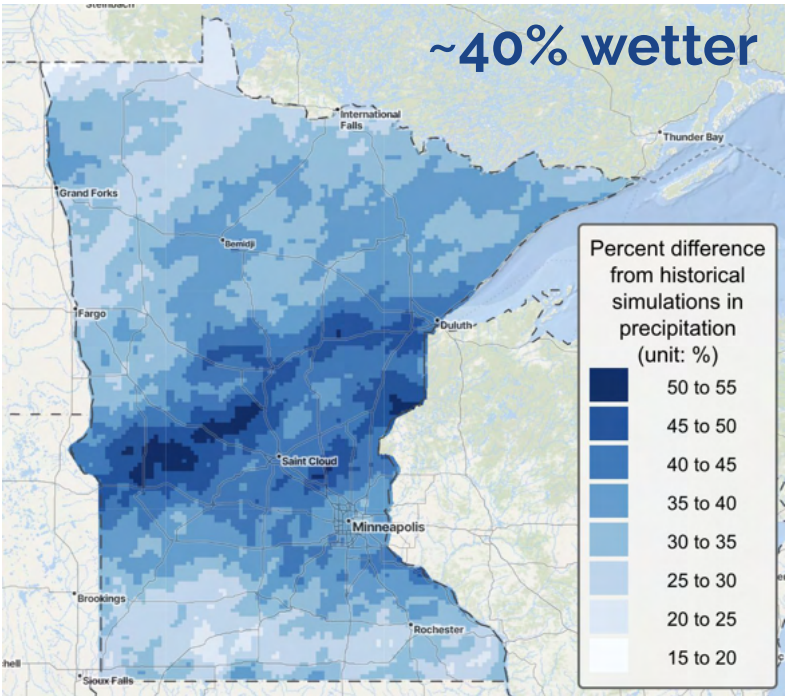
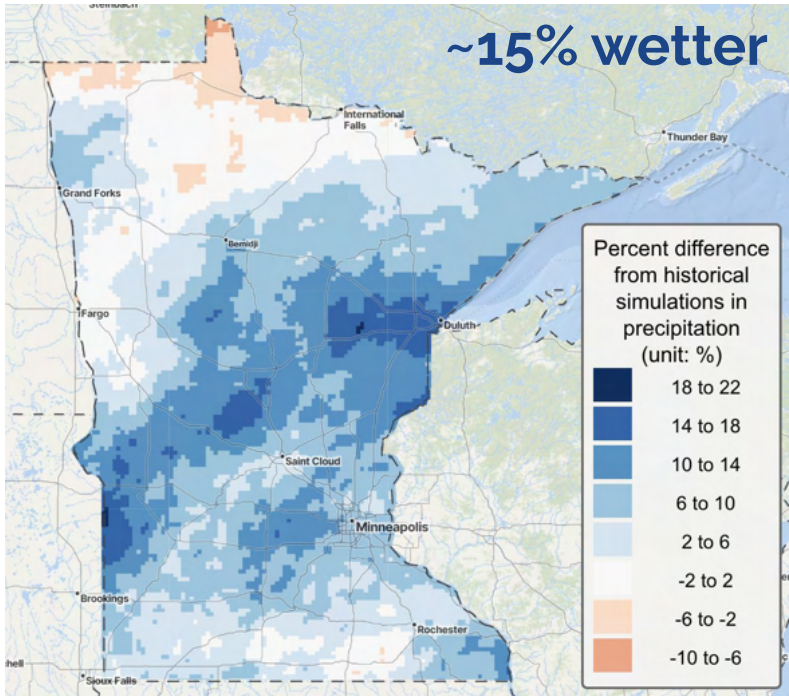
# Minnesota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



# Average percent change in spring precipitation

Mid-century (2040-2059)

End-of-century (2080-2099)



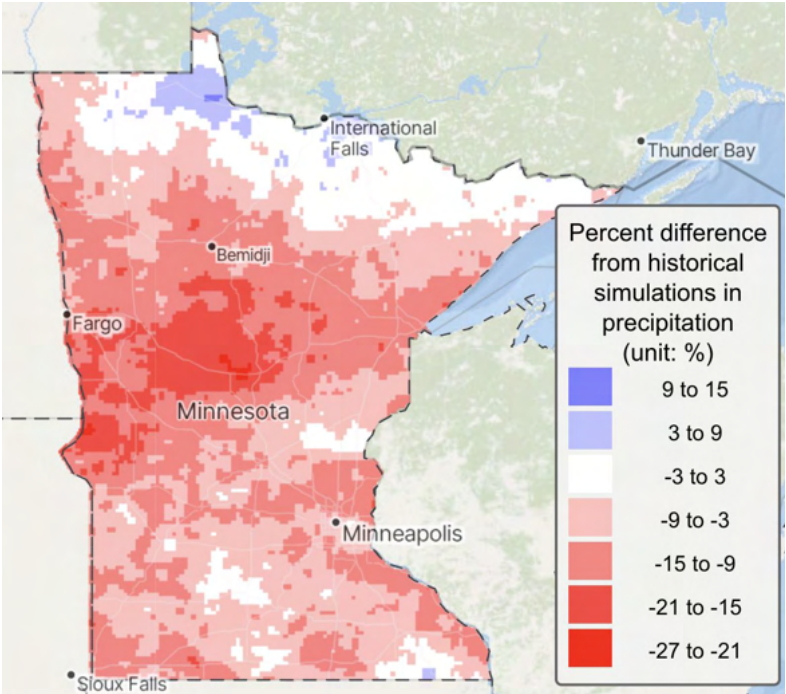
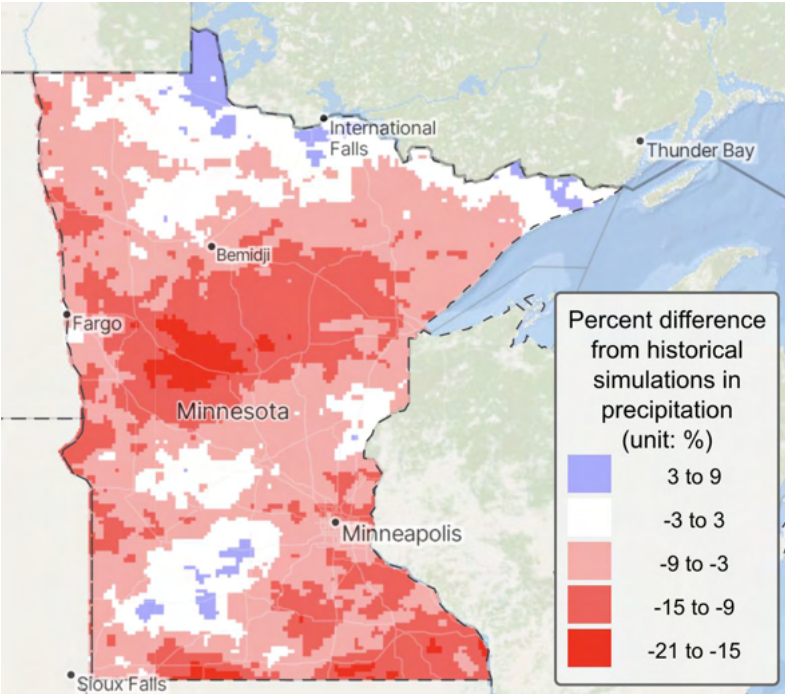
very high emissions (SSP585); relative to 1995-2014

Data: [UMN Climate Adaptation Partnership, 2024](#)

# Average percent change in summer precipitation

Mid-century (2040-2059)

End-of-century (2080-2099)



very high emissions (SSP585); relative to 1995-2014

Data: [UMN Climate Adaptation Partnership, 2024](#)

# Planning, Preparing & Acting Together



# Engagement for understanding & action



# Climate Adaptation Specialist Training

- Professional development workshops and online resources
- **Focus: integrating future climate data into long-term planning.**
- Methods for incorporating scenarios and applying future climate risks into long-term decision-making



# Community Climate Leaders

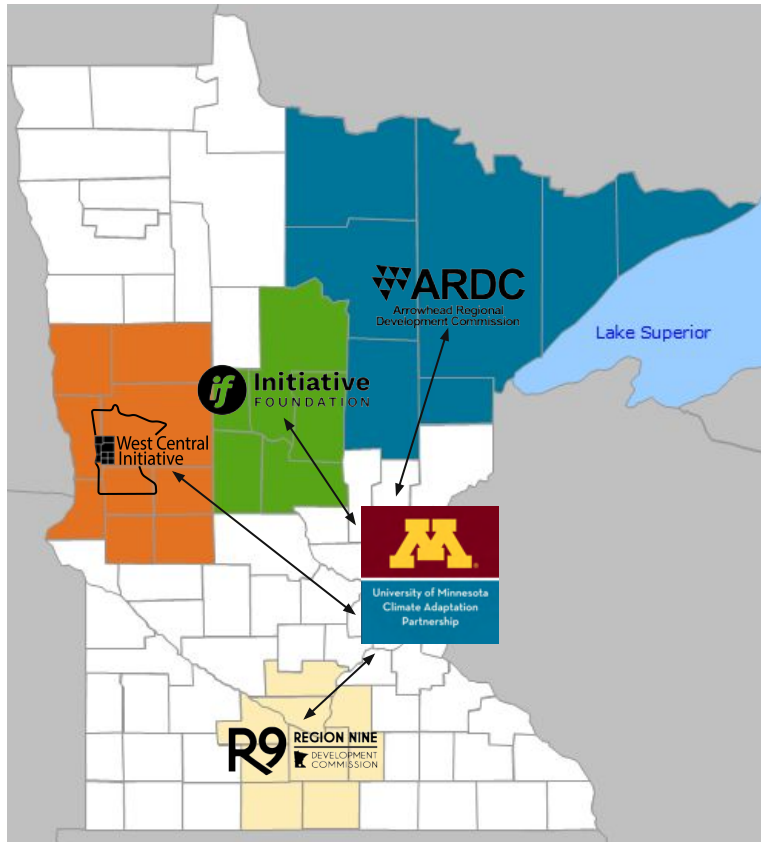
- **Cohort-based program for the public**
- Education on climate projections and adaptation strategies
- Goal: empower community-based change



# Agricultural Climate Resilience

- Climate Adaptation & Resilience Extension Educator to tailor education and technical support
- **Farm-specific risk & opportunity assessment, planning, and implementation programs.**
- New interactive online scenario planning tool.





## Our Collaborative Work

1. Convene communities to identify priorities.
2. Identify and curate **examples of community efforts.**
3. Establish **points of contact** for technical assistance.
4. Collaborate with **Extension programming.**
5. Collect feedback about **MCAP resources.**

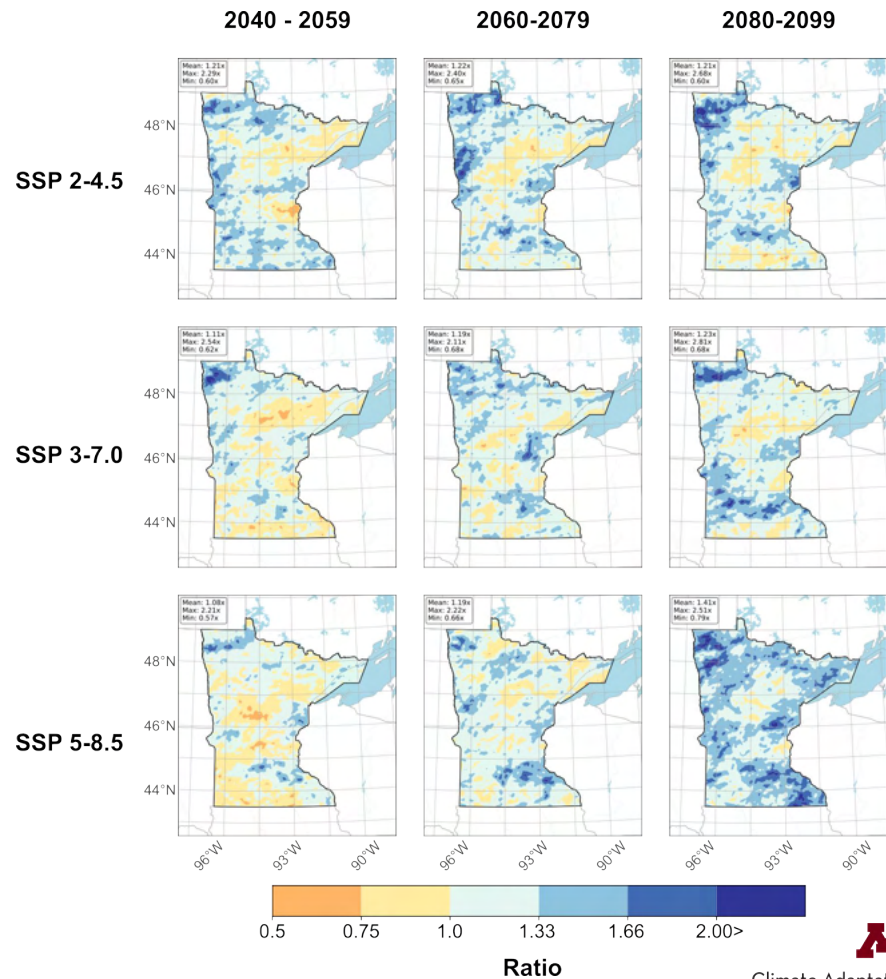


# Trusted Resources for Planning & Action



# Estimating Future Precipitation Extremes for Stormwater Management

Depth, duration and frequency maps for 100-year, 1-day duration events relative to historical simulations



# Groundwater variability and future change in MN

How will climate change impact groundwater reserves in Minnesota? Are there locations that are expected to see large increases in groundwater recharge from increased precipitation?



New climate projections for  
MN + updated  
USGS Soil-Water-Balance  
Model



Groundwater recharge (net  
infiltration), runoff, crop water  
demand, and actual  
evapotranspiration (actual ET)  
for 20-year periods from 1980  
through 2099



Scenarios and tool  
for MN groundwater  
futures to help communities  
prepare for, and respond to,  
potential changes in  
groundwater reserves.



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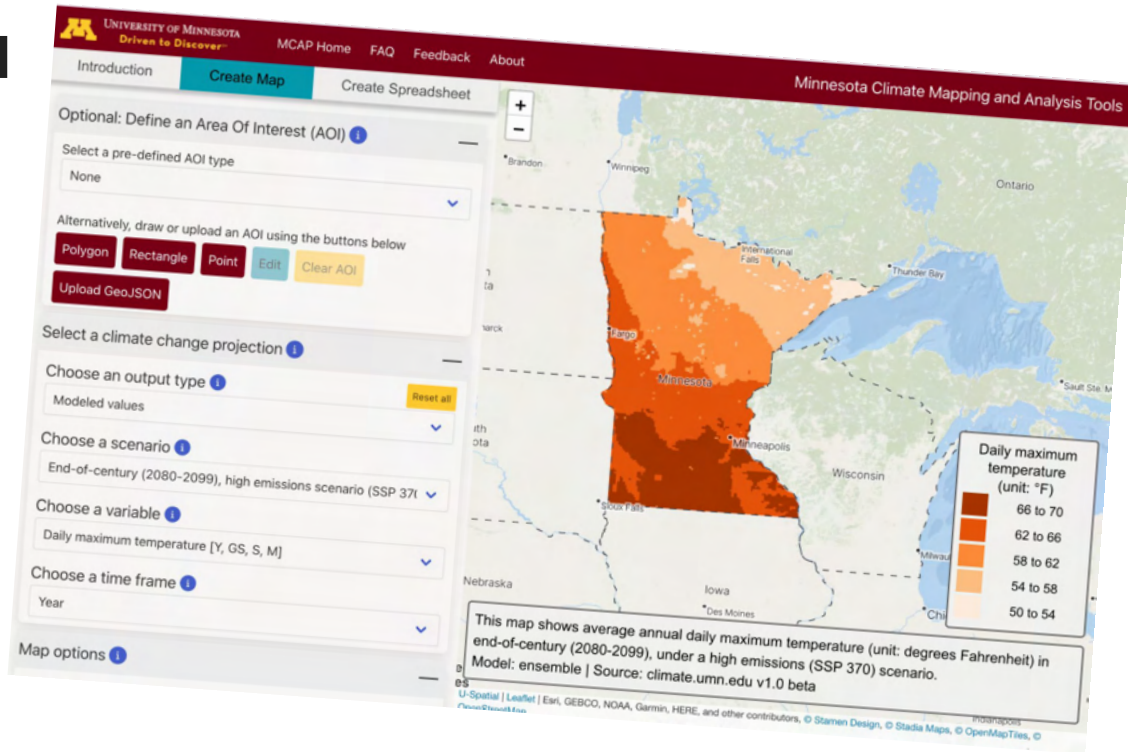
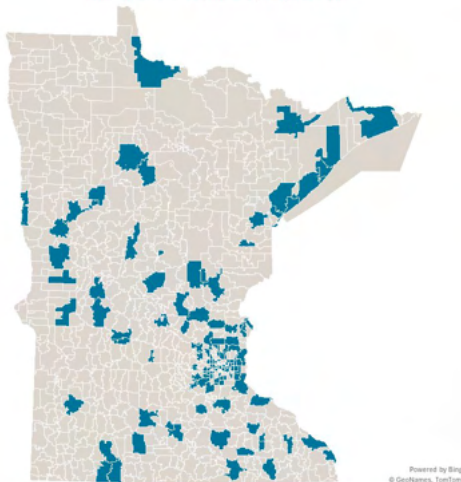
Project leads: Jared Trost, Tracy Twine, Heidi Roop

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# Localized Climate Projections

## MN Climate Mapping and Analysis Tools (MN ClIMAT): 2.5-mile scale projections out to 2100

MN ClIMAT Users by Zip Code



[app.climate.umn.edu](http://app.climate.umn.edu)



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# Regional Climate Summaries + Planning Resources

- × Resources for communities applying for state resilience grants or submitting an environmental assessment worksheet

MN ClIMAT projections can be valuable for preparing background resources for MPCA resilience planning and implementation grants, and can also be used to respond to question 7A in the state's EQB [Environmental Assessment Worksheet](#) (EAW). We've compiled the following resources:

## County-level climate data trends >

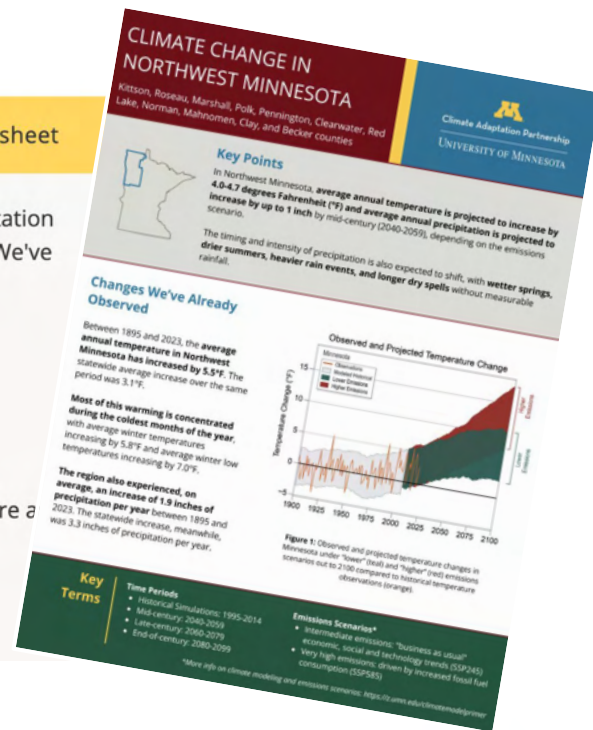
This spreadsheet provides observed and projected climate trends for all 87 MN counties.

## Regional climate summaries >

These summaries for each of nine geographic regions in Minnesota provide top-line information on projected temperature and precipitation changes, as well as key climate impacts to sectors such as agriculture and tourism.

Send an email to [mnclimate@umn.edu](mailto:mnclimate@umn.edu) with any additional questions or data requests.

[climate.umn.edu/regional-climate-summaries](https://climate.umn.edu/regional-climate-summaries)



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# Technical Support Tools

Creating the technical support tools that communities and people need for action

### Extreme Weather by Region

Click on your **county** to learn about potential extreme-weather challenges for your particular area.



While preparing for extreme weather, farmers need to consider long-term planning, this tool helps them prepare for changes in temperature and precipitation. Currently, regional data on future weather patterns isn't available, but projections suggest that extreme weather events will become more frequent and severe.

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### South Central

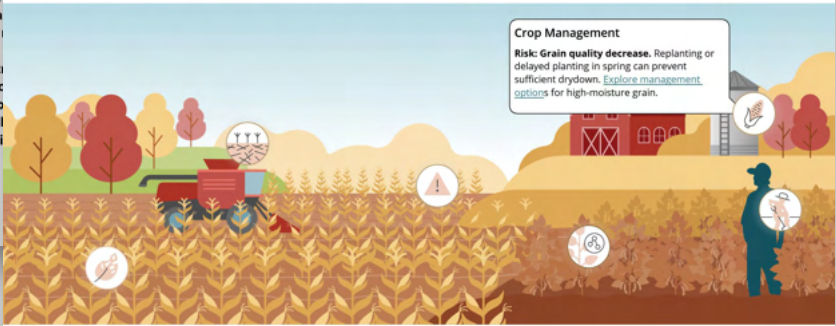
Farmers in the Southeast region are already experiencing shifts in weather patterns, and these changes are expected to accelerate in the coming decades. Averages don't change overnight, but rather through a gradual buildup of events. Think of it like this: If summer or above-freezing temperatures become more common. Even unusually hot summer or autumn. **By 2040, some changes won't change very much, but others will.**

Keeping an eye on these trends and variability can help protect crops and weather patterns in the long run. **about the severity of challenges and actions can help build resilience.**

[return to start](#)

### Strategies for Variable, Warmer Falls

Click on the icons below to learn about specific management strategies.



**Crop Management**  
**Risk:** Grain quality decrease. Replanting or delayed planting in spring can prevent sufficient drydown. [Explore management options](#) for high-moisture grain.

[back to start](#) [previous](#)



***climate.umn.edu***



# Our strategy

1. We develop and share **trusted climate information** to advance the implementation of effective, equitable adaptation actions within and across different sectors and communities.

2. We provide **relevant and accessible training and technical support** for climate and adaptation planning, monitoring, evaluation and implementation across different sectors and communities.

3. We **build and strengthen peer-to-peer networks** to improve coordination and collaboration within and across different sectors and communities to support climate resilience.



# Working Across Sectors and Communities

- Tribal, urban and rural communities
- Human health and community well-being
- Community planning and infrastructure
- Agricultural lands
- Forests, Water, and Natural Lands



# Observed Changes in Minnesota Winters (1895-2024)



**INCREASING WINTER  
TEMPERATURES**



**REDUCED  
SNOW COVER**



**DISRUPTION TO  
WINTER ACTIVITIES**



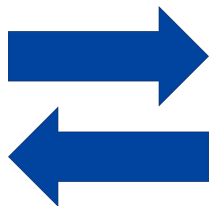
**IMPLICATIONS FOR  
ECOSYSTEMS**



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# Across the Midwest, transitions from wet to dry extremes



are happening **more quickly**  
And **more frequently**.



Photos: UMN Extension; Data: [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

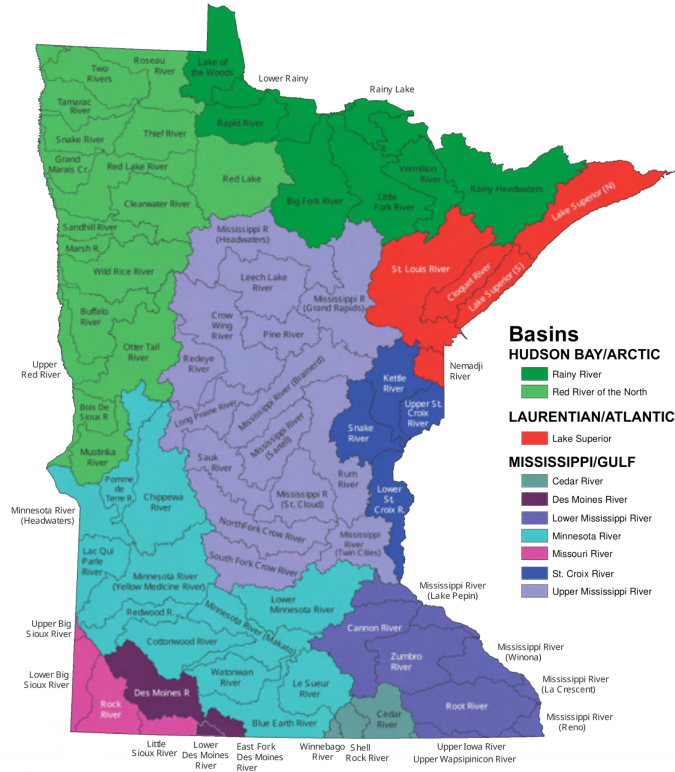
# Lake Superior Regional Resilience

- Climate Adaptation & Resilience Extension Educator to tailor education and technical support
- **Focus: establish a regional resilience collaborative and create a regional climate resilience plan.**



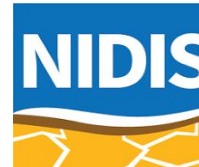
# Managing Future Floods and Droughts in Minnesota

## Basins and Major Watersheds in Minnesota



How will the duration, frequency and severity of floods and droughts change in the future?

What watershed management strategies and early warning systems can aid in response & resiliency?

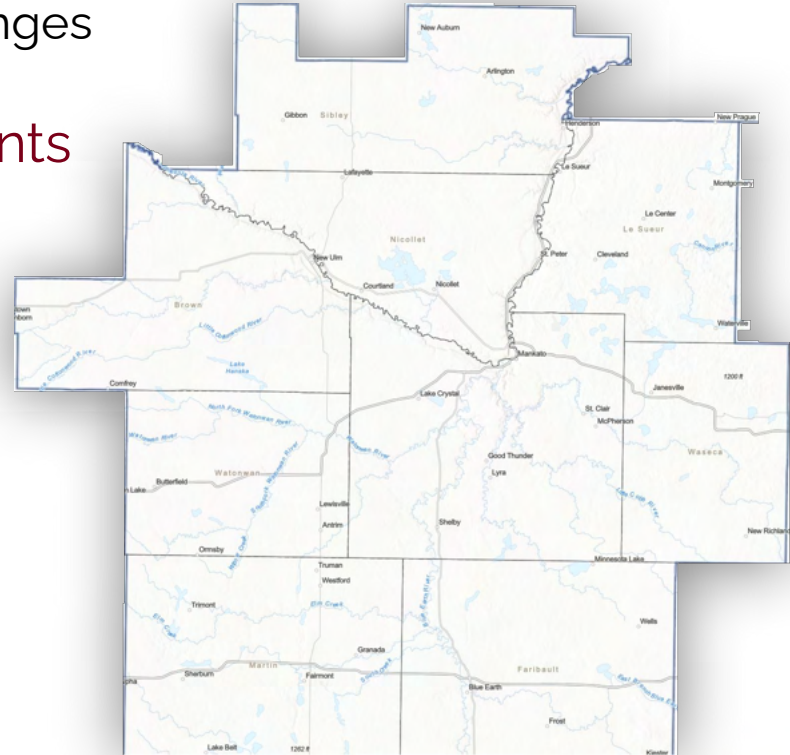


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## Engaging to learn about resilience challenges

- Communities with <10,000 residents
  - Local engagements to learn about local challenges
    - e.g. flooding, invasive pests, community health, infrastructure, etc.
  - Region to coordinate local engagements





# MIDWEST CLIMATE RESILIENCE CONFERENCE

The Midwest Climate Resilience Conference is the premier forum focused specifically on climate adaptation and resilience for the Midwest and Great Lakes region. Hosted by the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, the conference aims to:

- Advance adaptation and resilience for communities and ecosystems in the Midwest and Great Lakes by promoting critical reflection, dialogue, discussion and action on key climate issues in the region
- Foster stronger relationships among climate adaptation practitioners by encouraging collaboration and sharing knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned
- Expand the scope of climate adaptation work by encouraging a more inclusive approach that transcends traditional boundaries, creates broader networks, and fosters collaborations across different sectors, disciplines, and communities
- Coordinate actionable steps to continue collaborative climate adaptation work beyond the conference

[mcrc.umn.edu](https://mcrc.umn.edu)

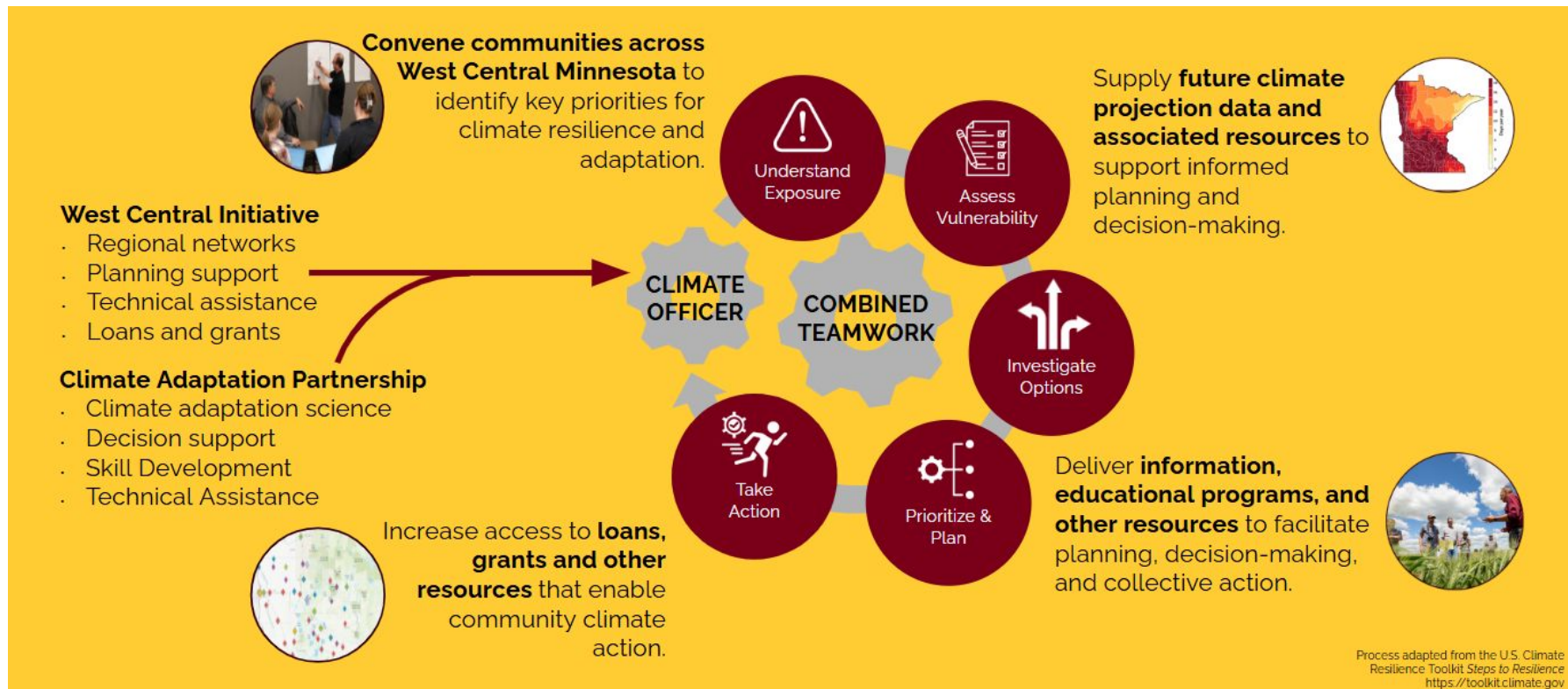
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# Work on the horizon



# Working with Local Experts



## Memo

**To:** RNDC Commissioners

**From:** Chair Mike Laven

**Date:** March 11, 2025

**Re:** Committee Caucusing

---

RNDC Committee Caucusing will occur during the Commission Meeting on April 9, 2025.

Commissioners will be seated by county, including special interest commissioners, who will sit with the county in which they reside.

Each county group will designate representatives for the following committees:

- Board of Directors
- Budget & Personnel
- Community & Economic Development

All commissioners are expected to commit to serving on at least one committee.

The names of the selected representatives will be recorded on the form provided, and their service on the committees will begin immediately.

# COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors have legal and ethical responsibility to ensure RNDC does the best work possible in pursuit of its goals.

**Meets:** Feb, Mar, May, June, Aug, Sep, Nov, Dec at 4:30 p.m.

**Staff Contact:** Executive Director

## Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

The committee is a forum for regional stakeholders to provide input on transportation projects, policies and planning initiatives of regional and statewide significance. The committee is composed of RNDC commissioners, MnDOT and Mankato Area Planning Organization staff, and city & county engineers.

**Meets:** Quarterly during business hours.

**Staff Contact:** Transportation Planner

## Budget & Personnel

The committee provides oversight and guidance to the organization in regard to annual budgeting, personnel issues and updating organizational policies as appropriate and in accordance with the law.

**Meets:** Monthly meetings are held during budget season (March-June) in the evening. Meetings throughout the remainder of the year are held as needed.

**Staff Contact:** Executive Director and Finance Director

## Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The committee reviews and approves applications to the RLF program.

**Requirements:** Members of this committee must have a business or banking background with the ability to read and understand financial statements, projections and business plans.  
(50% of members must be RNDC Commissioners)

**Meets:** As needed typically held on Tuesday's during business hours.

**Staff Contact:** Finance Director and Economic Development Planner

## Community and Economic Development Planning Committee

The purpose of the committee is to promote the economic and socio-economic development in the region through intergovernmental cooperation, long-range and strategic planning.

**Meets:** As needed. Typically during business hours.

**Staff Contact:** Community Development Planner

## Legislative & Communications

The committee establishes legislative priorities and policy recommendations, advocates for the region's needs and communicates as needed.

**Meets:** As needed. On average, four times per year.

**Staff Contact:** Executive Director

## Committee Members

March 2025

|                   | Board of Directors                    | Budget & Personnel           | Legislative & Communications                  | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development | Revolving Loan Fund        |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Blue Earth</b> | Mike Laven<br>2021<br>Chair           |                              | Mike Laven<br>2019                            |                         | Patty O'Connor<br>2023           | Claire Goettl*<br>2023     |
| <b>Brown</b>      | Andrea Boettger<br>2021<br>Vice Chair | Gary Richter<br>2017         | Andrea Boettger<br>2021<br>Dave Borchert 2023 | Rob Goblirsch<br>2017   | Chris Dalton<br>2019             | Chris Dalton<br>2020       |
| <b>Faribault</b>  | Tom Loveall<br>2003                   | Tom Loveall<br>2003          |                                               |                         |                                  |                            |
| <b>Le Sueur</b>   | Steve Rohlfig<br>2011                 |                              | Scott Schlueter<br>2021                       |                         | Scott Schlueter<br>2021          |                            |
| <b>Martin</b>     | Phil Schafer<br>2010                  |                              | Elroy Glidden<br>2022                         |                         | Elroy Glidden<br>2022            | Celia Simpson*<br>2025     |
| <b>Nicollet</b>   | Marie Dranttel<br>2011<br>Treasurer   | Ayan Omar<br>2019<br>Chair   |                                               | Shanon Nowell<br>2023   |                                  | Julie Fredrickson*<br>2023 |
| <b>Sibley</b>     | Christian Lilienthal<br>2021          | Christian Lilienthal<br>2021 | Dawn Kratzke<br>2021                          | Bob Nielsen<br>2023     | Dawn Kratzke<br>2021             | Travis Mons*<br>2020       |
| <b>Waseca</b>     | Rob Wilkening<br>2023                 | Sarah Berry<br>2023          |                                               |                         |                                  |                            |
| <b>Watonwan</b>   | Jim Branstad<br>2021<br>Secretary     | Paul Harris<br>2023          | Mike Pfeil<br>2013                            | Steve Cooling<br>2016   | Mike Pfeil<br>2013               | Steve Cooling<br>2022      |

Year = Joined RNDC or RLF

\*Not a RNDC Commissioner

## Committee Caucus Form Blue Earth County April 2025

Mike Laven, Patty O'Connor

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Mike Laven         |                    | Mike Laven                   |                         | Patty O'Connor                   |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |

*Choose One More\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

## Committee Caucus Form

### Brown County

April 2025

Andrea Boettger, Dave Borchert, Chris Dalton, Rob Goblirsch, Gary Richter

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications     | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Andrea Boettger    | Gary Richter       | Andrea Boettger<br>Dave Borchert | Rob Goblirsch           | Chris Dalton                     |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                                  |                         |                                  |

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

## Committee Caucus Form

### Faribault County

April 2025

Tom Loveall

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Tom Loveall        | Tom Loveall        |                              |                         |                                  |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

## Committee Caucus Form

### Le Sueur County

April 2025

Steve Rohlfig, Scott Schlueter

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Steve Rohlfig      |                    | Scott Schlueter              |                         | Scott Schlueter                  |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |

*Choose No More\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

Committee Caucus Form  
**Martin County**  
April 2025

Elroy Glidden, Phil Schafer

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Phil Schafer       |                    | Elroy Glidden                |                         | Elroy Glidden                    |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |
|                 | <i>Choose One*</i> | <i>Choose One*</i> |                              |                         | <i>Choose One*</i>               |

## Committee Caucus Form Nicollet County April 2025

Marie Dranttel, Shanon Nowell, Matt Peterson, Pam Rodewald, Ayan Omar, Rita Rassbach

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Marie Dranttel     | Ayan Omar          |                              | Shanon Nowell           |                                  |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

## Committee Caucus Form

### Sibley County

April 2025

Dawn Kratzke, Christian Lilienthal, Bob Nielsen

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors   | Budget & Personnel   | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Christian Lilienthal | Christian Lilienthal | Dawn Kratzke                 | Bob Nielsen             | Dawn Kratzke                     |
| <b>New:</b>     |                      |                      |                              |                         |                                  |
|                 | <i>Choose One*</i>   | <i>Choose One*</i>   |                              |                         | <i>Choose One*</i>               |

## Committee Caucus Form

### Waseca County

April 2025

Sarah Berry, Brad Krause, Julie Tesch, Rob Wilkening

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Rob Wilkening      | Sarah Berry        |                              |                         |                                  |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |
|                 | <i>Choose One*</i> | <i>Choose One*</i> |                              |                         | <i>Choose One*</i>               |

## Committee Caucus Form Watonwan County April 2025

Jim Branstad, Steve Cooling, Paul Harris, Mike Pfeil

**All commissioners commit to participating in at least one committee.**

|                 | Board of Directors | Budget & Personnel | Legislative & Communications | Transportation Advisory | Community & Economic Development |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Current:</b> | Jim Branstad       | Paul Harris        | Mike Pfeil                   | Steve Cooling           | Mike Pfeil                       |
| <b>New:</b>     |                    |                    |                              |                         |                                  |

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

*Choose One\**

## Region Nine Development Commission Out-of-State Travel Request Form

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>              | Nicole Griensewic         |
| <b>Event:</b>             | NADO Summer Board Meeting |
| <b>Travel Destination</b> | Providence, RI            |
| <b>Date of Departure:</b> | 6/1/2025                  |
| <b>Date of Return:</b>    | 6/6/2025                  |

**Anticipated Costs:**

|                                                       | Departure Airport |    | Arrival Airport |  | Estimate    | Funding Source |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----|-----------------|--|-------------|----------------|
| Airfare (Roundtrip)                                   | MSP               | to | BOS             |  | \$ 748.96   | General Fund   |
| Registration                                          | Description       |    |                 |  | Cost        | Funding Source |
|                                                       | N/A               |    |                 |  |             | General Fund   |
| Lodging                                               | Total Nights      |    | \$ Per Night    |  | Cost        | Funding Source |
|                                                       | 5                 | x  | \$ 209.00       |  | \$ 1,045.00 | General Fund   |
| Meals                                                 | Total Days        |    | \$ Per Diem     |  | Cost        | Funding Source |
|                                                       | 6                 | x  | \$ 75.00        |  | \$ 450.00   | General Fund   |
| Mileage                                               | Total Miles       |    | \$ Per Mile     |  | Cost        | Funding Source |
|                                                       | 182               | x  | \$ 0.70         |  | \$ 127.40   | General Fund   |
| Other                                                 | Description       |    |                 |  | Estimate    | Funding Source |
|                                                       | Incidentals       |    |                 |  | \$ 50.00    | General Fund   |
| Other                                                 | Description       |    |                 |  | Estimate    | Funding Source |
|                                                       | Other             |    |                 |  | \$ 60.00    | General Fund   |
| Other                                                 | Description       |    |                 |  | Estimate    | Funding Source |
|                                                       | Taxi/Shuttle      |    |                 |  | \$ 40.00    | General Fund   |
| Total Anticipated Cost of Out-of-State Travel Request |                   |    |                 |  | \$ 2,521.36 |                |

**Employee Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Executive Director Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

# Finance Director's Report

*Submitted by Melissa Reintjes*

April 2025 Board Meeting

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## Finance

- Began gathering data to start budget FY25.
- Contacted the Auditors to get on the schedule for this years Financial Audit
- Started to gather the data for the SFM Workman's Compensation audit.
- Starting to get familiarized with setting up processes and procedures for financial duties.
- Identified an opportunity to work together with the planners to provide more financial data as to how the various projects the status of where revenue and expenditures are.
- Worked on getting login information for all the various accounts related to the Finance Director.

## Revolving Loan Fund

- As of February 2025
  - Principal Outstanding = \$2,046,414
  - Dollars Available for Lending = \$1,951,347
- See Jazmine Flores's report for more RLF specifics.

## Region Nine Area, Inc.

- No new activity to report.

## **STAFF UPDATES | April 2025**

### **Alejandra Bejarano**

As part of RNDC's workforce development efforts, Alejandra presented the Employer Toolkit that her and Mercedes developed to address regional labor shortages at a launch event supported by Greater Mankato Growth, Taylor Corporation, and Kivu Immigration Law. The event had broad participation from employers and regional partners. Since then, Alejandra has been meeting with individuals interested in learning more about the initiative. RNDC also received a contract through the Drive for Five grant from DEED, awarded to GMG, to design and deliver employer training on international student hiring. Alejandra and Mercedes developed and will deliver two online training sessions for regional employers in March and April.

Alejandra continues leading the Strategic Economic Development Plan for the City of Springfield. She worked with city staff to design and deploy a community-wide survey that gained significant traction and is now working with Kristian and the city to host follow-up community events for further input.

Alejandra is also part of the Talent Hub Committee, focused on developing a Talent Hub for Mankato and the surrounding area. The committee brings together local leaders, employers, and education partners to strengthen workforce development and talent attraction strategies. As part of this, Alejandra will serve on a subcommittee working on strategies to attract and retain young residents.

Additionally, Alejandra continues supporting the Rural Child Care Innovation Program in Eagle Lake, leading efforts within the workforce development goal area to support paid work-study programming for students interested in working with childcare providers. She has also joined the Whole Community Approach to Child Care Committee, which is aimed at creating a childcare association for the region.

Alejandra also joined a meeting of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) focused on teacher shortages and opportunities to tap into global talent. As part of this, Alejandra and Mercedes are organizing a roundtable with area superintendents on April 25 to discuss solutions and ways to broaden the talent pool.

Finally, Alejandra will join MAPCED and EDAM at their Day at the Capitol in March to meet with state and local representatives and discuss key economic development priorities, including housing, workforce, childcare, broadband, infrastructure, and transportation.

### **Jessica Beyer**

Since the last Commission Meeting, Jessica has been focused on supporting efforts and has also contributed oversight and work towards many of the projects and initiatives noted by the team throughout this report. She is also continuing her MCAP work with the University of Minnesota and more information will be shared at the Commission Meeting as part of an informational presentation.

A significant portion of her time has been dedicated to recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of three positions, including those of Mark Plotz, Road Safety Transportation Planner; Tom Polich, Regional Food Rescue Coordinator; Melissa Reintjes, Finance Director.

In addition to her role as Deputy Director, Jessica has been helping provide oversight on some of the Finance Director's responsibilities. She has also stepped in as interim Executive Director during Nicole's leave of absence and is carrying out responsibilities outlined in the organization's succession plan. Jessica has been in close communication with the Chair and leadership. She has also worked with committee leadership to put together a special Board Meeting, Budget & Personnel Committee Meeting, and Legislative Committee Meeting.

Other notable areas of work have included coordinating legislative affairs related to Federal funding implications and staying in close communication with delegation staff, stakeholders, and staff related to the impacted programs/services. Jessica also coordinated a tour of the Xcel Energy Wilmarth Plant, in which Region Nine Commissioners, stakeholders, and all Federal Delegation Offices were represented.

Jessica celebrated six months of employment on March 16 and is excited to share that she was selected to participate in NADO's Collaborative Learning Group program, offered through the Economic Development District Community of Practice. The program is free and offered virtually twice a month through September. This will be a great opportunity for Jessica early in her tenure with RNDC, to learn and bring back resources from NADO to the team.

### **Kristian Braekkan**

Kristian is conducting an economic impact study on behalf of the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota (CMSM). The primary purpose of this study is to measure the direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts of CMSM on the local and regional economies and the museum's economic footprint. The findings will serve as a critical resource for stakeholders, including local businesses, policymakers, funders, and the public, highlighting the museum's significance beyond its cultural and educational contributions as they pursue expansion opportunities. The goal is to finalize the study by the end of April and present the findings to the CMSM board in May.

He is also in the process of finalizing a housing study for the city of Springfield. The study assesses the current housing needs, challenges, and trends within the community, including the identification of gaps in housing supply and affordability, quality, and condition of existing housing, and demographic changes impacting housing demand. The study will conclude in early May and intends to provide data-driven insights to inform local policymakers, developers, and community stakeholders in making decisions that support sustainable, affordable, and inclusive housing solutions for Springfield's residents. This study is partially funded through a small cities grant through SMIF, along with a Strategic Economic Development Plan, which is being led by Alejandra.

Kristian has also completed all interviews with SMIF's Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) communities across the twenty counties in southcentral and southeastern Minnesota. This work has been done in partnership with the executive leadership team at SMIF and is part of a two-phase assessment of economic opportunities in southern Minnesota and the ecosystems supporting entrepreneurs in the region, funded by SMIF. Aaron and Kristian continue to assess the economic opportunities and align these with the feedback received through the interviews. The work will conclude in April and will be presented to SMIF's board of directors at a later date.

Finally, Kristian is co-directing a study, *Regional Food System Supply Chains and Transportation Implications*, funded by the University of Minnesota's Transportation Policy and Economic Competitiveness (TPEC) program. This study is expanding the geographic scope to consider Minnesota within the context of the Midwest and focuses on the Agriculture Industry Cluster, following up on several prior studies by TPEC, and does so by extending it to consider increased policy interest in resilient and sustainable food systems, including product/freight flows not just across Minnesota, but across the Midwest region. The work will conclude in June.

### **Lisa Callahan**

Lisa and Sam Sharp have been actively providing community readiness and outreach materials to various communities within Region Nine. These materials include improvement opportunities, resources, and a community survey. The Climate Smart team of St. James has been effectively distributing the community survey, and we will analyze the results soon.

Lisa developed youth outreach materials focusing on post-high school opportunities, including a survey distributed to many schools. She met with the South Central Service Cooperative (SCSC) to discuss extending our reach with youth engagement and education. Additionally, she conducted tabling events at the St. James Career Day, where 90 students participated in a climate and environmental survey.

In New Ulm, Lisa engaged with the City of New Ulm and New Ulm Public Utilities to explore anaerobic digestion development. She also collaborated with the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) on this project.

In Mankato, Lisa met with ICS Consulting to explore potential collaborations in energy and environmental planning. She also attended a Region Nine-hosted tour of the Xcel Energy Wilmarth waste-to-energy plant to learn more about waste conversion into fuel.

She met with the City of Madelia to explore additional ways Region Nine can be of service and learned about Madelia's Watona Park flood mitigation project, which could serve as a model for other communities examining flood prevention strategies.

In Winthrop, Lisa met with the Economic Director to discuss further assistance from Region Nine. She learned about the Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) program, which includes the neighboring communities of Gibbon and Fairfax, aiming to reignite entrepreneurial spirits and foster long-term economic development.

Lastly, she met with the Saint Paul Port Authority to discuss ways the Region Nine area can further utilize the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program.

### **Sabri Fair**

From February 12<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>, Sabri presented the findings of his Regional Food Rescue Plan to four separate organizations, including the BNLW SHIP Community Leadership Team, the Minnesota Department of Health Food Networks Community of Practice, staff at Second Harvest Heartland, and the Carver County Food Rescue Collaborative. These presentations have helped share the work happening in our region and learn from other communities how they are successfully rescuing food.

With the support of Nate and Tom, Sabri will have the Regional Food Rescue Plan document completed and submitted to the SHIP Offices on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Sabri has helped Eagle Lake navigate the Solar on Public Buildings grant process. He organized and hosted a site visit for installers to visit the City Hall and Public Works building so they could develop accurate proposals. Seven installers attended the event and submitted proposals, which are currently being reviewed by Eagle Lake staff.

Sabri started accepting and reviewing applications for the Grow-A-Farmer grant. The applications are being reviewed on a rolling basis. So far, Sabri has approved \$16,000 worth of funds out of the \$50,000 available.

Sabri has continued work on the planning for a permanent covered location for the Mankato Farmer's Market. He has started drafting the final planning document and is organizing meetings with possible host organizations across the community.

Sabri has also begun outreach for Local Foods Month (previously Local Foods Week). So far, he has identified eight local farms that are interested in participating. He aims to have restaurant partnerships identified by the end of April.

Sabri's Local Food Purchase assistance grant, which was paused at the federal level, has been unpaused. This will allow Region Nine and grant partners South Central Minnesota Food Recovery and Living Earth Center to purchase \$30,000 worth of food from local farmers and distribute it to hunger assistance partners across the region.

### **Melissa Reintjes**

Melissa started her role as the Finance Director on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. She has had help from Jazmine with getting logged into the various finance systems and will continue to get access to accounts that are needed. She has worked with the interim consultant for training in the accounting system and they have worked together to ensure a smooth handoff. She will continue to train and shadow Jazmine to learn all the necessary functions the Finance Director needs to complete. She has started diving into the budgets for the next fiscal year and getting familiarized with setting up processes and procedures for financial duties.

### **Jazmine Flores**

Jazmine had a busy and productive month, handling several key tasks across different areas. She managed accounts payable by cutting checks for vendors and worked with staff to collect credit card receipts, ensuring the credit card statements were wrapped up for the month. Jazmine also set up new employees with payroll and the necessary codes in the accounting software, contributing to smooth onboarding. She assisted Melissa, the new finance director, by providing her with the necessary login information for various sites and banking details. Jazmine attended a networking event hosted by Pioneer Bank, further expanding her professional connections. Additionally, she ran deposits to the corresponding banks and entered and reconciled all RLF (Revolving Loan Fund) payments within the system. Jazmine also attended the 1 Million Cups event, where she met potential new loan committee members, fostering valuable relationships for the future. Through her

efforts, Jazmine demonstrated strong multitasking skills, supporting both the operational and networking needs of the team.

### **Nathan George**

Nathan worked on the Global Hiring Event at Pioneer Bank with Alejandra. He administered the event registrations, managed social media campaigns, created all the print material, greeted attendees, took photos for future promotions, wrote and distributed a press release, organized an interview for Alejandra with KTOE, and wrote a recap for the newsletter.

Nathan has been working on the Food Rescue Report with Sabri and Tom. He has edited, designed, and typeset the report. He will finalize the design for distribution once approval is given. The report focuses on the region's current and future food rescue efforts and highlights concerns from growers and food distributors, including food shelves.

Nathan has made multiple appearances on the KTOE "Talk of the Town" program. He was interviewed with Alejandra to promote the Global Hiring Event and once with Jessica to talk about her role with RNDC and promote a community survey for Springfield and the upcoming Global Hiring Webinar Series.

Nathan has also been working to keep media attention on the region. He has been in contact with a reporter from the Star Tribune to discuss potential story ideas. He has also been working with True Façade on an introductory video highlighting the work of RNDC in the region. The video will help our staff describe what the organization does in a visually appealing manner.

Nathan has been working with Sabri to promote the Grow-a-Farmer grant being offered through a partnership between RNDC and SMIF. He has created a webpage, a digital application, a physical application, as well as accompanying graphics. The grant aims to support local sustainable farmers with the purchase of small equipment, implementation of new sustainable farming techniques, replacement of inventory lost because of extreme weather, building repair or upgrades, and other similar projects.

Nathan has been representing RNDC at community events. Nathan attended the FCI Waseca Community Relations Board Meeting for Nicole on March 19th. He also attended the Mayo Community Leader Luncheon for Jessica on March 20th.

Nathan has been assisting Sarah and Jessica in outreach to encourage unrepresented communities in the region to nominate a commissioner. This has involved reaching out to current RNDC Commissioners and community leaders to generate potential leads on candidates.

Nathan has created and administered multiple social media campaigns and press releases. These have included the Global Hiring Event and webinars, a Rural EMS summit, and a community survey for Springfield. For the Springfield surveys, he also created promotional images and the physical survey.

Nathan worked with Jazmine to create and print a brochure to explain and promote the RNDC RLF program. The brochures give Jazmine a concise description of the program and the current loan terms. Jazmine will distribute these as she connects with lenders and prospective clients.

Nathan has been a part of the initial meetings for the Tri-County Solid Waste Plan. These initial meetings have been to define the scope, due dates, and logistics for the plan. Work on this project will begin later this year.

Nathan has also started planning for the 2025 RNDC Bus Tour with the tour committee. The committee is in the beginning phases of picking locations and potential speakers. This year's tour will take place on the day of the June 18th Commission Meeting.

Nathan also finished the Camp Quarry Adventure Park Preliminary Economic Impact Study with Kristian. He edited to conform to the Plain Language Initiative, designed, gathered images, and typeset the report. This impact study focused on the potential economic benefits of having a recreation park for the wider community.

### **Joel Hanif**

On February 19, Joel helped organize and facilitate a virtual listening session on rural EMS recruitment and retention as part of RNDC's Empowering Small Minnesota Communities grant through UofM Extension. This was also done in partnership with Brown County Commissioner Dave Borchert and South Central EMS Executive Director Mark Griffith. The final report for this project is anticipated to be delivered by Stuart Grande in the UofM School of Public Health this spring. Joel and the project team are currently looking for funding opportunities to continue this work or similar projects.

Joel completed the draft Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Safe Routes to School plan and presented it at the City of Waterville's March city council meeting. He is working on finalizing the plan after receiving comments from the planning team. He will also be presenting the plan to the Morristown City Council in April.

### **Sarah Janovsky**

Sarah has coordinated multiple meetings, including Board, Budget & Personnel, Staff, and Commission meetings, while also facilitating discussions with internal teams and external partners. She has worked closely with team members to onboard new commissioners and initiate planning for the bus tour. Additionally, the 2025 Wellness budget has been submitted and approved by South Central Service Cooperative.

### **Aaron Pacheco**

Aaron is working with the Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization (MAPO), in collaboration with a consultant, to create a travel demand model that will help local leaders anticipate future transportation needs. Aaron has been gathering detailed information on businesses in Eagle Lake, Mankato, and North Mankato areas, including their exact locations, employee counts, and NAICS industry codes. This information will be used to pinpoint where commutes begin and end, revealing potential traffic bottlenecks and helping planners make decisions about road improvements, public transit options, and ways to reduce congestion. In the long run, this model will support more effective and data-driven transportation policies that respond to changing community and employment demands in the region.

Building on prior work by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), Aaron is expanding the scope of analysis to place Southern Minnesota within broader regional and national contexts. By examining key economic metrics, the project aims to develop a “fingerprint” of Southern Minnesota that highlights unique strengths, such as industries where the region has an advantage and areas where further collaboration or investment could spark growth. This comparison with other regions ensures that Southern Minnesota’s local opportunities are viewed by its context within national and global trends, helping local decision-makers spot ways to attract businesses, grow the workforce, and bolster economic resilience.

Aaron is using admissions data from the Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota (CMSM) to map where visitors live by zip code. This analysis will show how far people travel to visit the museum and how the institution influences the region’s economy and cultural identity. As a cornerstone of community life, the CMSM not only brings families and educators together but also boosts local businesses through increased foot traffic at restaurants, hotels, and shops. In addition to generating jobs and tax revenue, the museum offers hands-on educational programs for children, nurturing curiosity and reinforcing Southern Minnesota’s strong sense of community. By understanding the museum’s visitor patterns, local leaders can target marketing efforts effectively and recognize the museum’s broader role in regional development and civic engagement. The first stage is to put the data within the geographic context of national zip codes, and once the referencing and analysis are complete, he will produce maps and visuals to be presented later this year.

In partnership with the University of Minnesota’s Transportation Policy and Economic Competitiveness (TPEC) program and Redlands University, Aaron is working on the *Regional Food System Supply Chains and Transportation Implications* study, investigating how commodity grains and animal-based products move through supply chains in the Upper Midwest. This research provides a broad view of how local agriculture and food manufacturing connect with transportation networks, particularly in the Upper Midwest Corn Belt region. The project highlights the economic relationships that link farms, processing plants, and export channels by collecting and organizing data on grain, dairy, meat, and other subindustries. The goal is to inform discussions about infrastructure needs, export strategies, and key industry investment strategies to strengthen Southern Minnesota’s position in these vital supply chains.

## **Tom Polich**

Tom started his role as the Food Rescue Coordinator on 2/24/25. The first week he went through orientation training and set up his area in the office space. He also attended multiple webinars pertaining to food rescue to get a more in-depth overview of the work that other regions do. As part of the orientation, Tom met with many of the other staff at RNDC, one-on-one, to discuss what their roles are, how they help the Region Nine area, and how they can be of assistance to the food recovery work.

Tom has been working on creating a network and system for food recovery throughout the region. The first phase of this process is to meet with a majority of the area food access partners. From May-July of last year, Sabri interviewed area partners to gain information on food insecurity and active recovery efforts. Since that time, much has changed in the way of access to nutrition for food

shelves, programs, and those they serve. Tom's goal with the current visits is to get an updated pulse on everyone's situation and assess what the immediate needs are.

Tom's plan for the next phase is to tackle some of the logistical hurdles with food recovery in the area and meet with area trucking companies, warehouses, distribution centers, and truck stops/washes.

Related to the food recovery efforts, Tom has created an internal tracking worksheet to accurately document food recovery that RNDC directly participates in. He has also been documenting visits, creating a list of infrastructure and equipment needs in the area, and has started initial searches for funding for these projects.

Tom participated in the Minnesota Prevention of Wasted Food Government Peer Network on 3/11/25. In this group, he was able to learn about the entire state's efforts in food recovery, some of the efforts Second Harvest is taking to combat food waste, and gained some good contacts for the future of RNDC's efforts.

Finally, Tom has helped facilitate some food rescue in the region. He was contacted by staff at Lutheran Social Service of MN about canned goods left over from their Blizzard Meals Program. The New Ulm Community Center also contacted Tom about LSS's kitchen that is being downsized, multiple cases of food needed to be removed before they expired. As of 3/18/25, from the LSS-related rescues, there have been 613 pounds of food, 37.5 cases in total rescued. SCMNFRC received a total of 16 cases of tuna, FOCP took in 8 cases of single-serve chicken pouches, St. Peter Food Shelf took in 3 cases of peaches, and finally, the New Ulm food shelf took in 13 cases of various shelf-stable products.

### **Mark Plotz**

Mark has been assisting Joel with Region Nine's transportation planning activities under our MnDOT contract. He attended various project selection meetings for the Area Transportation Partnership – 7 and assisted with the draft scope of services for the contract's renewal. Mark is now connecting with active transportation advocates in our region to welcome their project ideas for the next regional transportation plan, and to better understand how proposed projects will affect their safety. Mark continues to lend his GIS and database expertise to Region Nine's Safe Routes to School planning activities.

Mark's other activities include: preparing for a transportation intern this summer; researching zoning and public policy around data centers; and developing a traffic calming/placemaking library of bollards, temporary curbing, stencils, and other items to be used for demonstration projects throughout our region.

### **Sam Sharp**

Samuel has been largely involved in growing Region Nine's relationship with the Minnesota Climate Action Partnership (MCAP). This partnership relies on the exchange of knowledge and information relating to climate resilience and community planning experience. Through these conversations, Samuel can apply the data-driven insights generated by the MCAP to support regional needs and initiatives.

Samuel and Lisa have been advancing the anaerobic digestion conversation for New Ulm. Buy-in from city and county leadership and the New Ulm Public Utilities has led to securing commitment from AURI to process and analyze feedstock samples from local food manufacturers in Brown County. An “open house” style meeting will be held to share the findings and offer guidance on next steps and project advancement.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) have resumed funding after a period of uncertainty. Prior to the freeze, Samuel, Sabri, and Lisa had been working with the communities of Fairmont and Saint James to connect them to this funding. Region Nine is now able to resume supporting the city of Fairmont in developing an Energy and Environmental Resilience (EER) Plan designed to identify project opportunities and initiatives. This funding will also allow Saint James to conduct energy audits for public buildings in collaboration with Frontier Energy.

Samuel and Lisa are developing an application for the MPCA's Statewide Reduction and Reuse Grant opportunity. This project will focus on Fix-it Clinics, where individuals can bring their broken and damaged goods to a community-organized event to get them repaired. Region Nine will be facilitating these events and will work with Reuse Minnesota and community partners to identify “fixers” (individuals with repair skills) to help fix small appliances and clothing brought in.

Samuel and Lisa submitted a proposal to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) 2026 RFP in collaboration with the consulting firm, Geosyntec. The project focuses on developing a regional interactive toolkit designed to support ground source heat pump (GSHP) implementation. Geosyntec will be tasked with the development of the tool itself, while Samuel and Region Nine lead stakeholder engagement and outreach efforts. Region Nine will serve as a pilot project, with the goal of eventually expanding this project to reach statewide adoption.

## Terms & Abbreviations

|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACC – American Connection Corp                                                                               | MAPO – Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization                                                |
| APPR – Annual Performance Progress Report (CEDS)                                                             | MCLA – Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs                                                             |
| ATP – Area Transportation Partnership                                                                        | MDH – Minnesota Department of Health                                                                   |
| AURI – Agricultural Utilization Research Institute                                                           | MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency                                                              |
| BDO – Bioeconomy Development Opportunity                                                                     | MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area                                                                    |
| CRP – Carbon Reduction Program                                                                               | MSU-M – Minnesota State University, Mankato                                                            |
| CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy                                                           | MYLAP – MN Young American Leaders Program                                                              |
| COPAL – Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (Communities Organizing Latino Power and Action) | NEA – National Endowment for the Arts                                                                  |
| CGMC – Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities                                                                 | NEH – National Endowment for the Humanities                                                            |
| CPRG – Climate Pollution Reduction Grant                                                                     | NUBRIC – New Ulm Business Resource Innovation Center                                                   |
| CSET – College of Science, Engineering & Technology                                                          | NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Services                                                         |
| CSM – Climate Smart Municipalities                                                                           | PI - Prosperity Initiative                                                                             |
| CSSJ – Climate Smart St. James                                                                               | PROTECT – Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation |
| CTS – Center for Transportation Studies                                                                      | REDA – Regional Economic Development Alliance                                                          |
| DEED – Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development                                           | REV – Rural Entrepreneurial Venture                                                                    |
| DOE – Department of Energy                                                                                   | RLF – Revolving Loan Fund                                                                              |
| EDA – Economic Development Administration                                                                    | RNAI – Region Nine Area Inc.                                                                           |
| EDD – Economic Development District                                                                          | RNDC – Region Nine Development Commission                                                              |
| EECBG - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant                                                       | SACE – Southern Agricultural Center for Excellence                                                     |
| GAC – Gustavus Adolphus College                                                                              | SAF – Sustainable Aviation Fuel                                                                        |
| GIS – Geographic Information Systems                                                                         | SBDC – Small Business Development Center                                                               |
| GMG – Greater Mankato Growth                                                                                 | SCC – South Central College                                                                            |
| GMNP – Greater Minnesota Partnership                                                                         | SCSC – South Central Service Cooperative                                                               |
| HACER – Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research                                         | SHIP – Statewide Health Improvement Partnership                                                        |
| IF – Initiative Foundation                                                                                   | SMIF – Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation                                                        |
| LGU – Local Government Unit                                                                                  | SRTS – Safe Routes to Schools                                                                          |
| LMI – Labor Market Information                                                                               | SS4A – Safe Streets for All                                                                            |
| LMI – Low-to-Moderate Income                                                                                 | STIP – State Transportation Improvement Program                                                        |
| MADO – Minnesota Association of Development Organizations                                                    | TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee                                                                |
| MAPCED - Minnesota Association of Professional County Economic Developers                                    | WCI – West-Central Initiative                                                                          |
|                                                                                                              | TZD – Toward Zero Deaths                                                                               |