

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at RNDC.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel (virtual), Lyle Femrite, Mike Laven (5:03 arrival), Christian Lilienthal, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Rob Wilkening

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tom Loveall

OTHERS PRESENT: Ky Battern, Jazmine Flores, Nicole Griensewic, Sarah Janovsky

There was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Jazmine Flores, RNDC's new Lending Specialist, was introduced to the board. Finance Director Battern noted that he had provided the auditors with all requested documentation. He also updated the board on the year-end budget. Vice Chair Boettger attended a three-week course at the Harvard Kennedy School last month. She found it impressive and looks forward to applying what she learned when relevant.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nicole provided an update on the current staffing status after recent grant announcements. Jessica Beyer has accepted the Deputy Director position and will start in September. A GreenCorps Member, who will be supervised by Sam, has been assigned to RNDC. A Connection Corps Member, focused on broadband, will be supervised by Alejandra. RNDC will be hiring a Safe Streets for All Regional Planner later this fall who will work alongside Joel.

Nicole asked the board for input on their preferences regarding the topic of housing for the October Commission meeting. The board shared that they would like a presentation from Todd Prafke (City of Saint Peter) followed by a roundtable discussion with other commissioners.

Mike Laven arrived at 5:03 p.m.

The RNDC team will join other Minnesota Development Commissions for a two-day MADO All Staff training in Waite Park October 2-4, 2024.

The following items were discussed. Sleepy Eye did not receive Congressional Directed Spending (DDS) or "earmarks" for their baseball field. Alejandra is leading a housing study for the City of Springfield's strategic economic development plan, with the city pursuing SMIF funding to support it. Alejandra was accepted into the Humphrey Fellowship Policy Program. On September 19th, the Aachen Region visit will include discussions with county leaders on flooding, aviation, manufacturing, higher education, and clean tech. Jessica is continuing conversations with impacted counties and their leadership about the June flooding and how RNDC may assist these counties. Nicole and the board discussed a potential project where RNDC would serve as the fiscal agent for Schools Emergency Management. Samuel has begun outreach for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant (EECBG) Program through the MN Department of Commerce, seeking to provide climate resilience planning funds for disadvantaged and environmental justice communities within the region.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

VII. JULIE FLEMING-CLOSED SESSION

Griensewic asked for a motion to close the public meeting per state statute 13D.05, as permitted by attorney-client privilege.

Femrite moved to close the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.

Branstad moved to open the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Boettger seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Wilkening moved to adjourn. Femrite seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Mike Laven, Chair

Jim Branstad, Secretary