

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at Kato Ballroom, Mankato, MN.

## **II. APPROVAL OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

- Doug Trytten, Mayor of Kiester, Faribault County, Cities Under 10k
- Paul Harris, St. James City Council Member, Watonwan County, Cities Under 10k
- Lisa Norton, Mayor of Eagle Lake, Blue Earth County, Cities Under 10k
- Mary Milbrath, Nicollet County Townships
- Patty O'Connor, Blue Earth County Commissioner
- Bob Nielsen, Sibley County Townships

**Schafer moved to approve the New Commissioners, Lilienthal seconded. Motion carried.**

## **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **IV. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Steve Cooling, Chris Dalton, Bradley DeVos, Lyle Femrite, Elroy Glidden, Robert Goblirsch, Dawn Kratzke, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal, Tom Loveall, Blair Nelson, Ayan Omar, Richard Peterson, Gary Richter, Steve Rohlfing, Phil Schafer, Scott Schlueter, Brigid Tuck

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Elliot Belgard, Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel, Michele Miller, Patty O'Connor, Keira Oeltjenbruns, Mike Pfeil, Pam Rodewald, Chera Sevcik, Jim Whitlock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Holmseth, Scott Windschitl

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Harris, Mary Milbrath, Bob Nielsen, Lisa Norton, Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Joel Hanif, Nate George, Sam Sharp, Kristian Braekkan, Alejandra Bejarano, Joel Hanif, Leah Petricka, Sabri Fair, Paola Ferrario, Frances Long, Heather Bartelt

There was a quorum.

## **V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Dalton moved to approve the agenda as presented, Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.**

## **VI. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 12, 2022 MINUTES**

**Schafer moved to approve the October 12, 2022 minutes as presented, Cooling seconded. Motion carried.**

## **VII. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ky Battern presented the Treasurer's Report in Dranttel's excused absence.

**Schafer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Femrite seconded. Motion carried.**

## **VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Battern shared that on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, RNDC succumbed to a power surge that destroyed a piece of the RNDC server system. Backup system failed on December 5<sup>th</sup> and the IT provider did not respond to the alert until December 12<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in 7 days of financial data and work saved at the risk of being lost. Thriveon contracted with a data recovery specialist to restore RNDC's data and damaged hard discs.

Battern noted that audit is not complete due to Abdo having a mixture of staffing shortages, unforeseen circumstances, and the disruption to accessing RNDC files created by the power surge on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Battern shared that upon obtaining access to the missing documents, Abdo will give priority to completing the audit.

Battern shared that the check listing for November will be missing from the January Commission packet due to not having access to the accounting software.

Battern shared that Thriveon successfully migrated RNDC phone system to Microsoft Teams. All staff members can work remotely while being able to take and make calls from the respective Region Nine phone numbers.

Battern noted that Region Nine submitted and received approval from the EDA for defederalization of the legacy Revolving Loan Funds.

Battern shared that Region Nine is working with a Waseca based chiropractor and financial advisor to provide gap funding for a new building purchase within the city.

## **IX. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Laven spoke on the history of the region and RNDC have changed in the past 50 years.

### **A. Introduction of New Commissioners Paul Harris, Lisa Norton, Mary Milbrath and Bob Nielsen**

Laven welcomed the new commissioners. The Chair then asked the new commissioners to introduce themselves.

### **B. Germany Delegation Recap**

Commissioner Dalton presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Full Commission of highlights from the Germany Delegation. Dalton spoke on how the cities of Düsseldorf, Münster, Senden, and Saerbeck are converting from fossil fuels for energy to wind, solar, hydrogen and more. Dalton shared his takeaways from the learning exchange with North Rhine-Westphalia. He explained how he can apply what was learned during the exchange to New Ulm as the city looks at updating its utility infrastructure.

Discussion followed.

### **C. Committee Caucus**

## **X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Introduction of new RNDC Staff**

Laven welcomed Sam Sharp, the new Environment and Sustainability Planner. The Chair then asked Sharp to introduce himself.

### **B. Resolution 2023 – 01 CEDS APR**

Petrica presented the Annual Performance Report to the Full Commission. Petricka requested the Full Commission for approval to submit the report to the EDA.

Griensewic noted that the following grants will be submitted.

- National Endowment to the Humanities (NEH)
- MPCA Grant
- EDA grant on Foreign Direct Investments – Center for Global Partnerships

Griensewic noted that RNDC will be transitioning to more grant writing as larger projects such as CARES, Eagle Lake plan, and CEDS APR are concluding.

Griensewic shared that she, Chairman Laven and Vice Chair Boettger will attend the NADO D.C. Conference March 12-15<sup>th</sup>.

Griensewic noted that she will be doing more days at the state Capitol and meeting with legislative leaders and new committee chairs.

Griensewic shared with the Full Commission, current commissioner vacancies and requested assistance in spreading the word.

**Tuck moved to approve the Resolution 2023 – 01 CEDS APR, Femrite seconded. Motion carried.**

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Commissioner Updates**

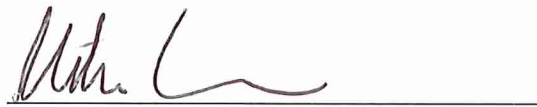
Chair Laven asked for updates, if any. Commissioners shared updates from their local jurisdictions.

### **B. Meeting Evaluation**

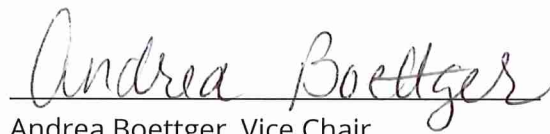
## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Nelson moved to adjourn, Kratzke seconded. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Mike Laven, Chair



Andrea Boettger, Vice Chair