REGION NINE
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel (virtual), Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal (4:35 arrival), Tom Loveall, Steve Rohlfing, Phil Schafer, Rob Wilkening

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Andrea Boettger, Lyle Femrite

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristian Braekkan, Sarah Janovsky, Sam Sharp, Mireille Ghassan, Ky Battern, Paola Ferrario (virtual)

There was a quorum.

III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2023 MINUTES

V. MN GREENCORPS MEMBER RESOLUTION 2024-01

Rohlfing moved to approve the GreenCorps Member Resolution. Wilkening seconded. Resolution approved.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

VII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Battern shared that our Revolving Loan Fund has been successfully transitioned to US Bank's Magic Fund in partnership with PFF Asset Management. R9 is seeing significant bank fee savings and dividend interest increases.

Battern noted that CD rates are fixed at a high deposit rate, and he would like to lock the Revolving Loan Fund into one.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Laven shared that he recently attended the National League of Cities Conference in Washington, D.C. The key take-away was "regional collaboration is key".

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Paola Ferrario's presentation highlighted the significant strides made by her and the RNDC team in advancing research on SAF.

RNDC is wrapping up a Strategic and Economic Development Plan for Faribault County.

The annual bus tour will be on June 12, 2024, followed but a 6:00 p.m. Commission meeting.

Kristian, Ky, and Nicole are working on the RNDC Strategic Plan.

The CEDs Committee would like to consider restructuring. Loveall recommended paying mileage and/or a stipend to committee members. Discussion followed.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Lilienthal mentioned that the Budget & Personnel committee will undertake a review of the proposed policy changes once they are made available. This review will occur prior to seeking approval for the changes.

Commissioners shared updates from their communities.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Loveall motioned to adjourn. Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Mike Laven, Chair

Jim Branstad, Secretary