

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elliot Belgard, Andrea Boettger, Dave Borchert, Steve Cooling, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Paul Harris, Dawn Kratzke, Mike Laven, Christian Lilienthal, Mary Milbrath, Bob Nielsen, Shanon Nowell, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Gary Richter, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Scott Schlueter, Rob Wilkening

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Branstad, Chris Dalton, Elroy Glidden, Robert Goblirsch and Patty O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Holmseth, Tom Loveall, Michele Miller, Lisa Norton.

MEMBERS LATE: Sarah Berry, Ayan Omar

OTHERS PRESENT: Stephanie Hilpipre, Matt Peterson, Katelynn Kratz, Mike Humpel, Mercedes Sempe, Deanne Nelson, Nikki Benson, Tenille Jennings, Taylor Ziemke, Jason Bruns, Michael Johnson, Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Sam Sharp, Paola Ferrario, Joel Hanif, Kristian Braekkan, Corree Johnson, Nate George, Courtney Wright and Heather Bartelt

There was a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Belgard moved to approve the agenda as presented, Wilkening seconded. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2023 MINUTES

Nowell moved to approve the June 21, 2023 minutes as presented, Milbrath seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

A. Stephanie Hilpipre – Le Sueur County Townships

B. Matt Peterson – Nicollet County, City of North Mankato

Belgard moved to approve the New Commissioners. Schlueter seconded. Motion carried.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

Rohlfing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Borchart seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Audit Update

Battern shared that the audit wrapped up the field work at the end of August.

Battern shared that Abdo is currently working on getting the financial statements in order.

Battern noted that ABDO is setting up a new process within their organization to allow quicker preparation for RNDC in future years.

Battern shared that RNDC is behind on spending the three-year USDA grant, however Battern highlighted that RNDC is working on spending down and completing that grant this year. Discussion followed.

Battern noted that ABDO will be attending a future Commission Meeting and going over the Audit in detail.

Battern shared that Courtney Wright was hired in August as the RNDC Lending Specialist.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Laven reminded Commissioners to share the RNDC monthly E-Newsletter with individuals in their networks and to communicate with RNDC any updated email contact information when there are local leadership position transitions taking place.

Laven encouraged the Commission to take the RNDC APR Survey.

A. College-Age Youth Commissioner

Chair Laven introduced candidate, Katelynn Kratz. Kratz presented why she wanted to be the College-Age Youth Commissioner.

Lilienthal moved to approve the College-Age Youth Commissioner, Pfeil seconded.
Motion carried.

B. Commissioner Recognition – Blair Nelson & Richard Peterson

Laven recognized the family of former Commissioner Blair Nelson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to RNDC, as well as a Certificate of Memorial Trees Planted in his honor.

Laven recognized outgoing Commissioner Richard Peterson with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to RNDC.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Agriculture and Manufacturing Resilience: Where do we go from here?

Braekkan gave an overview of RNDC's economic resilience planning over the past five years and introduced two of the organization's project partners to illustrate how the work manifests itself at the local level. Jason Bruns from the Minnesota State's Center for Excellence in Engineering gave an overview of the Siemens program implemented at Waseca public schools to support engineering education, the Department of Defense funded ACE training for machining, LEAN curriculum, and cybersecurity training to be implemented through the Workforce Development Center in Waseca. Michael Johnson, Waseca County Administrator, then gave an overview of the process to secure funding for the ACE program through St. Cloud State and collaborations with the federal EDA to secure funding for renovations of a county-owned building to house said programming.

B. Out of State Travel Requests

Griensewic requested approval of out-of-state travel costs for Commissioner Boettger and RNDC employee Sam Sharp to attend the 2023 NADO Annual Training Conference (ATC) in Cleveland, OH. The travel would cost an estimated \$2350.37 and \$2553.76 respectively and was budgeted for.

Schafer moved to approve the Out-of-State NADO Travel Request, Rohlifing seconded.
Motion carried.

Griensewic requested approval of out-of-state travel costs to attend the GreenLab Delegation to Denmark from November 4-10, 2023. The travel would cost an estimated \$1332.55.

Schafer moved to approve the Out-of-State NADO Travel Request, Rohlifing seconded.
Motion carried.

Griensewic asked Corree Johnson to share news with the Full Commission. Johnson noted that she will be resigning from RNDC effective October 11. Johnson thanked the Commission for her time at RNDC.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commissioner Updates

Chair Laven asked for updates, if any.

B. Meeting Evaluation

Chair Laven reminded Commissioners to fill out the meeting evaluation handout.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Femrite moved to adjourn, Milbrath seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m.

Mike Laven, Chair

Marie Dranttel, Acting Secretary, & Board Treasurer