



## Commission Meeting

*Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.*



Kato Ballroom | 200 Chestnut Street, Mankato, MN

# COMMISSION MEETING

January 11, 2023 | Kato Ballroom

Dinner Buffet and Networking Time at 5:15 p.m. | Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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## AGENDA

|                                                                              | <u>Time</u> | <u>Page</u> | <u>Action</u>          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------|
| I. <b>Call to Order</b>                                                      | 6:00        |             |                        |
| II. <b>Approval of New Commissioners</b>                                     |             |             | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| III. <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>                                             |             |             |                        |
| IV. <b>Roll Call – Vice Chair Boettger</b>                                   |             |             |                        |
| V. <b>Approval of Agenda</b>                                                 |             | 1           | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| VI. <b>Approval of October 12, 2022 Minutes</b>                              |             | 2           | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| VII. <b>Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Dranttel</b>              |             | 6           | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| VIII. <b>Finance Director’s Report – Ky Battern</b>                          | 6:10        |             |                        |
| IX. <b>Chair’s Report – Chair Laven</b>                                      | 6:30        |             |                        |
| A. Introduction of New Commissioners                                         |             |             |                        |
| B. Germany Delegation Recap – Commissioners Laven, Boettger, Dalton, Richter |             |             |                        |
| C. Committee Caucus                                                          |             |             |                        |
| X. <b>Executive Director’s Report – Nicole Griensewic</b>                    | 7:05        |             |                        |
| A. Introduction of New RNDC Staff                                            |             |             |                        |
| B. <b>Resolution 2022 – 08 – CEDS APR – Leah Petricka</b>                    |             | 9           | <a href="#">Action</a> |
| XI. <b>Other Business</b>                                                    | 7:20        |             |                        |
| A. Commissioner Updates                                                      |             |             |                        |
| B. Meeting Evaluation                                                        |             | Handout     |                        |
| XII. <b>Adjournment</b>                                                      | 7:45        |             | <a href="#">Action</a> |

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Boettger called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN. Chair Laven was excused.

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Auringer, Elliot Belgard, Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Steve Cooling, Brad DeVos, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Dawn Kratzke, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Gary Richter, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Scott Schlueter, Gary Sturm, Brigid Tuck, Juliann Wiersma

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chris Dalton, Elroy Glidden, Calvin Howard, Mike Laven, Ayan Omar, Pam Rodewald, Chera Sevcik

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robert Goblirsch, Steve Holmseth, Christian Lilienthal, Tom Loveall, Michele Miller, Blair Nelson, Keira Oeltjenbruns, Roy Srp, Jim Whitlock, Scott Windschitl

OTHERS PRESENT: David Borchert, Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Kristian Braekkan, Joel Hanif, Leah Petricka, Sabri Fair, Nate George, Frances Long, Paola Ferrario, Aaron Pacheco, Heather Bartelt

There was a quorum.

## IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

## V. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2022 MINUTES

**Sturm moved to approve the June 15, 2022 minutes as presented, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.**

## VI. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dranttel presented the Treasurer's Report.

**Rohlfing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Branstad seconded. Motion carried.**

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

Battern introduced the new Finance Specialist, Frances Long to the Commission.

Battern shared that the RNDC audit started on September 6 and is still in process. Battern shared that the Abdo audit team is completely new to RNDC this year.

Battern shared that the preliminary numbers of the audit show a large growth in RNDC's unreserved fund balance due to deferred revenue accruals for many years. Discussion followed.

The Finance Department has been working towards cleaning up all RLF loan client files and transitioning them into a digital format.

Battern shared that in the upcoming month he will be sending out a request for the Loan Committee to meet to discuss updating RNDC's Revolving Loan Plan, committee terms and to have a general discussion on RLF procedures. Discussion followed.

Battern shared that RNAI was the fiscal host for "The Reconciliation Learning Journey". This event occurred on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice Chair Boettger noted that Chair Laven is excused from the meeting tonight and there were no items to report.

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

Griensewic shared that she and Vice Chair Boettger will be in Pittsburgh, PA at the NADO Annual Training Conference from October 15-18.

Griensewic shared that a lunch and learn was held earlier today for staff. Griensewic shared her experiences from the Harvard Kennedy School course she took this past July titled "Senior Executives in Local & State Government".

Griensewic shared the RNDC "Diversity of Thought" event is taking place on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This event is a precursor to the MADO All Staff Retreat taking place November 2 & 3. Griensewic invited commissioners who are interested in the opportunity to attend.

Griensewic noted that Calvin Howard, Faribault County, Cities under 10k, as resigned from the Full Commission.

Griensewic shared that Tim Auringer, Mayor of Eagle Lake, who represents Blue Earth County, Cities under 10K, is not seeking re-election.

Griensewic noted the RNDC team is still doing follow up from the MarksNelson training.

Griensewic shared that at September's Board of Directors Meeting, Commissioner Lilienthal brought forward the "what if" concept of Sibley County hypothetically vacating Region Nine's boundaries and becoming a part of Mid-Minnesota Development Organization. Griensewic explained the process that would have to occur at the state, local and federal level. Discussion followed.

## **X. INTRODUCTION TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES**

Ferrario presented that she, Kristian, Nicole and Aaron have been working on tools to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to the region. FDI would allow for current business expansion as well as opportunities for new businesses. Ferrario went on to explain there are four initiatives that have been set in action: "Guide to Doing Business", Foreign Trade Zones (Tax Free Zones), Exchange of Knowledge and Academic Exchange Opportunities.

Ferrario noted that the exchange is imperative on several levels that include:

- Strengthening existing and new relationships
- Attracting new international business opportunities
- New learning opportunities and collaborations in the region

The goal in the region is to:

- Obtain higher paying jobs
- Retain and attract talent
- Secure investments to our region
- Grow our supply chain integration
- Foster economic resilience
- Mitigate economic shocks towards a more digitalized industry while considering generational transitions

## **XI. ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND LINK TO FOREIGN TRADE ZONES**

Braekkan gave a presentation on identified needs as they pertain to the economic resilience differences throughout the region. He identified in our region there are performance indicators as they pertain to varying degrees of per capita income by census tracts. 13 census tracts are currently in the "economically distressed category" (i.e., below eighty percent of the national average).

## **XII. COMMISSIONER INPUT WORK – SESSION | PLANNING FOR 2023**

Petricka noted the mission of RNDC is to "promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning, and technical assistance". Petricka requested the commissioners to use this time to break out into

small groups by their roles as township, city, county officials or special interest. They were to discuss the same three questions in each of their groups and report back. Petricka shared the purpose of the work session is to gather perspectives of the issues throughout the region for RNDC to prioritize future work. Discussion followed.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Belgard moved to adjourn, Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Andrea Boettger, Vice Chair

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Gary Sturm, Secretary

**REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**November 30, 2022**

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**CASH BALANCE October 30, 2022** **\$ 2,704,100.25**

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|                                        |           |                     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Cash Receipts - Checking               | 64,742.69 |                     |
| Cash Receipts - Savings                | -         |                     |
| 6 County deposits and interest         | 1,110.20  |                     |
| 9 County deposits and interest         | 7,891.21  |                     |
| Tornado deposits and interest          | 4,273.03  |                     |
| Cares deposits and interest            | 9,956.10  |                     |
| Micro deposits and interest            | 1,070.63  |                     |
| Interest                               | 1,324.50  |                     |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                  |           | <b>\$ 90,368.36</b> |
| Payroll Disbursements                  |           | <b>(91,735.06)</b>  |
| Accounts Payable & Other Disbursements |           | <b>(76,822.61)</b>  |

**CASH BALANCE November 30, 2022** **\$ 2,625,910.94**

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| Region Nine Checking and Savings |                      |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Checking                         | \$ 192,308.57        |
| Savings                          | 19,695.83            |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$ 212,004.40</b> |

| Revolving Loan Funds |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 6 County             | \$ 156,902.44          |
| 9 County             | 873,379.39             |
| Tornado              | 415,124.60             |
| Cares Act            | 154,424.30             |
| Micro                | 814,075.81             |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>\$ 2,413,906.54</b> |

**CASH BALANCE November 30, 2022** **\$ 2,625,910.94**

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**REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 2022 CASH RECEIPTS**  
**FY23**

| Description                           | Amount    |                  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| DATE: 11/09/22                        |           |                  |
| MN State-Mmb ACH                      | 672.46    |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 672.46           |
| DATE: 11/10/22                        |           |                  |
| Le Sueur County Tax Settlement #71158 | 25,046.21 |                  |
| SMIF Prosperity Initiative #53116     | 750.00    |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 25,796.21        |
| DATE: 11/15/22                        |           |                  |
| Renewing the Countryside ACH          | 289.69    |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 289.69           |
| DATE: 11/17/22                        |           |                  |
| MN State-Mmb ACH                      | 996.82    |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 996.82           |
| DATE: 11/23/22                        |           |                  |
| MN State-Mmb ACH                      | 36,551.67 |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 36,551.67        |
| DATE: 11/25/22                        |           |                  |
| MN State-Mmb ACH                      | 435.84    |                  |
| TOTALS                                |           | 435.84           |
| <b>November 2022 TOTALS</b>           |           | <b>64,742.69</b> |

### Finance

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, our organization was hit with a power surge that destroyed a piece of our server system. Backups were supposed to have been done twice daily and sent off site. However, the backup system failed on December 5<sup>th</sup> and Thriveon, our IT provider, did not respond to the alert in a timely manner. This left 7 days of financial data and work saved at risk of being lost and they have been working to recover and restore the data. As a result, R9 has been without the ability to access its accounting system since December 12<sup>th</sup> which has been extremely disruptive to our finance office. Thriveon is paying to have a data recovery specialist in Eden Prairie restore the data on the damaged hard discs from the date of December 12<sup>th</sup>. Per Thriveon, everything will be operational come January 4<sup>th</sup>.
- As of December 29<sup>th</sup>, the audit is still not complete as Abdo, our auditor, was not able to commit time to the project due to a mixture of staffing shortages and other unforeseeable circumstances. They resumed work within our file the week prior to our server crash. Being as our accounting software has been down since December 12<sup>th</sup> we have not been able to access the information needed for them to complete the remaining audit process compounding the delay.
- Upon being able to access our accounting software and files priority will be given to completely remaining audit requests and getting caught up on closing out our monthly reporting work prior to starting in on calendar year end work.
- The check listing for November will be missing from the Treasurers Report as we do not have the ability to run the report without access to our accounting software. November will be included with the December's report.
- Thriveon successfully migrated our phone system to Microsoft Teams and all staff members can now work remotely while being able to take and make calls to their respective R9 phone numbers.

### Revolving Loan Fund

- R9 submitted and received approval from the EDA for the defederalization of our Legacy Revolving Loan Funds. This will allow us considerably more flexibility in the lending of these funds. Upon the completion of the Equitable Lending Leader's program beginning in January we will be looking to revise our Legacy RLF Plan to incorporate any changes and or updates.
- R9 is working with a Waseca based Chiropractor and Financial Advisor to provide gap financing for a new building purchase within the city. The loan is set to close on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

### Region Nine Area, Inc.

- Nothing to report.



## RESOLUTION

### Region Nine Development Commission 2023 – 01

#### RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – 2022 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

- Whereas,** The State of Minnesota established Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) for the nine-county region of South Central Minnesota; and
- Whereas,** RNDC as the Economic Development District for the nine-county region of South Central Minnesota, is required to submit an Annual Performance Report on its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration; and
- Whereas,** The CEDS Annual Performance Report documents the progress achieved on economic development activities, adjusts the 2022-2026 CEDS Five-Year plan and reports on the changing economic conditions in the region; and
- Whereas,** The approved CEDS and related annual updates are a condition for qualifying for grants for local economic development projects and the annual planning grant from the EDA;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved that Region Nine Development Commission** hereby adopts the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy - 2022 Annual Performance Report for the period of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 and authorizes submission to the EDA for acceptance.

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2023

Signed:

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Mike Laven, Chair

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Andrea Boettger, Vice Chair

## **Staff Updates – January 2023**

### **Nicole Griensewic**

Griensewic led the RNDC delegation to North Rhine Westphalia, Germany the first week of December. A group formed out of the involvement with Climate Smart Municipalities (CSM) Before the full delegation arrived, she was able to schedule extra meetings while in the country after using annual leave time while in Berlin. One meeting was with Stephan Heller, European Representative with the MN Trade Office. He lives and is officed in Berlin, however his work is focused on investments & partnerships with MN. Jana Liebe, an RNDC colleague through the ACE program organized meetings for Griensewic as well as Ever-green Energy CEO/President Ken Smith Dec. 1-2 in Weimar with the German state of Thuringia's office on the environment and energy. Discussed clean energy and innovative climate initiatives. Strong partnerships were formed from these meetings and follow-up is planned in the new year.

Guido Wallraven, world-renowned community planner on all things clean energy will be visiting MN in February. Because of our partnership with Guido and successful delegation, he will be committing three days to visit each community that participated. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: St. James, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>: New Ulm and Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>: Comfrey. Currently working with community leaders to organize these visits.

Another outcome from the delegation is that Frank Kohlasch, Climate Director w. MPCA/ newly appointed Asst. Commissioner has asked RNDC delegation member Luisa Trapero to join the Governor's Climate Cabinet. Commissioner Richter is also being encouraged to consider joining. Their involvement would help ensure equity and inclusion with smaller communities and communities of color.

As requested by the Budget & Personnel committee, Griensewic has contracted with HR consultants to conduct a salary survey for the E.D. position. If conducted satisfactorily, will may contract for further projects as our current provider is unable to meet our needs. The current HR consultant has had struggles due to personnel issues, etc. MADDO Ex. Directors have been collecting salary and benefits information to compare to ensure we are being competitive.

May do an RFP for our banking services. Have been experiencing struggles with Wells Fargo our current bank.

Working with the team on a grant application to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Attending CGMC's/ GMNP Legislative Action Day in St. Paul on Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>. On last two-year term of the GMNP Board of Directors. Have been asked to assist with legislative session when testifiers are needed for new bills, etc. Anticipate being quite busy during the legislative session at the state and federal levels due to new leadership and members.

## **Heather Bartelt**

Aside from Heather's regular tasks, she has been working alongside Kristian as the City of St. James is submitting a federal EDA application.

Heather attended the Highway 14 Partnership meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> in Nicollet. RNDC will remain apart of the Highway 14 Partnership.

Heather organized a window decoration contest within the RNDC office. Several folks participated by decorating windows. It was a fun way to bring in the holiday season.

As a part of the Wellness Committee, Heather put together wellness bags with a few essentials during the winter months.

## **Alejandra Bejarano**

Eagle Lake's strategic plan has been completed and presented to city council. Alejandra will work on following up with staff to debrief and create a post-evaluation process for internal projects.

Alejandra and Kristian continue to lead a local task force on talent retention with MNSU. Alejandra and Kristian have continued meeting with local colleges and employers to advance the task force objectives. They have met with Bethany Lutheran College and will meet staff from Gustavus Adolphus College to integrate them into the task force and discuss the possibility of holding a regional global career fair. Kristian and Alejandra are also working with Minnesota State University – Mankato on a planning grant application to the federal EDA that seeks to establish closer integration with regional employers and the development of immediate pipelines into high-demand areas.

Alejandra has joined biweekly meetings as part of the "informal to formal project" that HACER is leading with the support of the University Minnesota Extension and Region Nine. Recent meetings have focused on developing focus groups.

Alejandra continues to be part of the Workforce Council and attends regular meetings hosted by the multicultural network, COPAL, and MCLA.

## **Kristian Braekkan**

Kristian has been working on a series of federal EDA draft applications in partnership with colleagues. These are intended as possible planning/technical assistance grants in alignment with regional partners on issues of "green manufacturing" (with Sabri and Sam), "workforce resilience" (with Alejandra), and "foreign direct investments readiness" (with Paola). Each of these are in the early stages of development and/or under review by the federal EDA's representatives for Minnesota (i.e., pre-submission). Kristian is also working with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) on "Pathway to Prosperity" which is already

funded by McKnight Foundation on a proposal where RNDC would be a contractual partner to assess community readiness to support rural entrepreneurship. He is also working on a follow-up to MedTech Connect and Manufacturing Resilience EDA grants with researchers from Redlands University and the University of Minnesota to map supply chain developments and opportunities in Region Nine and across the state. Kristian is also supporting Alejandra's work with MSU Mankato as it pertains to pathways to the local workforce for their international students and entrepreneurship studies with HACER and U of M Extension. Finally, he is assisting the City of St. James with a federal EDA application in partnership with Corree and Heather.

### **Sabri Fair**

The past few weeks have been very exciting for Sabri! For starters Sabri had the privilege of taking part in clean energy and welcoming communities' delegation that traveled to Germany at the beginning of December. The trip was a great opportunity to see, learn about, and discuss the future of energy, resilience, and vitality of rural communities in Minnesota and Germany. In the coming months Sabri is excited to see the momentum from the delegation turn into tangible action by the communities of Region Nine. As part of moving this work forward Sabri will be presenting to the South-Central MN Clean Energy Council on January 13<sup>th</sup> about the delegation and will also facilitate a panel so the community can hear from the delegates themselves. In a similar vein Sabri worked with Sam to engage the city of St. Peter about the Stormwater Resilience Planning Grant through the MPCA. Due to our outreach the city of St. Peter will be submitting an application to study the impacts of water and nutrient flows on their drinking water wells and on certain sections of their community. Sabri also worked on organizing a training in January for the Grower's Network on marketing and social media management for diversified farm businesses.

### **Paola Ferrario**

Paola participated in the Germany Delegation in December and was on vacation for the remainder of the staff updates period.

### **Nate George**

Nate has been working with Leah to put together the 2022 Annual Performance Report (APR). This includes gathering relevant information, editing content, and laying out the final document. The APR is scheduled to be submitted to the commission on January 11, 2023.

Nate is working with Kristian on a manufacturing resilience plan for the region. The goal of the report is to create a roadmap for the region to support the manufacturing sector.

He is also wrapping up the plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of RNDC which will take place after the Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> commission meeting. Nate along with Heather and Corree have arranged the venue, food, speakers, and media releases.

Nate was part of the delegation that traveled to Germany this month. He documented the daily events with photos, videos, and daily recaps that can be found on the RNDC website. Planning has begun on a document highlighting and summarizing the learning exchange.

These tasks were completed along with the day-to-day tasks of website maintenance, social media posts & promotions, and internal & external communications.

### **Joel Hanif**

Joel is primarily working on completing a draft of the Local Human Services Transit Coordination Plan after holding a second planning workshop with the steering committee and stakeholders in December. Joel is also working on data analysis for Madelia's Safe Routes to School plan as well as corresponding with SHIP and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Schools about a potential Safe Routes to School planning application. Joel is also beginning to work on an inventory of existing Safe Routes plans in the region that will include dates of plan completion and updates, year of last parent survey, and more information to assist MnDOT District 7 in scoping projects for inclusion in the STIP. Beginning in 2023, Joel will also be serving on a task force for ATP-7 to oversee the use of PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation) and Carbon Reduction Program funds.

### **Corree Johnson**

Corree Johnson is finalizing the equity blueprint and coordinating the required reporting for the BUSH grant. She is also designing a visitor's guide in Spanish for the city of Fairmont which is the result of their work with the BUSH grant.

She worked with the city of St. James to develop a community survey and will be discussing next steps with them. Also, she is advising them on their upcoming EDA application.

Corree has also been leading efforts to redesign and update the RNDC website. She is in the final stage of confirming the required software with Lime Valley and continually updating content on the website. Corree is working on drafting a RFP to expand RNDC's photo and video collateral for the region which will also be used on the website. Going into the new year, the next steps will be to update the style guide and brand materials to better reflect the new design.

Additionally, Corree is aiding with the planning of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and various other projects.

## **Aaron Pacheco**

After a month of travel and attending the Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE) in Ecuador, followed by the delegation's visit to North Rhine-Westphalia as part of the Climate-Smart Municipalities (CSM), Aaron is following up on collaboration projects and keeping the momentum moving with his work on labor and foreign investment in Minnesota. After presenting this work in Germany, he had received some positive feedback and follow up questions which he will be thinking over as he takes some much-needed time off surrounding the holidays.

## **Leah Petricka**

Leah presented the 2022 Annual Performance Report to the Workforce Council on December 14. She highlighted the work and accomplishments of RNDC and previewed the projects anticipated for 2023. The report is open for public comment. Leah along with other staff have been discussing ways to engage the CEDS committee more frequently in the new year.

Leah attended the meeting with Sam Sharp in St. Peter to discuss the MPCA grant opportunity and how RNDC could help support an application and/or future planning. RNDC staff will be looking at the MPCA grant for funding for the anticipated plan with the City of Comfrey.

Leah has continued to participate in the various entrepreneurial initiatives of LaunchMN, Mainstreet Businesses Focused on Food and Agriculture (MBFFA), Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV), and 1 Million Cups – Mankato community.

## **Samuel Sharp**

Samuel joined the RNDC team in November 2022 as the environmental and sustainability planner. Since joining, Samuel has worked collaboratively with the City of Saint Peter and their ongoing interest in pursuing stormwater and wastewater resilience funding awarded by the MPCA. This funding is available solely for planning purposes, and Samuel intends to provide support and technical assistance throughout the process. Samuel has also been participating in discussion with the Climate-Smart Municipalities group with the University of Minnesota and learning about innovative and sustainable initiatives that could potentially be implemented into rural Minnesotan communities - particularly within the City of Comfrey. Additionally, Samuel has been working with members of the RNDC team regarding the EDA funded Manufacturing Resilience and Recovery plan, and how climate-focused strategies can be implemented into the application process. This approach includes community resilience centered initiatives that will serve to help perceive social, economic, and environmental factors through a singular lens. Lastly, Samuel will be supporting RNDC's interest in a funding opportunity provided through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), which

focuses on the climate crisis and the risks imposed on the preservation of heritage and cultural resources within rural communities.

## Terms & Abbreviations

|                                                                                                              |                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| APR – Annual Performance Reports (CEDS)                                                                      | MAPO – Mankato/North Mankato Area Planning Organization  |
| AURI – Agricultural Utilization Research Institute                                                           | MCLA - Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs               |
| CEDS – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy                                                           | MDH – Minnesota Department of Health                     |
| COPAL – Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (Communities Organizing Latino Power and Action) | MnDOT – Minnesota Department of Transportation           |
| CGMC – Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities                                                                 | MnSCU – Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System |
| DEED – Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development                                           | MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency                |
| DHS – Minnesota Department of Human Services                                                                 | MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area                      |
| EDA – Economic Development Administration                                                                    | MSU-M – Minnesota State University, Mankato              |
| EDD – Economic Development District                                                                          | MYLAP – MN Young America Leaders Program                 |
| GAC – Gustavus Adolphus College                                                                              | NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Services           |
| GIS – Geographic Information Systems                                                                         | REDA – Regional Economic Development Alliance            |
| GMG – Greater Mankato Growth                                                                                 | REV – Rural Entrepreneurial Venture                      |
| GMDC – Greater Mankato Diversity Council                                                                     | RLF – Revolving Loan Fund                                |
| GMNP – Greater Minnesota Partnership                                                                         | RNAI – Region Nine Area Inc.                             |
| HACER – Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment through Research                                         | RNDC – Region Nine Development Commission                |
| HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development                                                            | SBDC – Small Business Development Center                 |
| LCWM – Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial                                                                         | SCBDN – South Central Business Development Network       |
| LGU – Local Government Unit                                                                                  | SCC – South Central College                              |
| LMI – Labor Market Information                                                                               | SHIP – Statewide Health Improvement Partnership          |
| LMI – Low-to-Moderate Income                                                                                 | SMIF – Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation          |
| MADO – Minnesota Association of Development Organizations                                                    | SRTS – Safe Routes to Schools                            |
|                                                                                                              | TAC – Transportation Advisory Committee                  |