



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 3, 2026 4:30 pm



AGENDA

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Action</u>
1. Call To Order	4:30		
2. Roll Call – <i>Secretary Branstad</i>			
3. Approval of Agenda		2	Action
4. Approval of May 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes		3	Action
5. Approval of Financials		6	Action
6. Grant/Project Item Review			
a. Funding Summary		12	
b. Grants in Progress		13	
7. Organizational Development & Financial Sustainability	4:35		
Report Update – <i>Kim Snyder, Excelsior Bay Group</i>			
8. Reports	5:35		
a. Chair’s Report – Chair Boettger			
1. Election of Officers			Action
2. November Board Meeting Date Change			Action
3. Labor Negotiations Representative			Action
4. Executive Director Position Follow-up		14	
b. Interim Executive Director’s Report – <i>Jessica Beyer</i>		15	
1. Approval of Out-of-State Travel Request (Sabri Fair, Resource Rural)		17	Action
2. Approval of Out-of-State Travel Request (Sabri Fair, Radically Rural)		18	Action
3. Approval of Out-of-State Travel Request (Jessica Beyer, NADO)		19	Action
4. Mission Square Retirement Plan Recommendations		20	Action
5. IT Service Proposal Review & Potential Approval			Action
6. Potential Business Opportunity Assessment for Finance		23	
c. Finance Director’s Report – <i>Stephanie Hilpipre</i>		24	
9. Other Business	5:50		
a. Commissioner Updates			
b. Meeting Evaluation			Handout
10. Adjournment	6:00		Action

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Andrea Boettger, Jim Branstad, Marie Dranttel, Mike Laven, Tom Loveall, Patty O'Connor, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Rob Wilkening

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christian Lilienthal

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Beyer, Stephanie Hilpipre, Sarah Janovsky

There was a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

Schafer moved to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Branstad seconded. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Stephanie Hilpipre provided a summary of financial activity, noting higher payroll-related disbursements due to timing. The Board reviewed receipts, disbursements, and the current cash balance.

Loveall moved to approve the financials as presented. Dranttel seconded. Motion carried.

6. GRANT/PROGRAM REVIEW

Jessica Beyer provided an overview of recent grant activity, including newly awarded funding and pending opportunities. She outlined how recent grants would impact the FY26-27 budget and emphasized the

importance of distinguishing between total award amounts and funds available for organizational operations.

The Board discussed the importance of diversifying revenue streams, balancing staffing capacity with grant funding, and continuing to pursue both grant and contract-based opportunities to support long-term financial sustainability.

7. PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK PLAN FOR FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jessica Beyer and Kim Snyder (Excelsior Bay Group) presented an overview of the consultant-in-residence opportunity, which is being provided through a grant from the Mankato Area Foundation.

Kim Snyder described her approach, which includes stakeholder interviews, identifying key themes, and developing recommendations focused on organizational alignment, governance roles, and financial sustainability.

Board members discussed the importance of strengthening organizational culture, clarifying roles between the Board and staff, and identifying long-term revenue strategies. The Board expressed general support for moving forward with the process.

8. BYLAWS REVIEW

Beyer provided an update on the Bylaws Committee's progress, noting that a draft has been developed using a regional template and feedback from surveys.

Board members were asked to review the draft and provide feedback prior to legal review. The goal is to finalize a draft for Commission consideration in June, with flexibility for additional review if needed.

9. ANNUAL SUCCESSION PLAN REVIEWS

The Board reviewed the Finance Director and Interim Executive Director succession plans.

Discussion focused on simplifying language, ensuring clarity between short-term and long-term planning, and updating the documents to reflect current organizational needs. Staff were directed to revise and redistribute updated drafts for further review.

10. RETENTION POLICY REVISION UPDATE & DRAFT

Beyer presented an updated records retention policy in a simplified format.

Discussion included compliance with state and federal requirements, improving document security, and potential future digitization of records. The Board supported continued refinement and legal review prior to final approval.

11. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Laven presented the proposed FY27 meeting dates for board review and approval.

Dranttel moved to approve Resolution 2026-02: Proposed FY27 Meeting Dates. Boettger seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion also included upcoming officer nominations and planning for future leadership transitions.

12. REPORTS

Beyer provided updates on budget preparation, IT cost increases, grant activity, and organizational priorities. She noted efforts to evaluate IT service providers and ongoing monitoring of staffing and financial capacity.

Hilpipe reported that the FY27 budget development is in progress, with adjustments pending updated funding information. She noted the importance of aligning staffing levels with available revenue.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

Board members shared updates from their communities, including local development projects, infrastructure challenges, and grant-funded initiatives.

Additional discussion included emerging topics such as data centers, local planning efforts, and regional collaboration opportunities.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Wilkening moved to adjourn. Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



Financial Report

August 12, 2026 - Board of Directors Meeting

CASH BALANCE - May 31, 2026 **\$ 723,917.53**

Cash Receipts	\$	831,458.88
Bank Interest	\$	5,305.94
Total Receipts	\$	836,764.82

Payroll and Benefits Disbursements	\$	(224,686.83)
Accounts Payable	\$	(637,965.31)
Credit Card Charges	\$	(6,527.04)
Total Disbursements	\$	(869,179.18)

CASH BALANCE - July 31, 2026 **\$ 691,503.17**

Region Nine Development Commission Accounts

R9 MAGIC	\$	672,696.32
Wells Fargo - Payroll Account	\$	18,806.85
TOTAL:	\$	691,503.17

Region Nine Development Commission
June/July 2026 - Summary of Cash Receipts
FY 2026 & FY 2027

Description	Amount
DATE: 6/11/2026	
The McKnight Foundation	\$ 400,000.00
DATE: 6/17/2026	
Levy - Scott County	\$ 5,074.33
DATE: 6/16/2026	
Levy - Nicollet County	\$ 2,963.84
University of Minnesota	\$ 8,000.00
Levy - Le Sueur County	\$ 44,839.79
Jessica Beyer - CC Reimbursement	\$ 50.90
Center Point Energy (Convivencia)	\$ 2,800.00
DATE: 6/22/2026	
Levy- Brown County	\$ 38,951.69
DATE: 6/24/2026	
Levy - Sibley County	\$ 35,870.73
Levy - Watonwan County	\$ 23,140.94
DATE: 6/25/2026	
State of Minnesota - SBDC Contract - Alejandra	\$ 165.00
DATE: 6/30/2026	
University of Minnesota	\$ 2,500.00
Levy - Nicollet County	\$ 45,830.00
DATE: 7/6/2026	
Levy - Blue Earth County	\$ 96,011.19
DATE: 7/7/2026	
Center Point Energy - Convivencia	\$ 1,500.00
SFM Mutual Insurance (Work Comp Refund)	\$ 393.00
Mankato Area Foundation	\$ 1,000.00
Levy - Waseca County	\$ 25,825.87
DATE: 7/9/2026	
Levy - Martin County	\$ 49,654.05
DATE: 7/15/2026	
State of Minnesota	\$ 2,062.50
DATE: 7/21/2026	
State of Minnesota - EECBG Contract	\$ 20,651.62
DATE: 7/23/2026	
State of Minnesota - State Competitiveness Fund	\$ 16,673.43
State of Minnesota - Transportation Contract	\$ 7,500.00

June/July 2026 Total Cash Receipts: \$ 831,458.88

Region Nine Development Commission
June/July 2026 - Summary of Disbursements
FY 2026 & FY 2027

Date	Description	Amount
Payroll and Benefits Disbursements		
06/01/2026	Health Insurance	\$ (9,197.64)
06/01/2026	Missionsquare	\$ (488.95)
06/02/2026	Principal Life Insurance	\$ (309.42)
06/04/2026	Payroll	\$ (35,215.76)
06/08/2026	PERA	\$ (5,051.25)
06/08/2026	Delta Dental	\$ (264.88)
06/09/2026	Wex Health	\$ (495.00)
06/09/2026	Wex Health	\$ (484.61)
06/11/2026	iSolved Fee	\$ (131.40)
06/15/2026	Missionsquare	\$ (488.95)
06/17/2026	Payroll	\$ (33,913.09)
06/22/2026	PERA	\$ (4,873.57)
06/23/2026	Wex Health	\$ (495.00)
06/23/2026	Wex Health	\$ (484.61)
06/25/2026	Wex Health	\$ (79.75)
06/29/2026	Missionsquare	\$ (488.95)
07/01/2026	Health Insurance	\$ (9,197.64)
07/01/2026	Principal Life Insurance	\$ (309.42)
07/02/2026	Payroll	\$ (34,859.76)
07/06/2026	PERA	\$ (5,001.89)
07/07/2026	Wex Health	\$ (495.00)
07/07/2026	Wex Health	\$ (484.61)
07/07/2026	Delta Dental	\$ (264.88)
07/13/2026	Missionsquare	\$ (488.95)
07/13/2026	iSolved Fee	\$ (153.00)
07/16/2026	Payroll	\$ (38,945.96)
07/17/2026	PERA	\$ (5,575.14)
07/21/2026	Wex Health	\$ (495.00)
07/21/2026	Wex Health	\$ (484.61)
07/24/2026	Wex Health	\$ (79.75)
07/27/2026	Missionsquare	\$ (488.95)
07/30/2026	Payroll	\$ (34,590.02)
07/31/2026	Principal Life Insurance	\$ (309.42)
Total:		\$ (224,686.83)

Accounts Payable		
6/1/2026	Metro Sales, Inc.	\$ (426.23)
6/1/2026	NW Regional Development Commission	\$ (10,746.65)
6/1/2026	Mid-Minnesota Development Commission	\$ (25,966.85)
6/2/2026	Andrea Boettger	\$ (89.15)
6/2/2026	Vanderberg Cleaning Services	\$ (360.00)
6/4/2026	Tom Polich - Staff Mileage	\$ (194.30)
6/5/2026	Matt Peterson	\$ (50.00)
6/8/2026	Neubau Holdings LLC	\$ (3,404.00)
6/9/2026	Upper MN Valley RDC	\$ (5,141.50)
6/9/2026	Lynda Kruse	\$ (79.00)
6/10/2026	Xcel Energy	\$ (64.93)
6/10/2026	Christian Lilienthal	\$ (108.00)
6/10/2026	Gary Richter	\$ (126.85)
6/10/2026	Shred-it, C/O Stericycle Inc.	\$ (173.33)
6/15/2026	Bank Service Charge	\$ (420.71)
6/16/2026	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	\$ (3,034.58)
6/16/2026	Thriveon, Inc.	\$ (5,680.90)
6/16/2026	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	\$ (6,561.56)
6/17/2026	Joel Hanif - Mileage	\$ (456.03)
6/18/2026	Faribault County Register	\$ (13.35)
6/18/2026	Andrew Haefner	\$ (50.00)
6/18/2026	Vanderberg Cleaning Services	\$ (360.00)
6/22/2026	Gallagher Benefit Services Inc.	\$ (3,000.00)

6/22/2026	Harris Computer Systems	\$	(90.60)
6/23/2026	Southwest Regional Development Commission	\$	(2,963.00)
6/23/2026	Lisa Callahan	\$	(4,360.00)
7/1/2026	Thomas A. Horan, PhD.	\$	(21,139.44)
7/1/2026	Neubau Holdings LLC	\$	(3,404.00)
7/6/2026	Shanon Nowell	\$	(71.75)
7/6/2026	Shanon Nowell	\$	(71.75)
7/6/2026	Shanon Nowell	\$	(73.20)
7/6/2026	Shanon Nowell	\$	(193.50)
7/6/2026	Jessica Beyer	\$	(1,080.13)
7/6/2026	Nathan George - Mileage	\$	(76.85)
7/6/2026	Tom Loveall	\$	(100.75)
7/9/2026	Redemption - Check Redemption	\$	(9,480.00)
7/10/2026	The Free Press	\$	(15.12)
7/10/2026	Shred-it, C/O Stericycle Inc.	\$	(181.08)
7/10/2026	Lake Crystal Coaches	\$	(1,213.05)
7/13/2026	Tom Polich - Staff Mileage	\$	(167.48)
7/13/2026	Pemberton Law	\$	(436.50)
7/13/2026	Metro Sales Inc.	\$	(488.51)
7/13/2026	U.S. Bank Treasury Management Services	\$	(2,802.79)
7/14/2026	Truman Tribune	\$	(24.00)
7/14/2026	Xcel Energy	\$	(68.47)
7/14/2026	Lu Vanderwerf	\$	(2,356.15)
7/14/2026	L Burke Murphy Consulting LLC	\$	(10,000.00)
7/14/2026	Reichel Insulation LLC	\$	(66,512.40)
7/15/2026	Bank Service Charge	\$	(301.10)
7/16/2026	Redemption - Check Redemption	\$	(50.00)
7/17/2026	Redemption - Check Redemption	\$	(4,000.00)
7/20/2026	Creative Ad Solutions Inc.	\$	(63.11)
7/20/2026	Chris Dalton	\$	(83.35)
7/20/2026	Jeff Annis	\$	(86.25)
7/20/2026	Steven Cooling	\$	(89.15)
7/20/2026	Rob Wilkening	\$	(92.05)
7/20/2026	Mike Pfeil	\$	(102.20)
7/20/2026	Jim Branstad	\$	(109.45)
7/20/2026	Elroy Glidden	\$	(144.25)
7/20/2026	South Central Service Coop	\$	(157.50)
7/21/2026	Paul Harris	\$	(112.35)
7/21/2026	Gary Richter	\$	(126.85)
7/21/2026	Andrea Boettger	\$	(136.25)
7/21/2026	Philip Schafer	\$	(144.25)
7/21/2026	Southwest Regional Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/21/2026	Southwest Regional Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/22/2026	Julie Tesch	\$	(94.95)
7/22/2026	Jean Anderson	\$	(100.75)
7/22/2026	Upper MN Valley RDC	\$	(3,350.00)
7/22/2026	Upper MN Valley RDC	\$	(50,000.00)
7/23/2026	Patty O'Connor	\$	(50.00)
7/23/2026	Lynda Kruse	\$	(79.00)
7/23/2026	Tom Loveall	\$	(200.75)
7/23/2026	City of Mankato	\$	(258.90)
7/23/2026	Robert Nielsen	\$	(434.16)
7/23/2026	GMNP	\$	(1,000.00)
7/23/2026	Mid-Minnesota Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/23/2026	Mid-Minnesota Development Commission	\$	(48,595.02)
7/23/2026	Mid-Minnesota Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/24/2026	Pamela Rodewald	\$	(81.90)
7/24/2026	Lime Valley Advertising Inc.	\$	(357.50)
7/24/2026	Maggie J's Resturant & Bar	\$	(649.89)
7/24/2026	East Central Regional Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/24/2026	East Central Regional Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/27/2026	Shanon Nowell	\$	(121.75)
7/27/2026	Monica Delgado - Garcia	\$	(1,062.50)

7/27/2026	Luisa Trapero	\$	(1,317.50)
7/27/2026	NW Regional Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/27/2026	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/27/2026	Blethen Berens	\$	(4,111.00)
7/27/2026	NW Regional Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/27/2026	Headwaters Regional Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/28/2026	Mike Laven	\$	(50.00)
7/28/2026	Cristi Liliana Aguilar	\$	(1,062.50)
7/29/2026	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	\$	(3,350.00)
7/29/2026	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	\$	(4,057.59)
7/29/2026	Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	\$	(50,000.00)
7/30/2026	Redemption - Check Redemption	\$	(1,062.50)
7/31/2026	Redemption - Check Redemption	\$	(90.60)
Total:		\$	(637,965.31)

Credit Card Charges

4/22/2026	Jessica - Kwik Trip	\$	(40.73)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Mongolian Grill	\$	(50.90)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(248.60)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(248.60)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(248.60)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/1/2026	Jessica - Holiday Inn St. Cloud	\$	(336.76)
5/7/2026	Jessica - The Fillin' Station	\$	(12.83)
5/19/2026	Jessica - The UPS Store	\$	(54.31)
4/28/2026	Sabri - Delta Airlines	\$	(417.80)
5/1/2026	Sabri - Sonoras Mexican Resaurant	\$	(19.08)
5/12/2026	Sabri - USPS	\$	(1.90)
5/12/2026	Sabri - Hy-Vee Gas	\$	(48.35)
5/15/2026	Sabri - Hy-Vee Mankato	\$	(10.78)
5/2/2026	Jazmine - Buffalo Wild Wings	\$	(15.49)
4/28/2026	Nate - CANVA	\$	(252.96)
5/20/2026	Nate - Piggy Blues Bar-B-Que	\$	(17.83)
5/20/2026	Joel - Piggy Blues Bar-B-Que	\$	(26.61)
4/27/2026	Stephanie - Spectrum Internet	\$	(170.00)
5/2/2026	Sarah - Buaffalo Wild Wings	\$	(15.49)
5/13/2026	Sarah - Sams Club.com	\$	(96.75)
5/17/2026	Sarah - Amazon Marketplace	\$	(84.90)
5/1/2026	Tom - Sonoras Mexican Restaurant	\$	(20.09)
5/20/2026	US Bank Customer Credit	\$	290.55
5/28/2026	Jessica - Garden Bar on 6th	\$	(50.66)
5/28/2026	Jessica - Fairfield Inn - Alexandria	\$	(121.41)
6/16/2026	Jessica - Dollar Tree Mankato	\$	(67.42)
6/17/2026	Kristian - Lucid Software	\$	(702.99)
5/26/2026	Sabri - True Value St. James	\$	(30.59)
5/26/2026	Sabri - True Value St. James	\$	(30.59)
5/28/2026	Sabri - Land to Air Express	\$	(52.00)
6/3/2026	Sabri - True Value St. James	\$	(99.28)
6/16/2026	Sabri - USPS	\$	(1.07)
6/16/2026	Sabri - Coffee Hag	\$	(5.27)
6/18/2026	Sabri - US Fast Print	\$	(603.40)
6/19/2026	Sabri - GOTPRINT.com	\$	(188.95)
6/11/2026	Stephanie - Spectrum Internet	\$	(170.00)
6/2/2026	Sarah - USPS	\$	(78.00)
6/2/2026	Sarah - Sams Club.com	\$	(12.24)
6/16/2026	Sarah - Hy-Vee	\$	(19.39)
6/17/2026	Sarah - Sams Club.com	\$	(85.57)
6/16/2026	Tom - Kwik Trip	\$	(38.84)
Total:		\$	(6,527.04)



Revolving Loan Fund - Cash Balance Report
August 12, 2026 - Board of Directors Meeting

CASH BALANCE - May 31, 2026 **\$ 1,773,444.03**

Legacy RLF Loan Payments	\$	36,591.16
Legacy RLF Bank Interest	\$	9,342.86
Legacy RLF Loan Closing Fees	\$	-

CARES RLF Loan Payments	\$	23,073.00
CARES RLF Bank Interest	\$	1,678.11
CARES RLF Loan Closing Fees	\$	-

Total Receipts **\$ 70,685.13**

New Loans	\$	-
Returned ACH Payment	\$	(100.00)
Service Charges	\$	(70.63)

Total Disbursements **\$ (170.63)**

CASH BALANCE - July 31, 2026 **\$ 1,843,958.53**

Revolving Loan Fund Accounts

Legacy RLF - MAGIC	\$	1,558,416.95
CARES RLF - MAGIC	\$	285,541.58
TOTAL:	\$	1,843,958.53

RNDC Funding Summary

Department/Program	Contract Source	Money Source	R9 Lead	Full Award	Pass - through	\$ for R9 Operation Expenses			FY27 Match	Start	End
						FY27	FY28	FY29			
General Fund											
Levy	Nine Counties	Levy	Jessica			\$740,942	\$763,170	\$786,065			
Bank Interest		Interest	Stephanie			\$20,000	\$20,000				
Revolving Loan Fund											
Legacy Revolving Loan Fund	De-Federalized	Interest	Jazmine			\$121,000	\$125,000	\$128,750			
CARES Revolving Loan Fund	Economic Development Administration	Interest - Federal	Jazmine			\$34,000	\$35,000	\$36,000			
Loan Closing Fees	RLF Clients		Jazmine			\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000			
Economic Development											
EDA Planning Grant	Economic Development Administration	Federal Funds	Alejandra	\$210,000		\$52,500			\$70,000	4/1/2024	3/31/2027
UofM - Center for Transportation Studies (TPEC)	University of Minnesota	State Funds	Kristian	\$20,000		\$20,000					
SBDC Contract Work	Small Business Development Center (SBDC)	Local Contract	Nate	\$4,062		\$4,062				7/21/2026	12/31/2026
Blandin - FY27/FY28	Blandin Foundation	Private Foundation	Jessica	\$200,000		\$100,000	\$100,000			7/1/2026	6/30/2028
CEDS Community Engagement	University of Minnesota/Southwest RSDP	State Funds	Alejandra	\$7,000		\$7,000				7/1/2026	5/31/2027
Transportation											
Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	Federal Highway Administration	Federal Funds	Mark	\$340,000		\$133,733	\$133,733		\$33,433		6/30/2028
MnDOT Planning Grant	MnDOT	State Funds	Joel	\$150,000		\$75,000			\$13,235	7/1/2025	6/30/2027
Shooting Star Scenic Byway	MnDOT District 6	State Funds	Joel	\$74,305		\$37,113				12/23/2025	6/30/2027
Apple Blossom Scenic Byway	MnDOT District 6	State Funds	Joel	\$74,445		\$37,253				12/23/2025	6/30/2027
Historic Bluff Scenic Byway	ECRDC - subcontract of MnDOT funds	Out of Region Contract	Joel	\$15,000		\$15,000				3/19/2026	12/31/2026
Rural EMS - Empowering Small Communities	University of Minnesota Extension	State Funds	Joel	\$8,000		\$8,000					Until Exhausted
Tri-County Solid Waste Management Plan	Le Sueur, Nicollet & Sibley Counties	Local Contract	Joel	\$5,000		\$5,000					12/31/2026
Environment & Sustainability											
McKnight FY27-FY28 Contract	McKnight Foundation	Private Foundation	Jessica	\$800,000	\$700,000	\$50,000	\$50,000			7/1/2026	6/30/2028
Resource Rural - Windward Fund, St. James	Resource Rural	Private Foundation	Sabri	\$150,000		\$50,000				1/1/2025	12/31/2026
Thriving Communities, St. James	Minneapolis Foundation - Federal Subgrantee	Federal Funds	Sabri	\$350,000	\$302,375	\$20,000				4/31/2025	12/31/2027
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)	MN Department of Commerce	State Funds	Sabri	\$100,000	\$60,660	\$26,841				7/1/2024	11/30/2026
Local Foods Month	Minnesota State University	State Funds	Sabri	\$27,500		\$15,750				4/1/2025	10/31/2026
MPCA - R9 Community Resilience Plan	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	State Funds	Sam	\$85,000		\$85,000			\$8,500	4/15/2026	6/30/2027
MPCA - Waseca Climate Resilience Hub	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	State Funds	Sam	\$50,000		\$50,000			\$2,500	6/26/2026	6/30/2027
Henderson Stormwater/Wastewater Plan	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	State Funds	Sam	\$135,000		\$12,000				3/31/2026	6/30/2027
BRIDGE the Gap - CERTs Seed Grant	University of Minnesota Extension	State Funds	Sam	\$5,000		\$2,500				1/28/2026	1/12/2027
Bright Ideas for Comfrey - CERTs Seed Grant	University of Minnesota Extension	State Funds	Sam	\$10,000		\$2,700					6/30/2027
Local Climate Action-Children's Museum Southern MN	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	State Funds	Sam	\$47,505		\$3,150				7/24/2025	10/31/2026
Initiative Foundation - MCAP Matching Funds	Initiative Foundation / McKnight	Private Foundation	Jessica	\$75,000		\$37,500				10/1/2024	9/30/2026
Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP)	University of Minnesota Extension	State Funds	Jessica	\$63,492		\$59,097				9/23/2024	8/31/2026
Community Energy Collaborative	MN Department of Commerce	State Funds	Sabri	\$5,000		\$5,000				1/15/2026	12/31/2026
Food Recovery											
Regional Food Rescue Coordination: FY27-FY29	Mankato Area Foundation	Private Foundation	Sabri	\$300,000		\$100,000	\$100,000				Until Exhausted
Taylor Family Farms - Food Recovery	Taylor Family Farms	Private Foundation	Sabri	\$20,000		\$20,000					Until Exhausted
Mankato Clinic Foundation	Mankato Clinic Foundation	Private Foundation	Sabri	\$10,000		\$10,000					Until Exhausted
Region Nine Area, Inc.											
Region Nine Area, Inc.				Hosting							
Waseca Community Investment Group	Waseca Community Investment Group	Fiscal Host	Sabri	\$25,000							10/31/2026
Mahkato Okiwataya	Mahkato Okiwataya	Fiscal Host	Stephanie							2/28/2024	
South Central Minnesota Food Recovery	South Central Minnesota Food Recovery	Fiscal Host	Stephanie							6/1/2025	
Food Recovery by Wooden Spoon	Food Recovery by Wooden Spoon	Fiscal Host	Stephanie							11/13/2024	
Aging Transit	Aging Transit	Fiscal Host	Stephanie	\$28,613							
Community Projects - Sherburn	Community Projects-Sherburn	Fiscal Host	Stephanie	\$1,668							
SURGE Youth Leadership Program	SURGE Leadership Program	Fiscal Host	Stephanie	\$7,482							

Totals:	\$1,966,141	\$1,332,903	\$956,815	\$127,668
	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY27 Match
	\$153,469	Increase from FY27 Budget		

FY27 Grants in Progress



RNDC Grants Outstanding

Name of Grant /Organization	Value of Request	Submitted	Expected Response Date
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Grant (MPCA) for Food Rescue	\$884,000	Yes	By early August
Rural Climate Partnership (RCP)	\$100,000	No	Mid September
HFFI Food Fund (Mankato Farmers' Market)	\$150,000	No	January 2027
MDA Specialty Crop	\$125,000	Yes	Pending USDA Approval
MDA RFSI Commercial Kitchen Grant	\$24,750	Yes	Pending USDA Approval

Regional Assistance Grants Outstanding

Name of Grant /Organization	Value of Request	Submitted	Expected Response Date
Congressional Directed Spending (CDS)/Divine Providence Community Center	\$1.9M	Yes	Divine Providence passed 1st wave
EPA Assessment Grant / Le Sueur	\$350,000	Yes	unknown
Empowering Small Communities/South Bend Township	\$50,000	Yes	Awarded - 7/22/2026
MPCA Market Development Grant/GreenTech Recycling	\$350,000	Yes	Mid-August

The following information was presented at the February Board Meeting:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT POTENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS OR NEXT STEPS FOR DISCUSSION

- **Continue with the succession plan and an Interim Executive Director until milestones with Financial Clean-up are made and areas are further stabilized**
(approximately 4-6 months before next step decisions are made)
- **Begin Recruitment Process for new Executive Director**
 - Hire recruitment firm (proposals examples obtained from firms)
 - Conduct process internally if feasible
- **Consider re-organization and appoint current Deputy Director to Executive Director**
 - Continue with the Interim Executive Director succession plan to allow time for an informed vote at a future Commission Meeting
- **Other Options/Suggestions for Discussion and Next Steps**

Interim Executive Director's Report

Submitted by Jessica Beyer

August 2026 Board Report

The following areas continue to be of focus as I continue serving as Interim Executive Director:

- **Leadership Transition & Organizational Stability**

I've continued to serve as Interim Executive Director for eight months in working to ensure that programs, services, and projects remain on track while supporting staff, enhancing organizational processes, working to achieve financial solvency, and pursuing new or continued funding opportunities that align with the needs of our region.

- **Identifying and Pursuing Funding, Grants & Strategic Partnerships**

Big news this past month has included RNDC being awarded a Blandin Grant for \$200,000 in supporting capacity building for identified community projects throughout Region Nine over the next two years. This is a huge opportunity for Region Nine to establish future partnerships with Blandin Foundation. We are continuing to also have several conversations with entities that have reached out to us for technical assistance including Mapleton, Martin County, Springfield, Sleepy Eye, Waterville, Madelia, Brown County, and others.

- **Financial Oversight & Administrative Operations**

Following obtainment of funding and work with the team to put forward a balanced budget, my main focus area has been aligning resources and coordination efforts to get the FY25 audit complete. Stephanie and Sarah, with contracted oversight from Lu Vanderwulf have been working on financial clean-up over the last several months to prepare for the FY25 audit. I filed for a second audit extension with the Office of the State Auditor this spring and RNDC was granted an extension through August 31. Given limited capacity of Lu to assist further and the time sensitivity of needing to complete the audit, I brought in Clifton Larson Allen (in coordination with the past Chair and Treasurer) to assist RNDC and work with the Finance Director in getting the necessary audit preparations to Abdo. Abdo is in the process of the audit and our goal is to have materials later in August for Board/Commission approval. We will likely need to do an electronic vote to approve the audit ahead of submission to the Office of the State Auditor before August 31. I have facilitated multiple weekly meetings and helped prepare items to continue working through the process with the Finance Director, Clifton Larson Allen representatives, and Abdo representatives over the past several weeks.

Other key focus areas have been administrative clean-up work. It was brought to my attention recently that there have remained outstanding issues for some employees with HSA Benefits. I obtained access, ran individual reports for each employee, and am facilitating follow-up meetings with WEX, team members, and Finance to get the outstanding issues resolved. Sarah will also be providing assistance as needed, as she has taken on helping Finance with some of the day-to-day benefits administration work.

Additionally, there was a MissionSquare Retirement Plan issue, which is also being addressed. A separate memorandum about opportunities to update the MissionSquare Retirement Plan is included in the packet. This was another administrative project that I addressed this past month in addition to regular administrative tasks and needs.

- **Governance, Bylaws & Organizational Development**

It's planned for organizational development work from Kim Snyder to be presented to staff and board members on August 12. This is part of on-going work that I obtained grant funding for to support RNDC with organizational development and financial solvency needs as the organization navigates a leadership transition and necessary work to move toward a future vision. Additionally, Bylaws work was presented at the Annual Meeting with final revisions and review of conflict of interest and code of conduct policies on track for adoption in October. Work on an AI policy is being undertaken by Nate George with my oversight. I'm also working on updates to the Executive Director and Finance Director Succession plans.

- **Staff Engagement & Capacity Building**

Weekly staff meetings and regular individual one-on-one meetings with staff members continue. Another employee lunch/activity is being planned for August.

- **External Engagement & Regional Representation**

I have continued to represent Region Nine at key local, regional, and statewide meetings and events. If there are meetings, events, or activities that Board members believe should be on my radar to attend or represent RNDC at, please let me know.

Notable Activities/Meetings/Events at a Glance
June 17 to August 12, 2026:

6/17/26 - RNDC Bus Tour; Commission Meeting
 6/22/26 - RNDC Staff Check-in
 6/22/26 - Meeting with Congressman Finstad's Office: Aaron Eberhardt
 6/22/26 - Food Rescue Extended Grant Planning Meeting with South Central MN Food Recovery
 6/22/26 - MADO Executive Directors Virtual Meeting
 6/23/26 - IT Services Proposal Review
 6/24/26 - Meeting with Clifton Larson Allen for Audit Support Services
 6/24/26 - Greg Ous, MnDOT District Engineer Retirement Event
 6/29/26 - RNDC Staff Meeting
 6/29/26 - GreenSeam and RNDC Meeting
 6/29/26 - Partnership Meeting with SBDC to discuss bank and community meetings
 7/3/26 - Office Closed
 7/6/26 - RNDC Staff Meeting
 7/6/26 - MissionSquare Retirement Plan Initial Meeting
 7/13/26 - RNDC Staff Meeting
 7/13/26 - Audit Meetings
 7/13/26 - Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Economic Development Meeting
 7/17/26 - IT Services Proposal Review
 7/20/26 - RNDC Staff Meeting
 7/20/26 - Presentation to CEDA Representatives

7/22/26 - Vanuatu Delegation Visit Presentation on the Region
 7/24/26 - Blue Earth County Landfill and RNDC Food Rescue Meeting
 7/27/26 - ACFSME Introductory Call
 7/28/26 - Onsite Audit Field Work
 7/29/26 - Onsite Audit Field Work
 7/29/26 - Food Rescue Video Production
 7/31/26 - Board Agenda Review with Chair
 8/3/26 - Staff Meeting
 8/3/26 - Tri-County Solid Waste Meeting
 8/4/26 - SCSC Health Consortium Meeting
 8/5/26 - MissionSquare Account Meeting
 8/6/26 - RNDC and WEX Benefits Meeting
 8/6/26 - MSU and RNDC Grant Opportunity Discussion
 8/10/26 - Staff Meeting
 8/10/26 - SRDC PACE Program Discussion
 8/10/26 - Potential City of Springfield Project Meeting
 8/10/26 - Brown County Human Services and RNDC Discussion
 8/12/26 - REDA Staff Meeting - Lake Crystal
 8/12/26 - Kim Snyder Staff Presentation and Board Presentation on Organizational Development

*Throughout this reporting time period, I have taken some intermittent sick time leave for caretaking and some hours of PTO as possible.



Out-of-State Travel Request Form

Basic Information:

Name: Sabri Fair

Travel Reason/Event: Resource Rural Partner Convening

Travel Destination: Stevenson Washington

Date of Departure: June 4th

Date of Return: June 11th

Funding Source: Resource Rural/ Windward Fund

Anticipated Costs:

	Departure Airport			Arrival Airport			Cost
Airfare (Roundtrip)	MSP		to	PDX			\$ 417.80
	Description						Cost
Registration	n/a						\$ 0.00
	Total Nights			\$ Per Night			Cost
Lodging			x			=	\$ 0.00
	Total Days			\$ Per Diem			Cost
Meals/PerDiem			x			=	\$ 0.00
	Total Miles			\$ Per Mile			Cost
Mileage			x			=	\$ 0.00
	Description						Cost
Other							
	Description						Cost
Other							
Total Anticipated Cost of Out-of-State Travel Request							\$ 417.80

Employee Signature: _____ Date: 5/26/2026

Executive Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Justification:

As part of our partnership with Resource Rural for the St. James Energy Navigator project Sabri was invited to join their partner convening in Stevenson, Washington. The convening will include visits to rural community and economic development projects in Washington and opportunities to connect with colleagues from rural areas across the country.

They provided \$750 to support travel costs and will be providing RNDC and Convivencia with an additional \$100,000 for our project moving forward over the next year. These funds and remaining funds from Resource Rural will cover Sabri's staff time for attending the training.

Per Region Nine Development Commission Personnel Policy Manual:

6.5 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

It is recognized that out-of-state travel is necessary for the effective operation of RNDC. It is further recognized that active participation in national organizations, effectively influencing federal legislation, and participation in national training programs will require and warrant out-of-state travel for RNDC staff members and officials. Finally, it is recognized that as a recipient of private foundation or federal funding, RNDC, is often required to participate in the training and development opportunities afforded by the funding authority.

Notwithstanding, as a local unit of government that is accountable to the citizens of the region, out-of-state travel will be limited to those instances determined to be prudent, appropriate and essential to the delivery of RNDC programs or services. Therefore, the Board of Directors must approve the out-of-state travel of both RNDC commissioners and staff, up to and including the executive director.

To assist in the development of an annual budget, staff and RNDC commissioners are to identify the out-of-state travel necessary and expected to occur during the budget cycle. The finance director and executive director will utilize the estimates for budgetary purposes. Inclusion of anticipated travel expenses within an annual budget is not to be construed as affirmation or approval of the Board of Directors.

Requests for out-of-state travel shall be submitted to the executive director a minimum of one month before the expected date of departure. Such requests shall be made in the manner prescribed by the executive director. At a minimum, requests for out-of-state travel shall include the following information:

- Staff/commissioner(s) requesting authorization;
- Travel destination;
- Date of departure/return;
- Anticipated costs of transportation, lodging, per diems, etc.;
- Source(s) of funding; and
- Written justification/documentation of necessity.

Requests for out-of-state travel, recommended by the executive director, shall be presented to the Board of Directors for authorization, a minimum of one month before the expected departure. To take advantage of reduced fares, earlier submission is encouraged. The Board of Directors shall either approve or deny requests without delay.

In those rare instances where it is deemed logistically impossible to abide by the notice requirements of this policy, the executive director and RNDC Chair shall be authorized to approve the out-of-state travel of staff members and RNDC commissioners. Following authorization by the executive director or RNDC Chair of the Board of Directors shall be notified at their next scheduled meeting.



Out-of-State Travel Request Form

Basic Information:

Name: Sabri Fair

Travel Reason/Event: Presenting at Radically Rural Summit

Travel Destination: Keene, New Hampshire

Date of Departure: October 4th

Date of Return: October 8th

Funding Source: Resource Rural Grant

Anticipated Costs:

	Departure Airport		Arrival Airport		Cost
Airfare (Roundtrip)	Minneapolis	to	Boston, Logan International		\$ 400.00
	Description				Cost
Registration	Presenter registration cost of \$75				\$ 75.00
	Total Nights		\$ Per Night		Cost
Lodging	4	x	\$ 104.00	=	\$ 416.00
	Total Days		\$ Per Diem		Cost
Meals/PerDiem	3.00	x	\$ 75	=	\$ 225.00
	Total Miles		\$ Per Mile		Cost
Mileage		x	\$ 0.655	=	\$ 0.00
	Description				Cost
Other					
	Description				Cost
Other					
	Total Anticipated Cost of Out-of-State Travel Request				\$ 1,116.00

Employee Signature: _____ Date: 8/5/2026

Executive Director Signature: _____ Date: _____

Justification:

As part of the Powering Our Communities Case Study that was developed in partnership with West Central Initiative and Resource Rural, Sabri has been invited to present at the Radically Rural Summit in Keene, New Hampshire. This presentation is part of our funding partnership with Resource Rural which has a goal of sharing stories of rural communities successfully accessing federal funds. The trip will be covered by our 2026/27 grant renewal with RR that will provide an additional \$100,000 in funding towards the St. James project.

Sabri will present as part of a 3 hour session titled Energy is a Necessity: How do we ensure access and resilience in rural communities? This session will explore innovative energy access and affordability solutions including the intersection of democracy + civic engagement and climate + energy work in rural communities looking through a hyper local, regional, state, and national lens.

Sabri will be sharing an Airbnb with staff from West Central Initiative to reduce lodging costs and West Central will be covering the cost of a rental car as well.

Per Region Nine Development Commission Personnel Policy Manual:

6.5 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

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- Written justification/documentation of necessity.

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Out-of-State Travel Request Form

Justification:

Basic Information:

Name:	
Travel Reason/Event:	
Travel Destination:	
Date of Departure:	
Date of Return:	
Funding Source:	

Anticipated Costs:

	Departure Airport	to	Arrival Airport	Cost
Airfare (Roundtrip)				
	Description			Cost
Registration				
	Total Nights	x	\$ Per Night	= Cost
Lodging				
	Total Days	x	\$ Per Diem	= Cost
Meals/PerDiem				
	Total Miles	x	\$ Per Mile	= Cost
Mileage				
	Description			Cost
Other				
	Description			Cost
Other				

Total Anticipated Cost of Out-of-State Travel Request

Employee Signature: _____ Date

Executive Director Signature: _____ Date

Per Region Nine Development Commission Personnel Policy Manual:

6.5 OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

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Memo

To: RNDC Board of Directors

From: Jessica Beyer, Interim Executive Director

Date: August 7, 2026

Re: Mission Square Retirement Plan Considerations

Over the past several weeks I have been working with MissionSquare, which is a supplemental 457 (b) retirement plan offered through RNDC for employees, to review plan information and to address an issue brought forward by an employee with their account contributions.

The RNDC MissionSquare plan has not been reviewed in more than ten years and there are several no-cost account modifications that could make the plan more competitive than current offerings for employees.

Content for this memorandum was provided by a MissionSquare account representative to provide a simplified understanding of the key provisions of the existing RNDC plan vs. the expanded options due to the SECURE 2.0 Act.

Attached is a Plan Changes Checklist & corresponding reference guide. This form is to be used to elect any provisions that can be added to the existing RNDC 457(b) deferred comp plan.

RNDC has a traditional 457(b) plan which was onboarded on October 12, 1983. Below are the basic, existing plan provisions:

- In-service withdrawals are permitted when an active employee has attained age 70 ½.
- Withdrawals are available upon separation from service.
- The current 457(b) does not offer a loan provision.
- The Super Catch Up (Ages 60 - 63) was added to the RNDC plan in January 2026 by **auto default**.
- The RNDC plan currently allows for pre-tax contributions only - - no after tax/ROTH 457(b) investing.
- Unforeseeable Emergency Hardship Withdrawals are permitted (with approval from the plan sponsor).

- Withdrawals of funds rolled into the 457(b) from an alternate carrier are currently not permitted.

As a result of SECURE 2.0 legislation, there are now retirement-readiness enhancements that can expand access to retirement plan assets for public-sector employees.

Certain optional provisions, if affirmatively adopted by the employer, allow employees to access funds in specific emergency situations. Those provisions are outlined in the attached checklist.

The RNDC 457(b) Retirement Plan currently lacks:

- No after-tax/ROTH contributions.
- No qualified federally declared disaster relief provision
- No Emergency Expense Withdrawals
- No domestic abuse access
- In service withdrawals are permitted at 70 ½ while the 457(b) industry is now offering such withdrawals at 59 ½.
- No qualified birth and adoption provision.
- No loan provision. A loan feature could be added to the plan separately.
- No access to funds rolled into the RNDC 457(b) plan from outside sources. Many plans these days allow for the distribution of assets rolled into the 457(b), earned elsewhere, for purposes of consolidation. This access can be granted upon request.
- Current Unforeseeable Emergency Hardship Withdrawals are permitted **with approval** from the plan sponsor. You can elect to permit self-certification if you choose.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors take action to update the RNDC MissionSquare 457(b) Retirement Plan with the outlined provisions that the plan currently lacks which are noted above as well as identified on the attached document which would be submitted to MissionSquare to update the plan. It is important to note and reiterate that there would be no cost to RNDC to update these account modifications.

Request for SECURE 2.0 and Other Plan Changes Checklist

To begin the process of making changes to your plan, please check the boxes next to the provisions you wish to add, and submit the completed checklist to MissionSquare Plan Services via **Secure Messaging**.

We request to add the following checked optional provisions to:

PLAN NAME:

Region Nine Development Comm - 457

PLAN NUMBER:

301099

EFFECTIVE: MM/DD/YYYY

10/12/1983

☒ **Roth Contributions (457(b), 403(b), 401(k) plans only)**

The plan will allow in-plan Roth conversions:

☒ Yes (default) ☐ No

Designated Roth accounts will be available as a source for loans under the plan:

☐ Yes ☒ No (default)

Note: If your plan does not permit Roth contributions, employees earning above \$145,000 (Social Security wages) in 2025 may be ineligible to make age 50 or age 60-63 catch-up contributions starting in 2026.

☒ **Age 60-63 Catch-Up**

☒ **Qualified Federally Declared Disaster Relief Distribution**

☒ **Emergency Expense Withdrawals for (up to \$1,000)***

☒ **Self-Certification for Unforeseeable Emergency Withdrawals (Available for 457(b) Plans)**

Is plan sponsor approval required:

☒ Yes ☐ No (default)

☐ **Self-Certification for Hardship Withdrawals (Available in 403(b) and 401(k) Plans)**

Is plan sponsor approval required:

☐ Yes ☐ No (default)

☒ **Penalty-free Withdrawals for Individuals In Case of Domestic Abuse***

☒ **Eliminate the "first day of the month" requirement for 457(b) plans (changes and enrollments will be effective immediately or as soon as administratively feasible)**

☐ **Treatment of Student Loan Payments as Elective Deferrals for Purposes of Matching Contribution**

☒ **In-Service Distribution at Age 59.5**

☒ **Qualified Birth and Adoption Distribution**

☐ **MissionSquare Retirement Income Advantage In-Service Portability**

☐ **Other:** _____

(Discuss with your MissionSquare contact before completing this item).

*Estimated availability after 3/31/2025.

Requestor: Provide your information in the fields below and submit the completed checklist using Secure Messaging. Please review the **Secure Messaging User Guide** for more information.

We will contact you within 3-5 business days if more information is needed; otherwise MissionSquare Plan Services will prepare and send any necessary documents to the plan sponsor contact who is authorized to execute those documents. To update your plan's contacts, please use the Plan Contact & Access Form available on the Plan Sponsor website. Documents are typically sent within 7 business days of the request unless there are unanswered questions. This timing might be greater if the volume is high. An email notification will be sent when the recordkeeping changes are complete.

FULL NAME: LAST, FIRST, MI (REQUESTOR'S INFORMATION)

Beyer, Jessica A.

TITLE:

Interim Executive Director

EMAIL ADDRESS:

jessica@rndc.org

Questions? Contact MissionSquare Plan Services for employer support at (800) 326-7272 or log in to your account to use Secure Messaging.

Business Opportunity Assessment (BOA)

Transform your operational processes and systems to better serve your organization.

CLA can uncover your sticking points and collaborate on a roadmap that reboots the organization to be more competitive, responsive, and agile.

What's on your mind?

- Allocating resources efficiently and effectively
- Implementing best practices
- Improving clarity and visibility in financial and business management reporting
- Lengthy and overburdened processes
- Outgrown accounting and business management systems
- Modernizing, automating, and integrating processes and reporting systems

A unique approach

Our BOA process is centered on working with you and your team, by looking across structure, process, and systems to provide recommendations aligned with your vision and strategy. The assessments are conducted through document review and interviews with key team members, management, and other stakeholders. We will share specific findings and recommendations based on best practices to help you prioritize an actionable plan.

Our System Optimization and Selection (SOS) services support the process of assessing and selecting tools that align with your future desired state. Whether you are looking for a complete enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, financial management system (FMS), human resource information system (HRIS), customer relationship management (CRM), or an industry specific solution, we will help navigate this evolving landscape by collecting operational data, analyzing key functional requirements, screening vendors, arranging and evaluating process driven demonstrations, and assisting with contract negotiation.

How we can help

Our comprehensive BOA service includes an analysis of your structure, process, and systems to include evaluating your accounting and operational technology and controls to help maximize system utilization, streamline business processes and reporting, and optimize organizational structure.

Related services

Often our clients ask us to help implement their action plan. We have resources that can help, which might include:

- Interim, part-time or project-based accounting assistance
- System optimization and selection
- Implementation advisory services
- Executive search (C-Level) or professional search (controller through staff-level)
- Cybersecurity assessment
- Internal controls assessment
- Enterprise risk assessment
- Human resources assessment
- IT risk and vulnerability assessment
- Data readiness evaluation
- Technology consulting and outsourcing

[Business Opportunity Assessment :](#)
[Outsourcing : Services : CLA](#)
[\(CliftonLarsonAllen\) \(claconnect.com\)](#)



Since September 2025, I have documented in every Finance Director Report that the department is understaffed and that the workload assigned to the Finance Director exceeds the capacity of a single employee. Because this issue has never been substantively addressed or disputed, this report focuses on the structural capacity challenges within the Finance Department rather than providing a traditional monthly Finance Director report.

A review of the department's staffing history, job responsibilities, and operational performance indicates that the Finance Department is currently expected to perform the work of multiple full-time positions with insufficient staffing. This has resulted in increased operational risk, delayed financial processes, missed revenue opportunities, higher consulting and audit costs, reduced internal controls, and an inability to complete many core Finance Director responsibilities. The evidence indicates these challenges are structural rather than performance-related and warrant Board consideration.

For more than a decade, the Finance Department operated with two full-time employees: a Finance Director and a Senior Staff Accountant. Together they managed all organizational financial operations, payroll, human resources and benefits administration, Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) management, and RNAI fiscal sponsorship administration.

I compared the Finance Director job description from 2021 with the job description under which I was hired. The positions are identical except for the addition of three responsibilities (Items 17, 18, and 19). A copy of the current job description is attached.

While no formal job description exists for the former Senior Staff Accountant position, performance evaluations, personnel records, and discussions with a previous Finance Director indicate the position included responsibilities such as:

- Accounts payable
- Cash receipts
- Payroll processing
- General journal entries
- Month-end processing
- Bank reconciliations
- Audit preparation
- RLF amortizations and loan payments
- RNAI fiscal sponsorship administration
- General financial administrative tasks and document organization

Collectively, these responsibilities constituted a full-time position. When the position was eliminated, its duties were never formally reassigned or incorporated into the Finance Director job description. As a result, the department permanently lost one full-time employee while retaining the same workload. The Staff Accountant functions remain essential operational tasks that must be completed before many Finance Director responsibilities can be performed.

Having now completed an entire fiscal year in this role, I reviewed the current Finance Director job description and identified the responsibilities that I have either been unable to complete or have only been able to complete at an unsatisfactory level because my time is consumed performing the former Staff Accountant duties not listed on my job description. I have highlighted these tasks in the attachment. Approximately half of the Finance Director responsibilities are currently receiving insufficient attention despite being assigned responsibilities of the position. These include numerous strategic, compliance, planning, and financial management functions that are critical to the organization.

To understand how the department reached this point, it is helpful to examine when the workload fundamentally changed. The turning point occurred in September 2020 with the award of the CARES Act Revolving Loan Fund. Prior to that time, two employees adequately managed the department's workload. The addition of the CARES Act fund substantially increased loan administration requirements and expanded the Finance Department's responsibilities from approximately two full-time positions to an estimated 2.5 to 3.0 full-time positions.

Unlike many grant-funded programs, the workload associated with the Revolving Loan Funds continues to increase each year as the loan portfolio grows. Loan repayments now generate sufficient interest and approximately one new loan must be closed every other month to sustain the program. The two Revolving Loan Funds currently generate enough income to support approximately 1.25 full-time employees, reflecting the ongoing administrative demands of the program. This growth explains why loan administration has evolved from being a shared responsibility into a full-time position fulfilled by the Lending Specialist.

The increased workload associated with the CARES Act funding appears to coincide with the beginning of significant staffing instability within the department.

The Senior Staff Accountant resigned in September 2021. During the following four years, the department experienced five additional resignations:

- Finance Director — March 2022 (15 years of service)
- Finance Specialist — June 2023 (12 months)
- Lending Specialist — May 2024 (9 months)
- Finance Director — December 2024 (3 years)
- Finance Director — March 2025 (2 weeks)

For a department consisting of only two positions, this level of turnover is significant and is consistent with a long-term structural capacity issue rather than isolated personnel concerns.

The staffing shortage has also resulted in measurable financial costs to the organization.

Consulting Costs: Since December 2024, approximately \$44,700 has been spent on consultants, excluding the ongoing audit assistance provided by CLA. Given the number of CLA staff currently involved in the audit assistance, additional costs are expected to be substantial.

Overbilled Projects: Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 all experienced projects that were overbilled because project budgets were not consistently monitored and discussed with project managers. For example, according to FY24 year-end financial reports, individual projects (not including excessive general fund billing)

were collectively overbilled by \$135,272. This figure is only for one fiscal year. The combined cost for all three years is substantially higher.

Underbilled Projects: Multiple contracts have not been billed to their full award amounts because project progress was not adequately tracked. For example, we recently discovered an additional MCAP contract that no one in the office knew about. This oversight has resulted in that project currently underbilled by \$107,358. Every contract listed on the RNDC Funding Summary requires ongoing budget monitoring and communication with project managers. The discontinuation of regular monthly budget meetings due to staffing limitations has significantly contributed to this issue.

Missed Deadlines: The biggest example of this is the State Competitiveness Fund issue previously discussed in board meetings and the \$46,333 of lost revenue due to the missed deadline.

Duplicate Payments: Multiple duplicate vendor payments have been identified, resulting in losses well into the five-figure range, in addition to the significant staff time required to recover those funds.

Lost Interest Income: Historically, invoices were issued monthly, consistent with standard accounting practices. Due to current staffing limitations, invoicing is frequently delayed. Based on current investment returns and outstanding receivables, delayed invoicing since December 2024 has likely reduced interest earnings by more than \$10,000. Because invoicing delays predate my employment, the total historical impact is likely significantly greater.

Higher Audit Costs: When the department included a Staff Accountant, audit preparation was a dedicated responsibility. Audit adjustments were minimal, and the audit process proceeded efficiently. Since that position was eliminated, audit preparation has become increasingly difficult, audit adjustments have increased, and audit costs have risen substantially.

Abdo bills for audit costs for past financial years were as follows:

- FY21: \$13,535
- FY22: \$12,135
- FY23: \$28,648
- FY24: \$25,000

Collectively, the identified financial impacts explicitly listed above exceed \$365,000, this excludes additional consultant costs that have not yet been invoiced, and each bullet point only includes one example from a list of multiple instances. The cost of adequate Finance Department staffing is substantially less than the documented costs associated with current operational inefficiencies. Beyond the direct financial impact, staffing shortages have also contributed to personnel issues, including missed HSA and ICMA contributions.

When financial errors occur, the focus has often been on the individual occupying the Finance Director position. I initially shared that perspective regarding my predecessor. However, after completing a full fiscal year in this role, I have encountered many of the same operational challenges and have identified myself making or correcting similar errors—not because of a lack of competence or effort, but because the workload exceeds the practical capacity of one individual.

The evidence presented suggests the primary issue is not employee performance. Rather, the Finance Department's current structure no longer aligns with the workload required to effectively manage the organization's financial operations. Addressing this structural imbalance would reduce organizational risk, improve internal controls, lower long-term costs, and allow the Finance Director to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to the position.

Region Nine Development Commission
Finance Director
Job Description

JOB TITLE: Finance Director
DEPARTMENT: Administration/Finance
REPORTS TO: Executive Director

DATE: December 2024
FSLA: Exempt

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: The Finance Director is responsible for developing, reviewing and modifying the RNDP accounting system and fiscal sponsorship activities to maintain an appropriate tracking of costs and funds for federal, state and local programs. The position also analyzes, monitors, and formulates allocations of appropriate costs and resources, and provides financial reports and budgets with recommendations on variances.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE POSITION

1. Develops and submits the annual budget proposal and the mid-year budget revision; develops final indirect cost plan based on approved budget.
2. Analyzes current and past financial activities.
3. Consults with planning staff for program specific needs.
4. Works with planning staff and funding agencies on development of contract and grant budgets.
5. Completes long range fiscal planning to show projections of revenues, expenditures, and other fiscal matters.
6. Analyzes, plans, and tracks agency investments; makes recommendations to Executive Director and Deputy Director concerning investments and bank account activity.
7. Establishes codes and procedures for proper flow of the accounting system for the Commission and fiscal sponsorship activities.
8. Provides technical assistance to staff, auditors, fiscal sponsorship partners and others as requested.
9. Prepares or oversees the preparation of monthly, quarterly, and annual financial reports/ requests for the IRS, contracts, grants and other funding sources including fiscal sponsorship activities.
10. Prepares monthly revenue/expenditure reports and monitors for inconsistencies.
11. Prepares the annual year end financial statements.
12. Supervises the Lending Specialist position.
13. Reviews annual tax levy certification requirements.
14. Consults with outside sources as necessary related to regulatory changes and determination or coordination of employee benefits and property/liability insurance.
15. Acts as primary contact/consultant on computer accounting system on changes/ updates needed and setup of new reports or program specifics.
16. Performs other duties as required.
17. Serves as the primary office liaison for the Information Technology Services contract.
18. Prepares and submits unemployment reports

19. Attends and travels to quarterly Finance Directors Meetings with other Development Organizations in Minnesota.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

1. Considerable knowledge of government accounting and finance as they relate to the fiscal and financial obligations of the RNDC, internal accounting controls and financial analysis of revenues and expenditures.
2. Considerable knowledge of modern office practices and procedures.
3. Considerable knowledge of the organization and operation of RDC programs and working knowledge of applicable Minnesota statutes.
4. Considerable knowledge of personnel administration.
5. Proficient in operating general office equipment and Microsoft Office, including email, word processing, Excel spreadsheets, and relevant industry applications.
6. Ability to effectively supervise and train financial and lending personnel.
7. Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing and have good public relations skills.
8. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.
9. Skill in using technology to enhance work productivity.
10. Skill in facilitating budget meetings in a variety of settings.
11. Strong interpersonal communication and group presentation skills.
12. Ability to effectively organize and prioritize multiple simultaneous work assignments and meet deadlines with minimal supervision.
13. Ability to work effectively with a broad range of people and styles.
14. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others.
15. Knowledge of personal computers and software, including the Microsoft Office suite.
16. Ability to not only read, but also interpret and analyze financial statements, business plans, credit reports and other information pertinent to loan applications and approvals.
17. Considerable ability to organize and facilitate meetings.
18. Considerable ability to organize work, set priorities, follow up on assignments and meet critical deadlines with minimal supervision; especially in times when the workload is heavy.
19. Ability to maintain and safeguard confidential data in accordance with appropriate state and federal regulations.
20. Considerable ability to write effectively and follow the Plain Language Initiative.
21. Ability to operate a motor vehicle and have a valid Minnesota's driver license.
22. Must be able to write and speak fluently in English.

WORKING CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

The position has good working conditions in general but is a diversified job requiring sustained effort related to public contacts, organizational issues, planning, and technical areas. The individual must be able to perform reliable work in both independent and team project settings, mainly using a computer to complete projects. Typical work hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with occasional early morning or after-hours meetings. Minimal travel is required, accounting for less than 10%.

STAFF UPDATES | AUGUST 2026

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – Alejandra

Alejandra has been conducting tabling events to support and gather feedback as part of the CEDS. She participated in the Songs on the Lawn event in Mankato and tabled at the Art Mart event in Fairmont. Alejandra has been connecting with local chambers and economic development authorities to present at upcoming meetings and events about the CEDS and gather feedback from local business owners. She is currently conducting outreach to identify additional opportunities to engage with local employers. Alejandra participated in the recent launch of the Waterville Area Business Alliance and has been in conversations with Nort Johnson from the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to host local business round table discussions.

She has also connected with staff to gather feedback from ongoing projects and upcoming initiatives that can inform the CEDS. In addition, she has been in conversations with COPAL and the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council to host several engagement events throughout the region.

After being selected for the RSDP program, this program will support the CEDS process by providing additional staff capacity through a graduate student. Alejandra will work closely with this graduate student

Regional Food Rescue – Tom, Sabri

The amount of food rescue in our region is currently sitting at 90,803 lbs. so far this year, valued at approximately \$197,479. Some of the highlights this past month include watermelon, chicken, broccoli and pre-made meals from trucks rejected at Walmart and nearly 1,000 lbs worth of produce from local farmers.

Sabri, Tom, and Jessica have also started meeting with all County Solid Waste Administrators to share about RNDC's work and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Regional Food Access Groups – Tom

The SCMNFR Advisory Council is still meeting with no new updates at this time. They are awaiting the status of the MPCA grant before moving forward with any new initiatives.

Tom has joined Kristen from Nicollet Co SHIP to help facilitate the South Central Minnesota Food Access Network group until the Blue Earth Co SHIP position is filled and has capacity to facilitate with Nicollet Co.

Mankato Clinic Produce Place & SHIP Freezers – Tom

Biannual check-ins will be taking place soon with all partners who host a SHIP funded or SCMNFR owned unit. These check-ins will be to go over any accomplishments, opportunities, feasibility,

and overall status of each site. The sites of Pride Counseling and Fernbrook Family Services will both be moving, but will continue to host the units at their new locations.

Mayo Clinic has also expressed wanting to have a more formal agreement in place for their fridge/freezer program at their Eastridge location.

Heart of New Ulm and the New Ulm Public Library are partnering up with RNDC to apply for funds through SHIP to host a freezer and/or refrigerator in New Ulm. Tom has also started working with Montgomery's new 507 Food Share Program.

Communications – Nate

Nate represented RNDC at the Waseca Federal Correctional Institution Community Relations Board Meeting. He shared organizational updates, met with the new warden, and spoke about how the RLF program can partner with Waseca County banks.

Website Work - Nate worked with Lime Valley to fix issues with the website's calendar plug-in and editor. Both issues have been resolved. He moved the Board and Commission archive documents to the front-facing commission page. Nate has gathered quotes to make the website compliant with new ADA regulations.

Nate assisted Sam and Lisa with a rural capacity funding presentation by repurposing and reediting footage from other videos and recording a voiceover that was used as part of the application.

Nate has continued to work on a communications strategy. This will act as a guiding document to future communications staff as well as the planners. The creation of the communications strategy has lead to Nate researching best practices for AI usage. He will create a draft policy to be shared with staff and commissioners for review.

Small Business Development Center Consultations – Nate

Nate has begun his work with the SBDC as a marketing consultant as part of a new partnership contract between SBDC and RNDC. He has started working with seven clients as part of the contract. He has also attended two training sessions. This work will tentatively continue until December 2026 and is expected to continue with additional contract extensions.

Revolving Loan Fund – Jazmine

Jazmine continued working with a collections agency to recover approximately \$23,000 from the defaulted JJ Beauty Salon loan. This is the same loan in which the repossessed sauna pod was successfully sold at auction several months ago. The account has now been placed with collections, and Region Nine is hopeful that a portion of the outstanding balance will be recovered.

Jazmine also attended a virtual training hosted by the CDFI network focused on best practices for managing loan delinquencies and collections.

To strengthen the Revolving Loan Fund Loan Committee, Jazmine reached out to a Region Nine Commission member to gauge interest in serving on the committee and also contacted a potential representative from Martin County to help fill the current vacancy. Follow-up efforts will continue.

Jazmine completed site visits with Lykke Books in New Ulm and NSGW Properties in North Mankato. Both visits were positive and may lead to future financing opportunities.

Work also continued on the Endless Adventure loan project. Over the past several months, Jazmine has met multiple times with Mark Mitzel of Profinium and Marcia Haley from SMIF to move the project forward. Progress continues to be delayed by challenges obtaining required information from the third-party turnkey provider, APX.

Jazmine also resolved payment processing issues related to Czech Point, one of Region Nine's newest loans. After working through the setup challenges, the loan is now on track with scheduled payments.

Several meetings were held with Julie Friedrich, who introduced Jazmine to Edward Lee in St. Peter to discuss potential partnerships with the St. Peter Ambassadors. Discussions have centered on opportunities to assist borrowers by helping offset certain project costs or fees in situations where additional gap financing support may be beneficial.

Jazmine conducted a site visit with Kilty's Market in Mapleton. While the business is currently facing financial challenges, the owner remains committed to improving operations, exploring expansion opportunities, and ultimately paying off the Region Nine loan.

Routine portfolio management continued throughout the month, including processing ACH loan payments and monitoring borrower accounts.

As part of ongoing outreach efforts, Jazmine attended a Rotary luncheon in Mankato and plans to participate approximately once each month to continue building relationships within the regional business community.

Jazmine also partnered with Hannah from the SBDC to conduct outreach visits to financial institutions throughout the Region. Together they visited banks in Sibley, Brown, and Le Sueur Counties to strengthen partnerships and increase awareness of Region Nine's lending programs. The visits were well received, with many lenders noting that commercial loan volume has been relatively slow across the region. Additional visits throughout the region are planned.

In preparation for upcoming deadlines, Jazmine has been collecting borrower information for annual EDA reporting and assisting with gathering documentation required for the Revolving Loan Fund audit.

Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant – Mark

Mark visited with Commissions from Faribault, Martin, and Sibley Counties to provide an overview of road safety challenges in each county and to get insight on what intersections, corridors, users, and destinations should be given additional scrutiny. Each county was presented with a

breakdown of crash types by route system (Interstate, Trunk Highway, State Aid, and County/Township/Municipal), vehicle type, and speed limit, along with enforcement data. The next step will be drawing in stakeholders to examine how high crash locations can be made safer through better maintenance and operational practices, and how crash history might inform applications for infrastructure improvements.

Mark and Joel continued working with active transportation advocates in the Mankato area to improve road safety for vulnerable users (pedestrians, bicyclists, wheelchair users, and motorcyclists).

Transportation/MnDOT Regional Planning Grant – Joel, Mark

Joel and Mark assisted the Cities of North Mankato and St. James on installing active transportation demonstration projects. In North Mankato, they helped install a mini roundabout at the intersection of Haughton Avenue and La Mar Drive and a chicane at the intersection of Haughton Avenue and Green Acres Drive. Both of these will help calm the speed of traffic. In St. James, they helped install a temporary curb extension at the intersection of Armstrong Boulevard North and 5th Avenue North. The curb extension helps pedestrians cross the street more safely by both reducing the distance needed to cross the street and calming traffic. This is especially beneficial to people with mobility issues that live at the St. James Housing Redevelopment Authority's apartment complex at that intersection.

Joel and Mark participated in the kickoff meeting for the Jackson and Martin Counties joint active transportation plan. This will primarily be a rail-trail plan that would connect the cities of Jackson, Alpha, Sherburn, Welcome, and Fairmont.

Joel attended MAPO's open house for the Stoltzman Road corridor study. There, he met with MAPO staff and consultants and participated in their prioritization exercise for issues facing the corridor.

Joel attended and participated in the June ATP-7 meeting. There, Erik Rudeen from MnDOT's central office gave a legislative session recap, MnDOT engineers went over STIP amendments and modifications, and planning staff presented the final draft of the Area Transportation Improvement Plan (ATIP) and an overview of the Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP).

St. James Energy Navigators - Sabri

Sabri has 45 household installations scheduled between March and September.

Prevention of Wasted Food MPCA Grant – Sabri

Sabri submitted a regional application for the MPCAs prevention of wasted food and food rescue grant. The goal of the application is to rescue more food and build stronger infrastructure to connect that food to rural communities across the region. So far, grant partners includes the Waseca Food Shelf, Neighborhood Pantry, Feeding Our Communities Partners (FOCP), Southcentral MN Food Recovery, MY Place, and the St. Peter Area Food Shelf.

Local Foods Month – Sabri, Nate

Sabri has continued to work on Local Foods Month. Nate accompanied Sabri on site visits to capture images for promotional materials. Sabri and Nate created flyers for all the partnerships and Nate has been promoting the event on social media channels.

MDA Specialty Crop Block Grant – Sabri

Sabri and the Living Earth Center were conditionally awarded a specialty crop block grant from the MDA. The grant will further establish the Emerging Growers program and help these growers in establishing their businesses and creating markets for their culturally relevant crops.

REGIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP) – Sam, Jessica, Sabri**

No new updates at this time.

Apple Blossom Road & Shooting Star Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plans – Mark, Joel, Sabri, Sam, Alejandra, Kristian, Sarah, Nate

In late June, Joel, Nate and Alejandra held a kickoff meeting in Adams, MN, for the Shooting Star Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. The meeting was hosted by Prairie Visions, a joint powers board that helps coordinate economic development and tourism for communities along the Byway. Mark has enjoyed reading up on local history which includes the recent recognition of the Grand Meadow Chert Quarry/Wanhi Yukan Trail which provided stone for use in tools by Native Americans up to 1,000 years ago. In more recent history, Mark has enjoyed reading the pithy accounts of the earliest Norwegian settlers.

In late July, Joel, Nate, Alejandra, and Mark attended the kickoff meeting for the Apple Blossom Scenic Byway. The southern entry to the Byway is La Crescent, and from there the Byway rises to provide stunning views of the Mississippi River valley. The Byway gets its name from the many orchards which still line its southern loop, though, as the RNDP team learned, much has changed about the apple industry since the Byway was designated in 1998. After the kickoff meeting, the team took a tour of downtown La Crescent to learn about its efforts regarding sustainability, active transportation and placemaking. The team then visited the Byway to document intrinsic qualities such as the scenic overlooks, orchards, the Mississippi River Bike Trail, and the Great River Bluffs State Park.

The next step for both corridor plans will be to develop an online map that the public can use to add their input about what things make the corridor special to them.

Empowering Small Minnesota Communities Rural EMS Project – Joel

No new updates at this time.

Comfrey SolarAPP+ - Sabri

Sabri met with the Comfrey City Council to discuss solar permitting software. If adopted and implemented, the city would receive \$15,000 from MN Department of Commerce.

Housing Forum - Alejandra

Alejandra worked with Minnesota Housing to host the regional housing forum. Hosted on June 10, the event was very successful and drew over 150 attendees from across the region. The forum brought together local governments, nonprofits, lenders, housing developers, and community leaders from across the region to share ideas, highlight resources, and identify practical solutions to address housing challenges. The after-event survey showed great feedback from participants. There is interest in creating a recurring meeting where regional stakeholders come together to discuss housing issues. The University of Minnesota Extension participated in the event and helped facilitate a round table discussion to get input from participants on housing priorities that will inform the CEDS planning process.

Empowering Small Minnesota Communities: South Bend Township – Sabri, Sam, Lisa

The application to this program has advanced to the second round, where a meeting was held with project stakeholders and university representatives to explore alignment and further round out the project's scope. A second meeting will be held in August to determine whether this project will be pursued.

Waterville Economic Development Technical Assistance – Alejandra

Alejandra has been supporting the City of Waterville after helping them apply for the Rural Capacity Program, for which they were selected and recently completed. One of the deliverables of the program was the launch of the Waterville Area Business Alliance.

Alejandra participated in the kickoff meeting and provided insights about our RNDC's work and revolving loan fund. She is currently working with the City to pursue an economic development grant that would provide funding to help the alliance get started and support local business development in the city.

Healthcare Data & Regional Healthcare Conversation - Alejandra

After meeting with the City of Madelia, Alejandra has been in conversations regarding local EDA efforts to support a local Health clinic. The EDA approached RNDC to request economic impact data. Kristian worked on developing an economic impact snapshot using RMIS II. Alejandra also worked with Greater Mankato Growth to access their Lightcast platform and obtain data on local industry spending related to healthcare.

Following these conversations, there is interest in hosting a regional discussion around healthcare needs and gaps in rural communities, as small towns continue to face challenges in maintaining access to healthcare services. Alejandra met with the City of Madelia and CEDA to discuss the possibility of hosting a regional discussion.

Next steps include identifying funding resources that could help sponsor the event and connecting with other local stakeholders to assess interest, identify gaps, and better understand regional healthcare challenges.

Childcare & Workforce Development – Alejandra

Alejandra has been in conversations with Kelly Fluharty at the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and to explore the possibility of bringing together workforce development organizations, economic developers, employers, and partners in southeastern Minnesota to connect, share insights, and explore opportunities related to childcare gaps and workforce development. Alejandra has been doing outreach to DEED, local chambers and other workforce development professionals to get input and brainstorm ideas.

GRANT COORDINATION AND ADMINISTRATION:**BRIDGE The Gap: Student-Led Energy Outreach – Sam, Lisa**

No new updates at this time.

Region Nine Community Resilience Plan – Sam, Lisa

Interviews with subject matter experts have been held and scheduled to further inform the direction of this plan and its framework moving forward. Strategic outreach and community meetings are to be held in August to identify potential pilot projects and document community case studies to include in the final planning document.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) – Sam, Sabri, Lisa

Sam and Sabri will be working with Lake Crystal to develop solar education resources for the community.

Henderson Stormwater and Wastewater Resilience Plan – Sam, Lisa

No new updates at this time.

MPCA Waseca Local Climate Action Grant – Sam, Lisa

A kickoff meeting with the project partners and follow-up planning meeting have been held to orient project development. Potential building site locations are currently being explored, and community project team recruitment efforts will begin in August.

McKnight MADO Application – Jessica, Sam

A joint application led by RNDP for collaborative funding among Minnesota RDO's was selected for funding from McKnight.

McKnight Region Nine Application – Sam, Sabri, Lisa

Not selected for funding at this time.

Blandin Foundation Application - Jessica, Sabri, Alejandra, Sam, Kristian, & Lisa

RNDP has been selected for \$200,000 in funding to support identified community projects within Region Nine.