

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051
April 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Commission Members Present:

Jill Behnke – Chisago Co. Municipalities
Dave Chmiel – Kanabec Co. Municipalities
Roger Crawford – Kanabec Co. Commissioner
Jack Edmonds – Mille Lacs Co. Commissioner
Linda Evans – Mille Lacs Co. Public Interest
Frank Grundmeier – Pine Co. Townships
Steve Hallan – Pine Co. Commissioner
Richard Hansen – Isanti Co. Townships
Edward Hill – Southern School Boards
George Larson – Isanti Co. Commissioner
Sue Larson – Isanti Co. Public Interest
Fred Lere – Pine Co. Public Interest
Ben Montzka – Chisago Co. Commissioner
Steve Odegard – Northern School Board.
Marlys Palmer – Isanti Co. Municipalities
Dave Patenaude – Kanabec Co. Townships
Mary Sam – Tribal Representative
Donald Taylor – Chisago Co. Public Interest
Janelle Troupe – Kanabec Co. Public Interest
Paul Venhuizen – Pine Co. Municipalities
Barbara Welty – Mille Lacs Co. Townships

Commission Members Absent:

Bob Cupit – Chisago Co. Township
Jeremy Riddle – Mille Lacs Co. Municipalities

Staff Present

Bob Voss – Executive Director
Bob Bollenbeck – Transportation Program
Mary Minnick-Daniels – East Central Arts Council
Trish Rydlund – Information/Office Manager
Penny Simonsen – East Central Sr. Resource Center
Jordan Zeller – Community/Economic Development
Shirl Chouinard – East Central Arts Council

1. **WELCOME:** Montzka called to order the regular meeting of the East Central Regional Development Commission at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Moved by Hansen to approve the agenda as presented. S. Larson seconded – motion carried.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Welty moved to approve the February 23, 2009 meeting minutes as presented. Taylor seconded – motion carried.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Voss reported on a number of items including:
 - a. **PERSONNEL & BUDGET MEETING:** The Personnel & Budget Committee's next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the ECRDC office. This meeting will go over the FY 2010 Work Program and budget.
 - b. **ANDERSON PERFORMANCE REVIEW:** Based on a favorable performance appraisal, S. Larson moved to approve a one step increase for Lynn Anderson from Pay Grade B Step 4, \$29,810 to Pay Grade B Step 5, \$30,807 effective May 1, 2009. Further that Voss be given the flexibility to institute a pay grade lane change for Anderson after six months in the event that additional funding is received for the Senior LinkAge® program. Hansen seconded – motion carried.
 - c. **LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PROPOSED NLX DEPOT LOCATIONS:** G. Laron moved to have the Executive Director draft a letter in support of the Cambridge, Hinckley, and Sandstone Depots and present it at the annual meeting in June. Welty seconded – motion carried.

- d. **MADD AWARD:** Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognized Bob Bollenbeck for his efforts concerning traffic safety under the Isanti County Toward Zero Deaths program. He was presented the award at the MADD awards luncheon held March 25th.
- e. **INITIATIVE FOUNDATION AWARDS EVENT:** The ECRDC sponsored a table at the annual awards event held at the St. Cloud Civic Center by the Initiative Foundation on April 17th. Pine City was named the Initiative Foundation's 2009 Outstanding Community.
- f. **REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN:** We are in the process of contacting Congressman Oberstar's office to requesting High Priority Project (HPP) funding to develop a comprehensive regional transportation plan with an estimated cost of \$200,000.
- g. **WORKFORCE CONFERENCE:** The workforce conference scheduled for Wednesday April 29, 2009 at Grand Casino Hinckley has been cancelled.

5. **TREASURERS REPORT:** Troupe presented the February and March 2009 Treasurer's report. Palmer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report to include the checks written from February 20, 2009 through April 17, 2009 and general journal registries for February 1 through March 31, 2009. Evans seconded – motion carried.

6. **EAST CENTRAL ARTS COUNCIL:** On behalf of the ECAC, Minnick-Daniels brought forth the following recommendations:

Evans moved to approve the following Fellowship Grants as recommended by the ECAC. Hallan seconded – motion carried.

Fellowship Applicant	Fellowship Project	Amount Funded
Jonathon Friesen	"Published Author Publicity Project"	\$3,000
Barb Dreyer	"Kiln and Pottery Project:	3,000
Total		\$6,000

S. Larson moved to approve the ECAC/McKnight Scholarships as recommended by the ECAC. Hallan seconded – motion carried.

ECAC/McKnight Scholarship	Project	Amount Funded
Brad Johnson, 11 ^h grader from Braham	Airbrushing mentorship with artist Erich Fritz	\$ 500
Natasha Fuller 10 th grader from Ogilvie	Series of voice lessons with Ronda Willows, music instructor	490
Joe Wolf, 9 th grader from Pine City	Attend Jazz Ensemble Camp at Shell Lake Arts Center	500
Total		\$1,490

ECAC reviewed the Biennial Plan which will be submitted to the Minnesota State Arts Board mid-May. The ECAC used the information gained from the Arts Needs Assessment as well as input from grantees and stakeholders. Evans moved to approve the Biennial Plan. S. Larson seconded – motion carried.

An ECAC Advisory Committee application was received from a Mille Lacs County Board Member. Current ECAC member Carl Long will be interviewing this applicant and a recommendation will be made at the June ECRDC meeting.

7. **EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER (ECSRC):** Simonsen provided an update on the Community Services/Service Development technical assistance that has been provided to the following applicants: Kanabec County Public Health for two applications – Bus Buddy and Palliative Care projects; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe for case management; Elmhurst Commons in Braham for Senior housing with services; Mora HRA for senior housing with services; Grace Pointe Crossing in

Cambridge for adult day center and related services; Isanti County Commission on Aging Cart to Cupboard rural delivery service; Parmly LifePoints Wellness Center; ECSRC and Alzheimers Association caregiver services in Pine County. Two other applications where technical assistance was given did not submit to CMCOA for review. In total CMCOA reviewed 17 applications from their fourteen county area – 9 of which came from ECSRC work.

8. **TRANSPORTATION:** Bollenbeck reported that based on the action of the ECRDC and Transportation Advisory Committee the Region 7E federal funding priorities were brought forward. We recently received notice that the \$100 K approved for Kanabec County road project CSAH 12 was not eligible. After conferring with the Transportation Advisory Committee, it was agreed by consensus that this funding should remain in Kanabec County. Therefore, the recommendation was to place the \$100,000 on the Kanabec CSAH 1 project which was identified in the STIP for FY2011. Welty moved to approve the TAC recommendation as presented. S. Larson seconded – motion carried.

Bollenbeck then reported that there is extra funding available and the TAC recommends splitting this funding between the Isanti County CSAH 9 and Kanabec Co. CSAH 12 projects. Kanabec County CSAH12 will receive \$47,155 with the remaining \$104,845 to go to Isanti County CSAH 9. Hansen moved to approve the recommendation as presented. G. Larson seconded – motion carried.

G. Larson moved to authorize the execution of the 2010 Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) grant application. Hallan seconded – motion carried.

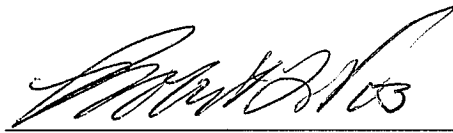
9. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Zeller reported that we have submitted applications to the Economic Development Administration for the Mora/Cambridge Industrial Park Marketing Project, North Branch ESSBY Business Park Water Infrastructure Project, Isle Industrial Park Project, Isle Business Incubator Building; and a Technology Incubator/Entrepreneurship Center at Pine Technical College in Pine City.

In addition, we are working on applications for a wastewater pretreatment facility for the Princeton Industrial Park, a business incubator for the Cambridge Opportunity Industrial Park, a railroad spur to allow for rail access for the Isanti Industrial Park and infrastructure for a new medical facilities park in Sandstone.

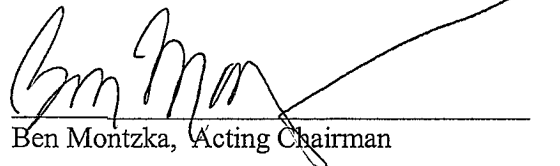
The Revolving Loan Fund approved a new loan to Scandia Senior Center of Mora in late February. We closed the loan on March 24, 2009. They will be holding an open house on Wednesday, April 29th.

At the April 2, 2009 Revolving Loan Fund meeting they approved a resolution to amend the “RLF Plan” to include Chisago County as an eligible county to participate in the RLF. We anticipate hearing a favorable response from EDA in one to two months.

10. **OTHER:** There was discussion regarding different ways several governmental agencies have save money recently.
11. **ADJOURNMENT:** The annual meeting will be held on June 22, 2009 in Chisago County. Details on location, times, guest speakers, etc. will be announced in the next few weeks. Palmer moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the ECRDC. Odegard seconded – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Ben Montzka, Acting Chairman