



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
100 Park Street South
Mora, MN 55051
February 25, 2008
7:00 P.M.

- 1) **ATTENDANCE:** Present were Commissioners Dave Chmeil, Bob Cupit, Jack Edmonds, Linda Evans, Frank Grundmeier, Steve Hallan, Richard Hansen, Edward Hill, Sue Larson, Fred Lere, Ben Montzka, Jerry Nelson, Steve Odegard, Marlys Palmer, Dave Patenaude, Rick Smisson, Donald Taylor, and Paul Venhuizen. Absent were Commissioners George Larson, Jeremy Riddle, Janelle Troupe, and Barbara Welty. Staff present: Bob Voss, Andrew Daniels, Jordan Zeller, Mary Minnick-Daniels, Bob Bollenbeck and Trish Rydlund.
- 2) **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:** Vice-Chairman Ben Montzka opened the meeting, welcomed Commission members and had them introduce themselves. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited. Montzka also welcomed new Public Interest Representatives Fred Lere, Pine Co., and Sue Larson, Isanti Co.
- 3) **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Linda Evans moved to approve the agenda. Steve Hallan seconded – motion carried. The meeting was then turned over to Chairman Rick Smisson.
- 4) **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Richard Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007, meeting with the following corrections: Paul Venhuizen was listed twice under attendance and a moment of silence was held in remembrance of Melvin Larson. Ben Montzka seconded – motion carried.
- 5) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Bob Voss reported on a number of items including:
 - a. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Starting March 3, all of the USDA programs in East Central Minnesota will be delivered from the office located in Cambridge. The offices in Waite Park and Buffalo will be closing as of February 29th. This office covers Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec and Mille Lacs Counties. The phone number is (763) 689-3354. Pine County is served out of the Duluth office.
 - b. NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ECRDC BOARD: On Thursday, February 28, 2008 staff will be meeting with Rick Pardon of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe to discuss their representation on the ECRDC board and the ECRDC programs.
 - c. 2008 ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting will be held June 23, 2008 at the Northwest Company Fur Post in Pine City. The meeting will start at 5:30 p.m. to be followed by a banquet and speaker.
 - d. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT: Voss and Bollenbeck have been working with a MRDO committee that is seeking to increase the MnDOT planning grant from \$50,000 to \$75,000. A conference call is scheduled for February 28 to discuss next steps.
 - e. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION: Economic Development Administration (EDA) has hired John O'leary to replace retiring Jack Arnold as the Economic Development Representative for Minnesota. O'leary will have an office in Minneapolis and can be reached at (612) 986-7986. We will be meeting with him soon to discuss the status of potential EDA-funded projects in Region 7E.
 - f. CHISAGO COUNTY PERSONNEL AND BUDGET (P&B) REPRESENTATIVE: Bob Cupit moved to approve Donald Taylor to the P&B Committee. Ben Montzka seconded – motion carried.
 - g. BUSINESS AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2008: Northern Technology Initiative (NTI), Workforce Partnership and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe will be hosting the conference on April 29th and 30th. Voss and Zeller will be presenting during one of the breakout sessions. There will be an art show and reception to honor East Central Arts Council grant funded artists on April 29th.
 - h. CENTRAL MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON AGING (CMCOA) REPRESENTATIVES: CMCOA alternate representative appointments are as follows:

Steve Odegard moved to appoint Fred Lere as Pine County alternate to the CMCOA Board and to table Kanabec County’s alternate until the April ECRDC meeting. Steve Hallan seconded – motion carried.

- 6) **TREASURERS REPORT:** Jerry Nelson presented the December 2007 and January 2008 Treasurer’s report. Jerry Nelson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report to include the checks written from December 21 2007 through February 8, 2008. Richard Hansen seconded – motion carried.

Jerry Nelson then requested that interested commissioners fill out the direct deposit form and turn it in as soon as possible. Self-addressed stamped envelopes were also handed out for those needing to mail it in.

7) **PERSONELL AND BUDGET (P&B) COMMITTEE:**

- a. DANIELS PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Based on a favorable performance appraisal, Jerry Nelson moved to approve a one step increase for Andrew Daniels from Pay Grade C Step 4 to Pay Grade C Step 5 effective April 1, 2008. Marlys Palmer seconded – motion carried.

- 8) **EAST CENTRAL ARTS COUNCIL (ECAC):** Mary Minnick-Daniels, on behalf of the ECAC, brought before the Commission the Art Organization Project Grants. Linda Evans moved to approve the following grants. Donald Taylor seconded – motion carried.

Project/Name of Organization	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Funding Allocation
Fiddle Contest, Mille Lacs Co. Fair, Princeton	\$ 3,450	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Dudley Sculpture – Ki-Chi-Saga Moberg Park, City of Chisago, Chisago City	10,000	5,000	5,000
Clay Project at Creative Center, Depot Studios, Isle	13,180	5,000	5,000
Music & Art Festival, Rush City Foundation, Rush City	18,200	5,000	5,000
Photographic Art Exposition in Pine City, Northern Exposures Photo Club, Brook Park	12,590	4,690	4,690
Chorale Coffee Concert Project, East Central MN Choral Cambridge	7,184	1,726	1,726
Totals	\$64,604	\$22,916	\$22,916

The Arts Council advertised an opening for a representative from Pine County. The ECAC received one application and are recommending Bruce Mosher of Pine City for this position. Steve Hallan moved to approve Bruce Mosher to the ECAC. Linda Evans seconded – motion carried.

Other grants approved by the ECAC consisted of Small Grants - \$500 for the East Central Minnesota Chorale Major Works Concert and \$500 to the Cambridge Friends of the Library for the One Book Cambridge Community-wide Reading Program; and Art in Our School Program - \$895 for the Ogilvie High School for an artist in residency project with ceramicist Paul Morris.

- 9) **EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER (ECSRC):** Bob Voss reported that a total of eight Community Services/Services Development (CSSD) applications were submitted to the Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA) for possible funding by the MN Board on Aging with the assistance of Penny Simonsen. Our PD&C contract with CMCOA calls for just four applications so the amount was exceeded by double. The applicants consisted of Isanti County Commission on Aging; Parmly LifePointes; Family Pathways, Alzheimers Association and ECSRC; Depot Studios, Inc.; Mora HRA; Senior Neighborhoods, Inc.; City of Hinckley; and Chisago-Isanti Heartland Express.

The 2008 Calendar for the ECSRC was handed out. Classes on New to Medicare, Caregiver Gatherings, and Senior Surf were detailed with dates, times, and locations. If you would like to have more, please contact Penny Simonsen.

- 10) **TRANSPORTATION:** Bob Bollenbeck showed a video that was aired on KSTP regarding the Safe Cab program. Bollenbeck then reported that the Minnesota Legislature voted today to override Governor Pawlenty's veto of a \$6.6 billion transportation bill – an action that will result in a gas tax increase intended to fund a number of road, bridge, and transit projects. Bollenbeck then brought forth the following for consideration:

- a. REGION 7E TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES: The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended the following list of Region 7E – FY2012 Regional Priorities to be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation at their meeting on February 4, 2008. Jerry Nelson moved to approve the priorities as recommended. Linda Evans seconded – motion carried.

Recommendations for Federal Project Submittals

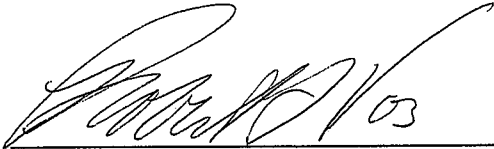
County/Agency	Facility/Route	Work Description	Fed \$	Local \$	Total \$	Recommend \$	
1	Chisago Co.*	Transit	Vehicle replacement	54,400	13,600	68,000	54,400
2	Isanti Co.	Transit	Vehicle replacement	54,400	13,600	68,000	54,400
3	Mille Lacs Co.	transit	Vehicle replacement	54,400	13,600	68,000	54,400
4	Isanti Co.	CSAH 9	Reconstruction	1,512,000	378,000	1,890,000	451,200
5	City of Isanti	TH 65 Bridge	Pedestrian bridge	264,000	1,931,000	2,195,000	0
6	Kanabec Co.	CSAH 5	Grading, base, bituminous	1,110,000	275,000	1,375,000	0
7	Kanabec Co.	CSAH 11	Grading, base, bituminous	660,000	165,000	825,000	0
8	Kanabec Co.	CSAH 12	Mill, overlay, shoulders	238,000	361,784	750,000	200,000
9	Cambridge	Alabama St.	Reconstruction	1,746,600	428,400	2,175,000	0
10	Mora	Trail Pjt	Expansion of trail system	334,627	83,656	418,283	300,000
			Total	\$6,028,427	\$3,663,640	\$9,832,283	\$1,114,400
					District 3	\$1,060,000	
					*Metro Dist	\$54,400	

- b. PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE – CITY OF ISANTI: Ben Montzka moved to approve a letter be sent to Congressman Oberstar in support of the Isanti pedestrian bridge. Sue Larson seconded – motion carried.
- c. TAC REPRESENTATIVE – CITY OF CAMBRIDGE: Sue Larson moved to accept the City of Cambridge’s recommendation and appoint Dave Carlberg to serve as their representative (as a State Aid City) to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Edward Hill seconded – motion carried.
- d. TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE RESOLUTION: Linda Evans moved to approve sending a letter to the Transportation Alliance (instead of a resolution) generally in support of more funding for rural transportation. Frank Grundmeier seconded – motion carried.
- 11) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Jordan Zeller gave a report overview. Items discussed:
- a. LEGISLATIVE FORUM: A legislative forum was held on Thursday, January 17th at the Kanabec County Courthouse. Five of the eight state legislators from the region attended as well as representatives from cities, counties, townships, local EDAs, post secondary education, workforce, private industry, chambers of


commerce, MN Dept. of Employment & Economic Development (DEED), and our CEDS Governance Board, CEDS Advisory Board and the ECRDC. Much discussion centered around the Governor's various SEED Initiatives particularly the future of the JOBZ program.

- b. REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF): The RLF made a loan commitment to Ever Cat Fuels, LLC. Ever Cat plans to construct a 3 million gallon bio fuel production facility in Isanti. A loan commitment was also made to Specialty Steel Products, LLC. Specialty Steel Products, Isanti, will produce steel track and studs.
- c. CHISAGO COUNTY RLF BOARD VACANCY: Chisago County currently has a vacancy on the RLF Board. If you know anyone that would be interested please notify Jordan Zeller.
- d. OTHER ITEMS: Northern Technology Initiative will be submitting a grant to USDA for \$50,000; submitted a bid/letter of interest to assist the City of Onamia with their Comprehensive Plan; and participated in the Chisago County Economic Summit in North Branch on February 23.

- 12) **ADJOURNMENT**: Chairman Smisson announced that the next meeting will be held April 28, 2008, at the ECRDC offices. Linda Evans moved to adjourn the meeting. Frank Grundmeier second – motion carried.



Robert L. Voss, Executive Director



Rick Smisson, Chairperson