

KANDIYOHI COUNTY AND CITY OF WILLMAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS (OB) MEETING
MINUTES
June 14, 2018
Midtown Plaza, Willmar

Present: Rollie Boll, Donna Boonstra, Les Heitke and Kelly TerWisscha

Excused: Art Benson, Robert Carlson, Kerry Johnson and Bruce Peterson

Ex Officio: Roger Imdieke

Staff: Aaron Backman, Executive Director; Connie Schmoll, Business Development Specialist and Thor Figenskau, Summer Intern

Secretarial: Nancy Birkeland, Legal & Administrative Assistants, Inc. (LAA)

President Donna Boonstra called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30 a.m. and declared a quorum was present.

AGENDA—Added to the Consent Agenda under Approve, was item 3e, Payment of bill from MinnWest Technology Foundation for \$1,500 as budgeted for sponsorship of the 2018 Ag & Animal Science Conference.

IT WAS MOVED BY Rollie Boll, SECONDED BY Kelly Terwisscha, to approve the Agenda and revised Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA—

- Approve:
1. Minutes of May 10, 2018 meeting
 2. Financial reports as of May 31, 2018
 3. Payment of bills:
 - a. \$1,028.86 to James M. Ruff, Inc.
 - b. \$1,000 to Mike Henke Inc. For the Ag Committee's Talent & Technology Workshop speaker fee
 - c. \$2,052.75 to REDstar Creative
 - d. \$1,200 to Ehlers to be repaid by The Commonwealth Companies
 - e. \$1,500 to MinnWest Technology Foundation as budgeted for sponsorship of the 2018 Ag & Animal Science Conference
 4. Adding committee members:
 - a. Daniel Tempel to the Business, Retention and Expansion/Recruitment (BRE) Committee
 - b. Kim Augeson to the Marketing and Public Relations Committee

- Accept: Committee/Subcommittee Minutes
1. Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development 4/19/2018
 - a. Ag Marketing Subcommittee 4/20/2018
 2. Broadband and Advanced Technology 5/7/2018
 3. Business Retention and Expansion/Recruitment 5/4/2018
 4. Marketing and Public Relations 4/23/2018

MOTION CARRIED.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Willmar/Willmar Industrial Park. Aaron Backman reported a business is looking at approximately 18 acres in the Willmar Industrial Park for a 100,000 sq. ft. building. Connie Schmoll reported two proposals submitted two years ago are still viable and they are looking at three locations; a dairy processing facility is being sought for Minnesota and two companies have requested site information on the Willmar Industrial Park. Dooley's Petroleum is looking at adding a fuel facility south of its corporate office. Work is progressing with the Master Agreement for the Willmar Wye project. Infrastructure being done will generate interest in the area.

Highway 23 Coalition. Backman reported area residents and Highway 23 Coalition members emailed and called legislators following the announcement of the Corridors of Commerce funding. It was fortuitous that Kelly Morrell spoke in favor of including funds in the bonding bill to finish the two gaps when he hosted the Governor and other senior officials during the Governor's Fishing Opener. Funding of \$105 million was included in the bonding bill to complete the two gaps. Twelve members of the Coalition traveled to Washington, D.C. and met individually with Minnesota's and South Dakota's congressional delegation plus representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and two lobbyist firms. President Boonstra stated everyone they met with was in favor of what the Coalition was trying to accomplish and wanted to help the Coalition. The Coalition was told to come back to Washington, D.C. to continue spreading the message and making connections. FHWA recommended the Coalition obtain more members along Highway 23 from Duluth to Sioux Falls before asking for designation as a critical freight corridor. The Coalition was informed it needs to be visible and assertive. Backman thanked this board for allowing he and President Boonstra to travel to Washington, D.C. The Coalition held a celebration at Steve Rambow's home where 49 members attended. Les Heitke noted the City of Willmar had great success when it hired David Turch & Associates. President Boonstra stated Kodiak Hill-Davis of David Turch & Associates will be attending the next Coalition board meeting.

Summer Intern. Backman introduced Thor Figenskau, who was hired as an intern for the EDC during the summer.

IT WAS MOVED BY Les Heitke, SECONDED BY Rollie Boll, to hire Thor Figenskau as a summer intern beginning June 4 through late August 2018. MOTION CARRIED.

2018 Goals.

Childcare. Schmoll reported UCAP (United Community Action Partnership) received the grant from First Children's Finance. The business seeking to open a Somali daycare in Willmar continues to look for another location.

Diverse Business Initiative. NDC (Neighborhood Development Center) will hold a training on June 26th, which Schmoll will attend. John Soderholm is interested in being a SCORE counselor and is considering attending the training. Backman has been interacting with the Willmar Area Multicultural Business Center (WAM-BC) about its status. Its board met on June 9th and voted to dissolve and approved having the EDC take over its loan program and outstanding loans; to request the EDC assist with the dissolution process; creation of an advisory committee to assist the EDC with loan recipients from its fund; and transfer all assets, including any operating funds remaining after payment of bills to the EDC. The Finance Committee recommends the EDC accept WAM-BC's microenterprise loan program and assist with dissolution. Backman contacted attorney Mike Burgett, who estimated the dissolution would cost between \$1,000-\$2,000. The Finance Committee formed a subcommittee to review the outstanding loans. Further discussion and decision will be held at the July board meeting.

Opportunity Zones. Schmoll participated in a webinar that was directed toward investors. Forty states submitted areas and others will still.

Transportation Infrastructure. Roger Imdieke reported the county believes it will receive the signed Master Agreement soon. Some modest preliminary work may begin this fall. Backman stated he will be asking each of the Highway 23 Coalition county members about projects they would like to see done with state and federal funds along the Highway 23 corridor.

Ag Talent & Technology Workshop. Schmoll distributed the flyer for the workshop (see attached). Sponsor income received totals \$6,000 and expenses are anticipated to be approximately \$5,000. Schmoll and Figenskau visited the Little Crow Golf Resort this week to make sure everything will be ready for the workshop. Schmoll stated the sponsors were all pleased with the speakers, the topics and the time frame.

Business Visits and Meetings. Backman and Schmoll highlighted visits from their reports (see attached). Little Crow Golf Resort's restaurant is planned to open next week. The West Central Job Fair will be at the Willmar Conference Center this fall and in March 2019, it will move to Ridgewater College. Backman participated in the Street Feast hosted by the Community Integration Center and attended by approximately 150. Schmoll highlighted a conversation she had with John Soderholm about being a SCORE counselor. Backman spoke with the owner of Beauty Box, who also has a business in Alexandria, on the differences between customers in Alexandria and Willmar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Broadband and Advanced Technology. Schmoll reported she continues to discuss a project with Hiawatha Broadband Communications for next year. The committee did not meet this month.

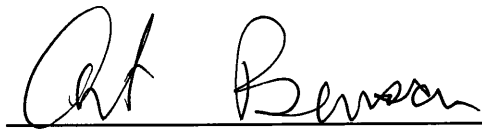
BRE. Backman reported the BRE Committee met last month at the Willmar Airport. Cathy Baumgartner is retiring from Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc. and the committee met her replacement. CLUES hired Jennifer Mendoza as its new navigator and is looking for office space in Willmar. Schmoll reported the Willmar WorkForce Center is holding a six-part training for the hospitality industry, which has been well received in the area.

Marketing and Public Relations. Backman reported the committee reviews social media statistics each month and has worked on marketing materials for the Highway 23 Coalition and the Ag Technology & Talent Workshop.

Leisure Travel. Backman reported the committee met at the Sperry House this month and discussed hosting the Governor's Fishing Opener, which received a lot of positive media attention.

NEXT MEETING—The next board meeting is **11:00 a.m., Thursday, July 12, 2018.**

ADJOURNMENT—There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:58 p.m.



Art Benson, Secretary

APPROVED: 7/12/2018:



Donna Boonstra, President

a two-part workshop
brought to you by:



Ag & Renewable Energy
Development Committee

TALENT & TECHNOLOGY

FOR THE PROGRESSIVE FARM MANAGER

AUGUST 13

7:30 - 11:30AM

**LITTLE CROW
RESORT**

15980 Hwy 23 NE
Spicer MN 56288

\$30

Includes breakfast
& refreshments

**7:30 - 9:30AM | MIKE HENKE, MIKE HENKE INC.
& KRISTIE HAEFNER, CHRISTIANSON PLLP**

Attracting, retaining and managing your ag labor workforce. Plus, the latest changes to the employment regulatory environment.

9:45 - 10:30AM | LYLE MANGEN, CNH INDUSTRIAL

An introduction to the hardware associated with precision farming and best practices for your data storage and privacy.

10:45 - 11:30AM | MIKE MASTHEY, RIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Utilizing production and financial data to make better investment decisions on technology for your operation. Learn more about the use of UAS (drone) systems as a management tool.

REGISTER

advanced registration required

kandiedc.eventbrite.com
or call 320.235.7370



GOLF SPECIAL FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP

18 holes + cart	\$42
9 holes + cart	\$22

(call Isaac Nelson at 320.354.2296 to schedule a tee time)

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS:

KANDIYOHI COUNTY
Corn & Soybean Growers



>TALENT | 7:30 - 9:30AM



MIKE HENKE, OWNER OF MIKE HENKE INC.

Mike's passion for building strong teams led to the creation of Mike Henke, Inc. He works with organizations throughout the country in the areas of Leadership Training and Recruiting & Retention of Employees. Mike has created over 50 unique training programs, previously managed an employment agency in Nebraska that partnered with many organizations in the ag industry, and he works with many of those organizations today!



KRISTIE HAEFNER, FIRM ADMINISTRATOR & LEAD HR CONSULTANT, CHRISTIANSON PLLP

Kristie is a results driven leader with 10 years of experience in human resources. She's motivated to continuously refine her skills to strengthen leadership and business acumen. Kristie serves as an advocate for employees while focusing on the overall mission and goals of the organization. Some of her specialties include: attracting and retaining talent, staff development, performance management, employee relations, and HR analytics. Her goal is to help business owners achieve their goals by assisting them with HR related tasks, so that they can focus on their passion.

>TECHNOLOGY | 9:45 - 11:30AM



LYLE MANGEN, GLOBAL PRODUCT SPECIALIST, CNH

Lyle is a 28-year employee of CNH Industrial and its equipment brands. He is currently working in a commercial role which includes defining self-propelled sprayer and dry fertilizer applicator product lines around the globe. He graduated from SDSU with a degree in Ag & Bio Systems Engineering, followed by an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, WI. He currently serves as a member of the SDSU Ag & Bio Systems Advisory Board, and has served in various committee, standards development and section officer roles for the American Society of Ag & Bio Systems Engineers.



MIKE MASTEY, FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTOR, RIDGEWATER COLLEGE

Mike grew up on a Central MN crop and livestock farm. After teaching high school agriculture for 7 years, Mike transitioned to farm business management education at Ridgewater in 2000. Since then, he has been helping farm families in Central MN with farm business management education, financial & transition planning, and farm business analysis with livestock, conventional and specialty crop operations. The past three years, Mike has been using UAS (drone) technology with farmers to use imagery data in helping make management decisions on the farm.



HIGHWAY 23 COALITION WASHINGTON, D.C. FLY-IN

ITINERARY

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

- 7:00 a.m. CST** Leave MSP Airport
- 10:30 a.m. ET** Arrive in Washington, D.C.
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch at Masala Art Restaurant
- 2:00 p.m.** Check-in at Hyatt Place
- 3:00-4:00 p.m.** Meeting with Jay Hansen, National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) and Whitmer & Worrall at Capitol Hill Club
- 4:30 p.m.** Small group discussion with Kodiak Hill-Davis of David Turch & Associates at Tortilla Coast, 400 First Street SE in D.C.
- 7:00 p.m.** Dinner guests of Jon Chiglo, VP Transportation, WSB & Associates, Inc. at Bobby Van's Steakhouse in D.C.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

- 7:30 a.m.** Breakfast at Hyatt Place
- 9:00 a.m.** Small group meets with U.S. Senator John Thune (R-SD), U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD), and U.S. Rep. Kristy Noem (R-SD) at 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
- 11:15 a.m.** Full group meets with U.S. Senator Tina Smith, (D-MN), 309 Hart Senate Office Building
- 12:00 Noon** Meeting with U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN), 315 Cannon House Office Building
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch with U.S. Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), U.S. Capitol, Members' Dining Room, H-117-120
- 2:15 p.m.** Capitol Dome Tour
- 3:45 p.m.** Meeting with U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), 302 Hart Senate Office Building (hallway meeting)
- 6:30 p.m.** Dinner with David Turch and staff of David Turch and Associates, Monocle Restaurant in D.C.

Thursday, May 24, 2018

- 7:30 a.m.** Breakfast at Hyatt Place
- 10:00-10:45 a.m.**
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Conference Room Q-W82-302 (OST)
Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
• R. Howard Hill, Policy Analyst, Office of the Under Secretary
- 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m.**
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, East Building
Office of Freight Management and Operations
• Caitlin Hughes, Director
• Crystal Jones, Team Leader
- 12:00 p.m.** Checkout of hotel
- 1:00 p.m.** Depart hotel
- 3:00 p.m.** Flight departs Reagan National Airport
- 5:20 p.m.** Flight arrives at MSP Airport



HIGHLIGHTS

Twelve members of the Highway 23 Coalition traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 22-24, 2018 to lobby for additional funds for the Highway 23 Corridor and to have Highway 23 added to the National Highway Freight Network. The 12 members who attended were: Steve Ahmann, Steve Ammermann, Aaron Backman, Jeff Bertram, Donna Boonstra, Marv Calvin, John Chiglo, Jason Duininck, Audrey Nelsen, Rollie Nissen, Mel Odens and Steve Rambow.

A) WHO WE MET—COALITION MET ALL MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

The attendees were able to meet face-to-face with **7 members of Congress**, including Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senator Tina Smith, Senator John Thune, Senator Mike Rounds, Rep. Collin Peterson, Rep. Tom Emmer, Rep. Kristy Noem, as well as their legislative staff. We were told that the other transportation coalitions visiting D.C. that week were not as successful meeting the congressional delegations. Coalition members had several agency meetings in D.C. We met with R. Howard Hill, Under Secretary Policy Analyst for the Office of Infrastructure Finance & Innovation, U.S. Department of Transportation; and with Caitlin Hughes, Director of the Office of Freight Management & Operations and Crystal Jones, Team Leader, in the same office. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet with two lobbying groups that specialize in transportation issues, David Turch & Associates and Whitmer & Worrall.

B) WHAT WE DISCUSSED—COALITION, STATE FUNDING AND THE ASK

Coalition members updated the U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives on the Coalition's development, our efforts to obtain Corridors of Commerce funding for Highway 23 improvements, the status of the bonding bill that funds Highway 23 four-lane gaps, an update on the Willmar Wye Project and the ask for Highway 23 to be added to the National Highway Freight Network.

C) OUTCOMES—EXPAND THE COALITION AND SEEK FREIGHT CORRIDOR DESIGNATION

A number of the people we met in Washington, D.C. indicated that it is important for the Highway 23 Coalition to be visible in St. Paul and Washington, D.C. and that we need to be assertive in pursuing federal freight corridor designation and funding. A number of the participants highly recommended reaching out to other communities along the corridor, including the cities of Duluth and Sioux Falls to become members of the Coalition (or associate members). After seeing the progress the Coalition has made in the bonding bill, Benton County may be interested in joining the Coalition. The Minnesota Congressional delegation indicated they were willing to write letters of support seeking the rural component of the Critical Freight Corridor to obtain the Freight Corridor Designation. We were encouraged to apply for BUILD, INFRA and other federal funding sources that would apply to corridors such as MN Highway 23. The overall goal would be to access resources from the National Highway Freight Fund.

**Joint Operations Board Meeting
Aaron Backman Report
June 14, 2018**

Highway 23 Coalition

May was definitely a month of lows and highs for the Highway 23 Coalition. As you know, on May 1st the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation announced project awards for Corridors of Commerce. Notwithstanding MnDOT classifications, clearly all four were in the Twin Cities, and they used up all \$400 million of the Corridors of Commerce money that was available. The Coalition was disappointed that Highway 23 projects were not funded. We viewed our projects as being strong contenders. In fact, they were ranked high for non-Twin Cities projects. If you consider projects outside of the Twin Cities, Highways 14 and 23 were the next highest projects. The Coalition continued to fight for completion of the two gaps. On May 20th, after lots of phone calls and e-mails; and the Kelly Morrell talk on the boat at the Governor's Fishing Opener, \$105 million was approved for finishing both gaps on Hwy 23 between Willmar and I-94. We also had a successful trip to Washington DC to meet our congressional delegation from May 22nd to May 24th.



Hwy 23 Coalition Celebration on June 6th

Members and backers of the Highway 23 Coalition celebrating on Green Lake the signing of the 2018 Bonding that included \$105 million for completing both four-lane gaps between Willmar and I-94.

WAM-BC Loan Portfolio

There have been a number of meetings during the past several months regarding the Willmar Area Multicultural Business Center (WAM-BC), its future and status of its microenterprise loan program. WAM-BC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that has been active since 2009, has been subleasing space from the EDC since February of 2017. The WAM-BC Board of Directors met on June 9th at the EDC Boardroom and approved the following:

- 1) Requesting the EDC to assume the WAM-BC Microenterprise Loan Fund, accepting the good and bad loans (there are 5 loans that are in good standing and 2 loans that are not performing). Their first choice was the EDC, their second choice was the Southwest Initiative Foundation.
- 2) Approving a motion to dissolve WAM-BC, and requesting that the EDC assist in the dissolution process. The process, which includes filing notice of intent with the MN Secretary of State, filing with the MN Attorney General's office, and filing the articles of dissolution, will take several months to complete.
- 3) Supporting the creation of an Advisory Committee that could help the EDC with current and new loan recipients from this fund. Several of the current WAM-BC Board members are willing to serve on a future Loan Advisory Committee.
- 4) The transfer of assets to the EDC would include: a loan fund balance of \$46,874.70 (cash), approximately \$26,295 in current loans, and approximately \$24,055 in non-current loans. WAM-BC also has approximately \$4,000 in generating operating funds that would be used to pay current bills and to file the 990 tax return for 2018.

The EDC's Finance Committee at its June 12th meeting discussed at length the WAM-BC Board request. The Committee members unanimously recommended to the EDC Boards that the EDC accept the assets; assume administration of the WAM-BC Microenterprise Revolving Loan Fund and all loans; that the EDC assist in the process and expenses of dissolution of WAM-BC (with the exception of the 990 tax return); and three members of the Committee volunteered to review the loan files with EDC staff and WAM-BC representatives prior to formal action by the EDC Boards. Mike Burgett, the EDC's attorney, estimates the cost to the EDC, for assisting WAM-BC dissolution to be \$1,000 to \$2,000.



Glacial Ridge Hospitality (Little Crow Golf Resort)

The parking lot is paved at Little Crow Resort!! Construction is done on the Little Crow Event Center, Pro-shop, and Restaurant! They have already held some events at that location. Construction continues on the GrandStay hotel and is expected to be completed by the third week of July. Reservations for events are picking up nicely. (The aerial photo above is from 6/6/18.)

Business Meetings (May 11th – June 14th)

1. Weekly Willmar Development Meeting w/Bruce Peterson
2. Hwy 23/EDC Booth at Rockin' Robbins Fishin Edition in Willmar on May 11th
3. Governor's Fishing Opener – Shore Lunch in Spicer on May 12th
4. Participated in Neighborhood Development Center Video Conference at Ridgewater College
5. Mtg. w/Jayme at REDstar Creative re marketing materials for Hwy 23 Coalition trip to Washington, D.C.

6. Attended Vision 2040 Housing Subcommittee meeting at HHS Building on May 14th
7. Participated in Hwy 23 Coalition pre-trip meeting w/attendees at McKale's Restaurant in New London on May 17th
8. Participated in Open Mic on KWLM
9. Participated in WAM-BC and SWIF meeting re Loan Portfolio transfer on May 17th
10. Mtgs. w/Mel Odens, Kandiyohi County, re Bonding Bill, Hwy 23 funding, DC trip planning
11. Attended Chamber Connection at Kandiyohi Food Shelf on May 18th
12. Hwy 23 Coalition Trip to Washington, D.C.—Meetings w/Congressional Delegation (May 22nd through May 24th)
13. Mtg. w/Mel Odens and Jason Duininck re Post-DC Trip Report
14. Participated in Hwy 23 Coalition Legislative Committee Mtg. at Johnny O'Neil's on May 30th
15. EDC Meeting Summer Intern prospect Thor Figenskau at EDC Boardroom
16. Attended Chamber Connection at Westberg Eischens in Willmar
17. Attended Chamber's Public Policy Committee Mtg at The Oaks on June 1st
18. Presented at City Council Mtg. during discussion of Resolution of Support for SWMHP Housing Project (Lakeland Apartment) on June 4th
19. Participated in West Central MN Job Fair Meeting on June 5th
20. Presented to Rotarians re Hwy 23 funding and EDC activities
21. Attended Hwy 23 Coalition Celebration event at Steve Rambow's House on Green Lake on June 6th
22. Participated in WAM-BC and SWIF meeting re Loan Portfolio & Dissolution on June 8th
23. Attended CIC-sponsored event, StreetFeast, in Downtown Willmar
24. Attended CVB Leisure Travel Committee meeting at Sperry House
25. Mtg w/Jennifer Mendoza and Nancy Birkeland to begin reviewing WAM-BC Loan files
26. Attended Kandiyohi County Planning Commission Mtg.
27. Attended V2040 Steering Committee Meeting at Willmar Foundation

Business Visits

1. Disc. w/Joan Macik, Kandi Works DAC Exec. Director; Tour of Kandiyohi Candle Company
2. Discussion w/Doug Gasek, Exec. Director of Preservation Alliance re Historic 313
3. Visit to Ain-U-Shams at Midtown Plaza
4. Meeting w/ Bob Bonawitz and Warren Carlson, Excel Business Advisors, and Ken Warner at Willmar Chamber of Commerce
5. Meeting w/Andy Weiner and other reps from RockStep Capital re Kandi Mall



June 11, 2018

Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar
Economic Development Commission
222 20th St SE, Willmar, MN 56201

Dear Aaron Backman,

On behalf of Willmar Area Multicultural Business Center (WAM-BC), I am writing to inform you that the board of WAM-BC is seeking to dissolve the nonprofit in the near future. One of its assets is a revolving Microenterprise Loan Fund for diverse business entrepreneurs. We would like to invite the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Commission (EDC) to be the future administrator of the Fund.

The low-interest Microenterprise Loan Fund currently has seven loans with an approximate cash value of \$46,875 and a current loan portfolio value of approximately \$26,295. With your acceptance to be the new administrator, we would like to work directly with the EDC and its attorney to dissolve WAM-BC and transfer the Loan Fund and any remaining general operating balance.

Over the years, we have appreciated working directly with the EDC and most recently, renting office space from you. This close proximity has enabled our staff and board to partner with the EDC to serve diverse entrepreneurs in Kandiyohi County. We see your organization as having the best capacity to continue the WAM-BC legacy and encouraging diverse business startups and expansion to create jobs, drive innovation, and a catalyst for future economic growth and prosperity among minority and diverse ethnic populations. We welcome the opportunity to become advisory committee members of the Microenterprise Loan Fund.

In closing, please contact me with questions and to receive additional information as needed. We look forward to hearing the EDC's interest. Thank you for your consideration to become the new Loan Fund administrator.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mendoza, WAM-BC Board Chair



**Operations Board Meeting
Connie Schmoll Report
June 14, 2018**

Broadband

The governor's veto of the 2018 Supplemental Bill put an end to planning for a Border-to-Border grant application opportunity this year. The committee will continue to plan for a project in the county with Hiawatha Broadband Company as a provider.

West Central Angel Fund I

The EDC has informed the leaders of the West Central Angel Fund about Opportunity Zones and will keep them updated as new information is released. Their marketing flyer is now available for distribution. The EDC assisted in the costs of creating the marketing piece.

Agriculture Renewable Energy Development Committee

Marketing materials are complete for the August 13, 2018 Talent and Technology Workshop for Ag Producers. The morning workshop will begin at 7:30 a.m. and will include four speakers on the subjects of securing and retaining workforce for ag producers, regulations regarding employees, technology in crop farming today and use of data collected with precision agriculture equipment. The event will be held at the Little Crow Resort by New London.

The Committee Members met the goal of securing \$6000 in sponsorships to cover costs. The sponsors are as follows:

Kandiyohi County Corn and Soybean Growers	\$ 1,000
MinnWest Technology Campus	\$ 1,000
Central Counties Cooperative	\$ 1,000
Ag Country FCS	\$ 1,000
Christianson CPAs and Accountants	\$ 500
Heritage Bank	\$ 500
Haug Implement	\$ 500
Kandiyohi Power Cooperative	\$ 500

Child Care

United Community Action Partnership (UCAP) staff, Debi Brandt and Jonathon Marchand, have been informed that they will receive the Rural Child Care Innovation Program Grant they applied for. This award will provide a representative from First Children's Finance (FCF) to facilitate community conversations to address the child care crisis in the Kandiyohi County area. The Core Team members will meet with staff from FCF over a 24-month period with the goal of increasing the supply of high quality affordable child care in the area. Core team members have been secured from major businesses and other organizations to lead this effort.

Business Meetings and Events

1. Governor's Fishing Opener Robbins Island community event
2. Governor's Fishing Opener Shore Lunch in Spicer
3. Neighborhood Development Center video conference/introduction
4. Marketing partnership with MinnWest Technology Campus for ag events
5. Kandiyohi County Board Meeting to meet with Arvig Telecommunications
6. Lauriston Dairy tours with 5th graders for Chamber Agri-Business Committee
7. Carris Health Surgery Center Grand Opening
8. Enterprise Minnesota Report of Manufacturing in Minnesota – Redwood Falls
9. Facilitated planning of AURI presentation for Ag Professionals but was unable to attend
10. Job Description and Interview of Intern, Thor Figenskau
11. Willmar Job Fair planning for fall 2018 and 2019
12. Federal opportunity Zones information webinar
13. Introduction to SCORE Program for potential new volunteer
14. Build-a-Burger event at Cash Wise for Chamber Agri-business Committee

Business Visits

1. Haug Implement – sponsorship on ag event
2. Ag Country - sponsorship on Ag Event
3. Arnolds of Willmar - sponsorship on Ag Event
4. Conference call with MN Grown
5. Start-up business planning (2)
6. Visit with Beauty Box, new in Willmar owner Misty
7. Little Crow Report
8. Coffee & More