



Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

**JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD (OB) MEETING
AGENDA**

11:00 a.m., September 14, 2023

Community Room, Heritage Bank, N.A., Willmar and Via ZOOM Video Conference

11:00 **CALL TO ORDER** (6 members/4 = quorum) President Art Benson

11:01 **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA OR CONSENT AGENDA** President Benson

11:02 **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approve:
1. Minutes of August 10, 2023
 2. Financial reports as of August 31, 2023
 3. Approve payment of \$17,000 to Willmar Lakes Area CVB under the Tourism Partnership Agreement
 4. Appoint Noah Hultgren to the Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development Committee

- Accept: Committee/Subcommittee Minutes
1. Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development 7/20/2023
 2. Broadband and Advanced Technology 8/7/2023
 3. Finance 6/13/2023
 4. Marketing and Public Relations 7/24/2023

11:07 **ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA** President Benson

11:12 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

12:00 **NEW BUSINESS**

1. EDC Rebranding Kelsey Olson/Aaron Backman

12:30 **REPORTS**

1. Economic Development Activity Justice Walker/Leslie Valiant/
Aaron Backman/Sarah Swedburg (see report)
 - a. EDAM On the Road Event 8/17/2023
 - b. MB Rail Land Purchase 9/6/2023
2. Elevate Community Business Academy. Sarah Swedburg (see report)
3. Grants. Sarah Swedburg (see report)
 - a. Child Care Economic Development Grant
 - i. UCAP/EDC Shared Childcare Position
 - b. Main Street Economic Revitalization Program

12:45 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Agriculture and Renewable Energy Development . Noah Hultgren/Sarah Swedburg (see report)
 - a. Industrial Hemp Exploratory Subcommittee Sarah Swedburg (see report)
 - i. Hemp Fiber Demonstration Field Day 9/7/2023
2. Broadband and Advanced Technology Jesse Gislason/Sarah Swedburg (see report)
3. Business Retention and Expansion/Recruitment Les Heitke/Mary Warszynski/
Steve Gardner/Aaron Backman
4. Finance. Kelly TerWisscha/Aaron Backman
 - a. Loan approval
5. Marketing and Public Relations Jesse Gislason/Kelsey Olson
6. Leisure Travel Art Benson/Kelsey Olson

12:55 **WHAT’S UP.** Board Members

1:00 **ADJOURNMENT** President Benson

NEXT MEETING—The next regular board meeting is **11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 12, 2023** at the Community Room of Heritage Bank, 310 First Street SW, Willmar, and via ZOOM video conference