

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dawn Mandt  
Maria Effertz  
Gwen Crawford  
Jay Doan  
Teran Doerr  
Kayla Elke

Megan Langley  
KayCee Lindsey  
Lindsey Lipp  
Carol Peterson  
Daniel Stenberg

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Tammy Heick  
Rikki Roehrich

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairperson Dawn Mandt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcoming member and guests. Tammy Heick did roll call and we have a quorum. Maria Effertz welcomed and introduced a new appointed board member, Kayla Elke. Each member provided brief project updates within their community.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**Minutes**

**MOTION: It was moved by Gwen Crawford, seconded by Megan Langley to approve the Rural Development Council minutes of November 20, 2023. Motion carried.**

**Election of Officers**

Last October, we overlooked electing new officers and after discussion. **MOTION: It was moved by Daniel Stenberg, seconded by Jay Doan to keep officers as is until October 2024 RDC Meeting. Motion carried.**

**Election of Executive Members**

Chairperson Mandt asked if any members would be interested serving on the executive committee until October 2024 board member. Ms. Crawford and Mr. Stenberg expressed interest and after discussion. **MOTION: It was moved by Kaycee Lindsey, seconded by Ms. Langley to approve appointment of Ms. Crawford and Mr. Stenberg as part of the executive team until October 2024 RDC Meeting. Motion carried.**

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**Review Committee Top RDC Priorities, Maria Effertz**

Ms. Effertz reviewed policy issues identified in the November 2023 meeting which is the continued discussion from the strategy plan session in May 2023 facilitated by Sandy McMerty of top priorities for this committee to enhance moving forward. Items that were placed in the RDC parking lot were housing, workforce, high paying jobs in small towns, and childcare.

The four topics that were agreed to study and create subcommittee review were growing awareness and changing requirements for funding sources, fostering welcoming communities for new North Dakotans, identify data resource/coordination of data and support community placemaking.

The committee emphasized the need to work under the following vision for current and future objectives: influence, informing and advocating and mobilizing.

- Influence

- Sharing stories of rural successes and needs with data approach
- Capacity limitations in areas of specific need
- Informing
  - Data aligned with the need
  - Best practices and pilot programs that show success
- Advocating and mobilizing
  - Increase advocacy for rural issues and solutions
  - Deploy agreed policy and action to rural leadership for advocacy in policy changes and funding with the state legislature

The next step recommended by Ms. Langley and in favor by all council members for the executive committee to meet in the next few months to draft up three to five policy recommendations to bring to the full council.

#### Overview of Rural Development in other Areas

Ms. Effertz briefly provided overview of how the MSI team conducted interviews with other state offices of rural prosperity to gain a better understand and key takeaways.

#### Purpose Statement and Regional Council State of the State Meetings

Each region will be hosting regional event, and the EDA has aligned all our comprehensive economic development strategy due dates and encourage each member to attend their sate of region event.

#### Office of Community Development and Rural Prosperity overview

Ms. Effertz provided a high-level overview of the CDRP office. As we continue to build this program, we will increase our outreach strategy and increase technical assistance with statewide programs and how to meet the demand in rural and community development areas within our agency and other state agencies.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2024.

**Action Item:** Chairwoman Mandt will send out an email to appoint members to serve on the nominating committee for upcoming election of officers at October meeting.

### COUNCIL POSITON OPENING

We have an opening in Region II-NE if you know anyone who would be a great asset, please encourage to apply on the ND Board & Commission website or reach out to Commerce.

### ADJOURNMENT

It was moved adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.