



FY2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Southwest Regional Development Commission

FY 2023 Annual Report



Southwest Regional Development Commission

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www.swrdc.org

Special points of interest:

- > Annual Meeting
- > FY 2023 Financials
- > SRDC Commissioners
- > SRDC Staff

SRDC Celebrates 50 Years Serving the Region



At Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti, the Lower Sioux Indian Community Cultural Incubator

The Southwest Regional Development Commission celebrated its 50th Anniversary at the Annual Meeting at the Lower Sioux Indian Community on July 13, 2023.

Regional Development Commissions in Minnesota were formed under the auspices of the Minnesota Legislature as a result of the Regional Development Act of 1969. In order for a Commission to come into being under the act, local communities had to vote to ask the governor to form a Commission. On June 12, 1973, the elected officials and residents of Region 8 were informed by Governor Wendell Anderson that they had met

the required criteria and he was pleased to announce the formation of the Region 8 Development Commission.

The statutory purpose of the Commission as defined by the Regional Development Act is, “to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical, and governmental concerns”.

The Board and Staff of the Southwest Regional Development Commission are pleased to be able to continue to serve the residents of the region as we begin our next 50 years.

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Staff Achievement Awards

Long time staff Deputy Director Robin Weis (25 years) and Administrative Specialist Kathy Schreiber (30 years), were recognized at the Annual Meeting by SRDC Chair Paul Langseth for their outstanding service to the Commission and to the residents of the region.



2023 Project of the Year

At each year’s Annual Meeting, the SRDC names a Project of the Year. This year’s Project of the Year is the City of Tyler’s Safe Routes to School Project.

In 2019, the City of Tyler faced a challenge. The RTR school district was planning a new school on the west side of town. This new location was in a field with no connecting sidewalks, near a railroad crossing; and it would attract more students because it was combining all the grades into one building. Community members wanted to make it safe for students to

walk or bike to school. They organized and acted on their vision.

First, Tyler held a Walkable Community Workshop. Through a partnership between the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) and the Lincoln County Active Generations and with funds from MnDOT, they created goals and action steps to make Tyler a more walkable city. For their next step, they contacted the SRDC for assistance with writing a Safe Routes to School Planning Grant.

Then, during the 2020-2021 school year, this group, along with the City of Tyler and the RTR school district, worked with SRDC to complete their plan.

Armed with a new plan, the City of Tyler applied to both a Safe Routes to School Infrastructure grant and a non-infrastructure “Boost Grant” to implement their top priority projects and goals. MnDOT funded both applications and Tyler received over \$500,000 to build sidewalks, purchase equipment and buy materials for education and engagement activities.

SRDC Chair Paul Langseth presents the 2023 Project of the Year to Stephanie LaBrune and Mayor Joan Jagt from the City of Tyler



Deputy Commissioner of Energy Resources Michelle Gransee is Annual Meeting Guest Speaker

The SRDC welcomed Deputy Commissioner Michelle Gransee from the Minnesota Department of Commerce as the Guest Speaker at this Year’s Annual Meeting.

- To Protect and assist consumers
- To Provide oversight to 40+ industries
- To Authentically engage with all communities

Commissioner Gransee presented the Mission of the Department of Commerce;



Revolving Loan Fund Update



Cabin Coffee in Jackson

Currently, the SRDC has three separate loan funds available to help with your business, including two revolving loan funds and our Property Assessed Clean Energy or PACE program.

Place in Marshall, and Cabin Coffee in Jackson. In addition to the SRDC's revolving loan funds, SRDC staff also administers revolving loan funds for Jackson County, Heron Lake, and Falcon Development.

During the last fiscal year the SRDC closed on seven loans, spurring economic growth within the region. Loan recipients included restaurants such as Thee Old Bank in Tracy, Atlantic

Total loans during FY 2023 were \$826,974.28

SRDC Completes Campground Surveys

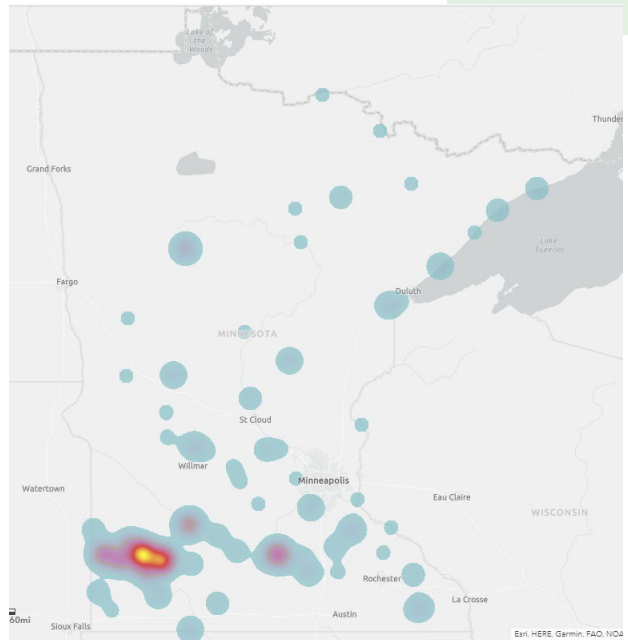
In the summer of 2022, SRDC staff conducted surveys on behalf of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission in seven regional parks. The parks surveyed included Garvin Park, Hole in the Mountain Park, Plum Creek Park, Ramsey Park and Twin Lakes Park in Region 8 as well as Lake Washington Park in Region 9 and Memorial Park in Region 6W.

across the board, the majority of respondents' favorites are located in southwestern and south central Minnesota. Many of these campgrounds can be seen as competitors to the seven regional campgrounds in southwestern Minnesota. Of the campgrounds listed, Garvin Park received the most "favorite" responses for regional campgrounds at 61 responses, followed by Plum Creek Park with 49 responses. Lake Washington Park received 22 responses, Hole in the Mountain Park 17 responses, Twin Lakes Park 15 responses, and Ramsey Park 13 responses. There were no responses mentioning Memorial Park. Top competitors to the seven regional parks were state parks, including Camden State Park (10 responses), Lake Shetek State Park (9), and

Itasca State Park (7). Thirty campgrounds in southwestern Minnesota were listed as favorites.

“Campground User Surveys asked respondents to list their favorite campgrounds in Minnesota”

The seven 2022 Campground User Surveys asked respondents to list their favorite campgrounds in Minnesota. Across all surveys, a total of 302 responses were provided. The heat map of favorite campgrounds (right) shows the locations of favorite campgrounds from all seven surveys. It is worth noting that



SRDC Commissioners



Cottonwood County

County Board, Donna Gravley
Municipalities, Jenny Quade

Jackson County

County Board, Don Wachal
Municipalities, Mark Haberman
Townships, Richard Peterson, Treasurer

Lincoln County

County Board, Mic VanDeVere
Municipalities, Dennis Klingbile
Townships, Jeff Moen

Lyon County

County Board, Rick Anderson
Municipalities, Pam Cooreman
Townships, Lori Grant

Murray County

County Board, Dennis Welgraven, Vice-Chair
Municipalities, Miron Carney, Past Chair
Townships, Bill Crowley

Nobles County

County Board, Bob Paplow
Municipalities, Steve Kellen
Townships, Paul Langseth, Chair

Pipestone County

County Board, Chris Hollingsworth
Municipalities, Dan Delaney
Townships, Wally Slinger

Redwood County

County Board, Bob Van Hee
Townships, Tiffany Knott

Rock County

County Board, Sherri Thompson
Municipalities, Keith Elbers,
Secretary
Townships, JoEllen Benson

Lower Sioux Indian Community

Elliot Christensen
Tabia Goodthunder (Alternate)

Cultural Diversity

See Moua-Leske

Public Interest Groups

Private Industry Council, Carrie Bendix

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Kristie Blankenship

Economic Development, Justine Wettschreck

Health and Human Services, Beth Wilms

Cities over 10,000

Marshall, Bob Byrnes
Worthington, Rick VonHoldt

School Boards

Luverne, Eric Hartman
Worthington, Steve Schnieder

FY 2023 Financials

| | FY2023 Year End* | FY2023 Board Approved BUDGET | FY2024 Budget |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Tax Levy | 433,189 | 417,820 | 443,445 |
| Current Contracts | 226,139 | 156,696 | 120,435 |
| MN Department of Transportation | 75,000 | 75,000 | 75,000 |
| MN Department of Transportation-SRTS | 17,550 | 17,550 | - |
| Economic Development Administration | 70,000 | 70,000 | 70,000 |
| EDA Trails grant | 45,935 | 140,000 | 150,000 |
| Economic Development Administration Covid 19 | 86,000 | 86,000 | - |
| RLF- both Covid and Regular | 60,000 | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Region 5 Energy | 37,500 | 64,284 | 37,500 |
| CERTS Funds | 57,250 | 57,250 | 107,250 |
| PACE loan orig/int/misc | 9,341 | 7,500 | 6,800 |
| MiNkota Regional Food Business Ceter Grant | - | - | 60,000 |
| Interest Earned & Miscellaneous | 18,348 | 19,184 | 19,184 |
| Building Reserves Used | - | 6,800 | - |
| Total Revenues | 1,136,252 | 1,178,084 | 1,149,614 |
| Expenditures | | | |
| Committee Expense | 31,335 | 23,000 | 30,300 |
| Salaries & Fringe | 726,766 | 802,417 | 863,791 |
| Staff Travel | 30,654 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| Office Space | 26,040 | 40,176 | 44,194 |
| Postage | 4,633 | 4,421 | 4,863 |
| Communications | 13,462 | 6,199 | 6,819 |
| Print/Publication | 5,721 | 12,276 | 20,504 |
| Insurance | 2,378 | 5,145 | 5,917 |
| Supplies-Mtg/Wkshp Expenses | 15,106 | 17,000 | 17,000 |
| Computer | 32,289 | 32,000 | 37,750 |
| Audits | 7,775 | 7,800 | 20,000 |
| Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal | 2,500 | 2,500 | 2,750 |
| Dues/Memberships & Other | 4,000 | 5,200 | 7,200 |
| Financing Fees & Other | 5,499 | 5,500 | 5,500 |
| Seed grants | 30,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Equipment/Building updates | 2,953 | 2,000 | 19,207 |
| PACE loan interest | 508 | 508 | 508 |
| Debt Service-Principal & Interest | 7,948 | 11,633 | 11,633 |
| Building Lease Principal Payment | 20,786 | 20,753 | 23,085 |
| Total Expenditures | 970,353 | 1,038,528 | 1,161,021 |
| Overall Balance | 165,899 | 139,556 | (11,407) |

During FY 2023, the SRDC reviewed 14 projects from within the region to avoid duplication and ensure wise use of public funds.



During FY 2023 the SRDC welcomed new Finance Staff with Melissa Nelson (right) being promoted to Finance Director, and Jodi Klein (left) coming on board as the Accounting Specialist. Welcome and congratulations!



SRDC Staff, from left to right:

- Deputy Director
Robin Weis Robin@swrdc.org
- Accounting Specialist
Jodi Klein JodiK@swrdc.org
- Development Planner
Kim Murphy KimM@swrdc.org
- Administrative Specialist
Kathy Schreiber srcd@swrdc.org
- Community Development Director
Jason Walker JasonW@swrdc.org
- Executive Director
Jay Trusty execdir@swrdc.org
- Not pictured, Finance Director
Melissa Nelson MelissaN@swrdc.org



Renovation improvements on the current 3rd street entrance.

SRDC Supports Childcare Initiative

There continues to be a strong link between childcare and economic development. A childcare shortage exists in this region, state, and beyond. Childcare is two-fold in that it serves our current workforce, and prepares our future workforce. As a result of a request for proposal issued from the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) at the beginning of SRDC's FY23, SRDC began providing technical assistance to the City of

Hills. SRDC staff worked alongside city staff as the application was developed, submitted, and later accepted. As a result of SRDC technical assistance, the City of Hills was successful in being awarded \$120,000 from DEED's Childcare Economic Development Grant Program to transform a main street tax forfeited blighted building, into individual spaces for three separate family childcare providers. This space has the capacity of serving 30 to 42 children at

completion. Stay tuned for an open house date that showcases how the City of Hills implemented an innovative and unique solution for the community to address their childcare shortage.

Celebrating 50 Years!

Southwest Regional Development Commission

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