

Rural Development Council (RDC) Meeting
1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 6 Bismarck ND 58501
and via TEAMS platform
November 23, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Teran Doerr	Dawn Mandt
Shawn Kessel	Daniel Stenberg
Jay Doan	Antoinette Heier
Gwen Crawford	Lindsey Lipp
KayCee Lindsey	Megan Laudenschlager
Senator Janne Myrdal	Joyce Shining One Side

GUESTS PRESENT

Maria Effertz Hanson
Tracey Miller
Katie Ralston
Jace Beehler

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairperson Doerr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., welcoming members and guests.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Megan Laudenschlager, seconded by Daniel Stenberg to approve the Rural Development Council minutes of August 17th, 2021. Motion carried.

Approval of Bylaws

MOTION: It was moved by Megan Laudenschlager, seconded by Jaane Myrdal to approve the Rural Development Council bylaws that were amended August 17th, 2021. Motion carried.

Council Member Term Reappointment

In accordance with NDCC 54-60.25, the governor shall appoint council members for two-year terms, except the governor shall appoint approximately one-half of the initial council members to one-year terms in order to initiate a cycle of staggered terms. Appointment of the council members must ensure representation from four regions designated by the commissioner.

- Nine members have ending terms, as of March 2022. It was discussed that members should contact Shawn Kessel or Sherri Frieze for reinstatement as a council member.
- Role of the board duties could be talked about at a future meeting for those to understand duties and expectations.

ACCELERATEND

ND Legislative Special Session 2021

Shawn Kessel

Investing in ND right now using federal dollars to support growth, diversifying the economy, enhance government services, and creating long-term cost savings for citizens.

- **ND Development Fund (NDDF) - \$5M funding**
- **State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) - \$56M funding**
 - Loans to be funded in segments of three loans of \$18M each.
- **Hydrogen - \$20M funding**
- **Autonomous Agriculture - \$10M funding**
 - 1:1 Grant matching fund

- **Workforce Innovation Grants - \$15M funding**
 - 1:4 Grant matching funds
 - Distributed to 8 regions, based on populations and address needs per region.
 - Each region will receive at least \$1M
- **Technical Skills Training Grant - \$5M funding**

Workforce Housing Grant – NO FUNDING

- Help local community with workforce
- Help with housing
- Help with blighted properties
- Provide dollars to remove or upgrade blighted property

Workforce Infrastructure Grants for Outdoor Recreation & Business – NO FUNDING

MAIN STREET INITIATIVE (MSI) EVOLUTION

Maria Effertz

Tracy Miller

As the Main Street Initiative (MSI) becomes embedded into Commerce and the evolution becomes part of that embedding into Commerce, MSI 2.0 will be born. Previously, MSI was aligned within the ED&F Division and looking ahead, it will be housed in the Community Services Division within the Commerce Department. The pillars of MSI will be more aligned with the federal granting process in the Community Services Division.

There are seventy-three MSI communities to date. Every community has a story. North Dakota's Main Street Initiative provides community leaders with direct access to tools and resources to capitalize on their community's strengths and make firm planning decisions.

Maria discussed the MSI 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, listing the MSI outcomes to date, Partners in Planning (PiP) Grants, Vibrancy Grants, Artists on Main Street Program, MSI Awards of 2018-2021, and Targeted Outcomes by Main Street Pillar.

The **MSI Partners in Planning (PiP) Grant Program** supports nonprofit organizations and/or local governments in completing a comprehensive plan or economic development/diversification strategic plan. Fourteen PiP grants were distributed in 2021.

The **MSI Vibrancy Grant Program** supports local efforts to increase community vibrancy by providing seed funding for a small project that will build momentum and inspire additional projects. Twenty – five vibrancy grants were distributed in 2021.

The MSI created the **Artists on Main Program** in 2021. This accelerated program offers technical assistance and funding to develop and install art to one North Dakota MSI applicant or community. Bowman County Development Corporation was the recipient in 2021.

In 2022, expectations are to expand the **Artist on Main** Program to more communities with steps taken to:

- Visit with Council on the Arts.
- Statewide letter of intent process.
- Eight to ten questions for communities to answer on the artist's needs for the community.
- Youth engagement in the process.
- "Creative Placemaking Session", The marketing around it.
- Communities that have won awards – the plan to revisit those communities and ask if they are looking for more.

Targeted Outcomes by Main Street Pillar include:

Pillar 1 Smart, Efficient Infrastructure, with the outcome to be property tax reduction.
Pillar 2 21st Century Workforce, with the outcome to be Skillset and workforce expansion.
Pillar 3 Healthy, Vibrant communities, with the outcome to be workforce gain.
Pillar 4 Economic Diversification, with the outcome to be GDP per capita.

- Next steps on how to build, grow and plan with youth; FBLA, FFA, DECA.

ADJOURN

With no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:00 p.m.