



Upper Minnesota Valley
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Helping Communities Prosper

323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 320.289.1981 www.umvrdc.org

Agency Profile

What We Do

Our Mission: Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments

In 1973 the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission was organized by local elected officials as authorized by the MN Regional Development Act of 1969. Its purpose according to the legislation is:

“to facilitate inter-governmental cooperation and to ensure the harmonious coordination of state, federal, and local comprehensive planning and development programs for the solution of economic, social, physical, and governmental problems of the state and its citizens.”

The UMRDC has professional planners that help units of government in our region get projects done. Through assistance with planning, grant writing and grant management, our staff is here to assist the public sector. We are experts when it comes to working with local, state and federal funding sources including grants, low interest loans and other assistance programs.

Our staff successfully secures financing for the following projects:

- Public Infrastructure (Transportation, Broadband, Water/Sewer/Wastewater)
- Downtown Revitalization
- Business Retention & Expansion (BRE) Efforts
- Industrial Development & Business Parks
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Parks, Trails & Other Outdoor Recreation
- Small Cities Development Community Development Block Grants used for:
 - Commercial Rehab
 - Homeowner Rehab
 - Rental Rehab
 - Community Facilities
 - Infrastructure

In addition, we provide the following services:

- Grant Management (compliance with local, state & federal regulations)
- Planning (Community Development, Parks and Trails, Hazard Mitigation, Comprehensive Plans & Ordinances)
- Manage Western Minnesota Prairie Waters- a regional marketing program
- Economic Development Marketing
- Business gap financing through our revolving loan fund
- Marketing and communications support
- Management of the Meander Art Crawl and Mn River Valley Scenic Byway

Who We Are

The Commission is a governing board made up of elected officials from counties, townships, cities, school districts and special interest groups.

These are the full-time staff positions:

- 1 Executive Director
- 1 Finance Director
- 1 Planning Director
- 1 Senior Communications Manager
- 1 Loan Specialist
- 2 Community Development Specialist
- 1 Grant Administration Specialist
- 1 Program Assistant
- 1 Administrative Assistant

Office Environment

Staff travel frequently to meetings and events. Two agency vehicles are provided for their use.

Staff work in a hybrid office environment- some days in the office and some days from home.

Our office building also includes the City of Appleton, Appleton Public Library and the Appleton Police Department.

Staff work individually and as part of a team to develop and complete projects.

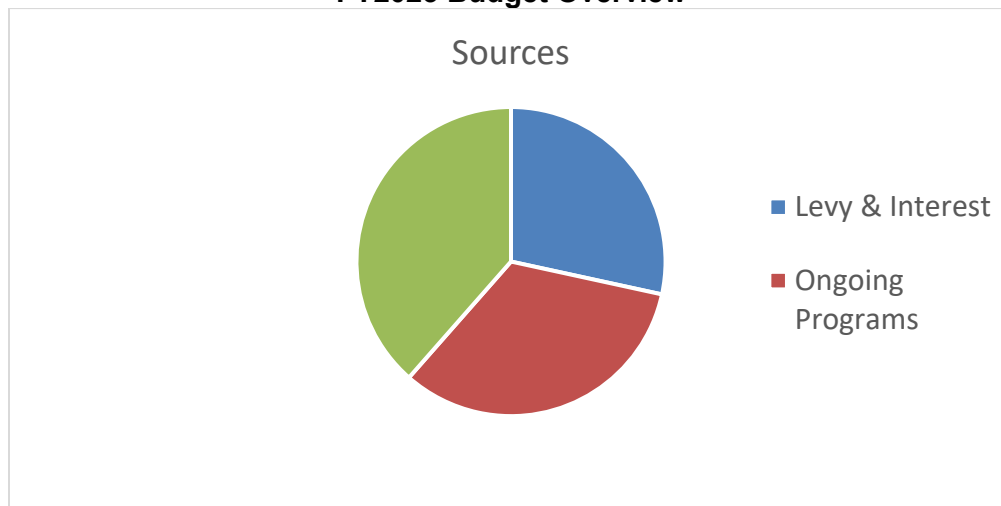
Flexible work hours and compensatory time when attending night meetings provide an accommodating work schedule.

How We Are Funded

Funding comes from three basic sources: the RDC's levy, contracts with local units of government, and ongoing contracts for programs. Levy dollar are used for overhead, management costs of the agency and board, and match for projects and programs undertaken.

Staff are responsible for the development of contracts and grants to maintain the agency budget and staff positions.

FY2023 Budget Overview



Our Region

The 3,346 square-mile region is located along the South Dakota border in west central Minnesota and consists of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties. There are 37 cities, 99 townships, 10 school districts and one tribal government in the region. Of the region's 37 cities, 70% have populations of less than 500.

You can learn more about our region's demographics and economy by going to our website and clicking on the "About the Region" tab. You can see results from our annual regional survey <https://umvrdc.org/regional-survey/>

Want to learn more about our agency or the region? Check out our [agency hiring video](#); the [UMVRDC](#) or [Western Minnesota Prairie Waters](#) websites; or search for [UMVRDC](#), [Prairie Waters](#), or [Get Rural MN](#) on Facebook.