

Looking for Something on Our Website?

Have you visited our website and wondered how you could find information on a particular topic? To save time, use the SEARCH feature (pictured at top right, circled in red). It's a quick and easy way to locate anything on the website pertaining to your search term.

You may have also noticed the "Take Note" section (pictured at bottom right, circled in red). This is where we post our most important and timely information to make it easy for you to find.

Have comments, questions, or suggestions about the website? Contact Jenifer Fadness at the UMRDC at 320.289.1981 ext. 5 or jenifer.fadness@umvrdc.org.



Prairie Waters (continued from front page)

Prairie Waters staff Kristi Fernholz and Jenifer Fadness accepted the Collaboration Award on behalf of Prairie Waters.

"We congratulate and thank our award winners," Ristau said. "All of them are committed leaders that are making a significant difference in southwest Minnesota. We are so proud to honor them during this special year."

The award was based on the following principles:

As collaborators, these people and/or entities work together in partnership to share ideas, resources and energy. Their willingness to look beyond traditional boundaries creates new opportunities for the southwest Minnesota region.

The award includes a 2-page spread in the SWIF 25th Anniversary "Best of the Southwest" program, a hand crafted vase by New London potter Bill Gossman, and \$1,000.

Kristi Fernholz, Prairie Waters coordinator, said: "We feel honored that SWIF, an organization that excels in collaborative efforts, recognizes the work that Prairie Waters has accomplished. Prairie Waters is a unique effort and has sustaining support from cities, counties and tourism entities within our region to offer a consistent and effective marketing message."

Visit Western Minnesota Prairie Waters at www.prairiewaters.com, call 1.866.866.5432 or become a fan on Facebook. Visit SWIF at www.swifoundation.org.



Prairie Waters is the proud recipient of this handmade vase by Bill Gossman (shown below), a 2-page spread in SWIF's Best of the Southwest program, and \$1,000.

The Prairie Waters board, pictured above, left to right: Dennis Anderson, Chippewa County Commissioner; Gary Hendrickx, Swift County Commissioner; June Lynne, Chippewa County Historical Society; Joan Fust, Appleton member at large; Maynard Meyer, Madison Chamber of Commerce; Pam Lehmann, Lac qui Parle County EDA; and Luanne Fondell, Dawson Boyd Arts Association. Not pictured: Nick Hagenmüller, Montevideo EDA and Nicole Richter, Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce.



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Upper Minnesota Valley
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**



323 W. Schlieman Ave.
Appleton, MN 56208

Helping Communities Prosper

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 63
APPLETON, MN

Mark Your Calendar!

Visit www.umvrdc.org for more info on these events and more!

July 7, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Doing Business Online"
Clara City Library Clara City, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 11, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Social Media"
Computer Commuter Dawson, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 18, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Roadside Advertising"
Computer Commuter Madison, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 20, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Google Tools"
Elem. School Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 21, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Using Social Media in Business"
Clara City Library Clara City, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 26, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Roadside Advertising"
Clara City Library Clara City, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 26, 5:30 pm
UMVRDC Annual Meeting
Maynard Event Center
www.umvrdc.org

July 27, 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
"Knowledge Worker Course"
MnWest Canby Canby, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 27, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Marketing Your Website"
Computer Commuter Madison, MN
www.umvrdc.org for more info

July 28, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/U of M Extension Class
"Marketing Your Website"
Appleton, MN
Elem. School Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

August 23, 6:30 pm
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center Appleton, MN
www.umvrdc.org

August 31, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Prairie Waters Annual Gathering
Tokheim Stoneware Dawson, MN
www.PrairieWaters.com

September 27, 6:30 pm
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center Appleton, MN
www.umvrdc.org

Regional Outlook

Quarterly Newsletter | June 2011

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323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 phone: 320-289-1981 www.umvrdc.org

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Receives Collaboration Award



Western Minnesota Prairie Waters was honored recently by the Southwest Initiative Foundation for their efforts in collaboration.

The Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF) celebrated 25 years of serving southwest Minnesota with a regional banquet Friday, May 20, at Jackpot Junction in Morton. More than 300 guests—including current and former board members, volunteers, donors, loan clients, grant recipients and

partners from throughout the region and beyond—joined to honor the "Best of Southwest Minnesota."

Guests enjoyed a dinner and program, with special guest and emcee John Lauritsen, a WCCO-TV reporter and Montevideo/Milan native. He, SWIF President/CEO Sherry Ristau and SWIF Board Chair Sandy Ludeman of Tracy shared their appreciation for contributions of leaders in all southwest Minnesota communities, making SWIF's impact over 25 years possible.



The program was highlighted by an awards presentation honoring contributions of others in the region. In addition to the traditional Southwest Initiative Foundation Award, four new awards were created to honor individuals, businesses, organizations and communities that personify SWIF's mission during its milestone 25th anniversary year. These awards were promoted during SWIF's 18th anniversary receptions held throughout the region and nominations were open to the public.

(Prairie Waters continued inside)

Is Your Community Bike Friendly?

Promote health and wellness, physical activity, and livable communities by ensuring your community encourages biking.

Residents of bike friendly communities have access to safe physical activity. Routes and paths are assets that a community can promote to tourists and residents. Bike friendly communities enjoy health, economic and environmental benefits.

Is there a place to park bikes? Could your library "check out" bike locks? Where can people bike safely in your community?

Visit our website at www.umvrdc.org and click on **What We Do > Services > Recreation Development** for a bikability checklist, tips on becoming more bike friendly, and information on possible funding resources for a community bike plan.



Inside

- Search the UMRDC Website!
- Clara City Comprehensive Plan
- Regional Economic Development Professionals Meeting Coming in August
- Human Service Transit Coordination Plan
- 2011 National Scenic Byway Conference in Minnesota
- Welcoming Our New Commissioners
- 2011 Meander Update Plan

Clara City Comprehensive Planning

The UMRVDC is working with Clara City to create their first comprehensive plan. UMRVDC staff will work with the Clara City planning commission to research, gather public input and write the plan in the coming 12 months.

A comprehensive plan is similar to a business plan for the community. It includes a community profile with demographic data and other information that affects the community. Other elements of Clara City's comprehensive plan include: land use, housing, parks and recreation, economic development, transportation and public utilities/facilities, and a section on implementation that identifies clear goals and action plans.

Public participation is a critical piece of a community comprehensive plan. Clara City has decided to develop a city-wide survey to be distributed this summer and will incorporate the results into the plan.

As well as being a valuable educational piece for the citizens of Clara City, a comprehensive plan will help the city make informed decisions to guide the future of Clara City, such as how to prioritize what projects are most important in the long term and where to allocate scarce funds.

Why Plan?

- People plan to make a special event successful.
- Businesses plan so their products and services sell.
- Farmers plan when to plant and harvest.
- **Why shouldn't communities plan to be successful and sustainable?**

For more information on comprehensive planning, contact the UMRVDC at 320.289.1981 or visit www.umvrdc.org.

"When it comes to the future, there are three kinds of people: those who let it happen, those who make it happen, and those who wonder what happened."

- John M. Richardson, Jr.



Regional Economic Development Professionals (ED Pros) Meeting Planned for August 19th

The Southwest Initiative Foundation will be hosting an 18-County Regional ED Pros meeting on Friday, August 19. UMRVDC staff are participating on a committee to help develop presentation ideas for this meeting.

Save the date!

Last year there was a great turnout with fabulous presentations including best practices for working with developers, and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) project examples and changes to the legislation.

If there is a topic you would like to see covered at this upcoming event, please contact **Jacki Anderson** at 320.289.1981 ext. 2 or jacki.anderson@umvrdc.org so she can bring requests to the planning committee.

Please watch for details coming in the next few weeks.

ATTENTION: Is your city, county or agency website linked to the UMRVDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) page?

If not, it should be!

Make it easier for your economic development professionals, bankers, and businesses to easily access RLF information.



REVOLVING LOAN FUND
A PROGRAM OF THE UPPER MINNESOTA VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Visit www.umvrdc.org and look for the RLF Link in the "Take Note" section.

Link to the RLF page today!

Human Service Transit Coordination Plan

On June 8, the UMRVDC hosted a one-day workshop as part of the 2011 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan for the region. Currently, numerous individuals in our region have difficulty getting to medical appointments, the grocery store, church, visiting family and friends, or fully participating in other important activities due to lack of transportation. The Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Department of Transportation has asked the RDC to address these issues through a coordinated planning process.

Coordinated transportation is meant to maximize consumers' access to all existing transportation services, including public, private, non-profit, and human services entities, while minimizing duplication of service provision.



The goal of the 2011 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan is to:

- identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes;
- provide strategies for meeting those needs;
- and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation in Big Stone, Swift, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Yellow Medicine Counties.

The workshop provided an opportunity to identify strategies to better coordinate transportation resources in the future.

A summary of the identified strategies is available on the UMRVDC website under the "Take Note" section on the bottom of the home page. Later this summer the UMRVDC will post on our website a draft version of the full plan for public comment. This plan will integrate the strategies for the region and provide a background and framework for coordinated transit in the region.

For more information on this or other transit issues, contact Dawn Hegland at 320.289.1981 ext. 1 or dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org.

2011 National Scenic Byways Conference Being Held in Minnesota this August

Mark your calendars! The 2011 National Scenic Byways Conference is being held in Minneapolis, from August 21-24.

The theme of the conference is *Building on Big Ideas* and includes "classroom workshops, field workshops, roundtable sessions, luncheon presentations, networking opportunities and peer-to-peer exchanges as we focus on byway development, sustainability and livability." There are also workshop tours the weekend prior to the conference.



This conference is a great opportunity for learning, as well as showing off Minnesota's Byways, including the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway.

Visit the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway website at www.mnrivervalley.com for more information and a link to the conference website.

Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments

Contact us:

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Welcoming Our New Commission Members

We would like to introduce three of our newest commission members: Mitch Kling, Angela Doren, and Heather Geise.

Mitch Kling is the township representative for Yellow Medicine County. He is a member of the Yellow Medicine County Township Association, on the Stony Run Township board, and a member of both Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water and the Yellow Medicine County Water Management Task Force.

Kling is employed by Martin Marietta and lives in Granite Falls.

Angela Doren is the Big Stone County Municipalities representative and is on the Ortonville City Council. She is also on the Ortonville Economic Development Authority Board, Park Board, Water Board, Utility Board, and the Housing Workgroup.

Doren is a wife, mother of five, and has four grandchildren. She is self-employed, and enjoys owning and operating Luckie's Bar and Grill, Mad Karaoke, and Small Town Innovations. She recently attained her Associates of Business degree.

Doren says, about her involvement on the City Council, "This current position has been one of the most personally rewarding things I have done. I hope to continue reaching out to the community and offer my help any way that I can."

Heather Geise is the Swift County Municipalities representative and serves on the Appleton City Council. She works for Lac qui Parle County Family Services, and is also on the Prairie Playhouse Child Care Center Board, Lac qui Parle Valley Strengthening the Family Board, and the Lac qui Parle Valley Farm to School Board.

Geise is originally from the Iron Range. She received a B.S. in social work from Bemidji State University in 1995. She has lived in Appleton since 1999 with her husband Jason and their three children: Maddie, age eight; William, age six; and Claire, age two.

We look forward to working with these new board members, and appreciate their time and efforts on behalf of their communities and the region.



Mitch Kling
Yellow Medicine County Townships



Angela Doren
Big Stone County Municipalities



Heather Geise
Swift County Municipalities



2011 Meander Art Crawl

Brochures are now available for the 2011 Meander Art Crawl. This year's brochure features artwork by Kerry Kolke-Bonk of Appleton.

The Meander will be held on Friday, September 30th, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 1st, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, October 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Meander is a regional self-guided tour of artist studios, galleries and shops from Benson to Madison, Ortonville to Clara City, and all points in between. The event is free and open to the public.

Call 1.866.866.5432 to request a brochure. The Meander website is also updated and can be viewed at www.artsmeador.com.