

UMVRDC Staff Changes

We have a new staff member who recently joined us, and a long-time staff member saying goodbye.

Barb Jordahl, Grants Administrator for the UMVRDC, will be retiring at the end of July. Barb started working at the UMVRDC office in January 1999. After 13 1/2 years, she will be retiring. Barb has worked on lots of different projects here at the UMVRDC over the years, and both staff and her clients are really going to miss her smile and attention to detail!

Barb is planning to spend more time with her husband, Gary, their two children, and continue to enjoy life.

Good luck, Barb, and thank you for your many years of hard work on behalf of Region 6W!



Barb Jordahl

In anticipation of Barb's retirement, we have welcomed a new employee to the team. Katie Kellner joined us in June and has been working with Barb and Arlene in the Financial Department.

Katie is a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Katie has spent the last five years in public accounting, focusing on audits of state and local governments. Katie is originally from Benson and currently lives there with her son Carson.

You can reach Katie by calling 320-289-1981 ext. 4, or by emailing katie.kellner@umvrdc.org.

Welcome to the UMVRDC, Katie!



Katie Kellner

UMVRDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Is there an entrepreneur in your community looking to start a business or a business in your community looking to expand? The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) works to help businesses by creating a financial package to fund their start-up or expansion project.

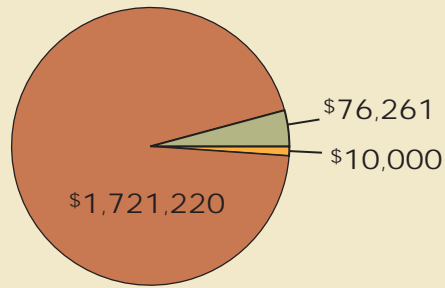
Things you should know about the revolving loan fund:

- A primary focus is job creation and retention.
- Funds are available for fixed assets, real estate and working capital.
- Bank participation is needed; the RLF will not replace bank financing.

Contact the RLF today to find out how we help businesses in your community! Call Jacki Anderson at 320-289-1981 ext. 2 or e-mail jacki.anderson@umvrdc.org.



RLF Balances as of May 31, 2012:



- Total RLF \$ Loaned Out
- \$ Committed
- \$ Available for Lending

Mark Your Calendar!

July 4, 2012
UMVRDC Office is closed for Independence Day

July 24, 2012
UMVRDC Annual Meeting
www.umvrdc.org

July 25, 2012, 5:00 - 6:30 pm
Prairie Waters Annual Gathering
www.PrairieWaters.com

August 28, 2012, 6:30 pm
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
www.umvrdc.org

September 25, 2012, 6:30 pm
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
www.umvrdc.org

Visit our website for ongoing event information, including links and registration!
www.umvrdc.org/events/

Appleton Area OHV Park
Appleton, MN

Appleton Civic Center
Appleton, MN

Appleton Civic Center
Appleton, MN

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phone: 320-289-1981 www.umvrdc.org

Upper Minnesota Valley
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

323 W. Schlieman Ave.
Appleton, MN 56208

Helping Communities Prosper



Serving
Big Stone, Chippewa,
Lac qui Parle, Swift
and Yellow Medicine Counties

Regional Outlook

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

Region 6W Receives Safe Routes to School Funding from MnDOT

Six area schools will receive funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to develop Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans thanks to the hard work of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC).

MnDOT worked with Regional Development Commissions statewide to solicit applications for this year's round of Safe Routes to School funding. Grants were available in two categories:

- Planning assistance: Funding to complete a Safe Routes to School plan to help analyze existing conditions, gather public input and identify potential infrastructure and non-infrastructure solutions at K-8 schools.
- Implementation grants: Funding for education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation activities.



The UMVRDC notified all schools within the region of the SRTS grant opportunity, and Lindsey Knutson, UMVRDC Transportation Planner, worked closely with five school districts to develop six SRTS applications. All six applications were successful in receiving funding.

(Safe Routes to School continued inside)



Save the Date!

The 2012 Prairie Waters Annual Gathering is July 25th

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters staff and board are busy planning the 2012 Annual Gathering, and it looks like it's going to be a fun and unique event!

We hold each of our annual events in a different member county, and this year it's Swift County's turn. We decided it would be fun to hold the event at the Appleton Area OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Park near Appleton. It's a great opportunity to show off the OHV Park and educate people from around the region about what a unique asset we have in the park.

The event will be held Wednesday, July 25th, from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. There will be free hot dogs, a brief history of the park, demonstrations, and a door prize drawing. The event is rain or shine, and is FREE and open to the public!



More details will be available soon at www.PrairieWaters.com and the Prairie Waters Facebook page, or call 1-866-866-5432.

Inside

- UMVRDC Staff Changes
- Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Update
- UMVRDC Hosts Energy Efficiency Forum
- 2012 Meander Update
- Tourism Information

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Funding (continued from front page)

All SRTS grants use federal funds and no local matching funds are required from the school or community. Statewide, eight implementation grants and 27 planning assistance grants were funded.

For more information about SRTS in Region 6W, visit the SRTS link on our website at www.umvrdc.org in the "Take Note" section. You will also find a link to the MnDOT SRTS webpage, which includes a complete list of schools receiving SRTS funding and other statewide SRTS information.

For questions regarding Safe Routes to School or other transportation issues, contact Lindsey Knutson, UMVRDC Transportation Planner at lindsey.knutson@umvrdc.org or call 320-289-1981 extension 7.



What is Safe Routes to School?

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs are sustained efforts by parents, schools, community leaders and local, state, and federal governments to improve the health and well-being of children by enabling and encouraging them to walk and bicycle to school.

The following is a list of grants awarded for Region 6W schools:

- Appleton/Milan Elementary School in Appleton – planning assistance worth over \$10,000
- Benson Elementary and Jr. High Schools – planning assistance worth over \$10,000
- Stevens Elementary School in Dawson – planning assistance worth over \$10,000
- MMN Elementary School in Madison – planning assistance worth over \$10,000
- YME Elementary and Middle Schools in Granite Falls – planning assistance worth over \$10,000
- Canby School District (including St. Peter's Catholic School) – implementation grant to hire a SRTS Program Manager for two years at \$20,000

UMVRDC and CERTS Bring Energy Efficiency Information to the Region

The West Central Clean Energy Resource Team (WC CERT) and Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission collaborated on an energy workshop for local cities, counties, and schools on May 23rd. The discussion covered financing tools and opportunities that are currently available to assist local governments in funding clean energy projects in west central Minnesota. During this free event, more than 30 participants learned how to finance clean energy and energy efficiency projects and asked questions like:

- What funding is available?
- How do you do it?
- How have other local governments approached and accomplished such projects?

The agenda was packed with information and useful tips on things like B3 Benchmarking, The Rural Minnesota Solar Initiative, the Right Light Guide,

and more. This information has been saved in a handout format and we have made those available for you on our website: visit umvrdc.org and click on the link in the "Take Note" section.

CERTS members across Minnesota work to improve their communities by saving energy and money, becoming more self-sufficient, and advancing entrepreneurship and economic development. Want to learn more about CERTS? Visit their website at www.mncerts.org.



For more information on the UMVRDC's work on energy issues, contact Dawn Hegland at 320-289-1981 ext. 1 or dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org, or Kristi Fernholz at 320-289-1981 ext. 6 or kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org.



Attendees of the Energy Efficiency Forum engage in a question and answer session during a presentation. This free event was hosted by the UMVRDC in May.

Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments

Contact us:

Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission
323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208
320.289.1981 (phone)
800.752.1983 (toll free)
www.umvrdc.org

2012 Meander Art Crawl: Brochures Now Available!

Brochures are now available for the 2012 Meander Art Crawl. This year's brochure features cover artwork by Audrey Arner of Montevideo.

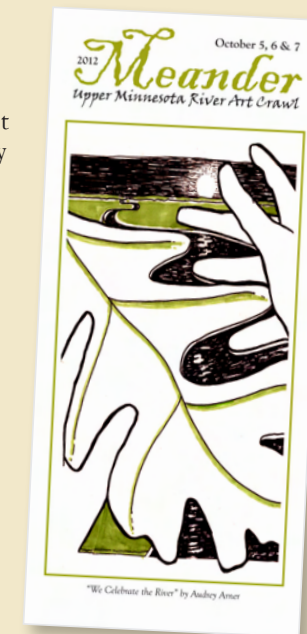
The Meander will be held on:

- Friday, October 5th
12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 6th
from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 7th
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. You can see painting, photography, sculpture, fiber arts, jewelry, pottery, mixed media, and more from 45 prairie artisans. The event is free and open to the public.

There are also special events happening throughout Meander weekend, including an opening night celebration on the Riverfront in Granite Falls, and *Salsabrosa* in concert, celebrating Latin and Salsa music and dance, at Memorial Auditorium in Dawson.

Call 1-866-866-5432 to request a brochure. The Meander website is also updated and can be viewed at www.artsmear.com.



Looking for information on things to do in the region?
Wondering when Bellingham is having their 125th Anniversary Celebration, when the Chippewa County Fair is, or where you can go geo-caching along the byway?

Look no further!

Contact Prairie Waters for a Visitors Guide, *Antiques, Local Shops, Dining & Lodging Guide*, calendar of events, and information on a variety of topics! We also have a calendar of events on our website and maintain an active Facebook page that has lots of event info and photos from around the region.



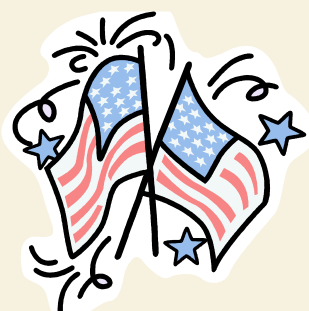
www.prairiewaters.com
866.866.5432



The Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway goes right through our region, and some of the byway's most exciting assets are right in our own backyard! Contact the byway for a Visitors Guide, or visit their website for information on Discovery sites, interpretation, geo-caching, events, and more. You can also find the byway on Facebook!



www.mnrivervalley.com
888.463.9856



Have a happy
and safe
Independence
Day!

