

UMVRDC Gets New Board Chair

The UMVRDC board has a new but familiar face as our new chairman: the board voted at our annual meeting in July and chose Gary Hendrickx.

Gary was the chairman of the UMVRDC board from 2006 thru 2010, so he is quite familiar with the UMVRDC's mission as well as the goals for our region.

Gary serves as a Swift County Commissioner and has sat on this board for several years. His experience, knowledge and leadership abilities will be an asset as we continue to strive for better relationships and continued success in all of our communities. We look forward to another exciting year of change.

We would also like to thank Jim Dahlvang for serving as our Chairman for the past two years. The UMVRDC has seen many successful projects completed in our region during his leadership reign. Thank you, Jim, for your guidance and support and for helping make the past two years such a success!



Gary Hendrickx
Swift County Commissioner



Jim Dahlvang
Chippewa County Commissioner

Have you visited our website lately?

Stop by to see the latest information about ongoing projects, funding opportunities, events, and more!

www.umvrdc.org

Don't Miss the 2012 Meander Art Crawl!

The 2012 Meander Art Crawl is just days away, so make your plans now for what is sure to be a fun and art-filled weekend!

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.

For more information, visit the Meander website at www.artsmeander.com or call 1-866-866-5432.



Mark Your Calendar!

October 5, 6 & 7
Meander Upper Minnesota River Art Crawl
www.artsmeander.com

October 13-16
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Conference
Las Vegas, NV
www.nado.org

October 22-28
Minnesota Manufacturers Week
www.positivelyminnesota.org

October 23, 6:30 p.m.
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center
www.umvrdc.org

November 6, 2012
Election Day

November 13-14, 2012
Blandin Broadband Conference:
Minnesota's Better With Broadband!
Duluth, MN
www.blandinfoundation.org

November 15-17, 2012
Minnesota Association of Townships Conference
St. Cloud, MN
www.mntownships.org

November 27, 6:30 p.m.
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center
www.umvrdc.org

December 3-4
Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Conference:
United By Design
St. Cloud, MN
www.mncounties.org

November 22, 2012 - Happy Thanksgiving!
The UMVRDC office is closed Nov. 22-23

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

Upper Minnesota Valley
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

323 W. Schlieman Ave.
Appleton, MN 56208

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

UMVRDC Helps Granite Falls Secure Funding from National Scenic Byways Program

The City of Granite Falls will receive \$512,000 in Federal funding from the National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP) to rehabilitate their historic pedestrian bridge as a result of assistance from the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC).

Granite Falls contracted with the UMVRDC for grant writing assistance to aid with the development of the funding application. UMVRDC staff Kristi Fernholz, Senior Planner, and Lindsey Knutson, Transportation Planner, co-authored and submitted the grant on behalf of the City of Granite Falls to the National Scenic Byways Program. "It's a great project and perfect fit for the National Scenic Byway Program" says Lindsey.

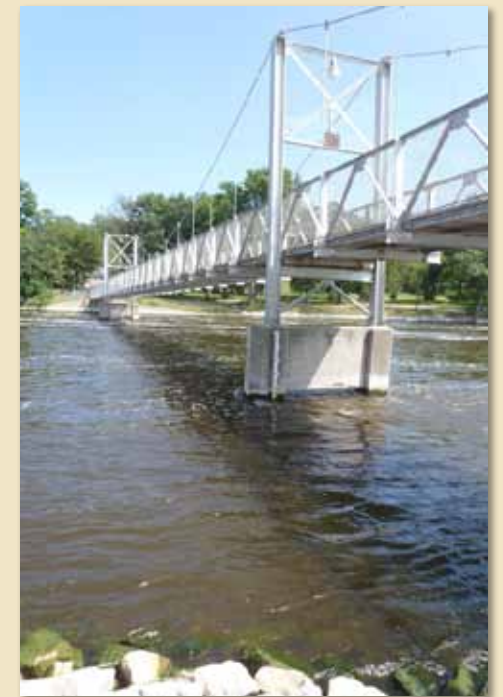
The National Scenic Byway Program funds will cover half of the costs to rehabilitate the historic Granite Falls pedestrian suspension bridge to provide key safety upgrades, including raising it to protect it from future flood events, extending the hand rails to meet current safety requirements, and replacing the lighting. The other half of the project costs will come from the State Bonding dollars Granite Falls received in 2010.

The National Scenic Byway Program is a federal program that recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and

archaeological qualities. Program funding supports projects that manage and protect these roads and improve visitor facilities.

During this last round of funding, the program received 261 applications nationwide that totaled over \$111 million in funding requests for projects. Nationwide, only 125 applications were funded at a total of \$37,054,987. In Minnesota, six applications were funded totaling \$2,023,850.

To view the full list of funded projects throughout the country or for more information on the National Scenic Byway Program, visit our website at www.umvrdc.org.



The historic pedestrian bridge in Granite Falls, MN.

Inside

Just announced:

• Dawson awarded EDA funds!

- UMVRDC New Board Chair
- 2012 Meander Coming Soon!
- CEDS Corner
- RLF Update
- 2012 Annual Meeting & Bus Tour
- 2012 Prairie Waters Annual Gathering

Dawson Awarded EDA Investment



It was just announced that Dawson has been awarded \$1,189,500 in investment funds from the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA).

This EDA investment constructs critical roadway and related infrastructure to upgrade an existing 40-acre industrial park and to construct a new 65-acre industrial park nearby. The project also includes

a new wastewater pretreatment facility to allow industrial expansion and make possible growth in the city's agricultural processing cluster.

This project is expected to create 137 jobs and leverage more than \$35 million in private investment.

UMVRDC Senior Planner Jacki Anderson has worked closely with the City of Dawson for two years, helping the city with grant writing and development of the project.

Please watch our website at www.umvrdc.org for more details.

UMVRDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)



The UMVRDC has authored an application to the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a revolving loan fund (RLF) recapitalization in the amount of \$400,000. The UMVRDC's five counties have agreed to add \$100,000 to EDA's \$400,000 (if awarded) bringing the potential recapitalization total to \$500,000.

Currently there is about \$1.1 million revolving in the region with about \$100,000 available to lend. The loan fund has a healthy portfolio with 36 loans and no delinquencies or defaults. It's hopeful that EDA will make a decision on the recapitalization request this fall.

CEDS Corner

As part of the five year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning process, we are asking all City Clerks/Administrators in Region 6W to fill out our project survey. The information gathered from this survey will make your community projects eligible for federal grants. Once we are done collecting responses, survey results will be published.

If you have not already completed the survey please do so at this time. The survey can be found on our website at www.umvrdc.org. The survey will be linked in the "Take Note" box on the right side of the homepage.

Stay tuned for more updates on the 2013 CEDS.

For questions about CEDS, please contact Jacki Anderson at 320-289-1981 ext. 2 or jacki.anderson@umvrdc.org.

CEDS stands for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It is designed to:

- Bring together the public and private sectors;
- Create an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies;
- Analyze the regional economy;
- Serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives;
- Develop a regional plan for implementation and action; and
- Identify investment priorities and funding sources.

A CEDS document is required by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) in order to maintain Economic Development District (EDD) status which the UMVRDC holds for the five counties in Region 6W. This EDD status allows the UMVRDC to work with local units of government to apply for funding through EDA for public works and planning projects.



UMVRDC Board & Staff Take Bus Tour Around Region

The UMVRDC held the 2012 annual meeting on Tuesday, July 24. Due to the success of last year's bus tour, we decided to do another tour this year, this time focusing on Swift County.

UMVRDC Staff and Board members were joined by special guests: Al Juhnke with Senator Franken's office; State Senator Lyle Koenen; Andrew Martin with Senator Klobuchar's office; and Tom Meium with Colin Peterson's office.

The group started the day at Benson City Hall. Benson City Manager Rob Wolfington talked about some of the work the UMVRDC has done for the City of Benson, focusing on the Comprehensive Plan Addendum that was completed in 2010. UMVRDC staff Jacki Anderson then shared some information on the Swift County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) grants that have been implemented in Benson. We were also joined by Vicki Syverson of the Swift County HRA who works closely with the UMVRDC on SCDP projects.

We left City Hall and boarded a bus that drove us around the city of Benson, where we were able to view some examples of both residential and commercial properties that were rehabilitated with SCDP funds. Both Vicki Syverson and Rob Wolfington shared some anecdotal information on how important the SCDP program is to cities such as Benson.

Next, we drove to the Swift County Recycling Facility and were given a tour by Scott Collins. Scott shared the process that the Recycling Facility uses to collect and sort refuse from the residents of Swift County. Scott also talked about the Swift County Solid Waste Plan that the UMVRDC is currently working on.

We left the Recycling Facility and proceeded on to another Benson business, SpecSys,



Shawn Swenson talks about using RLF funds to start his business, Appleton Power Equipment

Jim Mulder gives his presentation "Government Redesign"

where we were given a tour of their shop and learned how SpecSys has used RDC Revolving Loan Funds to expand their business. Next we crossed the street to Eric's



A welder at SpecSys in Benson

Motorsports, another RDC Revolving Loan Fund recipient.

We then had lunch at the Whistle Stop Café in Benson, where staff, board members, and special guests were able to talk

more personally about different projects involving the UMVRDC.

After lunch, we rode the bus to Appleton where we toured three more RLF clients: the Appleton Meat Center, who used RLF funds to expand their business; Appleton Power Equipment, who used RLF Funds to purchase a shop in Appleton; and the Appleton Vet Clinic, who used RLF funds to build a new facility.

We drove around Appleton and saw more examples of SCDP commercial and homeowner projects, and then proceeded on to the Appleton Area OHV Park. Many in attendance had never visited the OHV park before the tour, so we were given a brief history of this unique park by Gregg Soupir, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

We left the OHV Park and Appleton, and returned to Benson. We held our meeting and dinner at McKinney's in Benson. After the meeting, we were joined by a guest speaker: Jim Mulder shared his presentation on "Government Redesign."

It was an informative day, and like last year's tour, board members and staff agreed that seeing so many examples of our work in the region makes us proud to be a part of the UMVRDC!

For more details and photos from the tour, visit our website at www.umvrdc.org.



Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Hosts 2012 Annual Gathering

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters held its 2012 Annual Gathering on July 25 at the Appleton Area OHV Park, and it was a fun and interesting event! Many guests were given a 4x4 ride through the OHV park by a local 4x4 enthusiast, and it was a great opportunity for the Prairie Waters Board and Staff to get first-hand knowledge of the OHV park.

Guests were treated to a picnic-style meal of brats and hot dogs in one of the shelters at the OHV Park. We also used this area to set up a Prairie Waters display and distributed information about the park and other recreational activities available in the region. The evening ended with door prize drawings, and those still in attendance were treated to prizes donated and collected by board members from businesses around the region.



A guest at the Annual Gathering tries out his 4x4 on a timber-covered stairway at the Appleton Area OHV Park.

Our goal in hosting an event like the Annual Gathering is to highlight the hidden treasures in the Prairie Waters region, while educating people about Prairie Waters and the work we do to promote our area as a regional great place to live, work and play. This allows us to advertise collaboratively and produce the Visitors Guide and maintain the www.PrairieWaters.com website.

Please let your city and county representatives know that Prairie Waters Regional Tourism is important to you! Prairie Waters is supported by the counties of Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Swift and the cities of Appleton, Benson, Clara City, Dawson, Granite Falls, Hanley Falls, Madison, Marietta, Milan, and Montevideo.

For more information about Prairie Waters, visit www.PrairieWaters.com or call 888.888.5432.



Prairie Waters Board Members Angie Steinbach (center) and June Lynne (right) hand out a picnic meal to a guest.

Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments

Contact us:

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