


RLF Update

The UMRDC administers a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist existing businesses as well as new entrepreneurs in securing financing. The primary goal of the RLF program is to create new jobs and to retain jobs in the region. The UMRDC welcomes partnering with other lenders to assist local area businesses to succeed and thrive.

The UMRDC was a partner with other financial institutions, gap lenders, and a USDA guaranty, in the construction/expansion of Do-Mat's Family Foods in Benson. Through this project 36 jobs will be retained along with creating two new jobs.

For more information contact Laura Ostlie at 320-289-1981 x 102, or email at laura@umvrdc.org. Visit www.umvrdc.org website for more details.



RLF Balances as of August 31st, 2016:

RLF Portfolio

\$1,791,504 Lent out **\$375,878** Available for Lending

NEW Board Members



Windy Block
Public Interest Representative



Diane Kepner:
Public Interest Representative

Windy Block is the City Administrator for Clara City and joins the UMRDC board as the newest public interest representative. Windy was raised in St. Peter and is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. Windy taught science in Montevideo for 11 1/2 years, sold life insurance and investment products for Northwestern Mutual Life for 23 years, served as city administrator for Rushford, Minnesota for nearly five years before becoming the Administrator in Clara City which he has done for the past six years. Windy is also a member of the International City/County Management Association. Windy and his wife of 38 years reside in Montevideo.

Diane Kepner, representing Prairie Five Community Action Council as a public interest representative, was recently assigned to the board from Prairie Five. She has been a Prairie Five board member for 30 years and also sits on the policy council for Head Start. Diane is very active in her church where she is also employed. She and her husband live in the Appleton area and enjoy attending sporting events at Lac qui Parle Valley High School.

Welcome!

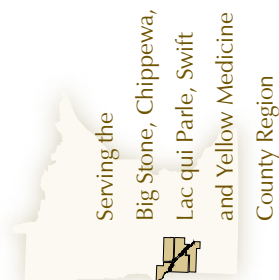
phone: 320-289-1981 Umrvc.org

323 W. Schlieman Ave.
Appleton, MN 56208

Upper Minnesota Valley
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**



Helping Communities Prosper



Mark Your Calendar!

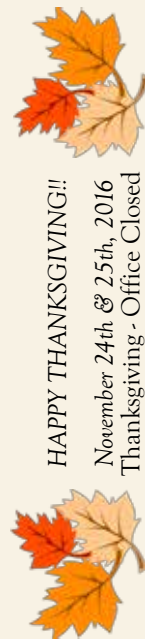
September 30th - October 2nd, 2016
Meander Arts Crawl
Artsmeander.com.....Region-wide

October 5th, 2016
Walk/Bike to School Day.....Region-wide

October 25th, 2016
UMVRDC Board Meeting 6:30pm
Umrvc.org.....Appleton, MN

November 11th, 2016
Veteran's Day - Office Closed

November 22nd, 2016
UMVRDC Board Meeting 6:30pm
Umrvc.org.....Appleton, MN



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
November 24th & 25th, 2016
Thanksgiving - Office Closed



Regional Outlook

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

UMVRDC Board & Staff Take Annual Bus Tour

The UMRDC's 2016 annual meeting was Tuesday, July 26th. The day consisted of touring the cities of Milan, Watson and Montevideo to get a firsthand look at projects the UMRDC has been working on.

The first stop was at the Milan Village Arts School where John Larson explained the history of the school, its mission and also their role during the Meander Art Crawl. John is also an artist on the Meander so he shared the importance of the Meander for the Milan community and the region. Veronica Blommel, City Clerk and Merle Hilden, City Council member, also discussed projects the UMRDC has helped the City with such as their website, comprehensive planning and the housing planning.

The tour then moved to Watson where Mayor Kyle Jones and City Clerk Susan Brickweg along with council member Georgette Jones met with the group. They spoke about projects in their community that resulted from their strategic planning that the UMRDC helped with.



Continued inside...



5-County Regional Tourism Program!



Starting in 2017 the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Regional Tourism will be back to a 5-county program! It has been since 2008 since all five counties were a member. The UMRDC is excited to welcome back Big Stone County and is looking forward to working with them to help promote and bring awareness to their county and the rest of the region!

CEDS/DevelopMN

All Regional Development Commissions in Minnesota will be updating their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) in 2016. A regional survey was sent out to contacts from the five-county region to identify economic development strengths, weaknesses, ideas, needs and resources in the counties of Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine.

Survey Results: 48 responses received from individuals representing all five counties.

60% of respondents have lived in their county for over 21 years

35% of respondents are 60 years or older

30% of respondents were female

100% of respondents were Caucasian/White

- Broadband, Workforce, Childcare and Housing were all identified as significant needs and challenges in the region
- Natural resources and outdoor recreation rated the highest and were listed as strengths or opportunities for the region

The survey results will be used to draft new goals and strategies for the CEDS and the UMRDC will work to refine the goals and strategies and will make them available for public review and comment at the end of October 2016. For more information contact Jacki at 320-289-1981 x 111 or jacki.anderson@umvrdc.org

Montevideo Arts Project

With a great amount of community support and a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, a historic railroad car was moved to a permanent location near the Depot. Public artist Liliana Payne was hired through a selection process to paint a mural on both sides of the railroad car. The project will be completed by the end of September 2016.

This is the second project by the Montevideo Arts Project (MAP). MAP is a volunteer driven organization made up of local citizens, business owners, city staff, elected officials, and chamber of commerce staff. The organization has a goal of creating one public art piece per year. MAP believes that public art can inspire economic development and a greater sense of community and belonging.

The UMRDC has facilitated this public art project and provides technical assistance to MAP. For more information, contact Kristi Fernholz at 320-289-1981x106 or email kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org.



CONTINUED FROM COVER...

The community engagement from the plan led to the new, upgraded baseball field and the Watson Town Hall. The Historic Town Hall will be showcased during the Meander as they will be hosting one of the kick-off events on Friday night.

The Crossings by Grandstay in Montevideo was the next stop on the tour where guests viewed a 40kW solar array connected to the hotel. Shane Gibson, business owner, and Solar Developer David Eid explained the system and future plans to use Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) funding to put in a larger solar system.

The tour continued at the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council (SWMN PIC), an UMRDC Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) recipient, where guests learned about the programs, operations and history of this private nonprofit corporation from Juanita Lauritsen and Carol Dombek. With the help of the RLF the SWMN PIC was able to purchase their own office space which put them in a better position to retain its offices, maintain thirteen jobs and services in Montevideo.

Guests then walked down the street to view the Montevideo Arts Project (MAP) Atrigas Plaza mural. The UMRDC provided grant writing and technical assistance for this project. City Manager, Steve Jones, who is a member of MAP shared the history and process that developed the mural. The final stop in Montevideo was the Camp Release Monument, where guests viewed interpretive panels the UMRDC developed and designed as part of a project for the Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway.

Finally, the day ended at the Milan Community Center where the annual business meeting was conducted and guests enjoyed a delicious meal catered by the More Café of Milan. After the meal, UMRDC staff revealed the regional promotional video that was created by the UMRDC staff over the past few months by collecting footage of the region.

Finally, Renae Tostenson and Ann Thompson shared their work on engaging the Micronesian population within the community of Milan. It was a rewarding, eventful day in the cities Milan, Watson and Montevideo!

Transportation Alternative Projects Funding

The Southwest and West Central Area Transportation Partnerships will soon be soliciting Transportation Alternative projects for the year 2021.

Fast Facts:

- Eligible applicants include a state aid cities (cities over 5,000 population Montevideo in our region), counties, state agencies, and Upper Sioux Community. If you are not a state aid entity, you must have an eligible applicant sponsor your application.
- Projects must have a 20% local match.
- Eligible project include projects like trails, sidewalks, overlooks, environmental mitigation, safe routes to school projects.

To apply there is a two-step process:

1. Letter of Intent: to apply there is a short pre-application that will be due October 31, 2016. After submitting this, an onsite review of your project will be coordinated by the UMRDC office. This process is intended to ensure eligibility and to determine project readiness for a full application.

2. Final applications will be due January 13, 2017. Application materials will be available by September 30. If you are thinking about a potential project or looking for local project examples, please contact the UMRDC office for more information! Contact dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org or at 320-289-1981 x 101

Get Rural



The regional recruitment committee wrapped up the first phase of the "Get Rural" project at the end of June 2016. Goals of Phase I focused on bringing chambers and economic development professionals together, capturing new photos, videos and stories of the region to boost the online presence, and determining a regional message. UMRDC staff wrapped up Phase I by showcasing a regional promotional video that was created by capturing footage of the region, along with the launch of the new regional message/logo (shown right).



UMRDC staff applied and received another grant through the Blandin Foundation to move forward with Phase II. Goals of Phase II will consist of the following:

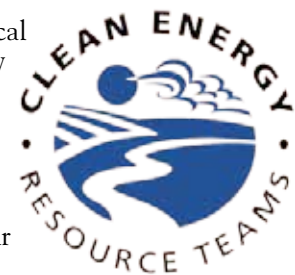
- Offer a website workshop – enhancing website designs and linking to pages that are updating content regularly.
- Explore the elements needed to develop the online lifestyle portal that helps both new and existing residents find information that matters most; schools, housing, jobs, recreation, and lifestyle.
- Consult with imagery experts on the legality of capturing photos and videos while creating an open source inventory for all communities to access.

Yellow Medicine Housing

Yellow Medicine County, Granite Falls and Clarkfield hired the UMRDC to lead a group of volunteers through a housing assessment process and to map the results. Final maps show condition, occupancy, for sale status and condition. These maps will be reviewed in September with the Yellow Medicine Futures Forward group. The maps are intended to support informed decisions about future housing investments and policy.

Clean Energy Resource Team

CERTs has been assisting with energy resources for local government, planning agencies, and residents. On May 24th, the UMRDC hosted a West Central Clean Energy Resource Teams (WC CERT) event focused on all things solar in which 36 people attended. Topics included everything from solar basics and what various sized solar systems look like to considerations for solar planning and zoning, net metering and subscribing to a community solar garden.



For more information, contact Kristi Fernholz at 320-289-1981x106 or email kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org.