Through a planning grant provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Program develops and maintains the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region.

**Gap Financing To Businesses**

Designed to provide gap financing for business and industry starting up or expanding in the five-county region. The primary focus of the program is manufacturing and industrial-related businesses that will create or retain jobs.

**Transportation**

The UMVRDC has a planning assistance contract with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to provide assistance, information, and technical support for transportation issues in the region.

**Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway**

A partnership of counties, cities, chambers of commerce, river valley residents, businesses, tourism organizations, and historic and preservation groups from throughout the valley as well as representatives from various state agencies and organizations.

**Prairie Waters Regional Marketing**

Regional Tourism has branded and marketed our region as a great place to work, live and visit. Prairie Waters is funded through program support from the region’s counties, cities, economic development organizations and local convention & visitors bureaus who see the importance of tourism as an economic impact.

**Arts Meander**

The award winning Meander Art Crawl is a free self-guided tour of artist studios featuring 45 local artists from the Upper Minnesota River Valley.
Our Purpose

In 1973 the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission was organized by local elected officials as authorized by the 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 UMVRDC has a governing board made up of representatives from counties, townships, cities, school districts and special interest groups.

Our Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments.