

INFORMATION MEMO

TO: UMRDC Commissioners

FROM: Kristi Fernholz, Arlene Tilbury, Melissa Carruth, Randy Larson, Emily Zandt, Erin Smith and Jacki Anderson

DATE: November 25, 2014

RE: **Planner Update**

In an effort to update the Commission on projects, staff has prepared the following brief summary of current projects.

Contracts:**Canby Zoning Ordinance Update – Erin and Jacki**

We are working with the Canby to get a meeting set up to review the commercial, industrial and overlay districts. The contract has been extended through July of 2015. We expect the project to be completed well before that deadline.

Appleton Technical Assistance – Jacki and Erin

The Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) applications will be due November 13th; we received a great showing for the community wide survey and we are currently compiling the data.

Montevideo Arts Project (MAP) – Kristi

MAP is receiving proposals from three artists to create a design for the arches in the Jose Artigas Plaza. They will meet November 24th to choose one artist.

Milan Housing – Kristi

A meeting has been set for December 10th to meet with the Micronesian community to determine what steps can be taken to help them with home ownership.

Dawson Sidewalk Plan – Jacki and Emily

After gathering the initial data, Jacki and Emily are working on an ArcGIS model to prioritize sidewalk segments to present to Dawson's sidewalk plan committee. We are currently looking at which attributes will provide the most useful information for the analysis. After the committee provides feedback on the priority sidewalk network at our first meeting scheduled for early December, the committee and UMRDC staff will work to solicit public input on the network.

Federated Broadband Contract – Jacki and Erin

Jacki and Erin submitted applications for Swift and Big Stone County. The applications are now in a challenge phase where information can be requested if clarification is needed. Jacki and Erin provided clarification on the Swift application for the exact numbers of structures that are unserved.

Bellingham City Website Update – Emily and Kristi

The Bellingham City Council signed a contract for the RDC to update their city website. Emily is finishing up completing the updates to the site.

Memorial Park Master Plan – Erin and Kristi

Interviews were conducted in Granite Falls to gather input on what the future of Memorial Park could look like. Erin and Kristi will be working on a master plan that will address concerns as well as offer recommendations for projects that could be completed.

Program Updates:

Meander – Kristi

2014 Meander Economic Data has been proved in this month's packet. Kristi wrote and received an Explore Minnesota Tourism Grant for Meander's 2015 advertising.

Revolving Loan Fund – Randy

As of October 31st, about \$255,781 is available for lending. I have been meeting with lenders and city officials in the region to see if they may have any leads on any potential new projects that the RLF could be involved in. I have been working with the Madison Meats and Friendship Café loans and discussing them with Jacki.

Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway (MRVSB) - Kristi

The byway website has been the main focus in October and November. The website will go live at the beginning of December.

Kristi wrote and received an Explore Minnesota Tourism Grant for the byway to do some print advertising.

Prairie Waters Regional Tourism – Melissa and Kristi

The new Prairie Waters website is expected to be live at the end of November.

After sending out over 30 bids for the 2015-2016 Prairie Waters Visitors Guide, we had received only one proposal back. Itineraries Inc. has done the past few visitors guides and was chosen to create the 2015-016 guide as well. The new guide is expected to be completed the middle of April 2015.

Melissa wrote a grant to Explore Minnesota Tourism and recently found out that we will receive \$8,000 to go towards advertising our region for 2015.

Safe Routes to School –Emily and Erin

The Montevideo and Clarkfield Safe Routes to School plans are still in progress. Lindsey and Emily held the third meeting for each school and Emily is working to schedule the final planning meeting before the end of the year.

Erin and Emily completed Mini Plans for KMS and Ortonville with recommendations based on the Walk Audits that were performed this fall.

Hazard Mitigation – Emily and Kristi

The third round of task force meetings have been completed for Chippewa, Big Stone and Yellow Medicine Counties. Once the first drafts of the plans are complete, all three task forces will meet to review their respective plan. Emily is continuing to work with the cities to obtain community specific information for further analysis.

Transportation

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) letter of interest forms are now out and solicitation for this program has begun. Lindsey has been working with several communities in the region to develop applications. Chippewa County is planning to submit an application to help fund the upgrades to curb ramps to make them ADA accessible throughout the county. The City of Montevideo is planning to submit an application to construct a section of sidewalk that goes over the RR tracks downtown (currently the sidewalk just ends for that small section). And the City of Canby is considering TAP funds to reconstruct the trail in their city.

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission

The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission have received many park and trail applications to determine eligibility for Legacy funds. They are currently reviewing the applications for eligibility and the applicants will be notified in a few months. The City of Granite Falls submitted an application for eligibility for Memorial Park and Yellow Medicine County submitted an application for eligibility for Timm Park.

Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) – Erin

The CERTs regional coordinators and staff in St. Paul are busy planning the bi annual CERTs conference which is held in St. Cloud in March. The conference is March 10-11th and has focuses on community driven clean energy. The conference will be a great place to start thinking about projects in the region and how we can partner with local units of government to make a large impact. The convenience store campaign is a main focus this month and Erin will be hoping to hit a majority of stations in our region.

Davis Bacon for the Granite Falls Pedestrian Bridge- Erin

Erin is monitoring the labor standards for the pedestrian bridge rehabilitation in Granite Falls. Wages and timesheets will be reviewed and on-site interviews at the project will be completed.

Davis Bacon for Ortonville Small Cities- Erin

Erin had a preconstruction meeting in early November and will be monitoring the labor standards for 5 commercial rehabilitation projects via the Small Cities Development Program.

Blandin Broadband – Erin and Jacki

The RDC has hosted two meetings to discuss what the future of broadband in the region looks like. There have been discussions about applying for a feasibility study via Blandin that would allow for a consultant to evaluate what could be done in the region. Jacki and Erin also attended the Blandin Conference in Brainerd on November 18-19th.

Contract development/Proposals:

The following is a list of potential contract and proposals that staff is working on.

- Volstead House (Davis Bacon) – Arlene
- Zoning Ordinance Updates for Ortonville, Clarkfield and Madison (early discussions) – Lindsey and Jacki

Contracts active in FY14/15

Dawson EDA Grant
Granite Falls EDA Grant
Big Stone HM
Chippewa HM
Yellow Medicine HM
Upper Sioux HM
Canby Zoning Ordinance Update
Safe Routes to School Plans 2 (MnDOT)
SRTS Implementation (MnDOT)
Appleton Technical Assistance
Dawson Sidewalk Plan
MnDOT Byway Planning Grant
Ortonville SCDP
Benson SCDP
Clara City SCDP
Granite Falls Memorial Park Master Plan
Montevideo Arts Project Public Art
University of MN, Extension (CERTs)

Anticipated Completion

Project in process of termination
March 2016
April 2016
April 2016
April 2016
July 2015
December 2014
December 2014
October 2015
May 2015
April 2015
June 2015
December 2015
December 2015
December 2016
August 2015
December 2014
June 2015/Ongoing

INFORMATIONAL ONLY- No Action requested