Whitney reside in Appleton. and going to the lake. Eddie and his wife
His hobbies include golfing, baseball in finance from Concordia in Moorhead.
Achievement, Appleton Golf Club, and
the Martinson Foundation, Junior
At- Large representative. Eddie is  active
Fund (RLF) board as the Swift County
Appleton has joined the Revolving Loan
services. Laura was born and
and financial counseling
both in community action
had the opportunity to work
Fund with the UMVRDC
for the Revolving Loan
hired as the Loan Officer
brought her. Prior to being
all of the experiences it has
diversity of the local economy
priority given to businesses involved in manufacturing, technology, and/or
All types of business start-ups or expansions are eligible for application with
RLF funds cannot be used to finance construction
Bank financing is required as RLF can only be used to fill that gap
RLF funds should be used to create or retain jobs in the 5 County region
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All types of business start-ups or expansions are eligible for application with
priority given to businesses involved in manufacturing, technology, and/or
diversification of the local economy
For more information call Laura Ostlie at 320-289-1981 x 102, email laura@umvrdc.org
or check out the RLF information at the UMVRDC’s website.

RLF Welcomes 2 New Board Members
Eddie Massie, Vice President of Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Appleton has joined the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) board as the Swift County At-Large representative. Eddie is active with various Appleton projects including the Martinson Foundation, Junior Achievement, Appleton Golf Club, and Appleton’s USDA Revolving Loan Fund. Eddie obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in finance from Concordia in Moorhead.
His hobbies include golfing, baseball and going to the lake. Eddie and his wife Whitney reside in Appleton.

Craig Bakkelund also joined the RLF Advisory Board. Craig is the Executive Vice President of the Granite Falls Bank and will be representing Yellow Medicine County. Prior to working at the Granite Falls Bank where he has been since 2003, Craig spent six years in the Army National Guard and another five years working with Lyon Financial/US Bank.
Craig is very involved in his community where he is active on numerous different boards. Craig attended college in both Willmar and Marshall. He is married and they have two sons.

Are you or someone you may know looking to start or expand a business? Is there a gap in the bank financing for the project? If so, the UMVRDC Revolving Loan Fund may be able to fill that financing gap. Eligible startup and expansion projects include the financing of equipment, real estate, and working capital.

What you need to know about the RLF:
- RLF funds should be used to create or retain jobs in the 5 County region
- Bank financing is required as RLF can only be used to fill that gap
- 10% owner equity is required
- RLF funds cannot be used to finance construction
- All types of business start-ups or expansions are eligible for application with priority given to businesses involved in manufacturing, technology, and/or diversification of the local economy

For more information call Laura Ostlie at 320.289.1981 x 102, email laura@umvrdc.org or check out the RLF information at the UMVRDC’s website.

RLF Portfolio
$1,288,767 Lent out
$100,000 Committed
$400,144 Available

Regional Outlook
Quarterly Newsletter | December 2015
323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 Phone: 320-289-7818 www.umvrdc.org

2015 Meander Art Crawl SUCCESS!
The 2015 Meander Art Crawl had another outstanding year and the survey results can prove it! The UMVRDC tallied the reports from 40 different artists to find that more than $99,000 of art was purchased over the three day Meander weekend.

According to surveys returned by Meander visitors and the artists themselves, the average Meander customer also spends $29 on food and gas and $11 on shopping other than art in the region. When multiplied by the estimated 2000 Meanderees who took part in the weekend, it is projected that another $80,000 flowed into the small towns of the 5 County region (Big Stone, Swift, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine) served by the UMVRDC. The Meander Art Crawl not only highlights the artist’s studios and workspaces in our region, but it is a huge economic boost for small businesses within our region.

Continued inside...
UMVRDC Helps Author a Successful $4.95 Million Grant!

UMVRDC staff authored a second successful Border to Border grant application to DEED for Federated Telephone. UMVRDC staff continue to hone their grant writing skills and broadband knowledge while quickly becoming the go-to in the region for broadband questions, case study inquiries or help connecting with professionals in the broadband industry.

This year’s grant of $4,950,000 will allow Federated to deploy fiber to the eastern portions of Swift County and a small area in and around the City of Appleton. Last year Federated was awarded $3.9M to deliver fiber in the northern portion of Big Stone County. These projects will provide connectivity to areas in Big Stone and Swift Counties that were previously identified as unserved by the Minnesota Office of Broadband.

The UMVRDC continues to discuss broadband with a number of communities throughout the region. The City of Madison has recently contracted with the UMVRDC to explore the needs and community interest in high speed broadband options. The outcome of this project will help determine the demand and feasibility of bringing in high speed broadband to Madison. Appleton is also working on a similar project.

For questions about how the UMVRDC can help your community with broadband please contact Jacki Anderson at: jacki.anderson@umvrdc.org or at 320.289.1981 x 111

Meander Success

Continued from front...

“The Meander seems to have hit its stride now after 12 years. It has become a signature event for the region, featuring our quality of life and raising the profile of our local artists, while generating economic activity in small towns throughout the river valley,” said Kristi Fernholz, UMVRDC Senior Planner.

The UMVRDC would like to thank all the sponsors, artists and participants who make the Meander great. The Meander is coordinated by UMVRDC staff. For more information contact Kristi Fernholz, Meander Coordinator, at 320.289.1981 ext. 106 or kristi.fernholz@umvrdc.org. You can also visit the Meander website at Artsmeander.com or find and “like” us on Facebook at facebook.com/MeanderArtCrawl.

Meander’s Economic Impact

71% Money raised to organize the Meander through sponsors and artists was spent on products or services (printing, paper, advertising, graphic design, staffing) in the five County area. Meander spent over $10,000 on advertising in 2015, 27% of the total budget.

11 studios Average number of studios customers visited.

81% of customers said the quality of the art was excellent.

83% of customers said their overall experience was excellent.

Prairie Waters Receives Advertising Grant

Western Minnesota Prairie Waters has once again received a grant from Explore Minnesota Tourism for nearly $8,000 that will go towards advertising and promoting our region as a great place to visit, work, and to live! We will advertise in a wide variety of both online and print publications which have distributions throughout Minnesota and beyond its borders. See a publication you’d like to advertise an event in? Call us today and ask about our cooperative advertising for up to 60% off the regular advertising rates. The following is a list of the advertising for 2016:

- Outdoor News Western Peach Midwest Living AAA Living
- Sponsored Facebook ads Pioneer Public TV Bird Watchers Digest SD Magazine
- AAA Living Valley Shopper Prairiewaters.com 1 866.866.5432

Giving Back...

The UMVRDC is pleased to announce that our year-long “Jeans Friday” donation is being divided and given to the Food Shelf in both Lac qui Parle & Swift County. This is the fifth year our office has participated in raising money to help support local organizations in our region.

Western Prairie Waters Explores Minnesota

Happy Holidays

UMVRDC Staff

Happy Holidays

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Happy Holidays

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