

**Rural Development Council Meeting
 ND Department of Commerce Icelandic Room
 1600 E. Century Avenue, Bismarck, ND
 October 14th, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS	MEMBERS CALL IN	GUESTS PRESENT
Teran Doerr	ABSENT	Dawn Mandt	Shawn Kessel
Jay Doan	Gwen Crawford	Daniel Stenberg	Sherri Frieze
Luke Anderson	Janne Myrdal	Antoinette Heier	
Megan Laudenschlager	Michelle Kommer	Lindsey Lipp	
Joyce ShiningOne Side			

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairwoman Doerr called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members on the phone and in the room were welcomed and introduced.

Rural Development Council (RDC) Commerce Designee

The RDC contract, previously held with the Center for Technology and Business (CTB), has been moved to the Commerce Department and all administrative processes will be aligned within Commerce, including Shawn Kessel to lead as the Commerce liaison for the council.

Review of Current Memberships

As of March 2019, two council members have ending terms; with one member renewing their term and the other resigning, leaving a membership for the NW Region 1 open. Council members will email their thoughts for names and recommendations for council applicants to Shawn Kessel.

Partners in Planning Grant and the Role of the RDC

The Partners in Marketing grant program exists today in Commerce; funded through the Momentum fund that relieves the program of legislative priorities or laws on how the funds are to be used. This current grant program will transition the Partners in Marketing grant to a Partners in Planning grant (PiP). The intention is to create an alignment with the Main Street Initiative (MSI) program and the RDC; as the program links to support MSI communities and other communities in ND by encouraging planning in three areas of Community Plans, Marketing Plan, and/or Economic Development Plan.

Members discussed the proposed plan and possible questions for consideration with the transition

- Templates be made available for the plans
- Economic Development plan to have different cost levels
- Encouragement to communities to execute the plans
- Hire companies to execute plans in a timely matter, with possible preferred provider status
- Mentors & outside perspective through a support process
- Incentives for communities to align with MSI
- Community plans to be submitted to the RDC
- Community plan to be submitted to the community liaison
- Communities to report to the council on progress of plan
- New events will be limited to existing events
- Marketing plan gets folded into the economic development plan

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- Template for competitive plan and economic development plan to be at different cost levels
- Max award to be at \$20,000 and minimum of \$2,500
- Cost estimate from the applicant should be included on the application
- Comprehensive Plan should follow the MSI pillars

Members discussed three committees for council members to consider. These committees will help move the council forward strategically.

- **Partners in Planning Grant Committee - provide liaison to the communities in the PiP process**
Chair – TBD
Members:
 - Luke Anderson – SE Region
 - Antoinette Heier – SW Region
 - Jaane Myrdal – NE Region
 - Daniel Stenberg – NW Region
 - Shawn Kessel, commerce liaison to sit on all committees

- **Value of Proposition of Local Economic Development Committee - identify the trend of less econ. development staff and what is the best practice moving forward.**
Chair – TBD
Members:
 - Teran Doerr – SW Region
 - Megan Laudenschlager – NW Region
 - Gwen Crawford – SE Region
 - Dawn Mandt – NE Region
 - Shawn Kessel

- **Best Practices – what are other states doing to utilize their RDC and what research can we adopt**
Chair – TBD
Members:
 - Joyce ShiningOne Side – NE Region
 - Lindsey Lipp – SE Region
 - Jay Doan – SW Region
 - Shawn Kessel
- Shawn Wenko replacement will be added to this committee

Future Meetings with the committees

Sherri will help coordinate the Skype committee meetings when notified by email from the committee chair. Sherri will then post the agenda with dates and times to the Secretary of State's open meeting website. Lastly, Sherri will try to attend future committee meetings for transcribing of the committee minutes.

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 12:00 p.m.