

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dawn Mandt
Maria Effertz
Jay Doan
Teran Doerr

Antoinette Heier
Megan Langley
Carol Peterson
Daniel Stenberg

GUESTS PRESENT

Melinda Padilla Lynch
Tammy Heick
Emma Cook
Josh Teigen
Rikki Roehrich

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairperson Dawn Mandt called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Minutes

MOTION: It was moved by Megan Langley, seconded by Antoinette Heier to approve the Rural Development Council minutes of November 2, 2022. Motion carried.

POLICY ISSUES

Chairperson Mandt
Rikki Roehrich
Maria Effertz

The committee discussed current and proposed bills (Renaissance zone, Commerce, and budget bills) that relate to rural develop.

Renaissance Zone bills:

- HB 1266: They made one change that will allow a community with an expired Renaissance zone to opt back into the program later. It currently states if the zone expires, they cannot join back in. Passed the House and currently being heard in senate
- SB 2193: Five changes to this bill
 - Benefit term increases from five years to eight years for projects that meet or excess 75% investments that would be 75% current and full value of property. Currently capped at five years for a 50% investment. Community will need to adopt in their Renaissance zone plan development.
 - Allow property to be a Renaissance project more than one – as long as 30 years have lapse from completion of first project and the start of the second project. Currently this are never eligible again.
 - Sun setting the Renaissance Fund organizations provision, the legislature has allocated \$10.5M through the history of the program to the RFO.
 - Provides a second island in a Renaissance Island. The borders of the zone have to be continuous and contiguous except on island exception up to three black. This change allows for two islands up to three blocks.
 - A community requesting an extension on their Renaissance zone to be in increments of ten years rather that five years.
 - The bill passed the Senates and was heard in front to the House Committee on March 6th.

Update on Commerce bill:

- HB 1018 is March 10 in front of the Senate Appropriations
 - Workforce is asking for additional /reinstatement of funds.
 - Main Street is asking for additional /reinstatement of funds for both Slum & Bright removal rural housing
 - Adding back an additional FTE for Mainstreet
 - Investment of foreign trade
 - Tourism Destination Development Fund - \$25M, we did request \$50M
- SB 2273: Subcommittee Agriculture Committee passed the grocery bill, \$2M to do come cooperative and joint work in grocery stores in the rural areas. Committee members requested ROI.
- Regional Council Funding: Requesting \$8M per biennium -- \$1M/per region.
 - No funding through the state
 - Federal Fund with Matching dollars

GOAL SETTING

Maria Effertz

The committee discussed setting short- & long-term goals and Commerce will reach out to find a facilitator for the upcoming Rural Development Committee Strategy Planning Session.

Big Picture/Biennium Goals:

- Pillars:
 - Having an impact in rural communities
 - Monitoring policy and programs
 - Focus on community and economic development in rural communities
 - Facilitate strategies, the development of strategies to reduce or eliminate conflicting/duplicate policy requirements.

NEXT MEETING

Commerce will send out a calendar invite for our next meeting in May for RDC strategic planning.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved adjourn the meeting at 3:10 p.m.