



Champion Theme Reports

January 15, 2013

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Champion Report
Theme Area: Housing/Affordable Housing
Champion: All 4 of us...
Lynn Hunt reporting

1. What is happening (What we have done or think about doing to answer this) in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- **16 Partners have signed up with us, We will wait until we have a need then can approach the total list again for specific assistance. Next Partner steps to learn enough to answer what is actually currently happening for this report**
 - Ask each partner what their 2013-14 goals are and how they would like to have help to accomplish them regarding housing and affordable housing. Share with all partners for getting assistance as possible.
 - Ask each partner to help us with our goals once they are set.... identify specific areas that we feel our partners can help.
- **Will Focus on three large goals broken down into smaller goals..**
 - Housing; getting new houses built to meet the resilient goals standards and at affordable prices (which need to be defined)
 - Fixing up older houses to be livable and as close to the resilient goals standards as possible
 - Get funding for the these projects working with R5 and other resources: search out ASAP once we set our work goals. Apply for funding as soon as we can.
- **Steps toward above goals**
 - Formalize housing standards that will help our region meet the goals of the Resilient region plan:
 - Funders meetings to generate affordable housing \$ numbers to use as guides for our builders challenge. (*Set range of affordability that would help us know who is affordable market based on average income {1/3 in Crow Wing county}; affordable month of monthly payment)
 - Educate and Promote these standards and \$ numbers for each area within the region through various methods to builders, funders and organizations interested.
- **Rehabilitation of housing: Because the greatest challenge is how to bring a lot of low standard housing up to higher standards of livability and closer to the resilient plan goals**
 - Assess current tools for evaluation of rehabilitation houses (Jennifer has one that we will be assessing to see if meets the needs for the resilient plan housing goals)

- Assess current best practices documents for housing rehabilitation to the standards set above
- Educate and promote to region
- One path to both educate and evaluate the standards and tools developed is through a Build/Design Challenge so working on that concept
-

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- We would like to put together advisory lists from other Champions that they have identified as should be associated with all housing.. such as communications, food, travel.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Changing Populations
Champions: Mary Sam, DeAnn Barry
and Dan Frank

Changing Populations Goal

As the region's population changes, make adjustments to meet the needs and seize the opportunities these changes represent

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- **For our aging population to be better** served we need more **education about the issues and better Transportation options**. Would love to partner with others on these issues. Pete Berscheid, Todd County Veteran Services officer (pete.berscheid@co.todd.mn.us).
- **Our aging population prefers to age in place** rather than relocating, more education about aging is needed, **Health care needs to be more robust** for everyone, transportation options need to be expanded and **elected officials** need to be better informed. The Center has learned a lot about these issues and is happy to share and partner. DeAnn Barry, Executive Director of the Center (director@thebrainerdcenter.com).
- **Housing is a critical component** for seniors as well as transportation and health care. We have a number of **programs and grants available** to assist communities and organizations in dealing with these issues. Dean Loidolt, Central Minnesota Council on Aging (dean@cmcoa.org)
- **In order to meet the needs of a new population first we need to get to know them**. Make an effort to attend events such as the Long Prairie Cinco de Mayo Festival. Beyond that **collaboration is key**, we need to partner with the local immigrant community as well as each other as service providers. We need to really focus on helping immigrant families and children with **afterschool programs in order to raise graduation rates**. Rocio Fernandez Lugo, Hispanic Liaison/Family Worker, Long Prairie Grey Eagle Schools (rfernandezlugo@lpge.k12.mn.us)
- **Nutrition and local foods for low income** is a focus of our organization as it relates to both **low income and immigrant communities**. We can offer technical assistance and are always interested in partnering on projects that fulfill our goals. Denise Stromme, University of Minnesota Extension (stromme@umn.edu)

- **Utilize the school districts to build relationships with our younger population, don't wait for them to come to you**, set up a local partnership , do intergenerational activities that can benefit everyone involved. Schools need to be approached with requests and options as well the willingness to partner. Happy to work with others to help make this happen in your area. Sharon Notch, UCare-Medicare Sales and Marketing Rep(notch@ucare.org)
- **There is a great need to have positive dialog around race issues and the achievement gap** in our communities and schools. Even in communities without many children of color the achievement gap between them and white students is significant. We will **need all our children to be accepted and successful**, both for their own good as well as our communities as a whole! **I am happy to partner** with others to bring all of our children to their full potential. Mary Sam, Director of Intercultural Services, Diversity & Tribal Relations (msam@clcmn.edu)
- **We have a new wave of retirees arriving!** We need to have programs tailored to them that will assist them with making **career and life transitions** by identifying their skills and **passions** and then **connecting** them with **opportunities** to build their communities utilizing those **skills** and passions. While still serving our previous generation of retirees, we need to realize that **this next wave is different** and will have somewhat different needs and expectations. Bill Brekken, The Center for Lifelong Learning, Central Lakes College(bbrekken@clcmn.edu)
- There are **exciting opportunities in the Long Prairie area** in terms of **business development**. Along with an effort to fill a vacant meat processing and retail space with a Hispanic based niche market business that would also have other value added agricultural benefits, partners are considering a business development program that would be open to everyone but also be **immigrant friendly with coaching and translation services**. The goal would be to **fill existing vacant store fronts** and other commercial properties. Dan Frank, Initiative Foundation (dfrank@ifound.org)

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- Create more Transportation options
- Elected officials need to become informed on aging issues.
- Transportation needs extended hours on week days and needs to be provided on the weekends.
- Health care should be provided without an age factor coming into play.
- Revisit the probable list of specific things identified as needs/issues/projects and create/confirm a distribution list to share pertinent information that fall into some defined categories (ex. potential development, issues, needs, etc.).
- Transit, housing, telehealth/telemedicine awareness/promotion/utilization, volunteer networks as well as state of MN directives/guidance for areas such as Communities-for-a-Lifetime, CSSD (Community Service/Service Development) grants

administered by the MN Board on Aging that have totaled \$3,000,000 to about \$6,000,000 a year for competitive/matching grants of up to \$250,000 per elderly-oriented projects).

- Intergenerational activities, using our seniors for more activities in the school sharing their expertise on variety of topics which in turn will help the seniors with technology, other more modern approaches for things.
- Connecting the new wave of retirees with opportunities to discover their skills and passions and help to connect them with the best opportunities for them to contribute back to their communities.
- Collaboration is the key. We must reach out to the families who are experiencing difficulties adjusting to the new culture, language. We need the families to know how the school system functions so they can support their children throughout their education with more confidence. Maybe then, Hispanic graduation rates will go up. Our students receive a great education, but often go back home where reality is different. My recommendation is to find ways to help our students after school.
- Work together in Long Prairie area to create opportunities for new business start ups including programs to assist Hispanic and other ethnic groups take advantage of new business development opportunities.
- Work together to change perspectives about Race and to close the learning gap that exists between white students and students of color.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Connectivity
Champion: Mark Hanson

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- We recently facilitated a meeting with local broadband providers to discuss the goal of increasing broadband availability:
 - Without adequate subsidies there is no viable rural business model, so they stress **it is vitally important all stakeholders speak up now** to make sure rural America is not left out in the cold with new FCC plans currently being developed.
 - The providers will put together a report on how a small grant could be utilized, for example for a pilot wireless project, so that we're prepared if state funds become available.
 - However, they stress that wireless alone will not be adequate for many high-tech businesses. (see bullet 1)
- The WCEDA web portal has soft-launched
 - Promotes the Region V economic engines, including technology
 - Takes a regional approach—trying to have examples from each county
 - Will have a map of wi-fi hot spots—**please tell us of any you know!**

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- We will be meeting with BLAEDC to discuss workforce development and other needs for the high-tech industries in our region.
- Need to learn about the needs for connectivity in the health industry—funding may be available there.
- EDA folks need to talk to telecom folks to have a unified voice in government discussions. Cheryal is arranging.
- Remember to donate your old computers to PCs for People!



Champion Report
Theme Area: Education and Workforce Development
Champions: Craig Nathan, Larry Lundblad, Cheryal Hills

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- FastTRAC - Implementation of a region FastTRAC program in Manufacturing to engage low skill adults in a career development program. Partners include Brainerd Adult Basic Education (ABE), Central Lakes College (CLC) and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP). This is the first part of a two year grant from DEED. 50 adults will participate over a (2) year program.
- NCRC - Implementation of introduction of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) at Central Lakes College and area Businesses. Goals to include the NCRC in all Technical Education offerings at CLC. A cumulative total of over 100 businesses in the 5 county region now recognize the NCRC as a valuable tool for recruitment and in employee development.
- Career/NCRC Advising - Implementation of the Brainerd High School Career/NCRC Advisor. This is a two year project to introduce high school students to careers. This is a collaborative project between ISD 181, the Bremer Foundation, The Initiative Foundation and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP). This project will provide the foundation for a better career pathway for high school student to higher education.
- DOL/MFG Grant – Central Lakes College (CLC) is starting to develop the \$12 million dollar advanced Manufacturing Career Program made possible through a TAA/CCT, Dept of Labor Grant. Plans include curriculum development this year, with enrollment starting next year 2013 – 2014. DOL TAACCCT. Rapid Manufacturing Grant director and various personnel are in place. Customized training representative will begin making business visits immediately to identify training needs. Mediated telepresence equipment will be ordered shortly. This is a collaboration between area Manufactures, Central Lakes College (CLC), Pine Technical College, and St Cloud Technical College. Rural Minnesota CEP is also a partner.
- Welding Training - A Welding Training Course (160 hours) will be developed and offered in the 5 county area. This is a program made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP). Partners include - Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. (M-State), and area Manufacturers. This program aid Low Income Families with free training to

enter a high demand occupation that is growing in central Minnesota. The training will be held in the Little Falls Development Center.

- Central MN Manufacturing Alliance - A group has stated in Central MN to aid Manufacturers in development of a workforce to aid the local Manufacturing sector. The Brainerd Lakes Chamber has headed up the group, with partners including Central Lakes College, Area Manufactures, and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.
- Bridges Career Academies are being expanded and additional high schools are being added

2. **What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?**

- Career/NCRC Advising Expansion - Planning for an additional (5) schools in the (5) county are in the next year.
- DOL TAACCCT grant - partnering CLC, other MnSCU colleges , 360 Manufacturing and Applied Engineering Center of Excellence, Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc., DEED, ABE (Adult Basic Ed)
- Bridges Career Academies - Brainerd Lakes Chambers and regional K-12 districts expanding relationships. \$250,000 Bremer grant obtained by the Chamber to expand Bridges Academies.
- Federal Reserve, Minneapolis - Explore connections with Fed to educate region on banking and Economic Development. Develop some type of education conference to be held on a regular basis about the economy in our Region. Get more involvement with Federal Reserve & local Businesses.
- New Jobs Program s- Create the WPA workforce training effort for transitional jobs
- STEM Training – Develop additional STEM training in High schools
- Broad Band – Develop additional Broad Band capabilities in the rural areas for jobs & business expansion.
- Distance Learning - Develop additional Distance Learning opportunities for workers to skill up that live in rural areas.
- Internship Program - Develop an Internship Program for Higher Education Grads and Dislocated Workers.
- Soft Skills Training – Develop and implement a soft skills training program to aid employers.
- Green/Agriculture Jobs – Need additional emphasis on Green/& Ag Jobs at CLC.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Energy
Champion: Jason Edens/Robert Schafer

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- RePocc (Renewable Energy Proof of Concept Center), Region Five Development Commission and DEED collaborative economic planning grant designed “to bring together a broad array of the state’s renewable energy stakeholders, engage higher education institutions, and build the collaborative culture for a successful PoCC.... to better coordinate and rationalize existing economic development efforts for applied research and significantly broaden commercialization.”
- Biofuels industry advancement:
 1. Waste wood products into transportation fuels ; Cass county and SynGas Technology of Elk River Mn.
 2. CLC NextGen grant titled: *Advancing Rural Fuel Production with Innovative Processing Systems and Crops*. This project is proving the feasibility of small scale biodiesel production for the Region V area. RDO Farms and John Deere Equipment, and Anderson Brothers are examples of collaborators.
 3. Investigation of commercial opportunities with gasification/biochar being undertaken by Enberg Logging of Motley and American Peat products of Aitkin Mn.
 4. Advanced portable “critical process” biodiesel plant being developed by Growan Energy and CLC.
 5. Jeff Baldrige/Green Range Energy undertaking waste grease byproduct gasification/electricity co-gen project.
 6. J.M Longyear company purchased Grand Rapids Ainsworth plant – possible biomass to transportation fuel industry.
- Solar/Wind
 - Clean Energy Resource Teams
 - Rural Minnesota Solar Initiative
 - Seed Grant Program
 - Energy Storage manufacturing – Silent Power
 - Solar and wind project development and contracting – RREAL, Zenergy, WERC-15 member CORE group.
 - Possible Solar for Schools project serving 4 school districts and tribal college – R5DC.
 - Solar Thermal for Regional Schools assessment - RREAL
 - Solar manufacturing – RREAL, Stern Industries

- Leech Lake Tribal Initiatives:
 - Solar Thermal residential and commercial deployment
 - Renewable energy technician training program
- Ag and Energy Expo February 9, 2013 Sponsored Central Lakes College and Mid Central Federal Savings Bank.

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- RePocc -
 - Greatest opportunity for action/alignment is the support of RePocc. Connecting private industry to the economic planning grant will be important to its success. The Energy Theme group can be a clearinghouse of regionally relevant information from the RePocc process.
 - From the grant executive summary:
 - “A Minnesota Renewable Energy Proof of Concept Center (RePoCC) will be the nexus for a well-defined industry cluster of renewable energy businesses, proven higher education research institutions, and committed state and regional economic development agencies.”
 - ”EDA urged Minnesota to seek a planning grant to bring together a broad array of the state’s renewable energy stakeholders, engage higher education institutions, and build the collaborative culture for a successful PoCC”
 - “The goal of this project is *not* to create another entity, but to better coordinate and rationalize existing economic development efforts for applied research and significantly broaden commercialization.”
 - Research, technical assistance and commercialization of energy technologies;
 - Business services and entrepreneurial support;
 - Stronger private sector engagement;
 - Reform and coordination of state energy policies and programs;
 - Expanded access to capital investment;
 - Identification of priority markets for export;
 - Improved metrics for measuring and branding the Minnesota-based renewable energy sector; and
 - Solidify the working model for a Renewable Energy PoCC and adopt a strategy for full funding.
- CERTs
 - Rural Minnesota Solar Initiative is a statewide program with a great deal of relevance for our region. CERTs is conducting an outreach program to educate rural and agricultural communities about opportunities afforded by various solar technologies. The Energy Theme group could be an additional network through which that information could be shared/disseminated or further evaluated and promoted.
 - U of M Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership approved \$37,000 support for Extension Energy Educator position.



Champion Reports
Theme Area: Healthcare
Champion: Wiebolt, Rice, Solheim

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- The 2010 Affordable Care Act requires 501(c)(3)not-for-profit hospitals to conduct an assessment of community health needs at least every three years and develop and intervention plan to address identified needs. Area health systems such as Essentia Health-St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Lakewood Health and Tri-County are currently involved in conducting these assessments in the region.
- All counties are required by MDH to conduct an assessment of community health needs every 5 years. CWC has sent a comprehensive survey to 2,000 households in CWC. Preliminary results indicate priority areas to be obesity, sedentary lifestyles/ lack of physical activity, and access to affordable health care coverage as priority areas. We have not yet heard from other counties as to their activity in this area.
- Lakewood Health System is currently promoting a program known as 5-2-1-0. This program focuses on educating the public and particularly children around the importance of eating **5** or more fruits and vegetables a day, limiting screen time (T.V., computer, video games) to **2** or less hours per day, getting at least **1** hour of physical activity per day, and drinking **0** sugary drinks per day. We included a brief summary of this program in our communication to area health care providers and educators to test it as an idea.
- 180 letters were sent to organizations within the region who may directly or indirectly impact community health to assess gaps, opportunities, efforts already underway around the healthcare theme and associated recommendations and goals and to test interest in a concept like 5-2-1-0.
- Early response to our communication centers around taking a population health approach to improving health through education and life style improvement. Problems such as obesity and lack of physical exercise were frequently cited. Another recommendation focused on the number of competing messages around health improvement strategies and the need for health care providers to better coordinate and focus these efforts.
- Morrison Healthy Communities Collaborative outreach program Live Better, Live longer focuses on eating better, moving, and belonging

- Sprout Minnesota connects local food sources to schools with the goal of better nutrition.

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- Aligning public health and community hospital requirements to conduct assessment of health care needs. Coordinating interventions to deliver a single consistent message.
- Leveraging the resources of the Essentia Institute of Rural Health (EIRH) to conduct an objective assessment of health disparities in the five county region using health related data and to assist in meaningful measurement of interventions employed. Support for this activity would be sought through grant funding.
- Early feedback indicates several communities are at least considering the development or further development of trail systems to support physical activity.
- Public health, health care providers, schools and colleges are all obvious collaborators on a population health approach which focuses on lifestyle improvement through healthy eating and physical activity. Land use and broadband connectivity are also important connections in such an approach.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Natural Resources and Development Patterns
Champions: Todd Holman and John Sumption

Goals for the Natural Resources and Development Patterns Theme: 1) Achieve balance by creating healthy, livable affordable communities for humans that are also healthy, livable spaces for other plant and animal life; and 2) Water quality/lake clarity improves significantly because the region invests in our lakes. The region needs good water quality to maintain lakeshore property values and to attract tourism.

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- a. **The Brainerd Baxter Mississippi River Group** is working to emphasize the beauty and impact the Mississippi River has on all of our lives. These two cities, along with Central Lakes College, are surmising that the more people spend time on or near the river, the more they will appreciate and acknowledge its importance. They are discussing a River Walk, bike path connections, an outdoor concert venue, etc.
- b. **The watershed approach** currently being used by the MPCA allows communities to look closely at their lake and stream health, how it is all related to activities happening in the entire watershed, and how to preserve the quality of public waters, or if necessary, how to fix it.
- c. **Relationship building** has been a key component in Pine River's plan to better understand the complex relationship of what happens on the land and what the water reports. Pine River has developed relationships with land owners, particularly farmers and they have also added two farmers to the Board. Although a lot of Pine River's initial efforts were with lake associations, they now believe they can accomplish more focusing on non-riparian owners, and improving economic value along with environmental vitality. Basically, they are interested in sustainability as it relates to practices for agriculture.
- d. **Proposed changes to county land use ordinances** are being discussed by the Cass County Board.
- e. **The Micropolitan Project** was a positive step in the right direction to getting LGUs that share a water body to work together to create common regulations. The project resulted in a list of standardized definitions and planning terms, a coordinated recreational trail project and a multi-jurisdictional working agreement. Follow up grant funding was sought, but required local match, which could not be generated. Agreements were not completed.

- f. **Performance-based ordinances** are in place in Crow Wing County, which updated their Land Use Ordinance and incorporated the proposed DNR Shoreland Standards, the Micropolitan definitions and terms, conservation development standards, mandatory stormwater management, shoreline vegetation protection, and BMP implementation. This effort has won state and national awards.
- g. **In Brainerd, many positive steps are happening.** For example: multipurpose trail constructions (state and local), Safe Routes to School Infrastructure (sidewalk installation) planning, evaluating the future use of Whittier School (closed as a neighborhood school), established zoning criteria that makes it easier to use an obsolete building/property for a nonconforming use, developing programming for neighborhood revitalization through housing rehabilitation, exploring signed on street bike routes, developing an historic site marker program/developed a Downtown historic walking tour, City Council is planning a visioning process in 2013, new Zoning Ordinance/Subdivision Ordinance in 2009 and new Zoning Map in 2011, applied (SWCD) for funding to test/monitor Little Buffalo Creek, exploring development of an outdoor learning center on newly acquired city land, using Green Step Cities model as a guide for sustainability practices, installed solar panels at Brainerd Public Utilities.
- h. **Sprawl** continues to plague cities, especially Baxter as it continues to grow north along HWY 371 in manner that ignores pedestrian and biker needs.
- i. **Adopting the DNR shoreland standards**, or at least portions of them, has been accomplished in Crow Wing County, Cass County and several other jurisdictions
- j. **Development review teams** are in place in Cass and Crow Wing Counties
- k. **Legislative changes** have changed variance criterion and significantly limited the ability of local planning boards to affect protective measures.
- l. **The North Central Conservation Collaborative** is made up of representatives of many of the state's leading conservation organizations (TNC, MLT, Envision Minnesota, DNR, Chippewa National Forest, the Conservation Fund, TPL, etc.). They meet regularly to talk about the importance of preserving the environmental integrity of the Upper Mississippi River Basin, not just for residents and visitors, but for millions who live downstream in St. Cloud and the Twin Cities who depend on the Mississippi to provide clean drinking water.
- m. **The revised DNR shoreland rules** continue to be pushed at the legislature and at the DNR. The current standards, which were written in the 70's and last revised in the 80's, are woefully inadequate for today's development pressures. Governor Pawlenty did not support the changes to the rules, but Governor Dayton appears to be willing to sign them. First, the legislature must act to return rulemaking authority back to the DNR so they can present the revised rules to Governor Dayton for his signature.
- n. **The Central Region Sustainability Partnership/University of Minnesota Extension** is funding projects that promote natural resources protection, tourism, local foods and agriculture, and energy conservation. These match up well with the recommendations of the Resilient Region Plan, so this might be a good source of funding to implement smaller projects.

- o. **Envision Minnesota** has been receiving grant dollars from the EPA to help communities throughout Minnesota have conversations about sustainable development and turning ideas into action. The grants allow the infusion of technical expertise that the communities may not have had access to in the past. Representative projects include downtown revitalization, complete streets, expanding bike paths, promoting conservation design, promoting local foods, etc. In this region, Pine River received assistance to help promote a complete street on Barclay Avenue and to prioritize downtown beautification opportunities.
- p. **The Lake-Friendly Development Awards** recognize landowners who develop their riparian property as if the environment mattered. These awards have been happening since 2003 and have recognized approximately 50 projects for lake-friendly home construction, lakescaping, lake-friendly protection strategies and lake and river stewardship.
- q. **Mississippi Headwaters Board**, BWSR-CWR grant for river assessment (7-counties)
- r. **Camp Ripley ACUB program** (18-million since 2004) private conservation easements
- s. **MFRC Landscape Stewardship Program**: Protection of riparian forest corridors and large block forest opportunities within 10-miles of Camp Ripley radius.
- t. **The Nature Conservancy** is exploring Water Fund feasibility, source water protection
- u. **Baxter/Brainerd watershed planning** (HUC 12) Buffalo Creek and Whiskey Creek.

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- v. The Brainerd-Baxter Mississippi River Project
- w. The North Central Conservation Collaborative to look at opportunities to integrate natural resources conservation/green infrastructure into source water protection and WRAPS planning, and to partner with the University of Minnesota hopefully using InVEST to make the economic case for the value of protecting/maintaining ecosystem services as it relates to watershed protection.
- x. Regional adoption of the revised DNR shoreland standards
- y. Energizing locally developed foods (growing, markets, distribution channels, etc.)
- z. Data collection (lake and stream biology, chemistry and flow data). Many different folks are collecting data (i.e. lake associations, SWCDs, MPCA) but we could be more thoughtful about where and when we collect, store and analyze data to minimize duplication. We could also be expanding the data collection during this timeframe to get a complete picture of watershed health such as water appropriation/use, geomorphology, biodiversity, etc. to get. Once this data is collected we need a broader audience to sift through the data and determine action steps based on where restoration or protection efforts would make sense.
- aa. Finding connections between the Resilient Region effort and Pine River Watershed Alliance efforts.

- bb. Facilitating cross-county discussions with p & z commissioners to educate same on value of having compatible land use ordinances **region** wide.
- cc. Collaboration between City / Township / County to create common standards. It is difficult for contractors and homeowners to understand the different rules and requirements across jurisdictional boundaries. Education of the public is key. People want to do the right thing. They just need to know what it is and why it is the right thing.
- dd. Evaluating Comprehensive Plans.
- ee. Partnering with the Central Region Sustainability Partnership to bolster both natural resources efforts. [D.S.]
- ff. Region-wide training for planning officials—update on Resilient Region recommendations
- gg. Selecting pilot projects in selected watersheds/jurisdictions to demonstrate the mutual benefits and efficiencies of cooperative multi-jurisdictional approaches to land use planning and resource protection.
- hh. Convene a region-wide conference of County and City officials and adopt a cooperative agreement to plan and implement resource protection programs cooperatively.
 - ii. Seek and secure funding.
- jj. Need an information vehicle to keep local policy makers updated and engaged in processes and projects.
- kk. Since the Crow Wing River is an MPCA focus project, Crow Wing, Morrison, Wadena and Cass Counties should commit participation to this project. (implementation of local Water Plan and Comprehensive Land Use plans) This should include municipalities as well.
- ll. Local governments should incorporate relevant work from the projects above into local Water Plans, Land Use Plans and policies.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Efficiency and Effectiveness
Champion: Andrea Lauer, Don Hickman

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- Cities in Morrison County meet every 1st Wed of the month to discuss ideas, planning, grants, problem solving, etc. (This has resulted in shared services, personnel, and discussion regarding a JPA. Collaboration between fire departments/townships schools/cities as well as with the County.
- MNDOT will be working collaboratively with local units of government to identify routes that are currently improperly aligned with roadway authority. In addition, MnDOT is initiating a statewide program called “Transit for Our Future” to fund implementation of unique projects addressing coordination, cooperation, and Consolidation that will merge and or share services in order to ensure delivery of transit services.
- Cass County is engaged in a number of shared services with other units of government, including, joint purchases, for signs, software, and Allied Radio Management Emergency Response Equipment.
- Cass and Todd County are also currently exploring a collaborative approach to the delivery of income maintenance services that would allow non-resident income maintenance clients a choice of location for services. In other words a southern Cass county resident would not need to drive 100 mi to Walker but rather they could drive 15 mi to Brainerd.

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- Cities in other counties could adopt the model being used by Morrison County Mayors by hosting monthly mayors meetings.
- County and City Engineers as well as a number of other key individuals were identified as key stakeholders that should be brought into the discussion regarding Efficiency and Effectiveness.
- Other local units of government that have not been contacted as of yet as well as state agencies.



Champion Report
Theme Area: Transportation
Champion: Jarrett Lease, KLJ;
Tim Houle, WSN;
Jake Huebsch, Region 5

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- Sent email requesting feedback out to about 25 people, received 4 responses
- MnDOT working with local partners on functional (arterials, collectors, local roads – like our blood circulatory system) and jurisdictional (who is responsible – MnDOT, County, City, Township) classifications of roadway system.
- MnDOT working with others on public transit options – e.g. possible CLC van pool; possible Camp Ripley van pool

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

- Various agencies (e.g. Central MN Council on Aging in St. Cloud) working together on transit options. How can we make connections between groups (e.g. Pine River with Brainerd / Crow Wing?)
- Trails – again, is it advantageous for City or independent trail groups to connect and interact at times? Maybe develop a consistency of signing, cooperate on general education and outreach, or other ways to cooperate.



Champion Report
Theme Area: ECONOMIC ENGINES
Champion: GREG BERGMAN
RICK UTECH
Ex Officio: JOE SCHULTE

Economic Engines Goals

With the region's financial needs changing, financial resources must adapt and adjust to meet the needs of entire business communities. Feedback from resource individuals and organizations has defined two of those specific needs:

- 1. Lindstrom MN – Quick-Turn Short-Term Funding Program**
- 2. Long Prairie MN – Rural Minnesota Assistance Program (RMAP-Micro Lending)**

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations? (Black/Lindstrom, Blue/Long Prairie)

- The extreme hardship placed on a majority of small business owners (mainly store-front businesses) in the downtown corridor in the City of Lindstrom, Minnesota.
- This situation was the result of the Highway 8 Road Reconstruction Project that was being conducted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation over the past seven (7) months (with 3-more months to be completed in the spring 2013).
- The business losses by the Lindstrom businesses are about to become a catastrophe for about ten (10) to fifteen (15) of the downtown businesses owners. They are, in some cases, just days away from closing their doors for good. The effect would mean that approximately twenty-five of their employees hired are about to lose their jobs.
- The road reconstruction financially disrupted almost all the business from those fifty (50) businesses for the entire seven (7) month period (April 15th thru November 15th). Their losses are directly related to the road reconstruction and absolutely nothing else. In a recent survey, forty-five (45) of the businesses that are in need here have lost \$2.33 million net dollars.
 - Determine specific area (location) to focus on resources recruitment
 - Meetings face-to-face with key-shareholders
 - Definition of collaborations necessary for the project
 - Implementation of ideas into a clearly defined project
 - Determining which resources can or will participate in project
 - Marketing the project

- Setting benchmarks to evaluate the project

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration? (Black/Lindstrom, Blue/Long Prairie)

- Changing Populations - Mary Sam (CLC)
 - Older owners shutting down, retiring, leaving youth without job opportunities
- Connectivity – Janelle Riley
 - Linking all businesses together for promotions, store hours, pricing of merchandise
- Education & Workforce Development – Craig Nathan
 - Laid-off workers career change training, NCRC, availability of jobs if relocate
- Efficiency & Effectiveness – Don Hickman
 - Better business practices, profit n loss, spreadsheets, cost cutting
- Transportation – Tim Houle
 - Customers to store fronts, workers to work, product to merchants
- Collaboration partners thus far on Long Prairie Project:
 - Dan Frank
 - Rick Utech
 - John Flory-Latino Economic Development Ctr MPLS
 - Jaime Villalaz-Latino Economic Development Ctr MPLS
 - Lyle Danielson-Long Prairie Economic Development
 - Dave Venekamp-Long Prairie City Administrator
 - Al Ulbricht-VP Minnesota National Bank Long Prairie
 - Don-Long Prairie Mayor
 - Ron Kresha-House Representative

3. What are the “action steps” moving forward?

- Inform all collaboration partners of each programs active status.
- Align Changing Populations - Mary Sam (CLC) champions with strategic plan for both projects.
- Focus Connectivity – Janelle Riley to bring both programs forward to citizen in the respective communities in a positive method.
- Prepare community Education & Workforce Development – Craig Nathan for the shift in personnel needs of both communities.
- Partner immediately with Efficiency & Effectiveness Champions – Don Hickman to facilitate the best business practices atmosphere with realistic, profit n loss, spreadsheets, cost cutting methods.
- Define the role of Transportation – Tim Houle that brings customers to business store fronts, workers to work, product to merchants in a maximum benefit way.
- Collaboration is a must. Reaching out to new cultures through steady, reliable employment. Working together in Long Prairie area to create opportunities for new business start-ups including programs to assist Hispanic and other ethnic groups take advantage of new business development opportunities.