Resilient Region Theme Champions

**CHAMPION CHAIR:**
Tim Houle, Administrator, Crow Wing County

**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
Craig Nathan (Regional Director) Rural MN CEP
Dr. Chad Coauette (Executive Director) National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)
Cheryal Lee Hills (Executive Director) R5DC
Peggy Kennedy (President), Jill Abbott (Assoc. VP of Academic Affairs), Monty Johnson (Senior Dean) Minnesota State Community & Technical College (M-State)
Dr. Hara Charlier (President) Central Lakes College

**EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS**
Don Hickman (Vice President) Initiative Foundation
Andrea Lauer (Mayor) City of Royalton
Mel Radermacher (Economic Development Director) City of Staples
Anna Gruber (City/County Manager) NJPA

**TRANSPORTATION**
Tim Houle, (Engineer) Widseth, Smith, Nolting
Jarrett Leas (Engineer) Kadrmas, Lee & Jackson
Staci Headley (Regional Development Planner) R5DC
Andy Stone (Transit Coordinator) Brainerd and Crow Wing Public Transit

**ECONOMIC ENGINES**
Greg Bergman (Director) Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Vicki Chepulis (Grants Coordinator) Five Wings Arts Council
Arlene Jones (Owner/Operator) The Farm on St. Mathias (Manager) SPROUT Food Hub
Sandy Voigt (Regional Business Specialist) R5DC

**CONNECTIVITY**
Pam Mahling (CEO) Rural Solutions Services
Kevin Larson (CEO) Kristi Westbrock (COO) Joe Buttweiler (Partnership Dev Mgr) Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC)
Janelle Riley (CEO) Syvantis Technologies
Stacey Stockdill, (CEO) EnSearch, Inc.
Paul Drange, (Director of Regional Programs) National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)
Janet Johnson, (Instructor) Minnesota State Community & Technical College (M-State)
Rick Utech (Executive Director) Todd County Economic Development Corporation
Brenda Thomes (Administrator) City of Long Prairie

**ENERGY**
Keith Olander (Dean of Agriculture) Central Lakes College
Jason Edens (President) Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)
Molly Zins (Executive Director) University of Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership
Sarah Hayden (Coordinator) Central Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs)

**HEALTH CARE**
Tim Rice (CEO) Lakewood Health System
John Solheim (CEO), Amy Hart (COO), Peggy Stebbins (Director of Marketing and PR) Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Bob McLean (COO/GM) Hunt Utilities Group
Adam Rees (CEO) & Mike Larson (COO) Essentia Health
Dan Swenson (Administrator) Centracare Long Prairie

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOUSING**
Jennifer Bergman (Executive Director) Brainerd HRA
Deanna Hemmesch (Executive Director) Central Minnesota Housing Partnership

**CHANGING POPULATIONS**
Mary Sam (Director of Intercultural Services/Diversity/Tribal Relations) Central Lakes College (CLC)
DeAnn Barry (Executive Director) The Center
Dean Loidolt (Community Service Developer) Central Minnesota Council on Aging (CMCOA)
Dan Frank (Community Specialist) Initiative Foundation

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**
Dawn Espe (Regional Development Planner) R5DC