



**COUNTY OF BECKER**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
*REGULAR MEETING MINUTES*

Becker County  
915 Lake Avenue  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

3:30 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room Courthouse

*THE BECKER COUNTY EDA WILL ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE BY PROMOTING  
AND DEVELOPING HOUSING & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES*

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board: Sean Felker, Richard Vareberg, Erica Jepson, Karen Mulari, Tom Klyve  
Other: BC Staff - Cody Piper, Mary Hendrickson; MMCDC - Laura McKnight, Robyn Beck  
Absent: Hank Ludtke, Abby Anderson

**MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Regular meeting called to order at 3:32 pm by Vice President Mulari.
- II. Motion to accept regular agenda by Jepson; Second Felker; Motion carried.
- III. Motion to approve March 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting minutes by Jepson; Second Vareberg; Motion carried.
- IV. Motion to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes by Klyve; Second Vareberg; Motion carried.
- V. Open Forum attendees Natalie Bly and Kelsey Varty with the Early Care and Development Foundation (ECDF) attended to present on the progress of the foundation and discuss the request for further funding from the unused balance of prior allotted funds dedicated to child care and expansion by the County.
- VI. Consent Items
  - a. Financials and Claims
    - i. Motion to accept EDA budget and balance sheets by Klyve; Second Felker; Motion carried.
    - ii. Motion to housing check registers, bills, and financials by Jepson; Second Felker; Motion carried.
  - b. Reports
    - i. Minnesota City Participation Program – report not presented
    - ii. MURL Loan Report – report not presented
- VII. Housing
  - a. Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
    - i. Approve Carpet Bid for 340 Falcon St, Audubon by Ramsey Flooring for the amount of \$7,993. Bid amount was amended from original to correct tax amount.
    - ii. Motion to accept the Public Housing updates as presented by Jepson; Second Vareberg; Motion carried
    - iii. McKnight presented power point about the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. Presentation included components, eligibility, payments, issuance, inspection, reporting, funding, enforcement, and regulations.



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- b. Piper presented the Housing Subcommittee report from April 15<sup>th</sup>. Group to meet with Minnesota Local Government Housing Programs director to review current programs and get clarification on use of funds, including the Statewide Affordable Housing Aide. Recommendation to create an action plan for next steps in creating a housing trust fund.

#### VIII. Economic Development

- a. Large stakeholder group met with UofM Extension team to discuss the upcoming workshop, finalize details, and organize registration and outreach to community members. Workshop is on track and expect 25-30 attendees.
- b. Board members discussed and reviewed the request of the County Board and the information presented by the ECDF. Board felt that it would be beneficial to the County to continue support to child care expansion. Since funding was already allocated for this use, it is not coming from new funding. Board would like to see funding released with stipulations for the use so that there is assurance funds go towards what it was originally intended for. Motion to recommend to the County Board a one time payment up to the remaining balance (\$24,706) of the prior county commitment of \$100,000 for child care start up and expansion. Funds to be released if ECDF can pledge matching funds or demonstrate a dedicated program or use of requested funds.
- c. Piper attended quarterly meeting with Association of Professional County Economic Developers in Otter Tail County. Meeting included a workforce panel discussion, presentation of Otter Tails resident recruitment program, Minnesota Housing updates, Broadband (BEAD) updates, and updates from MN DEED's Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund. Piper noted that the ERAF can be deployed immediately to business owners and will get information uploaded to website.
- d. Economic Development Summit was held on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Piper presented updates on Becker County EDA as part of an introductory panel. Summit had great turnout, representing a strong interest in community partnerships and development.

#### IX. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm by Mulari.