

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ARDC)

July 17, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Hermantown Public Safety Building (Training Center), Hermantown, MN**Minutes**

Present = X	Member's Name	Representing
X	Adee, Kevin	Townships
X	Baltus, Mike	Townships
X	Briggs, Brian	Communities Under 10,000
	Cuffee, Jr., Laurence	Communities Under 10,000
X	Davis, Dirk	At Large
X	DeRosier, Richard	Communities Under 10,000
	Deschampe, Bobby	NATC – Grand Portage
	Drift, Perry	NATC – Bois Forte
X	Franklin, Pam	Advisory Committee - AAAA
X	Garry, Michael "Mike"	Communities Under 10,000
X	Goutermont, Richard	County Commissioners (Lake)
	Grimm, Ashley	County Commissioners (St. Louis)
	Harala, Annie	County Commissioner (St. Louis)
	Hautala, Walter	School Boards
X	Hell, Destry	County Commissioner (Koochiching)
X	Hollinday, Jason	NATC – Fond du Lac
	Hoops, Mike	At Large
X	Hoppe, Joel	At Large
X	Johnson, John	County Commissioner (Itasca)
X	Kaupilla, Clayton	Townships
X	Kearney, Mike	County Commissioner (Aitkin)
	Lucas, David	Communities Under 10,000
X	Lyons, Steve	Advisory Committee on Aging
X	MacGregor, Molly	Communities Over 10,000
	Maki, Roger	Communities Over 10,000
	Mayou, Mike	Advisory Committee - MIC
X	McLaughlin, Kim	School Boards
X	Medure, Pat	At Large
X	Nephew, Lynn	Communities Over 10,000
X	Nevanen, Paul	At Large
X	Rasmussen, Allen	At Large
	Saari, Calvin	Communities Under 10,000
X	Sherman, Grant	Townships
X	Storlie, Ginny	County Commissioners (Cook)
X	Sydow, Steve	At Large
X	Whitney, Chris	Communities Over 10,000
	Zmyslony, Susan	County Commissioner (Carlton)
Present = X	Name	Representing
X	Binstock, Dee	ARDC
X	Chicka, Ron	ARDC
X	Kane, Kristi	ARDC
X	Alexandra, Renee	ARDC

Virtual/MS TEAMS	Morrisroe, Sr Mary Matthew	ARDC
X	Sash, Rebecca	ARDC
X	Teskey, Beth Ann	ARDC

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Storlie at 10:00 a.m. Round robin introductions.
2. **CONSENT AGENDA for approval of the following:**
Board Meeting Minutes, April 17th, 2025.
Motion by Medure/Garry to support. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
3. **RESOLUTION:** Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with a Qualified Consultant to redesign the dsmic.org website as part of the Metropolitan Interstate Council 's Work Program Activities for CY2025. *(Ron Chicka)*
Motion by Rasmussen/Johnson to support. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
4. **RESOLUTION:** Authorization of Loan Requests totaling Seventy-Five Thousand (\$75,000) from ARDC's CARES Regional Revolving Loan Fund for Duluth Cider, Valerie and Jacob Scott. *(Kristi Kane)*
Motion by Garry/Nevenen to support. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
5. **REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT** was referred to by Executive Director Kane. Director Kane noted \$1.5 Million available and over \$1 million in CARES loans are available - a lot of opportunity to invest in the region. If they have questions about qualifications, contact Chad Ricord. As time moves from COVID, ARDC is looking for common trends that allow the CARES loans to apply to businesses. Started cross-training staff to work with the RLF and updating the RLF plan. Hoping to have revised plan by end of September.
6. **Preliminary Agency Wide 2026 Budget and Tax Levy Apportionment – Kristi Kane**
 - **ARDC 2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND TAX LEVY APPORTIONMENT**
 - **RESOLUTION:** Adoption of Preliminary Agency Wide 2026 Budget and 2026 Tax Levy Apportionment.
Motion by Rasmussen/Goutermont to support. Discussion occurred. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
7. **RESOLUTION: 2024 Audit RFP – Allen Rasmussen**
Motion by Rasmussen/Johnson to support. Discussion occurred. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
8. **FINANCIAL REPORT.** June 2025's financial reports were reviewed by Finance Director Morrisroe. New staff have started – an accountant and a finance assistant. They started in June and will be cross trained. New staffing allows time to look closer at projects. Balance sheets will be able to be reported in greater depth in receivables. Payables went down to just pass-through funds awaiting reimbursements. Anticipating indirect being within budget. Change in IT provider, changes the IT cost. Increase in cost is viable within indirect rate. Updated fringe rates will be presented for discussion and approval in October.
9. **2024 ANNUAL REPORT – Kristi Kane**

- ARDC 2024 Annual Report. Expanded report to include more impact in each division. Intent to send out to the region.
- **RESOLUTION:** To Approve ARDC's 2024 Annual Report
Motion by Baltus/Kearny to support. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.

10. PRESENTATION: *Aging Area Plan 2025-2028* presented by Rebecca Sash. Discussion was held over outreach of services. Presentation to be sent out after meeting.

11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM – Conflict of interest forms were handed out.

12. MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- **Planning**
 - Comprehensive Economic Development (CEDS) committee selection discussions began this week.
 - EDA's new agreement is in house and signed. ARDC Planning met with 11 interested organizations from across the Arrowhead Region about EDA Disaster Relief funding opportunities for 2023-2024 disasters, with the most promising projects listed below:
 - Multiple regional organizations for Repowering Rural Communities
 - City of Biwabik's Water and Sewer Relocation
 - City of Cook's Downtown Revitalization Plan
 - Cook County's Arrowhead Trail Reconstruction
 - Duluth International Airport Authority for Hush House Taxiway Improvements
 - City of Hibbing Storm Water Improvements
 - Itasca Economic Development Corporation for The Forge Machining Equipment (workforce training equipment)
 - Natural Resources Research Institute for the Midwest Industrial Transformation Initiative.
 - North Shore Management Board renewed its contract. The Technical Advisory Committee shared positive feedback about ARDC adding Travis Houle as meeting facilitator and confirmed progress has been made on Plan updates.
 - MnDOT - RTAC and RTCC renewal contracts received, and work has begun. RTAC Functional Class work continues. The North Shore Roadway Network Resilience Study (formerly called Highway 61) agreement has been received from MnDOT. NEMNATP met last week. MnDOT invited ARDC to discuss updating the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan.
 - Carlton Transportation Plan is nearing finalization with consultant TKDA. Public review is being obtained. Project is on target.
 - The GIS Team is at the ESRI Conference this week receiving updated training.
 - Coastal Erosion Hazard Mapping – ARDC Planning awaits the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources authorization to complete an erosion susceptibility pilot.
 - Statewide Health Improvement Partnership – ARDC was awarded \$5,000 more in funds through October 31, 2025.
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – ARDC awarded two subgrants to White Township and Floodwood Independent School District 698 for which agreements were sent today.
 - State Competitiveness Fund and Economic Development Administration opportunities continue to be emailed throughout the Region.
 - State Competitiveness Fund - Discussions occurring with MnDOT and IRRR on the CFI rollout, with ARDC's role yet to be determined. ARDC Planning also contacted Carlton County about IRA Direct Pay assistance.
 - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) for William Kelley in Silver Bay, Minnesota, completed, with SRTS work now beginning for both Duluth and Floodwood Public Schools.

- Age-Friendly Minnesota Trail Survey in progress, with additional flyers being posted throughout the Region to obtain greater feedback.
- Brownfields Coalition – Brenny Dahl site sampling is happening this week.
- NOAA SLC Climate Resiliency – NOAA Fellow has been onboarded and is regularly meeting at Bois Forte and Fond du Lac with discussion of energy projects and work plans underway. Collaborative meetings are going well; connected on Rhode Island project, which is like ARDC's project. Planning staff met with the Region 2 (NE MN) Homeland Security and Emergency Managers
- Gitch-Gami Trail Association renewed its contract for \$18,391.
- **MIC**
 - Fully staffed, position filled. Bike path committee, safe routes.
 - Funds are going to upgrade website soon.
 - Acquired consultant looking at crash stats across the metro area.
 - Budget is sound for next year
 - MIC Director noted federal funding was on hold for language in grants – projects like Blatnik slowed, now moving forward
- **Aging**
 - RFPs out for all four titles of funding – Applications due at end of August
 - Currently grant application out for next generation grant
 - Ready 2026 plan
- **Operations**
 - Updated Annual Report, Quarterly Newsletter, and Workplan were shared via email and some printed copies.
 - Operations received a completed 2023 financial audit and immediately sent out the RFP for the 2024/2025 audit services. We received 4 proposals, assembled a scoring team and rated each proposal.
 - Working on developing tools to better communicate impact in the region.
 - Change in IT provider in effect. Thriveon – transition finalized July 9th, Executive Director noted smooth transition.

13. APPRISE FROM BOARD MEMBERS &/OR GUESTS.

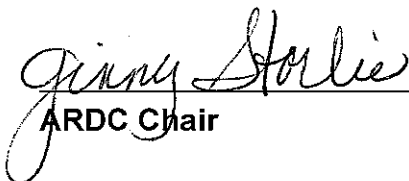
14. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Board Meeting** – August 21st, 2025 - ARDC
- **Board Meeting** – September 18th, 2025 - ARDC
- **Commission Meeting** – October 16th, 2025 - Hermantown Public Safety Building (Fire & Police) in the Training Center

15. ADJOURN Meeting was adjourned by Ginny Storlie at 11:47 a.m.

Motion by Medure/Rasmussen to support. Motion carried unanimously.

Attest:



 ARDC Chair



Submitted by Renee Alexandra, Exec. Assistant, Board
 & Commission Coordinator