

ARROWHEAD REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ARDC)

March 19th, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

ARDC, 221 West First Street, Duluth, MN 55802

Minutes

Present	Member's Name	Representing
X	Briggs, Brian	At Large (ARDC Commissioner = Communities Under 10,000 (Int'l Falls))
	Goutermont, Rick	County Commissioner (Lake)
	Harala, Annie	County Commissioner (St. Louis)
X	Hell, Destry	County Commissioner (Koochiching)
	Holliday, Jason	NATC, <i>Secretary</i>
X	Hoppe, Joel	At Large
X	Johnson, John	County Commissioner (Itasca), <i>Vice Chair</i>
MS	Kearney, Mike	County Commissioner (Aitkin)
X	Lyons, Steve	Advisory Committee (Aging)
MS	Medure, Pat	At Large
X	Nevanen, Paul	At Large
X	Rasmussen, Allen	At Large, <i>Treasurer</i>
X	Storlie, Ginny	County Commissioners (Cook), <i>Chair</i>
X	Zmyslony, Susan	County Commissioners (Carlton)
OTHERS AT MEETING		
X	Chicka, Ron	ARDC
X	Kane, Kristi	ARDC
X	Winter, Nate	ARDC
X	Sash, Rebecca	ARDC
X	Teskey, Beth Ann	ARDC
X	Alexandra, Renee	ARDC
X	Binstock, Dee	ARDC
X	Yunk, Tony	ARDC Commission Member

- 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, February 19th, 2026.
Motion by Medure/Hoppe to support. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
- 3. CHAIR COMMENTS:** Appointment of Bylaws Committee – Rasmussen spoke on the current bylaws, mentioning that they have not been updated in some time, and may require revision. Requesting a subcommittee to be formed to revise the bylaws. – Rasmussen – Hoppe – Storlie – volunteered to participate.

4. **RESOLUTION (REVISED):** Resolution Seeking to Begin a Redesignation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization of Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (*K. Kane & R. Chicka*)
Motion by Rasmussen/Yunk to support. Discussion Occurred. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
5. **RESOLUTION:** Authorizing ARDC to enter into a grant agreement with Mn Department of Commerce to capitalize a C-PACE Revolving Loan Fund (*K. Kane*)
Motion by Rasmussen/Briggs to support. Discussion Occurred. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
6. **RESOLUTION:** Authorizing the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to Apply for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council (RTCC) State Fiscal Year(s) 2026-2027 Grant and Acceptance of Funds if Awarded (*B. Teskey*)
Motion by Rasmussen/Kearney to support. Discussion occurred. Motion carried unanimously. No members opposed or recused upon request.
7. **REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) REPORT:** Executive Director Kane. Kane noted that the RLF has been having a slow start this year, mentioning other RDCs have also reported slow business. Last page of RLF details write-offs. This is a write-off for accounting purposes only, still working on collecting on those loans. Kane mentioned that there have been applications droughts in the past, and in the meantime are working on writing procedures to ensure a clear and consistent process for staff. Continuing to have conversations for C-PACE regarding establishing a C-PACE RLF fund and policies.
8. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** February 2026's financial reports were reviewed by Nate Winter from Clifton Larson Allen, ARDC's temporary acting Finance Director. Winter noted:
 - **Total Assets:** \$12,546,121, a decrease of \$582,767 from the prior month. The change is primarily attributable to timing fluctuations in receivables and cash balances.
 - **Current Assets:** \$6,631,273, an increase of \$175,107 from the previous month. The increase is driven largely by higher restricted cash balances related to the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), partially offset by decreases in grants/contracts receivable and tax levy receivables.
 - **Non-Current Assets:** \$5,605,239, a decrease of \$755,323 from the prior month, reflecting the reclassification and normal amortization activity within certificates of deposit, accrued interest, and loans receivable.
 - **Liabilities:** Current liabilities totaled \$1,050,378, a decrease of \$597,384 from the prior month. This reduction is primarily due to the settlement of accounts payable and the decline in deferred revenue related to tax levy timing.
 - **Fund Balance:** Ending fund balance increased modestly to \$11,495,743, reflecting a year-to-date increase of \$15,800
 - **Revenues:** Year-to-date revenues total \$147,631, representing approximately 17% of the annual budget of \$881,158. Revenues consist primarily of tax levy and other income and are tracking consistently with the percentage of the fiscal year completed.
 - **Expenditures:** Year-to-date expenditures total \$131,831, representing approximately 15% of the annual budget of \$881,593. Major expenditure categories include local match, fringe

benefits, and administrative expenses. Spending remains below budgeted levels at this stage of the year.

- **Change in Fund Balance:** The Commission reported a year-to-date increase in fund balance of \$15,800, indicating a modest operating surplus through February.
- **Ending Fund Balance:** \$2,764,832 as of February 28, 2026.
- The Commission continues to maintain a strong and stable financial position with significant reserves and adequate liquidity.
- Operating results through February are generally aligned with budget expectations, with expenditures trending below budget and revenues tracking proportionally with the fiscal year.
- All beginning balances are unaudited and subject to adjustment as part of the year-end audit process

9. PRESENTATION: Difficult Conversations and De-escalation *by Helen Royal and Brad Sperber*

10. MANAGEMENT UPDATE

- **Planning**
 - **CEDS Engagement Meeting schedule distributed** – Bois Forte meeting was held Monday. It went well though six attended. Participation is key to this process. Please do everything possible to spread the word.
 - **Comprehensive Planning** – ARDC Planning is working on proposals for Cities of Coleraine and McGregor. Reaching out to Betsy Olivanti this week as Hibbing expressed potential interest at the IREA meeting as well.
 - Promoted Gavin Bukovich to Senior Planner and he will be taking point on leading the increased comprehensive planning work.
 - **Brownfields Assessment Coalition Brenny Dahl Site Press Conference City of Cloquet** – Beth Ann Teskey spoke at the press conference. ARDC received wide recognition at top of the news for work as part of the \$600,000 federal grant to help the City of Cloquet to complete two phases of environmental site assessments for approximately \$67,000 and the Brenny Dahl Redevelopment Plan for approximately \$38,000.
 - **Leadership and Professional Development Training** – Beth Ann Teskey participating through MADO at Ridgewater College, Willmar, next week.
 - **Common Higher Ground Training (Negotiation, Mediation, Cultural and Power Influences, Mis/Disinformation)** – Beth Ann Teskey, Josh Bergstad, Beverly Sidlo-Tolliver, Ann Seigfreid participating through Keystone Policy Center.
 - **Tribal and Community Engagement funding through Keystone Policy Center and McKnight Foundation** – Keystone funding support is ending March 31, and they have been a great support for tribal and community engagement. McKnight confirmed this week our existing funding can be used to cover this now also. Kristi Kane is applying collaboratively through Region 9 for an additional \$10,000 for this purpose.

- **State Competitiveness Fund** we are applying for an extension through June 30, 2027, which will be supportive of C-PACE and other initiatives.
- **MIC**
 - MIC Director Chicka has noted that there are efforts on Redesignation of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Will continue to provide updates as the process continues.
 - Transportation Improvement Program – looking for projects to go forward into 2030.
 - Funding is believed to be secured for Blatnik renovations
- **Aging**
 - Aging hosted its Spring grantee training on Tuesday for all OAA contractors. It was very well-attended by organizational directors and staff. Heavy focus was put on finance and compliance with the Final Rule.
 - Working with Joelle Hofte who is a researcher in the field of nature and aging to host a regional exchange in the Fall in the arrowhead region. Aging will help coordinate registrations and foundation funding.
 - Aging will be making offers this week to two new Minnesota Aging Pathways staff. Leadership is hopeful about the offers being accepted. There have been several great candidates who were interviewed.
 - Aging will be hosting MBA for a site visit focused on nutrition and EBHP over two days in April. They received permission to take them outside of the Duluth area and will be hosting them in Hibbing and Grand Rapids instead.
 - Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging released 2026 legislative priorities, will be asking for increased funding for nutrition as well as some language changes to current state nutrition law. Bills have been jacketed in house and senate – HF4210, SF4508. Testimony was set to happen yesterday but ran out of time.
 - Aging was featured in the news a couple weeks ago. Director Sash was interviewed about the Federal Medicaid pause for payments and the effect on older adults and rural communities. Aging staff member, Brenda Shafer-Pellinen, had a segment on Launch North adult camp happening next week in Duluth. 27 people have registered so far.
- **Operations**
 - Director Kane mentioned the position openings for the Executive Director and Financial Director Positions. Interviews to be conducted by the Executive Committee and other ARDC leadership.
 - An Arrowhead summary document of 2026 Bonding Bill Requests was provided.
 - CEDs Community Input Meeting flyers were provided and Kane encouraged Board and Commission members to attend to add input.
 - Director Kane mentioned that the continued effort to accumulate information for the building committee is ongoing.

11. APPRISE FROM BOARD MEMBERS &/OR GUESTS.

Carlton County has been beginning stages of comprehensive land use plan. A visionary meeting coming up next month. Building Feasibility Study conducted, built new Justice center.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Commission Meeting** – April 16th, 2026 - Hermantown Public Safety Building (Fire & Police) in the Training Center
- **New Commission Member Orientation** – Following April Commission Meeting
- **Board Meeting** – May 21st, 2026 – ARDC
- **Board Meeting** – June 18th, 2026 – ARDC

13. ADJOURN Meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Attest:



ARDC Chair



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