



Rural Development Council (RDC) Meeting
ND Department of Commerce
TEAMS Meeting
November 30, 2020 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Teran Doerr Dawn Mandt
Shawn Kessel Daniel Stenberg
Jay Doan Antoinette Heier
Gwen Crawford Lindsey Lipp
KayCee Lindsey Megan Laudenschlager

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Janne Myrdal
Joyce ShiningOne Side

GUESTS PRESENT

Brett Gurholdt
Michael Tolan
Maria Effertz Hanson

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairwoman Doerr called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

ED & F Director Announcement

James Leiman, former ED&F Director, has taken on a new position within the Commerce Department in a more strategic role that will help to move special projects forward. Josh Teigen, Head of Investment and Innovation for the ND Development Fund will replace James as the new ED&F Director.

**2021 RDC Meeting Dates
Shawn Kessel**

Dates for the upcoming year were discussed and presented.

Q1 February 16
Q2 May 18
Q3 August 17
Q4 November 16

A tentative joint meeting with the Economic Development Foundation (EDF), and the Workforce Development Council (WDC) could be planned for next year, or a tentative combined meeting of the RDC, EDF, WDC, and the EmPower ND Commission.

**PiP/Vibrancy Grant Update
Brett Gurholt**

An overview and the differences between the Partners in Planning (PiP) grant, and the Vibrancy Grant were highlighted. Brett explained funding options, and Round 1 2020 awards.

**Best Practices Report
Michael Tolan**

The Best Practices Report highlighted the programs and initiatives of Rural Development Councils across the country that they currently undertake. These programming types within the councils reflected varying levels of capacity that were ranked into three areas; Pursue, Consider Pursuing, and Do Not Pursue.

**Rural Development Council (RDC) Meeting
TEAMS Meeting
November 30, 2020 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Commerce/Economic Development Ecosystem Map
Shawn Kessel**

The Ecosystem map, located on the Commerce website, illustrates the network of entities supporting development in ND at the local, regional, and state level. The map displays several different economic zones in their own layers that aid in understanding where location-specific development resources are available. The interactive map has multiple layers of state, county, city, and tribal nation. Organizations are placed in areas they cover, and not necessarily in the area where they are physically located. Shawn reiterated that the map will be continuously updated.

**ND2C Tool
Michael Tolan**

The ND2C Tool will help communities better understand the long-term fiscal impacts of new development to their communities. Users can input specifications that will give cost analysis for taxes, revenue, and maintaining infrastructure. The first draft of the beta version exists in an excel spreadsheet and a web-based application will be built soon.

**Recommendation and Action Plan for 2021
Maria Effertz Hanson
Brett Gurholt**

Five recommendations were discussed.

1. Support Community Conversation
2. Identify Funding Opportunities
3. Rural Development emphasis on Infrastructure
4. Build Capacity for Rural Leadership
5. Communicate Value in Rural Development

Looking ahead to next year, Brett presented a preliminary timeline, outlining opportunities and educational learning sessions, that will be conducted virtually. April through July, community listening sessions will focus on the communities. In August, regional convening, leading up to the Main Street Summit, in October.

**Communication Plan/Website and Annual Report
Shawn Kessel**

Going forward, the Commerce Marketing team will work to enhance the image of the RDC, by updating the website, along with council member conversations. The drafted Annual Report will be sent out to all members for their review and posted to the Commerce website.

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 4:00 p.m.