

**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-2847

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

10:00 AM

Itasca County Boardroom

FINAL

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ives called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Cory Smith	District #1	Late	10:15 AM
Terry Snyder	District #2	Present	10:12 AM
John Johnson	District #3	Present	10:12 AM
Burl Ives	District #4	Present	10:12 AM
Casey Venema	District #5	Present	10:12 AM

II. REGULAR AGENDA

1. Economic Development Goals and Objectives

Commissioners Ives and Snyder provided a historical background of economic development services in Itasca County.

Commissioner Smith entered the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Commissioners reviewed the accomplishments and services provided by Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) and discussed goals and objectives for economic development in Itasca County.

RESULT: INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN

2. Schedule Economic Development Special Session

It was the consensus of the County Board to schedule Economic Development Special Sessions on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Itasca County Courthouse.

III. ADJOURN

Chair Ives adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.

ATTEST

Burl Ives
Chair of the County Board

Brett Skyles
Clerk of the County Board



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2023-2937

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 30 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair

AGENDA ITEM:

Economic Development Goals and Objectives

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Discuss Itasca County's Economic Goals and Objectives.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

1. IEDC Project Updates Final
2. Master Community Project List
3. Itasca County 2023 CEDA Update
4. Performance Feedback 2020-2022
5. 2022-CEDA-Annual-Report

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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IEDC

Itasca Economic Development Corporation



Tamara Lowney
President



Rob Sjostrand
Director of
Business Development



Amanda Lamppa
Project Manager



Nichole Arbour
Business Consultant



Kayla Swanson
Operations & Outreach
Manager



Teri Heikkila
Finance Manager



Stacia Rom
Office Assistant



Tony Ward
Business Consultant

Thank You to Our 2022 Funding Partners

- Blandin Foundation
- Itasca County
- Northland SBDC
- Affinity Plus
- APEX
- Bigfork Valley Hospital
- Blandin UPM
- Boldt
- Braun Intertec
- Cohasset EDA
- Deerwood Bank
- DW Jones
- Enbridge
- Fairview (GICH)
- First National Bank, Coleraine
- First State Bank, Bigfork
- Grand Rapids EDA
- Great River Energy
- Herald Review*
- Huber Engineered Woods
- Jerry Miner Realty
- Lake Country Power
- Lakehead Constructors
- MN North Colleges - Itasca
- MBFC
- MDI
- Mediacom
- MN Power
- Nelson Wood Shims
- North Itasca Electric Coop
- Park State Bank
- Paul Bunyan Communications
- Rapids Radio KMFY/KOZY*
- Timberlake Lodge
- Wells Fargo
- Woodland Bank



2022/2023 Board Members



Bart Johnson
***22' Chair**
MN North College
Itasca Campus



Brad Dolinski
***22' Treasurer & 23' Vice Chair**
North Itasca
Electric Coop



Burl Ives
Itasca County
Board of
Commissioners



Isaac Meyers
Kootasca
Community Action



Jean MacDonell
Fairview Range and
Fairview GICH



Jodi Piekarski
***23' Treasurer**
MN Power



Katie Glorvigen-Tierney
Glorvigen Tierney
Lind & Co.



Kirk Adams
***Incoming 2023**
Deerwood Bank



Lori Gill
***22' & 23' Secretary**
UPM Blandin



Megan Kellin
Lake & Co. and
be.Media House



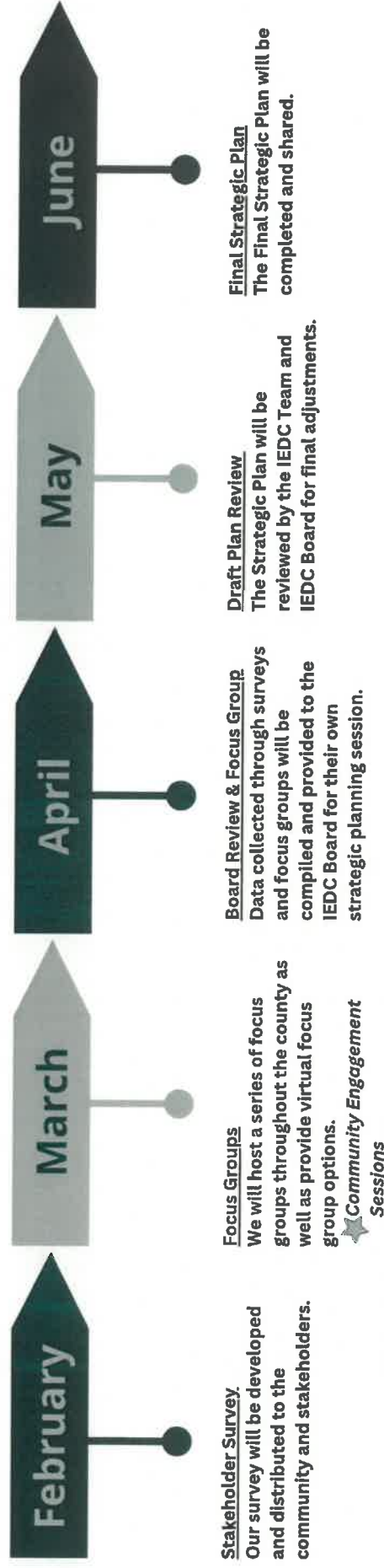
Mike Auger
***22' Vice Chair & 23' Chair**
Leech Lake
Band of Ojibwe Gaming



Rob Mattei
***Outgoing 2022**
GREDA



IEDC Strategic Plan Timeline



IEDC Mission:

To grow the Itasca County economy through education, research and outreach that creates business opportunities.

IEDC Vision:

A diverse and growing economy that supports a high quality of life for all of Itasca County.

Take the Survey

The IEDC Strategic Plan will build upon our existing plan as well as consider the current climate and needs of our community. We hope to engage community members and stakeholders from across our service area. Please engage to ensure your voice is heard.



SCAN ME!





Marketing. Human Resources. E-commerce. Capital Improvement.

The SBDC works with entrepreneurs at every level. In adapting to new demands for services, our SBDC consultants have a network of resources and work diligently to assist each individual client.

Succession Planning. Profit Mastery. Business Plan Development.

2022 SBDC Impact

Region	New Businesses	Capital Raised	Clients Assisted	Consulting Hours	Jobs Created & Maintained
MN State	146	\$108,202,825	4,717	32,471	3,961
NE MN Region	54	\$32,706,549	905	5,050	663
IEDC	11	\$5,114,387	180	716	88
%IEDC/Region	20%	16%	20%	14%	13%

Demographics



42 % of IEDC/SBDC
Clients were women



8% of IEDC/SBDC clients
were minorities



12% of IEDC/SBDC
clients were veterans





THE FORGE

WHERE IDEAS TAKE SHAPE



2022

- 6-Month Delay Due to Grant
- Funds Secured
- Construction Begins in the Education/Tech Wing

2023

- Q1 Construction Education/Tech Wing & Design for Incubator Wing
- Q2 Construction on Incubator Wing

Grand Opening

- June 2023 - MN North Access
- Summer 2023 - Soft Opening
- Fall 2023 - Grand Opening





THE
FORGE
 WHERE IDEAS TAKE SHAPE

Trade & Technical
 Education

Business Incubator
 & Entrepreneurship

Artist & Community
 Space



Trade & Technical
 Education

- Trade & Technical Equipment
- Trade & Technical Facilities
- Bridge Training
- Incumbent Worker Training
- CNC Desktop Mill
- Welding Equipment



Business Incubator
 & Entrepreneurship

- Business Consulting
- Start-up Workshops
- Pitch Competitions
- Profit Mastery
- Proof of Concept
- Business Planning
- Marketing & Communication
- Mentorship



Artist & Community
 Space

- Artist Makerspace
- Artist Community
- Special Project Space
- Events Space
- Meeting Space



Partnership
 Network

- IEDC
- MN North Colleges
- JET
- Next Career Pathways
- MN DEED
- ILT Academy
- Entrepreneur Fund
- Applied Learning Institute





Innovate 218, a regional Launch MN Hub program was designed to support innovators and entrepreneurs located in northeast Minnesota. Innovate 218 is a "Ground-Up Initiative" where - THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS - we continue to put plans to action and deliver exceptional results. 2022 was a year of growth and excitement for our entrepreneurial network. We look forward to boosting the entrepreneurial spirit of the NE Region.

2022 Milestones

1

2 First Series Lean Canvas Co-horts

2

1 Second Series Lean Canvas Co-hort



50+ ILT Cohort Graduates



Held 2 Pitch Competitions

Innovate 218 Initiatives



The Rink Pitch Competition is a catalyst connecting start-up funders, innovators, entrepreneurs and creative talent together to showcase ideas and bring them from concept to reality.



academy

In order to meet innovators where they are, Innovate 218 partnered with ILT Academy to deliver lean start up workshops and cohorts.



- Paint Station
- High-Tech CLI
- Computer Lab
- Meeting Space

Replace
Exterior Door
& Access
Controls

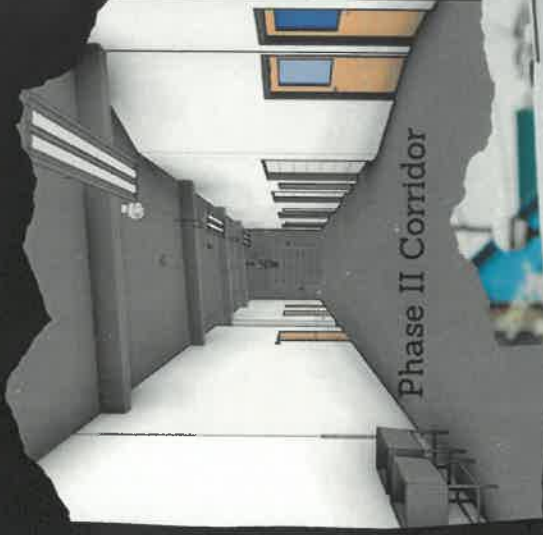
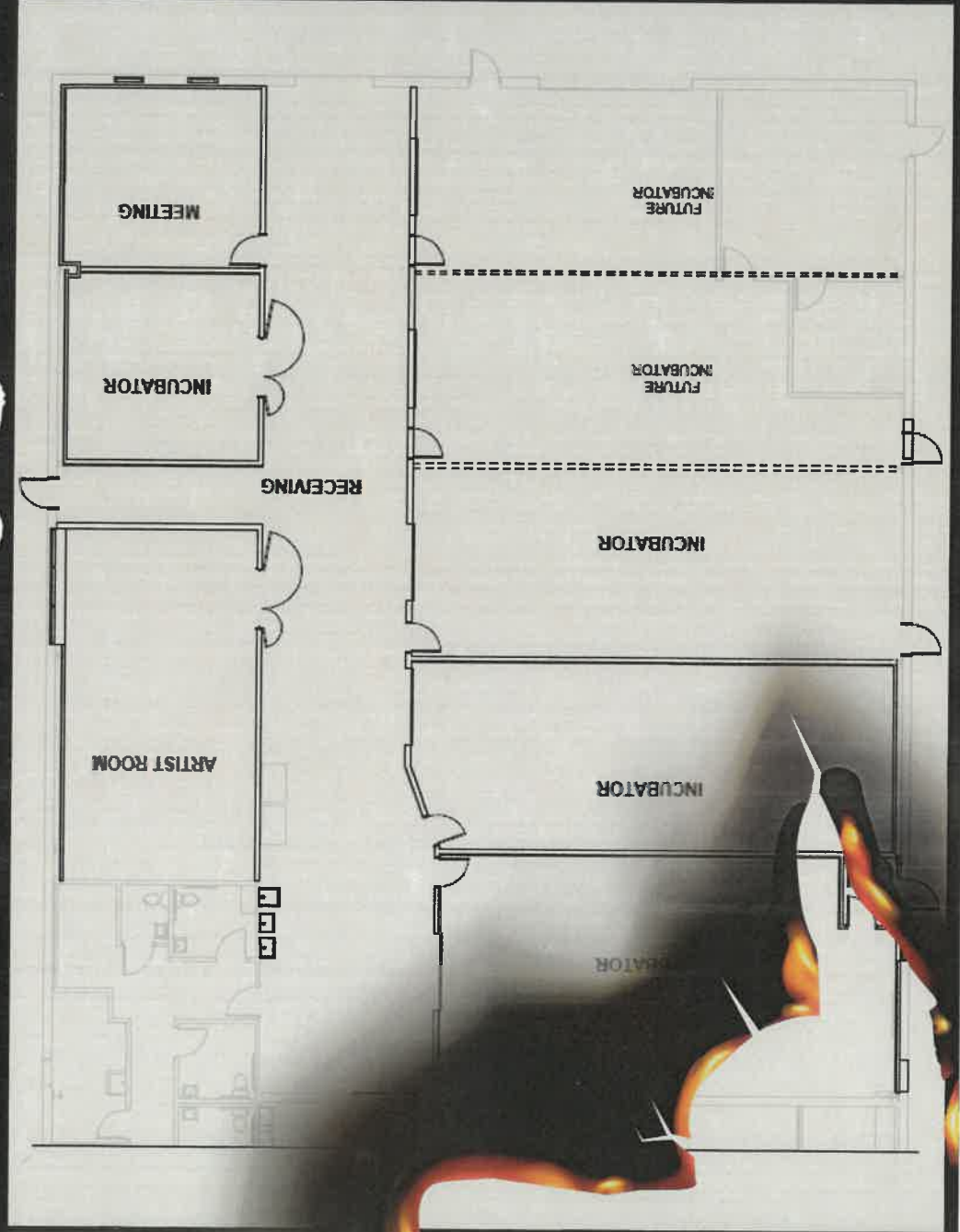
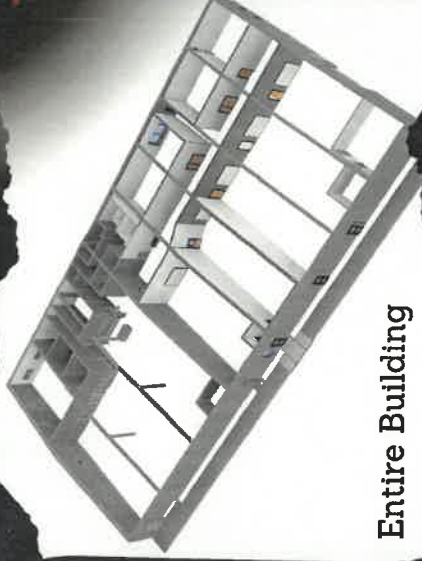
Replace
Exterior Door
& Access
Controls

Existing utility
& bathroom
spaces to
remain



INCUBATOR & ART SPACE

- Incubator Spaces
- Artist Room
- Meeting Area
- May Mobility Space
 - Future Incubator Spaces
- Receiving Door





Our 2021 Summit brought 120+ members of our community together. Throughout both days, we learned, brainstormed, and developed a strategy to ensure forward thinking in regard to the stability of Itasca County. Attendees heard from diverse speakers inspiring them to actively engage in our future. By participating, attendees volunteered their time and provided insight to a future they can not only buy into but be proud of. Some attendees joined our Post-Summit Advisory Groups, focused on Workforce Development and Community Engagement.



LOVE WHERE YOU WORK

Understanding Workforce Culture in Itasca County

Workforce retention was a key summit discussion. The workforce development group decided to take an approach of attracting, hiring, and retaining employees in Itasca County. They had two major initiatives surrounding their efforts. First, gathering data from employees in Itasca County. Second, using that data to create a workforce Summit.



Community Engagement was also a key summit discussion. The community engagement group decided to adopt The Lyceum Movement, a national organization that brings conversation to a space within your own community. Prompted by monthly themes, these conversation happen over beer and big ideas. To date, we've held 4 Lyceum events and 96 people have attended.



Employee Survey
282 Responses



Workforce Summit
Apr. 6th, 2023



Monthly - 4th Monday



6 - 7:30 PM



Rapids Brewing Co.





WHY NOT LIVE WHERE YOU VACATION?

Area leaders in a public/private partnership, came together in 2020 to create a collaborative rural recruitment marketing campaign that showcases the Itasca County Communities as a place that offers a great work life balance, good place to start a business, and a great place to raise a family.

COME THRIVE WITH US -Numbers as of 2022-



Incentives Program
14 Awards Given



Media Campaign
#s Above Industry
Standard



13 Area Families
Told Their Thrive Up
North Stories



Collaborative
Partnerships



www.thriveupnorth.com

INCENTIVES PROGRAM \$2,000 + OTHER GREAT PRIZES

There are over 1,400 lakes in Itasca County, countless miles of trails, and endless amenities. We want to lure YOU to Itasca County: Hook, Line, and Sinker.

Many incentives, one great outcome: a life in Itasca County.





OF ITASCA COUNTY

Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) started an initiative that focuses on two needs: recruitment of workforce and an understanding of equity and inclusion in our community. Although we know that we can't fix these needs overnight, we know that we can make real change by working together. Through a collaborative effort with a taskforce of community members and The Promise is You, our group has been moving in the right direction.

Collaboration and Change



Timeline

Q4 21 - Q1 22

Outreach to communities with diverse population growth, job growth and their challenges and opportunities.

June 2022

Overview of funding and opportunity for this committee moving forward.

Jul & Aug 2022

Committee chose consultant and planned for fall meetings to continue on outreach through surveys and forums.

Q4 22 - Q1 23

Cultural Fluency Associates led educational discussions to help the committee develop agreements and intentions for 2023.





Attract Me - Employ Me - Retain Me: Workforce Summit

IEDC's Workforce Advisory Group is proud to host the Attract Me - Employ Me - Retain Me Workforce Summit which will provide an abundance of topics around workforce attraction, development, and retention. We are excited to provide engaging sessions on areas such as working with generational differences, local and state incentive programs, educational benefits, leadership development, and much more.



Apr. 6th, 2023



8 AM - 4 PM



Timberlake



\$10 Per Person

Key-Note Speaker:

Mike Henke

National speaker with a passion
for building strong teams.



REGISTER TODAY!

SCAN
ME!



Understand
Current Trends



Access
New Opportunities

WE WANT TO HELP YOU



Learn About
Local Programs



Breakdown
Local Survey Results





2022 was a year of change, rethinking, and redevelopment. APEX is proud of the accomplishments achieved in partnership with IEDC. APEX and IEDC remain closely aligned on many strategic goals and work collaboratively on many initiatives to strengthen economic development in and around Itasca County.

2022 APEX KPI's



In addition to our business attraction and expansion efforts. APEX continues to collaborate and support IEDC's efforts in innovation start-ups, workforce attraction/retention, and community development incentives.



Attract



Expand



Retain



Year started to support	2019	2022	2020	2020	2022	2022	2022	2023
County/Regional	District #1 - Corey							
Itasca County	Deer River	Deer River LIC	S.Lake	S.Lake LIC	Winnie	BallClub LIC	Inger LIC	Bowstring
Blandin Funds	150		50	150				
Self Guided Historical Mine Tour	Tr+C5:C27ail Creation 5 miles for \$2MM (Brian DOT)	Makers Space	Generator back up for community center/fire hall	LIC Residential Playground	Community Center	Building Maintenance / updates	Playground	Airport Expand amenities
Community Profile Sheets	Bigfish Replace \$30k	Community Center	Website to include Resorts, Restaurants, air B&B Trail system	LIC Community Survey	Community Events		Daycare	
Ave of the Pines	Warrior Mural - 30K (brian Mccoy)	Pow Wow Grounds	Wayside rest w/ bathroom-shelter/tables/ info	Old School Development & park creation	Pow Wow Grounds		Clinic Hours	
Interactive Recreation Map	Playground @ Ball Fields \$150k		Safety Speed Reduction Hwy 46 Start at Co 4 x 2	Pow Wow Ground Upgrades			Community Center Updates	
Emergency notification per	Community Field House		1 st Responder Track	Community Center Additional			pow wow ground	
Senior Wellness Fairs	Pavillion and Slab -		ATV / Snowmobile trails (Connectors) & trail head	Community Center Playground				
Electric Car Charging Stations (N, E & W)	Community Survey		RV Dump/Fill Station	Fishing Pier				
Itasca County Community of the Month	Housing Committee		Develop/Promote Family Activities	Trail Kiosk				
Community Educational Courses	Information Center /Kiosk		Portable water station	School Demo				
All Itasca County Trail Marketing and Promo	Community Tree Project		Welcome Community Sign on Each Side of town	Facebook Creation and Maintenance by LIC				
ATV/Snow Survey	Promote Available Lands & Store Fronts w/Incentive Program		New Street Banners	Phase 2 Trail completion				
Pulse Point - Itasca Co	Water tower Painting \$300-500K		Community Signage					
Trail Head Em Kits	Community Art Project		Rec Area Development for Families					
Electric atv charging stations	Commercial Bus Stop							
Community Connection Trails	Street Lights on Hwy 2							
Update painting Community Signs	Fishing Pier (Moose Lake Swimming area)							
Community Welcome	Hockey Rink updates (200k)							
welcome package	Old Tennis Court updates							
	Deer River Forest Project							
	Housing study							
	ATV Trails Enforced							
	Comstock street project							
	offer more Community Events							
	Community Garden Promotion							
	sidewalk extension of 4th st se 2022							
	Sewer Ponds							
	Increase Police Force							
	New Updated Website							
	Day of Action							

key:

Working on it currently

In Slight Motion

Scratched from list

Completed

to be completed in 2021

to be completed in 2022

2023			2019		2022
			Distrct # 2 - Terry		
Kinghurst	Ardenhurst	Cohasset	Bigfork	Marcell Township	Wabana
			100	50	50
Playground	Cemetery		Senior Facility	Playground Improvements	park upgrades
			softball Field	Community Rentals & Promotion	community survey
			Community Events	Marketing Campaign for young families	park fundraisers
			Street & Sidewalk Upgrades	Social Media Creation & Maintenance	
			Community Signage	Digital Speed Sign Through	
			Resort/Bus. & City Collaboration	Park upgrades (Courts, Playground, Splash pad)	
			Downtown Bus. Revitalization	WIFI/Broadband options & Speed Increase	
			RV/Camping Sites	Summer/Winter Guided Educational Trips	
			New Business Attractions	Welcome Signs	
			Community Safety (cameras)		
			Rental Equipment (Discs, bikes, skis)		

2019	2020	2020	2022	2023	2020
District #3 - John					
Coleraine	Trout Lake Township	LaPrairie	Goodland Township	Feely Township	Warba
150	30	100	100		
Community Events-Beer & Rib Fest Event in Park with Music	Baseball Field - finish	Welcome Signs with New Logo x 3 signs	Playground Improvements	Warba Legion New garage	
Website Updates w/ Photo/Digital rental tours	Updates to Playground	Fishing Pier	Community Events	Warba Legion Playground	
Cotton Park Playground Updates	Emergancy Text Notification	Park Updates at Ryan Park	Marketing	Warba Legion Kitchen improvements	
Longyear Landing Improvements	Finn Beach Project	Housing Study – Affordable Housing	Park Signage	W.L. Bathroom updates	
Golf Course Improvements	Benches in Cemetery	Revitalization of 169 – IRRR	Baseball Park Improvements	Road Improvements on	
Ski Hill Usage Year Round (multi use) (Promotion)	AED for center	Take in & Out Landing areas	Community Brainstorm Session		
Historical Walk Tour - Digital	Community Survey	Connection trail to Mesabi			
Firehall Equipment Purchase	Paved Bike / Walking Trail	DOT Hwy 2 Project w/ Walking Trail & Connection Trails			
Greenway Rec Facility Improvements	Social Media Page	Creation of City Wide Business/Residential Attraction/Incentive			
Greenway Rec Parking Expansion	Updates to Website	Marketing of Available Lots and Buildings			
Greenway Rec Marketing/Fundraising	Kitchen Upgrades	Re-Development of Existing Commercial Areas			
Update Welcome Signs	Digital Sign for Community Center	Feasibility Study for hospitality			
Revitalization of Main Street Businesses		Re-Development of Existing Commercial Areas (Gas Station & Hotel)			
Promote Available Lots & Businesses		dog park			
Create additional Parking / Street Parking					
Street Resurfacing					
City Water and Sewer					
Boat/Kayak/Canoe Rentals (Business)					
Update city ordiances					
Swimming Beach Geese issue					
Beach house improvements					
longyear parking					
Eagle Ridge marketing plan					
Eagle Ridge maintenance building					
bunker renovation					
Update city and eagle ridge website					
Log Church Renovations					
Bridge Restoration					
Revolving Loan Fund - Kootasca					
Update Comp Plan					
safe way to cross 169 (Pedestrian Bridge/ update signage & Crosswalk area)					
Community Clean up with Incentive Program					
Finalize Annexation					
Gazebo Updates					
Day of Action					
Coleraine Facebook Page Creation / manage					
Library Roof					
Log Church Renovations					
Street Lighting					
City wide Infrustructure water meters, congdon ave, ally n of rosv, ally s of mitchell, wyss rd, Pear lake Rd					
Water tower...Demo for storage...is it on historic reg.					
Rezoining to all mixed use on 169					
Rosevelt streetscape, curb,gutter, resurface,street lighting					

2019	2021	2019	2019	2019	2021
District #4 - Burl					
Harris Township	Blackberry Township	Keewatin	Nashwauk	Nashwauk Township	Buck Lake Impro Club
100	50	150	150	40	30
Crystal Park b-ball and tennis	Playground Upgrades	O'Brien Reservoir Development (Bathrooms, Dog Park, Campsites, New Dock, Etc.)	intown Trail Head	Park Pavillion with slab	1st Responder / Vol fire dept
Wendigo Park b-ball and tennis	Park Bathroom upgrades	Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility	Community Signage	playground phase 2	Center Reno
WoodTick Landing Expansion 18884,10740	Community Hall Bathroom upgrades	welcome sign	Upgrades to Playground w/ Shelter and Picnic Tables	Volleyball Courts	playground updates
Mishawaka Landing Improvmnts 65000	Sidewalk updates	Signage Program	Revitalization Program for Residential	benches and picnic	Community Events (Bingo)
Community Survey	Tennis Court Resurface	Drinking Water	Revitalization Program	field/dugouts updates	Kitchen reno \$6,000
Laplant Landing Improvements	cemetery improvements	Health / Wellness Fair for Seniors	7 Mile Mnt Bike Trail	concessions updates	Softball Field improvements \$15,000
Casper Landing improvements	security cameras	Community Clean Up w/ Incentive Program	Develping Bozich / Selling Lots	Kitchen Updates	
Picnic Park Improvements	Website	Revitalization Res/Com	New Emergency Facility	Playground Upgrades	
Way finding signage	Social Media or newsletter	Baseball Field Promotion / Updates to Increase Usage	Community Center / Rec Center	Additional Community Events Throughout The Year	
Wendigo pavilion	Community Survey	More Community Geared Events (Community Calendar)	Safe Way to Travel North on Hwy 65 from Town		
Wendigo ball field	Walking Trail Development	O'brien res phase 2 development	Camping sites at the Pit/ Expansion of RV Park		
Crystal Park ball field		Fire Hall Improvements	Encouraging business (Coffee shop/Ice Cream/Bakery)		
splash pad		New Housing Study to Determine Housing Needs	Nashwauk website updates		
Street Repair and Improvements		Street and Sidewalk Repairs	Nashwauk Mine Pit Overlook clean up		
Resurface Tennis courts and B-ball courts x2		Survey to Seniors (Housing, Programs, Amenities)	Nashwauk Website		
Commercial Business Recruitment / Attraction Program		Electronic Bulletin Board	Disc Golf Course		
New Hall		Communnity Survey	Mural at mine over look		
Boat Landing Improvements -DNR Agreement		1st Community Clean up	Rentals of Canoes, Kayaks, Paddle Boards at Pit		
Community Signage- welcome		Social Media - create	Outdoor/Indoor Full Size Basketball Courts		
Community Safety					
update comp plan					
Updated Ordinaces (VRBO)					

2022	2019	2019	2023	2023	2020
District #5 - Casey					
Calumet	Marble	Bovey	Greenway Township	Lawrence Lake	Effie
150	50	150			75
community survey	Phase 2 baseball park - Bleachers	Park Expansion - Phase2 \$550K	trails	Community Center Upgrades - Kitchen	School Demo
library upgrades	Pocket Park	Develop Business Park	Boat landing Improvments		Community Clean-up
commercial/retail business development	Water Tower w/ Possible Filtration System \$1.2mm	Trail Improvements	fishing peir imprvements		School Memorial w/Effie School Stone
park improvements and developments	Community surveillance cameras	Park Expansion - Phase 1 \$400K	Develop Campground		Update Playground near school
community	Street and Sidewalk Repairs	City Benches & Bike Racks	Playground		Softball Field Updates
road improvements	Joint Waste Water Treatment (Facilities Use Plan) \$10MM	Updated Ordinances Needed	Pavillion		Finish RV Park
childcare options	Community Survey / Housing Study	Develop New Res. Lots	Changing house Demo		City website /social media
infrastructure- water and sewer	Mining Days Celebration & Community Calendar	Electronic Sign on 169	Parking upgrades		Street Banners
ballfield upgrades	movies in the park	Park Expansion - Phase3 \$400k	Website		Additional Community Events
create sliding hill	ATV/snowmobile trail development	Middle School Reno Development			Sewer Upgrades
fundraising to purchase meeting equipment	community cleanups	Website updates with community Photos			Community Center Heating System
market trails for cross country skiing	mainstreet banners & flags	Farmers Day Survey for new events and feedback			City Logo Creation
increase law enforcement	Main Street Revitalization Program	Elevator City Hall \$410K			Community Center Drinking Water
city webpage update	joint pw building	Community Events			Update Painting Community Signs
bike repair station on Mesabi Trail	Muni Laundry	Pit Boat Landing			Update City Ordiances (Blight)
Water station on Mesabi Trail	Baseball field promotion	RV Camping area			School Auction
Utilize property on south side	Street and Sidewalk Repairs	Revitalization of Residential			
Saftey Cameras	New website/Social Media	Revitalization of Business District			
Take a 5 Park upgrades	Baseball Field Updates Phase 1	Create Business Incentive Program for New Businesses			
Mine Park Upgrades	Electric Sign	City hall conditions assessment			
	Dog Park	Add existing playground updates by			
	post office	Incentive Program for Bus. Park			
	Siren	promote available commercial lots /			
		Day of Action			
		School Create Park Benches/Picnic Tables			
		Joint Public Works Bldg			

[illegible]

Blandin Footprint					Committees/Boards
Northhome	Hill City	Jacobson	Blackduck	Remer	
150	150	added Feb 2023			
Development of business park	Electronic Community Sign (Hwy 169)	Community Center roof, kitchen, bathrooms, AC			Avenue of the Pines
Playground Upgrades	Wayfind Signs Throughout Community				Bovey Park Expansion Committee
Website Updates	CEDA Contract - 1 day a week				Deer River Marketing Committee
Child Care Bus Dev	Playground				Itasca Strong
DOT Beautification Tree	Dog Park				Historical Mine Tour
Airport Safety Improvements	Fish Cleaning House				Itasca Co Parks & Recreation Commission
Community Events (History on Tap)	3 Rental Cabins at Campground				Trails Task Force
creation and install New Business Park Information Sign	Quadna Trail Updates				Essentia - Comm Health Needs Assessment
Boy Scout Point Maintenance plan	Splash Pad				Itasca Housing Summit
Creation of events Calendar (social/website)	Additional RV Hook Ups				Community Networking
Promotion of Business Park	Upgrades to Beach Restroom				Itasca Area Attractions & Events
Airport Bathroom reno	Airport Improvements				IREA - Iron Range Economic Alliance
Library Upgrades	Campsites at airport				
Housing Study	Bear Park Improvements for events				
Fair Ground Improvements	School Forest Improvements				
Signage Program	EV Car Charging Stations				
Market Community and	FarmersMarket				
Boy Scout Point Marketing	Boys & Girls Clu b				
Attract Senior Living Facility / or elder care	Marina/Dock System				
Improve Parking In town	Purchasing Old Chappies for additional Campsite				
Bathroom at Campground	Welcome Sign Updates				
Muni expansion	Internet Percuirement				
Update City Google search	Wifi at Park				
Campground Clean- Up					
Tourist Information Designation and set up					
Funds to support Staff 2021					
Triangle Park					



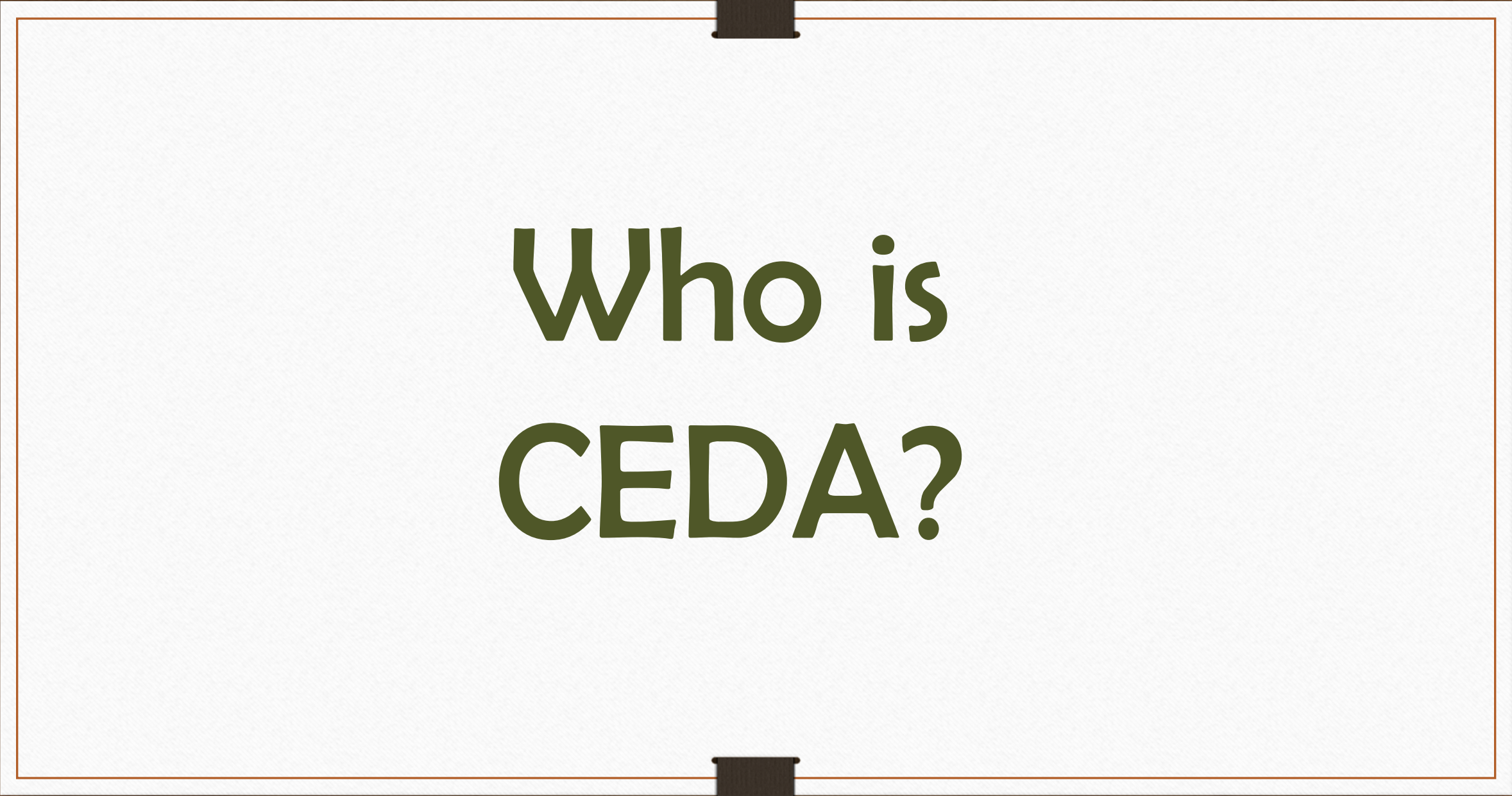
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATES (CEDA)

Helping Communities and Businesses Grow

IEDC Annual Meeting

PRESENTED & PREPARED BY:

RON ZEIGLER & SARAH CARLING



Who is
CEDA?



CEDA Highlights

- Quick History:
 - Started 1986 mid 90s started community support program
- Currently have 43 Employees
- Currently Serving 60 Communities & Counties
- New Partnerships and Many Growth Opportunities in the pipeline
- Serving Itasca County since 2019



Contract History

Contract Year	Dates	# mnths	Staffing Cost	Travel Exp.	Total Cost	# of comm.	Notes
2019	4/19-2/20	10	\$ 70,255.00	\$ 9,745.00	\$ 80,000.00	10	7 initially became 10 in 1st 3 months
2020	3/20-12/20	10	\$ 70,255.00	\$ 4,745.00	\$ 75,000.00	16	
2021	1/21-12/21	12	\$ 84,306.00	\$ 4,953.15	\$ 89,259.15	23	Expenses were funded through remainder of contract #1 &2
2022	1/22-12/22	12	\$ 86,835.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 94,335.00	25	This was discussed with every Commissioner and administrator ahead of budget meetings. It wasn't discovered until later that this was not approved.
Approved 2022 Contract		12	\$ 84,306.00	\$ -	\$ 84,306.00	25	Difference of \$2,529 of staffing services and \$7,500 of expenses. A difference of \$10,029 from what was understood to be acceptable and approved and signed by IEDC.
2023 Contract	1/23-12/23	12	\$ 91,176.00	\$ 7,875.00	\$ 99,051.00	30+	



Current Community Projects & Stats

○ 31 Communities
Supported (20)

○ 235 Projects
identified and
growing (206)

○ To date 47
projects
completed (24)

○ 78 Projects are
currently in
progress (54)

- Community Garden (DR)
- Day of Action (DR)
- Facebook Created & Maintained (S.Lake LIC)
- Phase 2 Trail Completed (S.Lake LIC/ S.Lake)
- Community Survey (Wabana)

- Wood Tick Landing Expansion (Harris Township)
- Park Pavilion and Slab (Nashwauk Township)
- 1st Annual Community Events (Coleraine)
- 4 New Welcome Signs (LaPrairie)
- Canisteo Public Meeting (Bovey)



Committees

- Avenue of the Pines
- Bovey Park Expansion Committee
- Welcoming Communities
- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Trails Task Force
- Community Asset Mapping Taskforce
- Essentia – Comm. Health Needs Assessment
- Northern MN Historical Mine Tour
- Itasca Co. Parks & Recreation Commission
- Community Networking
- Itasca Area Attractions & Events
- IEDC Advisory Committee
- Nashwauk Bike Trail Committee



2022 Highlights

Total Grant Amount Awarded to Support Community Projects

Itasca Co. CEDA impacted:	\$ 2,334,619
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Border Communities CEDA impacted:	\$ 327,700
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Itasca Co. Community Owned Applications:	\$ 902,029
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Grand Total:	\$3,564,348
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Figures do not include ARPA Funds.



21 Communities
have been awarded a total of
\$2,175,000
by the Blandin Foundation
to Kick Start Projects in 2022



2022 Project Highlights

Bovey Park Benches & ADA Picnic Tables by Greenway HS Students

Supplies Donated By: Rajala Lumber, Latvala Lumber, Deer River Lumber, Cole's Hardware, Greenway HS Shop Class



**Partnerships Saved Bovey:
\$18,000**







Deer River Crisis Response & DOA

- Assisted with organization of City/County/Non profit aid in 1st initial hours
- Created Facebook posts for clear updated information
- Radio adds to help promote how people could help, what was needed, and where residents could go for more info and support





City of Deer River, MN

6h · 🌐

STORM CLEAN UP INFORMATION

COMMUNITY DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE FOR STORM DEBRIS

WHEN: 5/31 - 6/8

TIME: 8AM-8PM

WHERE:

DUMPSTERS: PUBLIC WORKS BLDG 105 4TH AVE NW

BRUSH/TREES: TENNIS COURTS (END OF 2ND ST NW)

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- TIRES
- ELECTRONICS WITH SCREENS
- PAINTS
- OIL BASED CHEMICALS
- APPLIANCES

QUESTIONS: PLEASE CALL CITY HALL @ 218-246-8195



City of Deer River, MN

2h · 🌐

The number listed below is City Hall. Thank You!



VOLUNTEERS & PROPERTY OWNERS LOOKING TO OR FOR HELP?



Volunteers
please call
to sign up :
218-246-8195

Need Help
please call
to sign up :
218-246-8195

Looking to Donate:
Accepting:
Bottles of water &
Pre-Packaged
Snacks

All Donations need
to be dropped off
at the City Hall
(8a-4:30p M-F)





**Thank You to
the Community
Partners for Their
Support:**

- American Disposal
- Forward Health Foundation
- United Way
- Habitat for Humanity
- White Oak Casino
- Al's Restoration
- Itasca County





5 Playgrounds Purchased for 2023

Community/Item	Deer River	Bovey	Goodland	Marcel	Effie	Grand Total
Playground Equipment	\$ 171,928	\$ 145,129	\$ 101,657	\$ 76,286	\$ 42,642	
Community Build Site Supervisor	\$ 3,800	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,800	
Pavillion/Freight Removal	\$ 31,735	\$ 31,735		\$ 500		
Pavillion Materials	\$ 54,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 15,344			
Total Cost of Project	\$ 261,463	\$ 198,364	\$ 120,001	\$ 79,786	\$ 45,442	\$ 705,056
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 6,438	\$ 16,438
ARPA Funds (Grant)	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,786	\$ -	\$ 79,786
Grant Funded	\$ 211,463	\$ 198,364	\$ 110,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 39,004	\$ 608,831
% Funded Through Grants	100%	100%	92%	100%	86%	98%
Savings for Increase 6% 2023	\$ 13,556	\$ 9,788	\$ 7,020	\$ 4,577	\$ 2,559	\$ 37,499

City of Bovey, MN



City of Effie



AND TOWNSHIP, MN - OPTION 1

**MIDWEST
PLAYSCAPES**
8632 EAGLE CREEK CIRCLE
SAVAGE, MN 55378
PHONE: 1.800.747.1452
EMAIL: playscapes@earthlink.net



Marcell Township
Marcell, MN

22-9595A

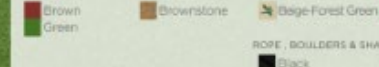
Sales Representative



Equipment Manufacturer



POST & COMPONENT ROTOMOLD PLASTIC 2-COLOR PLASTIC



Community Welcome Signs:

Harris Township & City of LaPrairie

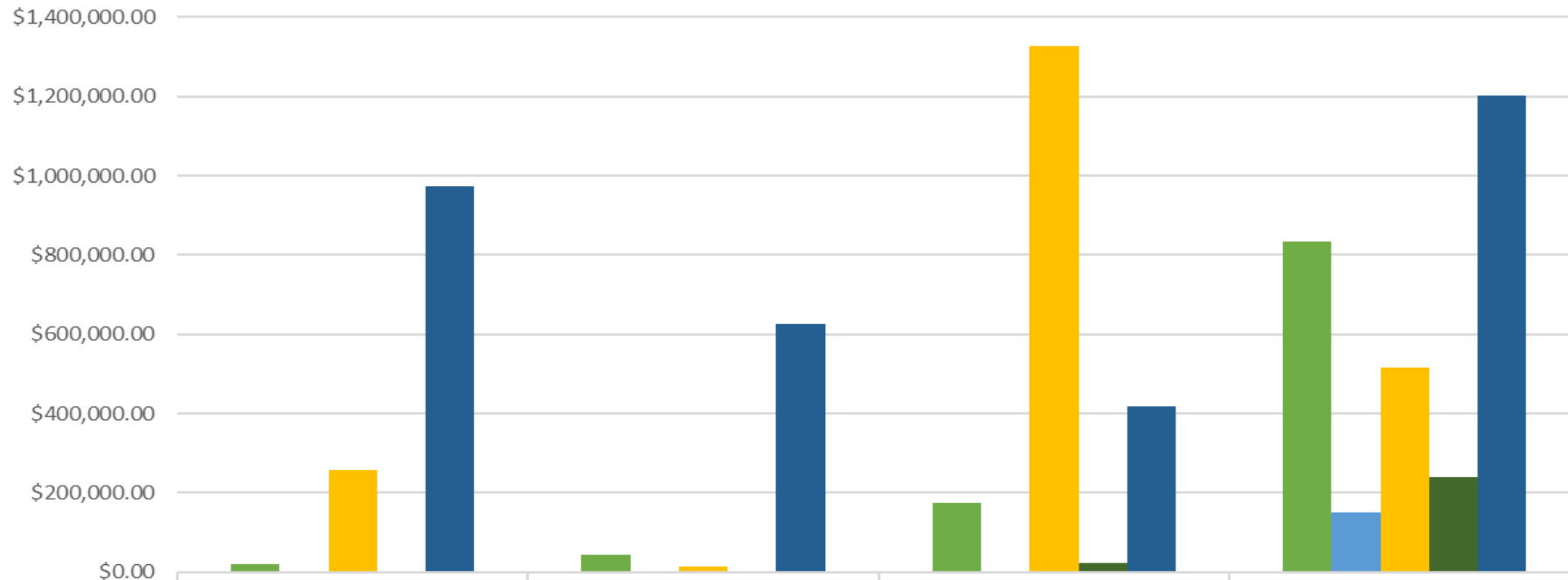
- LaPrairie has 3 large and 1 smaller sign installed
- Cost was \$54,055 –
100% grant funded
- Community did a Logo and Slogan Competition:
Two Rivers
- Harris Township - 6 signs for \$1,400





Grant Tracker

Grant/Fund Totals by District



	2019	2020	2021	2022
District 1	\$19,552.55	\$44,721.00	\$175,300.00	\$835,000.00
District 2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00
District 3	\$257,630.00	\$12,900.00	\$1,325,927.00	\$515,046.50
District 4	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,829.00	\$240,000.00
District 5	\$973,530.73	\$626,257.00	\$418,529.16	\$1,203,024.00



Why do you Focus only on Parks?

- Simple Answer... We Don't
- Large infrastructure projects take a lot of time, planning and money
- Grants are super competitive & can require additional grant applications attempts
- Increase cost is making it more challenging for matching funds.
- Communities usually have to spend extra money for studies required for grant.



Marble Water Tower





Example: Marble Water Tower

-
- Est. Cost to replace water tower in 2020 was \$1.2 MM, now in 2022 \$2.1MM
 - Marble has saved approx. \$250,000 dollars for this project and continues to save
 - They have not scored high enough for PFA State Bonding
 - Last week that they are going to have to reapply for a federal grant/loan.(USDA)
 - Had to spend \$14,000 for SHPO review required by grant.
 - Forming a sub committee with key regional partners, engineer, & council members
 - The City is going to be looking into all loan options to see what their lowest rates could be and what options are available to the city.
 - Taconite is in a worse boat than Marble.

Ask Me About

- Nashwauk Trailhead and Mountain Bike Project
- Harris Township Boat Landings
- Deer River Housing Opportunities
- O'Brien Reservoir Upgrades
- Ave of the Pines Scenic Byway
- Community Revitalization

Community and Economic Development Associates Team Member Performance Appraisal Feedback

Team Member: Sarah Carling

Comments and suggestions per year from communities and partners that work directly with CEDA:

2020

- Great asset to the team.
- Need to keep managing time and workload – it is improving.
- Keep asking questions, engaging with the rest of the team.
- Great communication skills. Work on listening skills – allow others to finish thought before responding.
- Takes feedback well.
- Very reliable, willing to do best at everything, never have to worry about if it will get done.
- Wonderful ideas, takes pride in work
- Great at getting out to the communities and sharing the offerings of IEDC.
- Great at creating relationships and connections both within the communities as well as CEDA.
- Always willing to share knowledge, very responsive and willing to take on projects.
- Glad that you are part of CEDA!
- does great work. She's very easy to talk to and always answers my questions in a timely manner.
- Proven to be a valuable resource for our city, has a wealth of knowledge in many different areas the city has interests in.
- Does a great job in responding to the needs of the County Commissioners and Itasca County as a community. Just keep up the great work!
- Needs to not take it all on. She is such a hard worker in her job but she takes on too much. She will work many countless hours to still accomplish what she takes on.
- Well connected to our community. She checks in frequently and I reach out frequently. I like that she has those same connections to other communities and provides feedback to us when we're facing an issue by telling us what other communities are doing. She has asked me questions on behalf of other communities to see if we can provide a solution for them, too. I really like this and feel like it could be further developed.
- Wish she had more time to spend with our community but as is, she is strung out amongst many communities and she is doing her best allocating the time she has.
- Follow up
- Our interaction has been all positive. Very knowledgeable, helpful, and pleasant.
- She goes above and beyond.

2021

- Sarah is always knowledgeable in areas that can help cities, small businesses, and non-profits and goes above and beyond in all that she does.
- Take some time for herself, she works too hard
- Continue to work to engage with community members who are less likely to be involved. Sarah works at this, it is apparent. And something to continue to strive to get better.

- Sarah needs to lighten her load a little bit, she is spread to thin. Sarah and I have talked about this so will not come as a surprise.
- Sarah does a great job. She has built great relationships and made excellent progress on projects. I think an area that could be improved from Sarah, and CEDA, is report structure. It is a difficult task to cover so many topics in a detailed meaningful way, but often in presentations there is just too much text. Grab more photos/videos of projects and share those when speaking. Use short, concise bullets to describe projects. I think the audience will take away more from the presentation.
- Reduce the scope - don't need to attend every meeting every night of the week.
- Sarah might need support staff. She's doing a lot for multiple communities.
- None, she does an outstanding job.
- Sarah Carling has been an amazing addition for the City of Bovey's future planning. I haven't found an area where she is lacking effectiveness and performance.
- We feel Sarah is awesome!
- Sarah does an amazing job. Outstanding multitasker, communicator, very personable. Her list is endless👏

2022

What, if any, suggestions would you have for the team member to improve their effectiveness and performance?

- N/A
- I wish we did not have to share her😞
- No suggestions! Sarah is a great resource!
- Sarah is great, she's just super busy and I'm not demanding. Lol
- I have shared with Sarah that I think scaling back, responsibly, from communities that have less needs comparatively to others, makes sense. I worry about her personal sustainability to keep up with demand while training Henry and building up the capacity and sustainability of CEDAs work in Itasca County. She is a unique asset and needs to be in an environment where she is supported and has good mentoring to build on her strengths.
- She comes off very strong with fast-thinking sky-is-the-limit ideas. With this, she has gotten a lot done, but I can see that it's overwhelming for some. I have very much learned to appreciate Sarah's personality and enjoy working with her.
- Nothing to add.
- Bring back the practice of monthly meetings with each county commissioner.
- As difficult as it is, learn to say No - I worry about burnout. Sarah is always on the go.
- None
- I feel my team member is spread a little thin, but can still get things done.
- Sarah works above and beyond and gives many countless hours to her work and there is still many tasks to be done. The suggestion would be to continue discussions with communities in Itasca county to bring in more associates to further the work Sarah is already doing.
- Provide timelines, provide activity related to project - help build a clear understanding of work by project. Maybe a system to identify type of project (easy - very hard) to help people see the scope of the work being completed. This could help overall to tell your story.
- Sarah is an amazing worker, I don't see areas that need improving.

What is the team member's greatest strength?

- Knowledge of resources
- She has built a great network and knows how to make connections that benefit all communities.
- Her visionary skills; communication, preparedness.....spot on!
- She is approachable and friendly
- There positive attitude and to help you understand things.
- Sarah has so much knowledge. She is resourceful and shares her learning with communities! We are lucky to have access to the support she provides!
- She is very knowledgeable and has a great rapport with everyone.
- Ability to communicate and willingness to answer questions
- Her verbal communication is second to none
- Very Knowledgeable at what she does
- Keeping the projects moving and in front of me.
- Her knowledge and experience of the fundraising market in the Itasca County area. Her ability to understand where we are going with our plan and ability to interject advice and direction.
- Her authenticity, ability to code switch based on community culture is extraordinary.
- She is go-go-go with ideas and in attending meetings. Somehow she manages to keep it all straight and keep up her energy. I'm impressed!
- I've not seen anyone who can get more work done in a day than Sarah. She really is an amazing gift to communities.
- verbal skills are great
- Passion for her community.
- Here ability to create connections. She has an amazing knowledge about what is happening in the many communities throughout Itasca County and has a great ability in connecting people to people and people to resources.
- Has the ability to connect easily with small rural community members. She has improved the quality of life to the residents of these communities.
- Communication
- Sarah has a great ability to make connections to help businesses, individuals, and communities. She take initiative and makes things happen that benefits all.
- Building relationships at a community level.
- Her experience.

What, if any, suggestions would you have for improvements to CEDA and our relationship with your organization?

- N/A
- Hire Sarah kind of ppl
- Hire more Sarah's!
- She needs help - not enough hours in the day.
- None at this time
- Sarah seems to be having a lot on her plate and spread thin. We would have liked to have more of her time, but yet we realize the work has to be done by us. Our group has taken on a big project and needed direction and help. She has done that to the extent she could.
- I think that CEDAs work with Itasca is good demonstration work and may not be placed in the right environment for support, optimization, comradery and mission-centered work. The program would be a good fit with the MNorth College campus system, especially with the demographic aging shifts

where colleges must be community anchors for the next generation of workforce and community spirit. In a way this would scale like community education does in other college settings.

- To maintain a greater perspective when discussing projects with community groups. Every community loves the idea of a state-of-the-art (park/beach/trail/etc.) but it's not always the right fit or top priority. "Build it and they will come" ideas are hard to make a top priority and can put eager/energetic communities at odds with larger organizations who are trying to manage a much greater area and list of competing priorities.
- more discussion with the board regarding recommending 'T.E.D.' funds for local jurisdictions. They are limited and may lead to disappointment to some localities.
- None come to mind. Please note, I was not able to score Sarah on the leadership question, I have not really observed her leadership in action. A '3' score indicates 'not able to evaluate'.
- She could use some help. She will keep getting a bigger plate and could use more people on her team.
- Nothing
- Improvements would be adding more team members, we have lots of little communities in our area with only 2 team members on board.
- I felt that when needed Sarah reaches out to our organization and also thinks of us when she is out in the community to connect people's needs with our organization.
- More clarity on intention and direction for CEDA in the region for the future.
- Get Abby Wright back.
- I just wanted to reach out to say that the City of Marble and Sarah from CEDA have continuously worked together over the past couple of years to secure grants for our city. Sarah has been key in helping us do this. I want to be sure that you know how much we appreciate her presence and hard work that she has done for the City of Marble. Sarah certainly knows her job, and quite frankly, we could use a few more of her up here on the range. In closing, I would just like to say THANK YOU for sending her our way! The City of Marble appreciates her immensely.



2022 CEDA ANNUAL REPORT

507-867-3164

info@cedausa.com

www.cedausa.com

PO BOX 483, Chatfield, MN 55923

A Message from Our CEO

One of the most fulfilling parts of my role as President and CEO of Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) is watching the successes we achieve year over year as we continue to move the needle for rural America. Last year was one of growth and innovation as we expanded our team and our reach, forging new partnerships and developing programs that will positively impact the lives of the people in our rural communities. Through the hard work and steadfast dedication of our CEDA board and team members, we are able to continue to provide a uniquely CEDA level of assistance to our rural American cities, counties, organizations and businesses.

I invite you to read our annual report to see the extent of the impact our team has had on the communities in which we serve.

A few highlights from this past year:

- The Grants Department had another record-breaking year, this time in the number of grants awarded - we were able to successfully author 56 grants, bringing a total of \$2,575,916.39 into the region for our communities and partners to execute projects.
- The Marketing Department continues to design and implement significant events and programs that promote our organization and opportunities within our communities, such as the Regional Development Tour, small business trainings, service offering expansion and new contract recruitment.
- The Government Relations Department continues to build relationships with state and federal legislators, highlighting the impactful work we are doing throughout Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin and being a resource for those in elected and appointed positions.
- The Workforce Development Department, in collaboration with South Central Service Cooperative, expanded into one new school district, creating more opportunities for local employers to engage with students and generate a talent pipeline to combat workforce shortages. We will begin working with several more school districts in the upcoming year, continuing to expand this department and its impact.
- The Planning Department was re-structured and expanded, bringing on a new two-person team working to provide housing studies, comprehensive plans, land use plans, strategic planning sessions and more to our rural communities.

In addition to our wonderful board and team members that are able to execute this work, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the CEDA investors and partners who believe in our mission and continue to support us. Your trust and belief in our organization is greatly appreciated! I also want to thank the cities, counties and organizations that contract with us to provide services to help make your communities wonderful places to live and work. Your confidence in our abilities is also greatly appreciated!

As we move forward into 2023, we are excited to continue to build on the momentum of 2022 and continue to innovate, grow our impact and provide the excellent services you have grown to expect from our organization.

Thank you for all that you do!



2022 COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Community Highlights are bullet points submitted by team members from every CEDA community, featuring three projects that our team helped facilitate over the course of the year. These projects demonstrate the impact CEDA has in our rural communities. Read on to learn more about what we accomplished in 2022!

BENSON, MN POP. 3,480

- Authored and was awarded a total of \$32,000 in grants from Swift County ARP, Benson Community Foundation, Galen Hanson Foundation and Sonsteng Foundation to add two new water features to the Benson Family Aquatic Center.
- Conducted a feasibility study examining the purchase of a 127-acre piece of land for the location of a new industrial park.
- Established a strong social media presence that filled an existing gap in communication between the community and city leadership.

BLUE EARTH, MN POP. 3,174

- Administered three \$25,000 forgivable loans to business owners purchasing existing businesses.
- Authored and was awarded a \$20,000 Blandin Foundation Rural Leadership Boost Grant and a \$10,000 SMIF Grant to continue supporting and developing welcoming initiatives.
- Initiated a collaboration with the Minnesota State University, Mankato Task Force to better connect international students with workforce opportunities in rural Minnesota.

CANNON FALLS, MN POP. 4,220

- Executed the sale of an EDA-owned property and development agreement for the construction of a 79-unit market rate-apartment complex.
- Acquired a blighted property from the county and demolished the existing structures to prepare the site for development; sold the newly developable property to the local housing initiative for the construction of a single-family home.
- Purchased a 40-acre piece of developable land near the school campus to build new housing options for the community.

CHATFIELD, MN POP. 2,997

- Administered \$8,700,000 of a State Bonding Grant for Phase II renovations of the Chatfield Center for the Arts.
- Negotiated development agreements and land purchases for multiple commercial, residential and city projects in alignment with community strategic development goals.
- Assisted in updating state legislation to create more flexibility in TIF law for small rural cities to more easily incentivize development.

CLAREMONT, MN POP. 513

- Authored and was awarded a \$6,000 Minnesota Energy Resources Grant to install professional grade soccer nets at Henning Park.
- Collaborated with the Planning and Zoning Committee to update the city's Land Use Plan focused on future development opportunities.
- Partnered with a local developer to implement a Workforce Housing Program that will generate 10 affordable starter homes, recruit first-time home buyers to the community and provide financial literacy training.

COLERAINE, MN POP. 2,006

- Authored and was awarded a \$50,000 Blandin Leadership Boost Grant to install playground equipment near Cotton Park.
- Explored community partnership and funding opportunities for the Eagle Ridge Golf Course, Mt. Itasca Ski Club and Greenway Joint Recreation Association.
- Explored funding opportunities to make improvements to city park equipment and the recreation center.

DAWSON, MN POP. 1,466

- Authored and was awarded a \$70,000 Blandin Foundation Rural Leadership Boost Grant to improve existing park features.
- Created a Fix-Up Fund Program that provides up to \$10,000 in grants to local businesses for exterior building improvements; administered six grants.
- Administered a \$12,995 revolving loan to a local health foods store, a \$92,000 revolving loan to a custom cabinetry maker and a \$20,000 revolving loan to a construction company for business improvements.



DODGE COUNTY, MN POP. 20,867

- Updated the county's Tax Abatement Policy to include an abatement option specifically for affordable housing projects.
- Conducted a research study on alternative child care models around the state and surveyed the Dodge Center community to determine what model would best meet the county child care needs.
- Implemented a Business Spotlight Program that recognizes new businesses who have opened within the past year by publishing a local news article and highlighting them on the county website and social media accounts.

ELLENDALE, MN POP. 676

- Authored and was awarded \$491,000 in deferred loans through Minnesota Housing's Workforce Housing Development Program for the construction of a 20-unit market-rate apartment complex.
- Facilitated a partnership with Keen Bank to have a vacant property donated to the EDA.
- Administered a \$10,000 revolving loan to a local bar and restaurant for updates to the facility.

EYOTA, MN POP. 2,006

- Assisted the start-up of Due North Coffee by providing marketing insights, administering a \$20,000 revolving loan and awarding them a \$15,000 grant.
- Authored and was awarded a \$10,000 Minnesota DOT Highway Beautification Grant, a \$3,500 People's Energy Cooperative Grant and a SMIF Paint the Town Grant to refresh the historic city mural.
- Assisted in recruiting a new bank to the city by providing marketing insights and community data to interested parties and facilitating informational meetings on the community.

FAIRMONT, MN (INTERIM) POP. 10,487

- Provided Interim Economic Development services from May through September as a full-time search was conducted.
- Managed economic development projects within the city, including de-federalizing a Revolving Loan Fund, conducting an RFP process for the sale of an EDA-owned building and administering the Minnesota Valley Action Council SCDP.
- Managed day-to-day administrative functions of the Economic Development office including developing meeting agendas and packets, administering revolving and child care loans and visiting local businesses to provide service information.

FARIBAULT COUNTY, MN POP. 13,921

- Administered a \$2,886,205 CDBG-CV Broadband Grant and facilitated the installation of fiber internet in the communities of Bricelyn, Delavan, Elmore and Frost.
- Partnered with the Faribault County Sheriff's Office to fund \$30,000 in equipment updates, providing shields and helmets to all of the deputies in the county.
- Authored and was awarded a \$15,000 Good Food Access Program Grant to provide a healthy and convenient grab and go section at the Kiester Market.

FILLMORE COUNTY, MN POP. 21,228

- Hosted the 2022 Fillmore County Agriculture Summit, featuring presenters on Emotional Wellness, Ag Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Agriculture, Succession Planning, Financial Risk Management and Alternative Crop Investment.
- Collaborated with the Houston County EDA, Southeast Service Cooperative, Workforce Development, Inc. and Southeast Minnesota Perkins Consortium to transition the Bluff Country Collaborative to a braided funding model.
- Coordinated with regional stakeholders to craft a Letter of Interest to the U.S. DOT for their Thriving Community Grant Program to form an 11-County Regional Transportation Organization.

FRAZEE, MN POP. 1,335

- Collaborated with local businesses to create a new Frazee Business Brochure.
- Completed construction of the Downtown Commercial Building Infill Project and welcomed Seip Drug as the first tenant.
- Identified a development partner and target site for an affordable housing development.

GOODHUE COUNTY, MN POP. 47,582

- Facilitated a Landlord Summit webinar series, providing education to local landlords on how to assist tenants in tough economic times, how to make their property a good investment and tenant legal rights.
- Provided input on CARES Act and ARPA funding initiatives to further housing and business development.
- Facilitated a Housing Summit webinar series, providing community education on Section 8 Housing.

GOODHUE, MN POP. 1,250

- Participated in the Regional Development Tour, resulting in a promotional video for the city and showcasing community assets and opportunities to regional commercial, industrial and residential stakeholders.
- Administered \$5,000 in façade improvement grants to two downtown businesses for exterior building improvements; approved \$10,000 in grants for four additional façade improvement projects.
- Assisted a local entrepreneur in developing a business plan to renovate the railroad depot building into a new coffee, ice cream and sandwich shop.

GOODVIEW, MN POP. 4,158

- Assisted in creating and promoting the Goodview Community Foundation.
- Administered multiple façade improvement grants and one revolving loan to local businesses for exterior building improvements and business assistance.
- Assisted in the sale of an EDA-owned property and negotiated the terms of the development agreement.

HARMONY, MN POP. 1,043

- Administered a total of \$195,000 in loans to seven local businesses to assist with purchasing equipment, opening operations, general business improvements and expansion.
- Updated the Home Rebate Program by increasing the maximum rebate to \$20,000; the program has created a total of 19 new homes and added \$3,325,000 to the tax base to-date.
- Administered a \$40,000 grant to a downtown commercial building for exterior building improvements.

HAYFIELD, MN POP. 1,364

- Authored and was awarded a \$28,700 Minnesota DOT Safe Routes to School Planning Assistance Grant to assist with the planning of a trail expansion.
- Authored and was awarded a \$40,000 Minnesota DNR Protect Community Forests Grant to address trees infested with the invasive emerald ash borer on public lands.
- Authored and was awarded a \$10,000 SMIF Small Town Grant to host a community bike rodeo to recruit members to the city's trail planning committee and fund the purchase of a small fleet of bicycles for community use.



HOUSTON COUNTY, MN POP. 18,843

- Utilized a SMIF Grant to open Keep Company Co-Working, a workspace for businesses and entrepreneurs in the county without their own offices.
- Authored and was awarded a \$42,000 First Children's Finance Grant to help address child care needs in the community.
- Expanded the Bluff Country Collaborative, a partnership between Fillmore and Houston County schools, businesses and local organizations to create a workforce pipeline.

HOWARD COUNTY BUSINESS AND TOURISM, IA POP. 9,469

- Established a \$250,000 Housing Revolving Loan Fund to assist developers and owners looking to build rental properties, speculative builds or downtown upper-story housing units.
- Upgraded three community, economic and tourism websites: www.crescochamber.com, www.howard-county.com and www.iowawrestlinghalloffame.com, reflecting a 7.2% increase in local tourism dollars.
- Met with 26 entrepreneurs and administered \$149,400 in revolving loans, resulting in the creation of 23 new jobs and the retention of another 20 jobs.

ITASCA COUNTY, MN POP. 45,014

- Authored and was awarded a total of \$2,703,319 in Blandin Foundation grants that were allocated to 22 different communities as seed funding to identify and execute projects.
- Authored and was awarded \$503,190 in grants that were used to purchase playground equipment in five communities.
- Assisted the City of Deer River with Emergency Crisis Management after a tornado ripped through the community by connecting them with resources, redirecting the Day of Action to heavily affected areas and assisting businesses and private residents with disaster relief.

JACKSON, MN POP. 3,323

- Completed the construction of an 8,500 square foot retail center featuring Cabin Coffee and Subway as tenants.
- Sold a 300,000 square foot speculative building to a local manufacturer looking to expand, creating 30 new high-paying jobs in the community.
- Administered a local Business Challenge, resulting in one new business opening in the central business district and an existing business relocating for expansion.

KASSON, MN POP. 1,894

- Collaborated with the city, county and school district to provide tax abatement for the construction of a 51-unit market-rate apartment complex.
- Assisted in the development of a 47-unit income-restricted Low-Income Housing Tax Credit apartment complex by initiating the TIF application process with the developer.
- Authored and was awarded a \$10,000 SMIF grant to complete a Downtown Assessment through Rethos.

KENYON, MN POP. 6,851

- Implemented new marketing strategies to increase community awareness on local business programs, including the Façade Improvement Program, and development opportunities in the business park.
- Collaborated with the city to update their Strategic Plan.
- Collaborated with various city department heads to revise the city's Capital Improvement Plan to budget for future projects.

LAKE CITY, MN POP. 5,252

- Finalized a development agreement to construct a 32-unit income-restricted affordable housing apartment complex, providing \$1,663,166 in TIF assistance.
- Participated in the Regional Development Tour, resulting in a promotional video for the city and showcasing community assets and opportunities to regional commercial, industrial and residential stakeholders.
- Facilitated the completion of a General Development Plan for a city-owned brownfield site.

LAKE CRYSTAL, MN POP. 2,539

- Authored and was awarded a \$5,000 Compeer Financial Rural Feasibility Study Grant to partially fund a Hotel Feasibility Study.
- Administered a \$25,000 revolving loan to a new downtown bakery to assist with start-up costs.
- Worked with local business and city officials to annex a 97-acre piece of surrounding land for business and recreational development.

LANESBORO, MN POP. 724

- Assisted with the conversion of a church into a nine-unit market-rate apartment complex by administering a \$75,000 loan in collaboration with MiEnergy and Dairyland Power and providing a \$50,000 city tax abatement.
- Administered a \$25,000 revolving loan for the start-up of Clara's Eatery and a \$40,000 revolving loan for the succession of High Court Pub.
- Authored and was awarded a \$9,500 SMIF Grant to construct a "Livability" tab for the city's website to provide community information to current and potential residents and businesses.

LEROY, MN POP. 957

- Authored and was awarded two grants to purchase and install a new shelter at Wind Tower Observation Park.
- Collaborated with the city to complete a Community Housing Study.
- Administered a revolving loan to a new downtown business to assist with start-up and operational costs.



LEWISTON, MN POP. 1,533

- Facilitated the update of the Community Comprehensive Plan.
- Updated the Facade Improvement Program application and guidelines, and administered six façade improvement grants to local businesses for exterior building improvements.
- Facilitated the sale of an EDA-owned building to Lang's Dairy for business expansion into the community.

LE SEUER, MN POP. 4,213

- Authored and was awarded a \$5,000 Compeer Financial Rural Feasibility Study Grant to partially fund a Comprehensive Housing Study.
- Initiated the application process for a U.S. DOT Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity Grant for highway improvement planning, and a DNR Outdoor Recreation grant for the development of a Frisbee Golf Course.
- Administered façade improvement forgivable loans to three local businesses for exterior building improvements.

MANTORVILLE, MN POP. 1,111

- Authored and was awarded a \$46,000 Minnesota DNR Protect Community Forests Grant to address trees infested with the invasive emerald ash borer on public lands.
- Authored and was awarded a \$5,000 SEMAC Grant for the Larger Than Life Art Exhibit, displaying local artists' photography outside around the community.
- Authored and was awarded a \$3,000 Dodge County SHIP Grant for a new park bench and picnic table at Denneson Park.

MAPLETON, MN POP. 1,710

- Authored and was awarded a \$10,000 SMIF Small Town Grant to expand community marketing efforts, including the design of a new logo and development of a new city website.
- Authored and was awarded a \$5,000 Compeer Financial Rural Feasibility Study Grant to design redevelopment plans for the former Mapleton School site.
- Collaborated with SMIF's Early Childhood Education Consultant to assess regional child care needs and evaluate the feasibility of a regional child care center.

MARTIN COUNTY, MN POP. 20,025

- Worked with a popular local restaurant on a digital marketing campaign for succession planning and brought KEYC News to Fairmont for a story segment on the business.
- Developed a community profile for the county highlighting population characteristics and area attractions to recruit businesses and developers.
- Authored and was awarded a \$13,000 SMIF Grant to organize an inclusive outreach event aimed at helping Spanish-speaking community members learn about and access services and resources from local agencies and area nonprofits.

MURDOCK, MN POP. 306

- Authored and was awarded a \$10,000 Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office Grant to perform an assessment that will inform staff what needs to be done on a local property to compose a competitive application for a second grant.
- Authored and awarded a \$25,000 Swift County Grant to build a new bathroom building at the historical Sabin S. Murdock House Park.
- Authored and was awarded a \$50,000 Blandin Foundation Rural Leadership Boost Grant to fund a one-day/week CEDA contract and project seed funding to identify and execute projects.

NOBLES COUNTY, MN POP. 22,290

- Authored and was awarded a \$150,000 DEED Grant to address the child care shortage through the creation of a program that will assist current and new providers in creating capacity and maintaining their businesses.
- Collaborated with county staff and regional nonprofits to coordinate provider recruitment and support events, for both new and existing providers.
- Developed a newsletter for child care providers featuring event dates, business tips and spotlighting local providers.

NORTHOME, MN POP. 155

- Organized a community campground clean-up day to engage residents in local beautification efforts.
- Assisted with the creation of a new tourist and visitors center through site identification and resource connection.
- Collaborated with the county to promote the industrial park, resulting in the identification of a potential new tenant.

PINE ISLAND, MN POP. 3,769

- Authored and was awarded a \$5,500 SMIF Grant to organize a bookkeeping workshop that provided local businesses the opportunity to meet with accounting specialists and receive access to a free excel workbook for tracking business finances.
- Assisted in creating and promoting the Pine Island Area Community Foundation.
- Created a Facade Improvement Program to provide forgivable loans to downtown businesses for exterior building improvements and administered one loan.

RUSHFORD VILLAGE, MN POP. 790

- Worked with the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse's Recreation Management Program to host four community input sessions to collect community feedback on existing recreational trails and the potential development of new ones.
- Worked with the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse's Recreation Management Program to assist four groups of students with developing plans for new recreational trails.
- Began the Land Use Planning process through data collection and developable site identification.

SIBLEY COUNTY, MN POP. 14,836

- Assisted in the revitalization and sale of a local gas station and convenience store for \$1,500,000.
- Facilitated the sale of a liquor store to new owners and helped them develop a business plan focusing on the distribution of products from local breweries and wineries.
- Created and distributed a county-wide economic resource folder for entrepreneurs that includes information for start-ups, existing businesses and succession planning.

SPRING GROVE, MN POP. 1,256

- Designed, marketed and administered a Restaurant Challenge Program, which provided technical assistance and allocated \$35,000 in grant funding to local entrepreneurs interested in starting or expanding a restaurant in town.
- Raised over \$15,000 in grants and donations to renovate a defunct downtown city-owned alley into a pocket park, resulting in the installation of market lights, cafe tables and a mural by a local artist.
- Sold two lots in the industrial park to a local business, Western Son, LLC, for an expansion project.



SPRING VALLEY, MN POP. 2,447

- Provided support and guidance to assist in the formation of the Spring Valley Business Alliance, a 501(c)6 non-profit who has a goal to bring together local businesses to network and share ideas.
- Facilitated several grant-funded community projects including the development of a \$14,000 Disc Golf Course, a Community Bike Rental Program and the installation of a \$6,000 Spring Valley Creek Mural.
- Assisted 20 local businesses with organizing 'Wednesdays on Broadway', a monthly community event that hosted more than 70 vendors, community organizations and faith groups and consisted of live music, food, drinks and activities.

ST. CHARLES, MN POP. 3,990

- Collaborated with the city to facilitate tax abatement assistance for a market-rate single and multi-family housing development to expand housing options in the community.
- Administered the Commercial Rehabilitation Deferred Loan Program to two local businesses for exterior building improvements.
- Assisted a building owner in exploring financial assistance opportunities through the City to rehabilitate a historic downtown building into mixed-use commercial and residential rentals.

STEWARTVILLE, MN POP. 6,687

- Created a Commercial Exterior Beautification Program and administered a total of \$25,000 in grants to nine local property owners for exterior, permanent property improvements.
- Hosted 12 coffee break events to solicit community engagement and gather input from residents on relevant topics like law enforcement, community events, housing, and business incentives.
- Planned the annual Bear Cave Summer Concert Series which included scheduling bands, arranging community informational booths and booking local food trucks to engage the community and promote local activities.

WABASHA, MN POP. 2,559

- Authored and was awarded a \$30,000 Children's First Finance Grant to assist five new in-home child care providers with start-up costs, resulting in the creation of 50 new child care slots.
- Administered \$145,000 in revolving loans to four businesses to assist with business succession, start-up costs, property acquisition and building improvements.
- Authored and was awarded a total of \$20,000 in grants from SMIF and the Minnesota Housing Partnership to complete a Community Housing Study.

WEST CONCORD, MN POP. 861

- Designed and implemented a Restaurant Challenge to identify potential entrepreneurs interested in opening a new restaurant, or expanding current operations, to the community.
- Assisted the local museum in identifying and authoring grants for building updates and maintenance.
- Initiated the housing development process for a piece of city-owned land.

WINNEBAGO, MN POP. 1,391

- Authored and was awarded \$109,000 in DEED Demolition Loan Funds to demolish a building and create developable land.
- Administered \$33,000 in commercial exterior grants and \$44,000 in revolving loans to local businesses for exterior building improvements and business assistance.
- Authored and was awarded a total of \$22,531 in grants from Compeer Financial, the Bevcomm Foundation and Minnesota Housing Partnerships to complete a Community Housing Study.

WINONA COUNTY, MN POP. 49,671

- Collaborated with the city to complete a Community Housing Study.
- Collaborated with the Winona County GIS Department to create a Food Map, identifying and promoting locally sourced food products and encouraging regional tourism.
- Assisted in expanding OpenGov online service offerings to include the Revolving Loan Fund and county permitting applications.

ZUMBROTA, MN POP. 3,726

- Participated in the Regional Development Tour, resulting in a promotional video for the city and showcasing community assets and opportunities to regional commercial, industrial and residential stakeholders.
- Assisted in the completion of a 57-unit market-rate apartment complex by providing a total of \$3,695,920 in city development assistance.
- Provided \$10,000 in funding to a local business group for the purchase of a main street speaker system, which plays music and is used for city announcements.

SPECIAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Emerging Entrepreneur Loan

CEDA authored and was awarded a \$100,000 DEED Grant in 2021 that allows staff to provide loans to start-up or existing businesses that have been operational for two years or less in rural communities. The goal of this program is to foster employment and business growth in rural Minnesota. The first program loan was administered to the DeMarce Theater in Benson, MN for \$50,000 to remodel the facility.

Planning Department

CEDA expanded the Planning Department, hiring a full-time Director of Planning and Planning Specialist. Under new leadership, formal processes were implemented for the procurement, development and completion of Comprehensive and Strategic Plans, Housing Studies and Community Surveys.

Marketing Intelligence Dashboard

CEDA utilized their customer analytics software to complete 14 Market Potential Analysis, Community Profiles and Feasibility Studies across a variety of industries, including healthcare, childcare and food service. These analyses can be leveraged to attract and justify new business ideas and development, growing the economic vitality of the rural communities we contract with.

Spring Grove Community Real Estate Fund

CEDA worked with REVocity and local investors in Spring Grove, MN, to facilitate the creation of a locally-governed real estate fund. The fund raised over \$600,000 for community impact investment projects in 2022, including the purchase and renovation of three historic Main Street buildings and plans for a new housing development on blighted city property.

Small Business Trainings

CEDA partnered with Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) to organize, market and host small business trainings to provide marketing and business development tools on topics such as bookkeeping, food licensing, website development and digital marketing. Overall, 13 trainings were provided to 82 attendees.

Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV)

CEDA staff helped facilitate the REV program in four communities: Blue Earth, Spring Valley, Lanesboro and Mapleton. In Blue Earth, the REV program helped the community launch a Welcome Basket program for new residents and supported additional welcoming initiatives through a \$30,000 grant. In Spring Valley, the REV program led to the creation of a local business alliance who planned weekly summer downtown block parties featuring local retailers, food and beverage vendors and activities. In Lanesboro, the REV program led to the creation of the Lanesboro Entrepreneur Network, a committee who provides tools and resources to new and existing businesses, promotes tourism and assists with housing development. In Mapleton, the REV program led to the creation of a business roundtable program to engage the business community, and expanded community marketing efforts with the design of a new city logo and website.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Authored and was awarded a \$40,000 Future Ready CTE! Grant for Blue Earth Area (BEA) Schools for the creation of a drone academy, and authored and was awarded a \$40,000 Future Ready CTE! Grant for United South Central (USC) Schools for the installation of a coffee shop on the school campus.

Worked with BEA and USC School Districts to create a community retention program where students are given career exploration tours to highlight job opportunities within the region with the intention of encouraging students to return to the area after graduation. One of these tours resulted in a job opportunity for one student post-high school. Additionally, worked with local employers to create new job opportunities for high-school aged students in their facilities with the option to turn into a full-time position after graduation.

Worked with Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial (LCWM) Schools to coordinate financial literacy and employable skills seminars for senior students, plan and host a job fair featuring local employers, partner with local businesses to update the Career Wheel, and plan manufacturing tours for classes of students.

GRANTS DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Authored and was awarded a \$250,000 USDA Value-Added Producer Grant for Cannon River Winery in Cannon Falls, MN which will be used to expand their market.

Administered Minnesota Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) for Ceylon, MN to bring fiber internet to the home of residents (\$983,105 grant); Benson, MN to retrofit the Armory into an emergency shelter (\$678,000 grant); Faribault County, MN for the installation of fiber internet in the communities of Briceyn, Delavan, Elmore and Frost (\$2,886,206 grant); and Wabasha, MN to assist nine businesses with HVAC replacement through the City of Wabasha HVAC Improvement Grant (\$107,350 grant).

Authored applications for the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to assist farmers in southeast Minnesota in the acquisition of solar panels on their farms. These solar panels will allow them to generate their own energy, and will set them up for a more sustainable future.

Presented information on the grant writing process at the League of Minnesota Cities Fall Forum. In this presentation, the steps a community should take to prepare for a grant were highlighted and the collaborative process between CEDA's Grants Department and clients was outlined.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOUR

CEDA hosted its annual **Regional Development Tour** through Zumbrota, MN; Lake City, MN; and Goodhue, MN.



Check out the
Community
Promotional Videos!



CEDA SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CEDA continues to work with Minnesota's Department of Employment and Economic Development to administer the Small Cities Development Program. This program distributes federal block grant dollars to communities with fewer than 50,000 residents. Qualifying cities and counties can utilize funding for housing, public infrastructure and commercial rehabilitation projects. Altogether, the program includes nearly \$7 million in federal, state, and local matching dollars.

BLUE EARTH

Blue Earth was awarded a \$317,400 grant for the rehabilitation of 12 owner-occupied homes. Grants began disbursement in 2022, with the completion of two projects and an additional five projects going out for bid. CEDA is administering all funds.

HAYFIELD

Hayfield was awarded a \$581,900 grant for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes. The grant closed out in 2022, with the completion of 23 projects. CEDA administered all funds.

CALEDONIA

Caledonia was awarded a \$824,698 grant for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, rental housing and commercial properties. The grant closed out in 2022, with the completion of 10 commercial projects and 14 rental projects. CEDA administered the commercial, mixed-use rental and multifamily rental portion of the grant and Semcac administered the owner-occupied portion of the grant.

HOKAH

Hokah was awarded a \$721,625 grant for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied housing, rental housing and commercial properties. Grants began disbursement in 2022, with two rental projects and two commercial projects beginning construction, and several more projects going out for bid. CEDA administered all funds.

HARMONY

Harmony was awarded a \$1,017,750.00 grant for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied homes and commercial properties. Funds will begin disbursement in 2023. CEDA will partner with Semcac to administer the funds.

RED WING HRA

The Red Wing HRA was awarded a grant for the rehabilitation of housing and commercial properties. Grants were being disbursed in 2022, with the completion of one commercial project and two additional commercial projects going out for bid. CEDA partners with the HRA in administering the funds.

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Chatfield, MN

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Zach Bubany

FINANCIALS

	2022 (unaudited)	2021	2020	2019
Revenue	\$2,595,534	\$2,830,781	\$2,868,781	\$1,933,538
Expense	\$2,881,819	\$2,489,033	\$2,206,164	\$1,817,187
Net Income	(\$286,285)	\$341,748	\$662,617	\$116,351



OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you for your commitment to the economic vitality of rural communities!

DIAMOND LEVEL PARTNERS



GOLD LEVEL PARTNERS



SILVER LEVEL PARTNERS

- 504 CORPORATION
- DAIRY FARMERS OF AMERICA
- DAKOTA ELECTRIC
- F&M COMMUNITY BANK
- FIRST SOUTHEAST BANK
- GREAT RIVER ENERGY
- ITC MIDWEST
- MERCHANTS BANK
- MINNESOTA BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION
- MISSISSIPPI WELDERS
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- LAKE CITY PORT AUTHORITY
- MARKET & JOHNSON
- MINNWEST BANK
- PRAIRIE ISLAND TRIBAL COUNCIL
- RUSHFORD STATE BANK
- SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON
- SXSE BREWERY
- THINK MUTUAL BANK
- XCEL ENERGY

Want to be a champion for rural communities? We'd love to get you on the list! Reach out to our team at info@cedausa.com for more details.



**ITASCA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Itasca County Courthouse
123 NE 4th Street
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Tuesday, March 14, 2023

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION: RBA-2023-2971

DEPARTMENT: Administrative Services

TIME REQUESTED: 5 Minutes

PRESENTER: Chair

AGENDA ITEM:

Schedule Economic Development Special Session

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Schedule any follow-up Economic Development Special Sessions.

BACKGROUND:

COUNTY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: None

It was the consensus of the County Board to schedule Economic Development Special Sessions on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon and on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Itasca County Courthouse.

RESULT:	INFORMATIONAL - NO ACTION TAKEN
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