

2011-12 CEDA ACTIVITIES



BLOOMING PRAIRIE

- Continual work on two different business expansions.
- The EDA and Chamber are looking to expand the current Work Experience Program with the local high school.
- The EDA is working to get a new daycare facility in the community.

BLUE EARTH

- Completed both commercial and residential surveys regarding business community.
- Completed strategic plan for the business community.

CHATFIELD

- Created the Division Street/Highway 52 Redevelopment Plan.
- Moved forward with the plan by purchasing an available piece of property within the district.
- Created the Southeast Industrial Marketing Plan which included the EDA marketing the City owned property.
- Worked with prospects for downtown, the industrial area as well as commercial areas including the motel and hardware store.
- Assisted with the efforts of the Chatfield Center for the Arts Advisory Committee including the demolition of one of the buildings and improvements to the facility.
- Worked on advertising opportunities for the community.

DODGE COUNTY

- Received \$5,000 grant from AgStar Financial Services for a local food hub feasibility study.
- Approved a \$25,000 economic development loan for the Kasson State Theatre's digital projector upgrade.
- Completed county-wide high school student survey on residence location selection.
- Approved a cooperative tax abatement with the City of Kasson and Kasson-Mantorville School District for a major expansion of Greenway Coop.
- Held a county-wide summit to discuss livability within the county.
- Administered \$150,000 state flood recovery grant program.

ELGIN

- Assisted in securing a \$396,000 USDA loan, \$25,000 loan from People's Energy Cooperative, and \$25,000 CEDA micro loan, bringing a dentist to the community; creating 3 FTE's.

EYOTA

- Co-wrote the Safe Routes to School Grant for \$355,000 and other grant writing assistance to the local farmers market.
- Welcomed Jem's Confections, Ace Auto & Tire, and All Craft Exteriors.
- Assisted the ambulance department with a USDA grant and wrote a FEMA grant for the fire department.
- Completed Arbor Gardens Senior Living Facility window project.
- Implemented 2012 new home construction incentive program.
- Working on community signage.

FILLMORE COUNTY

- Assisted two businesses in application for SBA financing.
- Provided technical assistance to several existing and start up businesses.
- Assisted business with completion of USDA REAP grant application.

GOODHUE COUNTY

- Finalized the tourism industry section business retention and expansion study.
- Hosted the annual EDA Summit and presented the results of the study.
- Continued processing the business flood loan requests.

GRAND MEADOW

- Secured \$3,000 in funding from Wal-Mart to assist with city park improvements.
- Created a Business Directory for new residents.
- Worked with students at the school in developing a website for the City.
- Planning for Grand Meadow's Sesquicentennial Celebration.

HARMONY

- Facilitated a \$20,000 forgivable loan and a \$10,000 no-interest loan for the JEM Theatre digital projector project.
- Made over \$60,500 in forgivable commercial rehabilitation loans during 2011, stimulating an additional \$72,500 in private investment; about 90% of which was spent with other Harmony businesses.
- Assisted with community beautification, signage, and other marketing activities.

HOWARD COUNTY

- Received over \$40,000 in grants for local non-profits relating to tourism, community development and beautification projects.
- Assisted with a grant which awarded a new \$125,000 trail groomer for the Driftrunners Snowmobile Club.
- Member of a regional housing trust fund that improves local housing stock through grants and loans. Howard County contributed \$16,500 over the past two years and has seen \$92,500 returned in home improvements.
- Approved over \$500,000 in local revolving loan funds in the past year for new and existing businesses solidifying jobs and improving property.
- Expanded upon the shop local campaign over the Christmas holiday and tracked over \$670,000 in local spending over a four week span through a "Jingle in your Pocket" promotion for local Chamber members.

KASSON

- Completed the city comprehensive plan update.

KENYON

- Completed a community survey for completion of the comprehensive recreation plan for the community.

LEWISTON

- Began providing city administrative services with one 40 hour per week position and one 18 hour per week position; improving efficiency and reducing staff expenses by approximately \$25,000.
- Completed the city comprehensive plan update.
- Continue to work on attracting a grocery store to the community and working with private developers to invest in residential developments.
- Established a city trails committee which will develop a city trail system and ultimately to a regional trail network.
- Revolving loan in the amount of \$21,500 to reopen the bowling alley, creating approximately 3 FTEs.
- Assisting with Heartland Days community celebration.
- Successfully applied for a \$101,500 "Safe Routes to School" grant and \$10,000 landscaping grant through MnDOT programs.

Over the past 26 years, CEDA staff has brought in over \$23 million to our client communities

LAKE CITY

- Assisted a local entrepreneur in obtaining a revolving loan to facilitate the reopening and expansion of The Scrapbook Store and More.
- EDA staff has assisted with organizing and structuring a local group after they received a grant from the J.A. Wedum Foundation to establish the Greater Lake City Area Community Foundation.
- Created the Downtown Façade Improvement Program with the city, which provides a \$10,000 matching grant to fix up the front of downtown buildings.
- Worked with MLT Group to design an array of new marketing and promotional materials for business attraction.
- Assisted Radio Shack to obtain a \$25,000 loan from CEDA's micro-loan fund, allowing the owners to rebuild the interior following a fire in 2011.
- Economic development strategic planning: hosted and facilitated eight meetings in 2011 with the business community. Initial planning is complete and the plan is expected to be approved in 2012.
- Partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to hold quarterly meetings with representatives of Lake City's large employers and manufacturers.
- Worked with the Chamber of Commerce to host a variety of events throughout Manufacturer's Week to recognize local manufacturers and promote their contributions to the community.

LEROY

- Hosted a follow-up visit with Minnesota Design Team members.
- Advocated on behalf of some local businesses with County and State representatives regarding tax valuation issues.
- Made BR&E visits to several local businesses.

MABEL

- Worked with the City and Project Manager on issues relating to construction of the newly completed Mabel Area Community Center/City Hall.
- Conducted a BR&E survey of local businesses and did follow-up visits.
- Assisted local business with expansion.

MANTORVILLE

- Conducted community survey for sanitary sewer upgrade project.
- Applied for USDA RBEG grant.

PRESTON

- National Trout Center assisted in hiring a program manager and communications director.
- National Trout center 501c-3 application pending approval, Board formed.
- Joined the National Trout Center Advisory Committee- Site/Building.
- Assisted the City Engineers with a Brownfield grant application.
- 2012 Housing Incentive renewal of the program and collaborating partners.
- Revolving loan fund ordinance changed to a policy and revised guidelines.
- Purchase and demo of blighted property to clear the way for future development.

RUSHFORD

- Continued Business Flood Loan program administration including follow-up, reporting, and loan modification.
- Revised EDA-RLF loan documents, enabling Historic Bluff Country to re-locate to Rushford
- Processing loan payments to HBC for operating costs.
- SBDC financial analysis.
- Follow-up on business leads and providing information for business park and motel projects.
- Assisted city staff with vacant residential and business lot study.
- Serving on the Rushford Institute for Nanotechnology (RINtek) board and the 7 Rivers (Tri-State Regional) Alliance board.

RUSHFORD VILLAGE

- Continued Business Flood Loan administration.
- Started work on business subsidy criteria and revolving loan fund policies for Flood Fund repayments.
- Attended MN Clerks & Finance Officers annual conference.
- Water & sewer maintenance supervision.
- Ordinance revisions with zoning board, notice of public meetings/hearings, solar & wind power, ag-worker housing, other updates as needed.
- Quarterly newsletter, other meeting notices, public hearing notices, community ads, etc.
- Improved office organization, files, etc., listing order of clerk responsibilities for future reference.

STEWARTVILLE

- Assisted in locating a buyer for and the sale of a city owned downtown commercial building.
- Assisted EDA with approximately \$573,000 in various tax increment financing projects.
- EDA made \$75,000 in grants to enhance the "curb appeal" of business' throughout town.
- Completed comparable tax and fee study of surrounding communities.
- Assisted EDA with numerous business prospects and community marketing.

SPRING VALLEY

- Assisted The Root River Country Club through collaboration w/the County EDA.
- Collaboration with the County EDA to bring the City of Spring Valley succession planning program to all of Fillmore County.
- Collaboration with service groups & clubs to revitalize historic main street.
- Assisted the Marzoff Implement expansion with a USDA grant for technical assistance & public utility energy audit for alternative energy grants.
- Assisted REKK with USDA grant funds for technical assistance for expansion at the Industrial Park.

ST. CHARLES

- Completed infrastructure work on Chattanooga Innovation Park on Interstate 90.
- Assisted with road infrastructure in Whitewater Industrial Park to allow existing business to complete improvements.
- Provided emergency revolving loan to a business that needed immediate repairs in order to continue operations.
- Provided revolving loan to assist business with acquiring new equipment and facility improvements.

WEST CONCORD

- Assisted the City of West Concord in establishing a charter school, which was approved by the state. Now working to find the right location, retain staff, and develop a curriculum.
- Continuation of the EDA led business forums.
- Distribution of a business directory.
- Focused on business retention.



Additional Activities:

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Worked with 24 clients for 328 hours.

SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT BLOCK & REHABILITATION GRANT PROJECTS

Houston, Caledonia and Spring Grove:
9 commercial projects

Wykoff: wastewater treatment plant

La Crescent and Dakota:
20 housing projects

Continuing small cities grant administration:

Chatfield
Lanesboro
Mabel
Preston