

RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC)

The RDC is charged with facilitating collaboration among governments and the private and nonprofit sectors in the planning and implementation of programs and policies that have an impact on rural areas of the state. Members also monitor, report and comment on policies and programs aimed at addressing the needs of rural areas of North Dakota. The RDC unites the state's private and nonprofit sectors with state, federal, local and tribal governments to strengthen rural America.



THE RDC AND NORTH DAKOTA COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Commerce and the RDC prioritized and advanced several rural incentive and economic efforts. Much of this work was completed by the Commerce Main Street Initiative (MSI) team in collaboration with other state and private entities, maximizing resources and time.

Sustainable Food Delivery Program

- Strengthen local and regional food systems by facilitating the efficient movement of healthy, quality foods within rural areas.
- Improve the quality and safety of existing grocery supply.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration between local organizations, businesses, and government entities.
- Support innovative approaches to address unique challenges faced by rural areas in sustainable food supply and delivery.
- Foster community development and revitalization efforts in rural regions.
- Provide collaboration between food supply and community entities such as restaurants, schools or other entities that purchase grocery products which provides positive economic impacts for the community/region.

MSI Community Vibrancy Grant Program

- Supports local efforts to increase community vibrancy with seed funding for a small project.
- Builds momentum and inspires additional projects with improved quality of life, attracting and retaining workforce and enhancing community pride.

Partners in Planning (PiP) Grant Program

- Empowers communities to proactively plan their futures through comprehensive planning, economic development/diversification, strategic plans or economic recovery plans.
- The PiP is a result of dialogue with the RDC and recommendations to support community planning efforts and the creation of actionable plans.



FACTS

3rd IN NATION
IN RURAL CONTRIBUTION
TO STATE GDP

MORE THAN
15,000
RURAL BUSINESSES EMPLOY
134,396

2nd IN NATION
RURAL ANNUAL
COMPOUND GROWTH
RATE (2010-2018)

LOOKING AHEAD

- Provide an assessment of North Dakota's current rural landscape and target industries.
- Identify key areas of opportunities in community development.
- Establish aggressive, yet realistic goals and benchmarks directly impacted by Commerce for the state's future community development and rural prosperity.
- Facilitate collaboration among state legislators and community development partners, both public and private.
- Provide data on pilot programs and needs, both in policy and administrative, for rural community development initiatives which continue through administrations.

Rural Workforce Housing/Slum and Blight Removal

- Increase the availability of affordable housing options for the rural workforce.
- Improve the quality and safety of existing housing units.
- Encourage partnerships and collaboration between local organizations, businesses, and government entities.
- Support innovative approaches to address unique challenges faced by rural areas in housing development.
- Foster community development and revitalization efforts in rural regions.

Rural Facility Planning Grant

- Support communities in developing comprehensive plans that outline the potential uses of the facilities, with a focus on multi-use concepts, including housing, community spaces, workforce training facilities, and business incubators.
- Encourage collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies to leverage resources and expertise in addressing empty or soon-to-be empty facilities.
- Identify community champions who will advocate for and drive the project forward if deemed feasible.
- Empower rural communities through the repurposing of facilities, enhancing their resilience and ability to adapt to changing economic conditions.

North Dakota New Development Budgeting Calculator (ND2C)

- The ND2C assists communities in estimating the long-term costs of new development with a specific focus on infrastructure.
- The technology helps communities understand the magnitude of a project's fiscal impact and compare infill versus greenfield development more easily.

2022-2023 APPOINTED MEMBERS

Teran Doerr of Bowman, executive director of the Bowman County Development Corp

Janne Myrdal of Edinburg, a farmer and state senator

Gwendolyn Crawford of Kathryn, Valley City economic development director

Jay Doan of McKenzie, a rancher with Black Leg Ranch

Antoinette Heier of Hazen, executive director of the Hazen Chamber of Commerce

Megan Langley of Minot, executive director of Strengthen ND

Lindsey Lipp of Casselton, associate scientist in process and product design at Aldevron

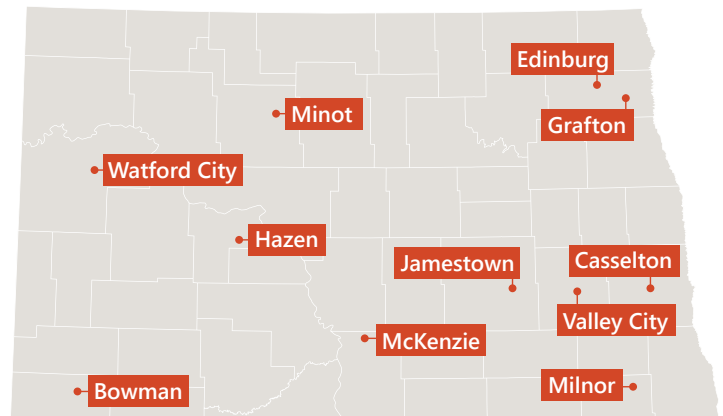
Dawn Mandt of Grafton, executive director of the Red River Regional Council

Daniel Stenberg of Watford City, McKenzie County economic development coordinator

Carol Peterson, economic development coordinator, City of Milnor

KayCee Lindsey, executive director Divide County JDA

Locations of Rural Development Council Members



Updated 12.5.2023