



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Connectivity

Champions: Pam Mahling (WTCA)
and Janelle Riley (Syvantis Technologies)

Ex Officio Members: Tad Erickson (R5DC) and
Stacey Stockdill (EnSearch, Inc.)

Date: July 16, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - Submitted (via Region V) a full grant application to Blue Cross Blue Shield for ~\$100,000 to perform a Health Impact Analysis on building the virtual highway. Side benefits to this effort include:
 - Creating a process to identify broadband gaps, research potential broadband applications and tools, and develop sustainable business plans
 - Blandin Foundation has agreed to provide technical support via Bill Coleman—this is a huge asset!
 - Have brought Maureen Ideaker aboard as a supporter and advisor. She is a member of the Minnesota Broadband Task force and a trail blazer for using telemedicine at Tri-County in Wadena many years ago
 - Beginning to create a cohesive rural broadband policy message
 - Made further refinements to White Paper which can be used for other grant applications
 - Exploring other grant opportunities such as USDA, FCC, and Bush
 - PCs for People –

In collaboration with the Shop (Youth Center in Brainerd) Region Five was instrumental in drafting a \$6,000 grant application to the Best Buy foundation to support innovative ways to integrate technology into the lives of disadvantaged youth. The grant was written with the assistance of Shelby Wilds, a volunteer intern who is on break from Gustavus Adolphus College. Shelby has a passion for social justice issues that affect the Millennial generation. Her assistance in areas of grant writing, coordination and

marketing will be valuable as the program transitions from Region Five to the Shop. If awarded this grant will assist the Shop in taking over the operations of PC's for People.

- Continuing our own education in this fast-moving industry

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

- Upcoming grant opportunities in telehealth and online learning
- Would the group be interested in getting some training on using Skype videoconferencing as a first step in "sustainability via broadband" and/or begin to use Google Hangouts for Task Force Meetings?



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Natural Resources/Land Use

Champions: John Sumption/Todd Holman

Date: July 16, 2013 _____

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in one-minute report

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?
 - Crow Wing County Water Plan up for public review: Model adopted by MHB, and described as the “gold standard” by BWSR Board for future local water plan models. MHB suggested all eight member counties adopt the same format/model. This is a major change toward “watershed based” planning rather than geo-political boundary administration and implementation. Several other counties are in the queue for water plan updates now.
 - The Mississippi Headwaters Board BWSR-CWF grant planning is near completion. Legislation for funding was approved and now MHB is considering adding back an Exec. Dir. This fall 2013 a Strategic Planning effort will look at new opportunities based on the above outcomes.
 - Baxter Comp. Plan process begins April 3, 2013: Now selected Stantec as the consultant. Should begin the process by mid-August.
 - Cuyuna State Trail (NR/LU, Economic Development, Health/active living). Bonding bill effort to secure funding for the “book ends” of the trail (2014 session). CWC planning for the crossing of Mississippi River Northwood’s project.
 - Baxter and Brainerd cooperated with CWC SWCD for Central Region Sustainable Development Partnership Grant: Whiskey Creek watershed assessment: storm water focus
 - Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and the counties of Cass, Hubbard, Crow Wing and Aitken are expanding the sensitive shore line protection project with a second LSOHC proposal for 8.4 million. This proposal continues the work to acquire donated and acquired shoreland easements. Critical shoreline habitat is the focus combining the DNR sensitive shore assessment with the new Cisco refuge lakes plan from DNR. If successful this should represent 7000-ft. of shoreland on Roosevelt Lake and 9000-ft. of shoreland on Little Boy lake. This second proposal includes integration of forest protection within lake watersheds to reach a metric of 75% of the watershed protected.

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?
 - Using CWC water plan as template for regional water plan model

- Baxter Comprehensive Plan process (now is the time for input)
- Support economic development aspects of the Cuyuna State Trail
- Advocate to LSOHC members for the lakes proposal

3. What one or two Key Theme recommendations are you working on?

- TH is on all of the above
- JS is coordinating with Paula West, Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation on the LSOHC and the four counties.



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: ECONOMIC ENGINES

Champion: GREG BERGMAN (gbergman@clcmn.edu)

RICK UTECH (rick.utech@co.todd.mn.us)

EX OFFICIO: JOE SCHULTE (jschulte@regionfive.org)

Date: April 4, 2013

Date: Revised-June 14, 2013

Economic Engines Narrative

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;

At our last Economic Engine Champion Meeting on April 4th, the champions and resource group took the Resilient Region Recommendations #1 (financing) and #2 value added agricultural heritage and defined three projects.

Using the Rural Minnesota Assistance Program (RMAP-Micro Lending) for financing, they are:

1. Long Prairie MN – Value added business package with the local food theme including growth of the local foods, packaging, distribution and sales using the Latino heritage as owners, workers and promoters in the Long Prairie, Todd County area. This is a start-up business. \$500,000
2. (Tabled) Wadena MN – Again, using the value added business package with a bakery theme. A new business start-up in a closed bakery facility. Embracing the local food theme for the local growth, packaging, distribution and sales of product. This format also includes diversification into providing a home base for the local senior's in-home food delivery program. \$350,000
3. (Tabled) Menahga MN – Using a unique existing value added food footprint of an existing local foods grocery business, the addition of a health bakery goods extension of that business allows this established business the opportunity to expand into a publically requested diversification of local foods in the Wadena County Area. \$75,000

2. What are some opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration?

1. Collaboration:
 - a. NCEDA,
 - b. SBDC,
 - c. Todd County Development Corporation-Rick Utech
 - d. City Government-Dave VenKamp,
 - e. Al Ulbericht-Minnesota National local bank lending resources
 - f. Jaime Villalaz-Greater MN Business Development Specialist-Latino Economic Development Center
 - g. Lyle Danielson-EDA Director
 - h. Local food grower's organizations.
2. Moving the needle from traditional business formats to a collaborative project.
3. Improving the "Rural Voice" in communities
4. Laying the foundation for the "Big Picture" of a new business format that can be implemented in any community.

3. What are the "action steps" moving forward:

- Involve other themes on these three projects
- Define the barriers with commercial lenders and provide solutions to businesses: No collateral, no cash, and no credit.
- Embrace the recommendations of resources: Financing, local foods, cultural differences.
- Inform all collaboration partners of each projects active status.
- 3,500 population of Long Prairie
- 1,100 Latino Population estimate 2010

4. Challenges Ahead:

1. Businesses are knocking on many doors for cash infusions including traditional large banks, small community home town banks and emerging primary lenders after bank denial.
2. What borrowers are providing is feedback that "It was brutal, just brutal," where business expansion plans have turned into suspended paychecks from time to time. Businesses are doing whatever you can to keep the doors open."
3. "Small business as a group, they aren't really out there borrowing,"



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Health Care

Champions: Jani Weibolt, Tim Rice, John Solheim,
Robert McLean

Date: July 10, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - Virtual Highway Project submitted to Blue Cross Blue Shield for HIA grant (Collaboration between Health Care and Connectivity Champions – with many other champions serving as members of the Virtual Highway Task Force

 - Crow Wing County/Essentia Health/Cuyuna Regional Medical Center Community Care White Paper written. Next step will be to meet with Joann Birkholz (CEO Medica Foundation) per her request to learn more about the model.

 - CEDs Application submitted to continue to build a public/private health collaborative across the five-county region

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:
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Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Changing Populations

Champions: Dan Frank

DeAnn Barry, Mary Sam

Date: July 16, 2013

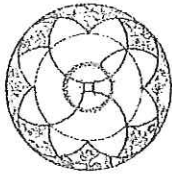
Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;

- **Senior Transportation.** We have continued to gather information on existing senior transportation availability in the five county region. We are doing this in partnership with the Transportation theme and will then be contacting our resource people to see if they can identify any additional services. This includes volunteer, government and private efforts. Once we understand what the gaps are we will be looking at possible models that could be used to fill those gaps.
- **Preventative Health as a strategy to keep seniors independent and in their own homes.** We are staying informed about the various discussions that are happening within the health and connectivity themes that relate to prevention and using technology to provide monitoring and health services in people's homes. As these strategies are ready to roll out we will be working to promote these strategies to those working throughout the region with seniors.
- **Race Equity and Excellence in Education Leadership.** Mary Sam is working with school Districts around the region to improve results and help erase the Achievement gap that most impacts students of color as well as those of low income. This program helps them understand their racial disparities, Identifies key Cradle to career Benchmarks that they want to address and set community goals for reaching those benchmarks. **See structure of program on next page.**

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

- We are interested in what has been done in Mower County as shared by the new administrator of Essentia Health. This program, if duplicated in our region, could be a good vehicle for encouraging consistent preventative health messages and strategies that can help keep seniors healthier and more independent longer.



Race Equity and Excellence in Education Leadership Structure

Phase 2: Equity Action Planning Process

**Regional Leadership Team:
Leaders with political capital to move a race
equity agenda in the region**

- Sees regional data (all districts combined)
- Sets community-wide, regional goals (i.e. closing gap by XX, by XX%)
- Brings key stakeholders (superintendents, business leaders, others) to commit to implementation of Action Plan.

**Staff and
Consultants to
support teams:
Tammy and
CLC facilitators**

**Staff and Consultants: Tammy and CLC
staff, Mary Sam and MMEP**

**Promise to Act
Team #1 Brainerd**

**Promise to Act
Team #2 -Mille Lacs**

**Promise to Act
Team #3 -CLC**

Promise to Act Teams K-12: Each team is made up of a community: district staff, Communities of Color leaders, Youth representative, foundation leaders...

- Sees their community's "Profile" of racial disparities
- Identifies key "cradle to career" benchmarks they want to address.
- Sets community goals (i.e. close the gap by XX, by XX% along continuum)
- Explores strategies (based on evidence-based models) to propose as race equity action strategies.
- Brings key stakeholders to commit resources, college/district time, etc..

Promise to Act goals, Central Lakes College:

- Reviews Colleges Racial Disparities Profile
- Interviews, gathers data from faculty
- Host Blandin 'Leading in Ethnically Diversity Community Leadership Program'



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Housing

Champions: Colleen Faacks, Janie Weston, Jennifer Bergman, Lynn Hunt, Amy McClain, Deanna Hemmesch

Date: July 16, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - Create a Website to allow landlords to list available rentals in area: Bergman is submitting a proposal for funding
 - Supporting adoption of green/resilient policies for housing: William Mitchell Community Development Clinic put together model ordinances for the HUD/region 5 Resilient region sustainability project
 - The Brainerd HRA/City of Brainerd received \$715,000 for a housing and commercial rehabilitation program for SE Brainerd from the Department of Employment and Economic Development Small Cities Development Program
 - Also, the Brainerd HRA through the Healthy Community Partnership Housing Task Force purchased a home in 2012 at 509 E Street that was dilapidated. We demolished the house and cleared the lot. In July, we will be selling the lot to the Lakes Area Habitat for Humanity who will be working the Women Build project to build a new single family home for a qualified family.
 - CMHP has a few items to update:
 - We received an award for the city of Staples for Small Cities funding through the Department of Employment and Economic Development for Commercial and owner occupied rehabilitation. That amount is for \$765,000
 - We received an award for the city of Deerwood for Small Cities funding through the Department of Employment and Economic Development for owner occupied rehabilitation. That amount is for \$295,200.
 - CMHP is working on closing Sprucewood Townhomes in Baxter (34 units of affordable housing new construction rental). Those units are anticipated to break ground in August 2013. The Total Development Cost is \$6,188,825

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

1. CEDS Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers)

(a) What is your project?

The Resilient Living Council seeks to inspire and empower people to live more sustainable lifestyles through collaborations and education. We are proposing this project anticipating the opportunity to share

the knowledge developed at the Resilient Living Campus over the past 10 years in the Ultra Energy Efficient housing field. There is ongoing discussion with regional technical colleges and Leech Lake Tribal Housing to apply this knowledge to hands on student experiences. Discussions with these stakeholders have evolved around our most recent housing design concept: Abaaso (Ojibwe for "warms in the sun"). The Abaaso concept structure is built from SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels-for energy efficiency), enhanced truss design for extra ceiling insulation, polycarbonate (South side wall) and double windows for solar optimization. The design concept has a "utility core" designation with kitchen and bathroom. The majority of the structure is an open design, allowing for moveable walls, non-structural walls, or no walls; adapting to different occupancy requirements.

The project would involve Leech Lake Tribal Housing, regional technical colleges, and their construction students, along with the design concepts from the Resilient Living campus. Through a collaborative effort the Abaaso would be used as a learning/construction project. Upon completion the Abaaso it could be used by Leech Lake Tribal students as dorm type housing or moved for other uses as determined by the collaborative group.

(b) What need does it address?

Housing that is affordable to build, own, and operate is a critical factor within the Leech Lake tribe as well as with the surrounding area. The project will help students learn to construct a simple functional structure with ultra energy efficiency and occupancy adaptability. Ultimately, this kind of skilled workforce could provide capacity to make home ownership and ongoing home maintenance (heating/cooling/remodeling) manageable and affordable; even for low income families.

Economic Development and workforce development may be substantially improved through a focused program where students learn and share new skills that are required for the evolving market of affordable ultra energy efficient buildings.

(c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented?

Tribal population, low income population, students/construction job seekers, & general public interested in the virtues of residential housing affordability, ultra energy efficiency, and adaptability.

(d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? Firm up collaborations, finalize design concept/s, and construction of "concept"structure.

Collaboration/communications between the stakeholders is critical, along with connections with related governance and professionals in the trades. The project will be evaluated for success on an ongoing basis, by bringing stakeholders together from all fields to foster improvement of process and keep communication lines open for creation of innovative activities that mutually benefit the broader community.



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Efficiency & Effectiveness

Champions: Andrea Lauer, Don Hickman, Cheryal Hills, Tad Erickson

Date: July 16th, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - **Aggregate Resource Mapping**
 - Todd, Wadena, Cass, Beltrami, and Hubbard Counties.
 - Each county has agreed by County Resolution to provide a cash match and in-kind service of time to support the current proposal to the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota's Resources that seeks funding for the project of mapping the county's construction aggregate resources.
 - \$971,980 total request.
 - **Minnesota Rural Water Association**
 - Are there potential opportunities to expand on the Blandin Lightspeed grant by using the equipment to stream training to other county or municipal departments.
 - In discussions with MN Rural Waters, a potential exists to stream their Nov 6th Finance officers meeting to those who cannot be present.
 - Topics include municipal bonding, DEED< Rural development, MDH and Rural MN Bonding.
 - **County Intern BMP**
 - The development of a workplan for a student research assistant to provide policy, program, and process mapping for counties across the region has been postponed.
 - The participating counties did not have an agreed upon workplan.
 - Potentially reconsider this project at a later time.

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

- **Hazard Mitigation Project Grants**
 - Crow Wing Township Saferoom Construction
 - South Long Lake Township Repetitive Washout Area
 - Pierz Power Line Burial

- **League of MN Cities update, collaboration, trails etc. (Andrea)**
- **The League of MN Cities held its annual convention in June and the two main topics of conversation were collaboration and trails. Cities from all over the State have shared their ideas for collaboration on the LMC website (1900 examples!) and the website also provides the contact information for the cities.**
- **One project was a solar installation similar to the one the City of Royalton did a few years ago.**
- **Another was the cities of New London, Spicer and New London Township considering creating a new city – New London/Spicer.**
- **City of Cass Lake working with Native American neighbors on Planning & Zoning issues**



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Energy

Champions: Bob Schafer; Jason Edens

Date: July 10th, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - The REPoCC planning efforts continue! Exciting new activities include: we are developing a collaboration with Bio Business Alliance (BBAM). Through the REPoCC planning process, we have identified ways to prevent duplication of efforts and discovered that BBAM has already developed an "Innovation Engine," which is a key piece of what the PoCC would do – help entrepreneurs develop their business concept, prepare to present it to investors, and then connect them with investors. Together, we and some other orgs are looking to apply for a large, \$25 million statewide manufacturing initiative that would, among a multitude of other things, roll out their Innovation Engine on a statewide basis. As currently planned, the grant application would also facilitate opportunities for manufacturers to access dollars for talent development and R&D. All of the grant dollars would be focused on rural areas.
 - The NOFA has not been released yet, because as you are aware, Minnesota just recently hosted the ONLY federal "listening session" in a rural area, and the feds have planned six listening sessions throughout the country ostensibly to get feedback on the program concept. USDA is funding 2 out of 6 of the grants, and they of course want to fund grants focused in rural areas. In other words, I think we have a pretty good shot at getting this award.
 - Zenergy
 - We continue to keep busy installing mainly solar PV for a mix of mostly local small business/residential (generally 2-10 kW), and the larger (10-80 kW) DNR-type projects.
 - We have shied away from solar water simply because "plumbing" is less within our "core competencies" than electrical.
 - As you know, we did a big push on solar thermal air in the past and plan to launch another soon promoting the (awesome!) new solar thermal rebate!! (btw, any info you have on that program would be greatly appreciated!)

- We have also shied away from wind because, frankly, we have found it to be a lot of hassle for what it's worth—especially around here where the wind resource isn't as good as down south or out west. However, we haven't totally given up and still work with some companies, such as the one we had speak at our CERTs tour way back when, who are trying to develop a "better mousetrap".
- Solar Ventilation for Poultry
 - RREAL is courting the regional turkey producers to find an ideal site for the technology. Partner TBD soon.
- Solar Thermal for Schools
 - Many schools have been analyzed around the region, but we have several more elementary schools to look at.
- Growing season extension through Solar Thermal
 - Installations at Farm at St. Matthias starting in a couple weeks.
- Small Wind Turbines became a semi-finalist in the Clean Tech Open.
- Xcel Energy grant regarding the Wind Turbine project at CLC is pending. Should be decided by end of next week.
- East Side Glass in St Cloud, MN was awarded the Solar Rewards and Made in MN bonus incentives for a 40 kilowatt solar array to be installed on the roof of their building in St Cloud.
- Small Wind Turbines has established a manufacturing partner for its breakthrough generators in New Ulm, MN. Windings Inc., a 65 year old manufacturer of motors and generators, will be building the initial orders of the new generators, which could be as large as 1000 units.

2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:

- Clean Energy Jobs Act passes
 - Solar Standard for Investor Owned Utilities. 1.5% of all electricity by 2025.
- Property Assessed Clean Energy
 - Special assessment on properties requires no out-of-pocket expense and assessment travels with property, not property owners. 20 year bond note to finance with statewide program administration. Systems are cash-flow positive on day one.
- Solar Thermal Rebate System
 - 25% project cost
- Community Shared Solar
- A collaborative agreement is underway with Green Plains Renewable Energy, Inc. Ottertail, Central Lakes College and Green Range Energy in Ironton to convert ethanol plant by-product corn oil into B-100 biodiesel.



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Transportation

Champions: Tim Houle

Jarrett Leas

Date: July 16, 2013

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in two-minute report

1. Update on progress on your Theme Priorities as identified at our April meeting;
 - Contacted each transit provider to gather coverage maps, still working to create one transit converge map for region. (T1A)
 - Continue to act in supporting role to other themes.
 - (T10A) Accountability, transparency and communication: presented at conference in walker on Active Transportation projects in the region. Continued work through CTG grant in Active Living and Active Transportation initiatives in region. Recently developed yearly work plan for AT (TIV)
 - (T8B) Continues work around Bicycle initiatives in Region, including bike rodeos, bike lane and marking designation (Staples & Brainerd), Trail development (Brainerd & Walker)
2. New opportunities for action/alignment and collaboration:
 - Continued work in Active Transportation planning, programming and implementation. (T8B)
 - On July 10 Jefferson Lines Bus Company launched a new route connecting Duluth, to Fargo, N.D. The route will include one daily run in either direction between the two cities, with stops in several other Minnesota communities, including Cloquet, McGregor, Aitkin, Crosby, Brainerd, Staples, Wadena, Perham and Detroit Lakes. (T1 & T1C)
 - (TIV) Safe Routes to School planning and implementation - Wadena, Wadena County – Build sidewalks and curb extensions, improve crossings and install traffic control devices for Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary and Wadena-Deer Creek Middle/High School. Brainerd, Crow Wing County – Improve safety for children walking and bicycling to Garfield School by adding sidewalks and curb extensions. Safe Routes to School Planning – Crosby.



Champion Report Template

Theme Area: Education and Workforce
Development

Champions: Craig Nathan, Larry Lundblad, Cheryal
Hills

***Date: 1/14/2013 – 4/16/2013-
NEW on 7/16/2/13***

Submit to Champion Facilitator to be compiled, cover highlights in one-minute report

1. What is happening in our region related to our themes goals and/or recommendations?

- EW1A- ***FastTRAC*** - Implementation of a region FastTRAC program in Manufacturing to engage low skill adults in a career development program. Partners include Brainerd Adult Basic Education (ABE), Central Lakes College (CLC) and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP). This is the first part of a two year grant from DEED. 50 adults will participate over a (2) year program. RMCEP/Brainerd ABE/CLC – Completing training with the first cohort of students in a Manufacturing FastTRAC Career Pathway. RMCEP starting a second cohort in August 2013 using the newly developed DOL TAACCT curriculum. Thirteen students in FastTRAC Cohort 1 successfully completed all 6 college credits of the FastTRAC block. Some have registered to continue in Manufacturing Degree Programs in Welding, Machine Tool, or Robotics Automation. The FastTRAC Program for Cohort 2 has been revised to include even more Manufacturing Degree Program credits (5 of 6 credits instead of 3 of 6 credits).
- EW2B- ***NCRC*** - Implementation of introduction of the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) at Central Lakes College and area Businesses. Goals to include the NCRC in all Technical Education offerings at CLC. A cumulative total of over 100 businesses in the 5 county region now recognize the NCRC as a valuable tool for recruitment and in employee development. DEED received a \$78k grant from Otto Bremer Foundation to expand the NCRC training and tracking through their "Talent Community" concept. Rural Mn CEP has integrated the NCRC into the High School Setting with over 70 NCRC awarded to Brainerd High School Seniors. RMCEP has plans to expand BCRC services to 10 – 12 schools in the 5 County area.
- EW2B- ***Career/NCRC Advising*** - Implementation of the Brainerd High School Career/NCRC Advisor. This is a two year project to introduce high school students to careers. This is a collaborative project between ISD 181, the Bremer Foundation, The Initiative Foundation and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP). This project will provide the foundation for a better career pathway for high school student to higher education. Through a Bremer grant, DEED is planning for an additional (5) schools in the (5) county area in the next year. RMCEP completed year (1) of a 2 year pilot to bring Career planning to the Brainerd High School. Year (2) will help integrate Career Exploration into the classroom, as well as

providing individualized Career planning services. Additionally Through a proposed Bremer grant, RMCEP will add 10 - 12 schools in the (5) county area next year. RMCEP and the Brainerd High School personnel have been selected to be part of a State of MN team to help develop Individual Learning Plans(ILP's)

DEED will launch the Talent Community in Brainerd the first week in September. The marketing campaign will begin in August. (Kathy Carney – DEED)

EW2A- **Bridges Career Academies and Workplace Connection** championed by Brainerd Lakes Chambers and regional K-12 districts are being expanded and additional high schools are being added \$250,000 Bremer grant obtained by the Chamber to expand Bridges Academies and Workplace Connection. We have added an Immersion camp program to the Bridges offerings and the first camps were supported/ initiated summer 2013: Existing camps - Music Camp, SEAM Camp and Updated Redesigned Camp *SCRUBS Camp* is being offered August 2013. Developing camps- I.T, Farm/Ag, Hospitality, Engineering and Mfg Camps. Other new initiatives: Educators in the Workplace (Oct 2013) and Business in the Schools. Bridges Career Academies has 15 school districts resulting in a total of 67 academies . For the first time 125 seniors received green cords and certificates of completion for Bridges Academies spring 2013.

EW3A- **BLADC's Retired Exec Program** and the CLC Lifelong learning center support the goal to capitalize on experienced professionals to mentor others.

EW3A- EW4E **Central MN Manufacturing Alliance** - A group has stated in Central MN to aid Manufacturers in development of a workforce to aid the local Manufacturing sector. The Brainerd Lakes Chamber has headed up the group, with partners including Central Lakes College, Area Manufactures, and Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. We are looking at providing not only Open Houses in select mfg companies this fall , but also consider an event involving a reception for elected officials at one of our facilities.

EW4E- **The Tech services** work supports the action step of concentration of a Specific economic cluster. Lakes Area Chamber/BLADC/CLC and RMCEP Working on development of an IT initiative to increase the # of qualified IT Professionals in the area. DEED is beginning to work on some teleworks initiatives that will support Tech services work. (Kathy Carney – DEED)

EW4I- IF, NCEDA, SBDC, DEED, EDO's are all offering **business training**, including...technical assistance to prospective and current entrepreneurs On how to apply for loans for new or expanding businesses.

EW4E- RMCEP/Lakes Area Chamber/ISD 181 Brainerd High School/Essentia Health – Working on the development of a "**Scrubs Camp**" to be offered as an emersion camp for high school students.

EW5A- Area Community Partners and Funders came together to **chart the existing career development programs** and opportunities in the Brainerd Lakes Area Hosted by Bremer Bank.

EW5A- **Welding Training** - A Welding Training Course (160 hours) will be developed and offered in the 5 county area. This is a program made possible through a grant from the Minnesota Jobs Skills Partnership (MJSP). Partners include - Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc. (RMCEP), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. (M-State), and area Manufacturers. This program aid Low Income Families with free training to enter a high demand occupation that is growing in central Minnesota. The training will be held in the Little Falls Development Center. RMCEP has scheduled the 160 hour welding course to be held in August 2013 in the Little Falls Development Center.

EW5B- SPROUT Inc. hosted training for 25 growers on good agricultural practices led by the University of MN.

EW5C- **DOL/MFG Grant** – Central Lakes College (CLC) is starting to develop the \$13.1 million dollar advanced Manufacturing Career Program made possible through a TAACCT, Dept of Labor Grant. Plans include curriculum development this year, with enrollment starting next year 2013 – 2014. DOL TAACCT. Advanced Manufacturing Grant director and various personnel are in place. Customized training representative will begin making business visits immediately to identify training needs. Mediated telepresence equipment will be ordered shortly. This is a collaboration between area Manufactures, Central Lakes College (CLC), Pine Technical College, and St Cloud Technical and Community College and 360 Center of Excellence in Manufacturing and Applied Engineering. Rural Minnesota CEP is also a partner.

New Advanced Manufacturing Programs in Mold Making / Tool & Die and Robotic Welding have been approved to start at CLC Fall 2013. Advanced Certificates in Machine Tool and in Robotics Automation will also be offered in the next academic year to enhance the skills of area manufacturing employees and to provide additional pathways for area manufacturing students. Advanced Lab Equipment to support these new programs is being purchased through the grant. The first Mediated Tele-Presence (MT) Equipment units were delivered and installed in June 2013. These allow shared training and distance learning opportunities for area manufacturers by connecting the 4 college DOL Grant partners to 15 manufacturing companies in the Central MN Region. Opportunities available in new and existing Advanced Manufacturing Education Programs have been widely publicized by DOL Staff Education and Employment Advisors to area HS students, dislocated workers, TAA eligible clients, and veterans through multiple outreach events this past quarter.

EW6A- All of the EDO are focusing efforts on attracting employers that will provide a variety of jobs that pay livable wages.

PRIORITY PROJECs GOING FORWARD

- EW2C- Application to EDA for workforce internship coordination. **Via the \$25 million dollar statewide IMCP grant opportunity. Possible coordination by MN High Tec. Association for the internship piece.**
- EW2A- An application submitted to RDF for solar schools grant that will have a renewable energy education component.
- EW5B Several applications have been recently funded **over \$307k to date.** that include an educational component for the agricultural producers. (local foods)
- EW1C- Beginning work around an Innovation Center that will have a strong educational (& R/D) component. The Innovation Center may be linked to the renewable energy proof of concept center.
- EW2D **Application that will support in part – training for “The SHOP” students to refurbish computers and donate to low income families.**
- EW5F, EW5G **Application submitted to support the HIA for broadband; online learning, tele-work, tele-health which address the following: Broad Band – Develop additional Broad Band capabilities in the rural areas for jobs & business expansion. Distance Learning - Develop additional Distance Learning opportunities for workers to skill up that live in rural areas.**

Created in 2009 by the Governor’s Workforce Development Council, the Minnesota State Energy Sector Partnership (MSESP) is a statewide initiative to forge an integrated and demand-driven system of education, training, and support services in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. MSESP is funded by a three-year, \$6 million U.S. Department of Labor grant. MSESP funding concluded just concluded June 30, 2013 but the project will be looking for future partnerships and sustainability which will be lead by MEC - Minnesota Energy Consortium in partnership with MNSCU and DEED. (Teresa Kittridge – President MNREM)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION W/OTHER THEME CHAMPIONS & RESOURCES

- (Economic Engines) New Extension Economic Educator
- (Economic Engines) Potentially an RLF recapitalization through the IMCP application.
- (Economic Engines) Federal Reserve, Minneapolis - Explore connections with Fed to educate region on banking and Economic Development. Develop some type of education conference to be held on a regular basis about the economy in our Region. Get more involvement with Federal Reserve & local Businesses.

Remember:

- EW2E- CLC does have articulation agreements that allow for 4 year degrees.
Some discussions of Little Falls teachers obtaining workforce training.
NCRC does teach soft skills.

A new idea of a Brainerd area Science and Technology Center is in conception.