

Resilient Region Theme Champions

CHAMPION CHAIR:

Tim Houle, Administrator, Crow Wing County

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Craig Nathan (Regional Director) Rural MN CEP
Dr. Chad Coquette (Executive Director) National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)
Cheryal Lee Hills (Executive Director) R5DC
Peggy Kennedy (President), Jill Abbott (Assoc. VP of Academic Affairs), Monty Johnson (Senior Dean) Minnesota State Community & Technical College (M-State)
Dr. Hara Charlier (President) Central Lakes College

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

Don Hickman (Vice President) Initiative Foundation
Andrea Lauer (Mayor) City of Royalton
Mel Radermacher (Economic Development Director) City of Staples
Anna Gruber (City/County Manager) NJPA

TRANSPORTATION

Tim Houle, (Engineer) Widseth, Smith, Nolting
Jarrett Leas (Engineer) Kadrmias, Lee & Jackson
Staci Headley (Regional Development Planner) R5DC
Andy Stone (Transit Coordinator) Brainerd and Crow Wing Public Transit

ECONOMIC ENGINES

Greg Bergman (Director) Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Vicki Chepulis (Grants Coordinator) Five Wings Arts Council
Arlene Jones (Owner/Operator) The Farm on St. Mathias (Manager) SPROUT Food Hub
Sandy Voigt (Regional Business Specialist) R5DC

CONNECTIVITY

Pam Mahling (CEO) Rural Solutions Services
Kevin Larson (CEO) Kristi Westbrook (COO) Joe Buttweiler (Partnership Dev Mgr) Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC)
Janelle Riley (CEO) Syvantis Technologies
Stacey Stockdill, (CEO) EnSearch, Inc.
Paul Drange, (Director of Regional Programs) National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA)
Janet Johnson, (Instructor) Minnesota State Community & Technical College (M-State)
Rick Utech (Executive Director) Todd County Economic Development Corporation
Brenda Thomes (Administrator) City of Long Prairie

ENERGY

Keith Olander (Dean of Agriculture) Central Lakes College
Jason Edens (President) Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)
Molly Zins (Executive Director) University of Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership
Sarah Hayden (Coordinator) Central Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTs)

HEALTH CARE

Tim Rice (CEO) Lakewood Health System
John Solheim (CEO), Amy Hart (COO), Peggy Stebbins (Director of Marketing and PR) Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
Bob McLean (COO/GM) Hunt Utilities Group
Adam Rees (CEO) & Mike Larson (COO) Essentia Health
Dan Swenson (Administrator) Centracare Long Prairie

AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOUSING

Jennifer Bergman (Executive Director) Brainerd HRA
Deanna Hemmesch (Executive Director) Central Minnesota Housing Partnership

CHANGING POPULATIONS

Mary Sam (Director of Intercultural Services/Diversity/Tribal Relations) Central Lakes College (CLC)
DeAnn Barry (Executive Director) The Center
Dean Loidolt (Community Service Developer) Central Minnesota Council on Aging (CMCOA)
Dan Frank (Community Specialist) Initiative Foundation

NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Dawn Espe (Regional Development Planner) R5DC

