

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)

Cheryl Lee Hills (Executive Director) R5DC

Peggy Kennedy (President), Jill Abbott (Assoc. VP of Academic Affairs), Monty

Johnson (Senior Dean) Holly Doyle (Assoc. Dean of Acad. Tech) Minnesota State

Community & Technical College (M-State)

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) Ashley Kaisershot (Planning & Zoning Specialist) 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

Randy Finn (Deputy Director) Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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)

Lee Seipp (Regional Coordinator) R5DC

Dan Frank (Community Specialist) Initiative Foundation

NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Dawn Espe (Regional Development Planner) R5DC