



Arrowhead Regional Development Commission

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Commission

County Board Representatives (8)

Aitkin: Don Niemi*
Carlton: Dick Brenner*
Cook: Ginny Storlie*
Itasca: Terry Snyder*
Koochiching: Wade Pavleck*
Lake: Jeremy Hurd*
St. Louis: Frank Jewell*
St. Louis: Beth Olson

Representative of Cities, Townships, Tribal Nations, and School Districts (21)

Aitkin Cities <10K: Vacant
Aitkin Townships: Vacant
Carlton Cities >10K: Roger Maki (Cloquet)
Carlton Cities <10K: David Lucas (Kettle River)
Carlton Townships: Jason Paulson (Thomson)
Cook Cities <10K: Anton Moody (Grand Marais)
Cook Townships: Vacant
Itasca Cities >10K: Dale Adams (Grand Rapids)
Itasca Cities <10K: Calvin Saari (Nashwauk)
Itasca Townships: Larry Salmela (Effie)
Koochiching Cities <10K: Brian Briggs (International Falls)
Koochiching Townships: Kevin Adee (Koochiching County)
Lake Cities <10K: Carlene Perfetto (Silver Bay)
Lake Townships: Vacant
St. Louis Cities >10K: Gary Anderson (Duluth)
St. Louis Cities >10K: Tim Harkonen (Hibbing)
St. Louis Cities <10K: Steven Johnson (Virginia)
St. Louis County Townships: Warren Tinker (Lavell)

Bois Forte Tribal Council: Sidra Starkovich
Fond du Lac Tribal Council: Jason Hollinday*
Grand Portage Tribal Council: Robert Deschampe
School Districts: Pat Medure (ISD #318, Grand Rapids)
School Districts: Walter Hautala (ISD #2711, Mesabi East)

At-Large (Citizen) Members (8)

Jim Berg (McGregor)
Dirk Davis (Morcom Township)
Mike Hoops (Silver Creek)
Joel Hoppe (McGregor)
Paul Nevanen* (International Falls)
Allen Rasmussen* (International Falls)
Gordon Salisbury (Hovland)
Mary Somnis* (Grand Marais)

Advisory Members (3)

AAAA Advisory Board: Pam Franklin*
NEMNATP: Duane Hill*
DSMIC Policy Board: Earl Elde*

* denotes members of the ARDC Board

Officers

Dick Brenner, Chair
Don Niemi, Vice Chair
Allen Rasmussen, Treasurer
Jason Hollinday, Secretary

ARDC Newsletter

Spring 2021

A Quarterly Update from ARDC

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan

It's easy to overlook how much we walk as part of our travel from place to place. We view ourselves as drivers, passengers, or even cyclists, but we often take for granted the walking part of the journey.

The MIC has spent the past year focusing on how to make the pedestrian part of our area's transportation system work better - and to encourage walking to destinations as part of people's daily routines. Although 25 percent of all trips are less than one mile, 75 percent of these short trips are made by automobile. Making it easier, safer and more pleasant to walk to nearby destinations could result in a number of benefits, including improved

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The goal of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan is to make it easy, safe, and comfortable to walk in the Twin Ports area

Growing the Healthcare Workforce

The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA) has a strong ongoing partnership with the Northland Foundation, and in late 2020, was awarded a grant to pilot workforce programs aimed at enhancing the quality and availability of informal and formal direct care in the Arrowhead Region through the Northland

Cont'd on page 3, "Health"

Management Team Updates

ARDC's activities during the now year-long Pandemic continue to primarily be done at home and virtually. Resources for at-home work have been made available by ARDC's Management Team. Computers and software for at-home work are in place. Even though Governor Walz's administration is no longer stating that we must "work from home if we can," ARDC's return to office will be purposeful and under the guidance of ARDC policies.

These policies are in development and will address conduct required of staff when they return, including guidance on mask-wearing and sanitizing. Company vehicle usage will be addressed as well. Initial hours for returning staff may be staggered to limit the number of staff in the building at one time. It is anticipated that working from home will still be an option for most staff.

Additionally, ARDC is looking forward to holding more in-

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person meetings in the Region. Attendance will occur when and if staff members feel comfortable. We look forward to meeting in-person again!



Management Team

Andy Hubley, ARDC Planning
Kristi Kane, Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging
Ron Chicka, Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
Krista Mattila, Human Resources
Sister Mary Matthew Morrisroe, Finance and Operations



Our Mission

To provide local units of government and citizens groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems, and fostering local leadership.

For career opportunities, visit ardc.org/careers.

EOE/AA/M/F/Vet/Disability Employer

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

ARDC is committed to building an inclusive culture that encourages and supports the diverse voices of our employees and of the communities we serve. ▼

Division Highlights

ARDC Planning

ARDC’s Urgent Loan program is out in full force. 15 to 20 loans are being awarded every month, and ARDC is grateful to the members of our board and commission and the at-large citizens that serve on the committee helping us administer the program. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews each loan application and makes a recommendation for approval or denial. Meeting nearly every Tuesday, it is a significant commitment. TAC members are: Jim Berg (McGregor); Paul Nevanen (International Falls); Mary Somnis (Cook County); Jason Holliday (Fond du Lac Band); Mike Murray (Duluth); and Sister Mary Matthew (ARDC).

Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging (AAAA)

Video production is the new industry that AAAA staff are learning. In efforts to improve access to services for those with hearing loss, AAAA has set out to produce two Senior LinkAge Line® outreach videos with a sign language interpreter and open captioning. The Division is also working on an Age Friendly Video to be disseminated statewide to promote efforts to become an Age Friendly State. In addition, AAAA has awarded out nearly 1.9 million in grants to the region and is set to award nearly an additional \$500,000 in carryover funding by the end of quarter two.

Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC)

Hiding in plain sight on the Duluth waterfront is a key asset for the area’s port and shipping industry. Erie Pier, located at 43rd Avenue West on the St. Louis River, is an innovative storage facility that receives and recycles dredge material from the Duluth-Superior harbor. In 2007 the MIC developed the Erie Pier Management Plan to convert it from a traditional Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) to a unique Processing and Reuse Facility (PRF). In 2020 the Plan was updated with the goal of keeping Erie Pier operating indefinitely. The MIC’s role has been to facilitate the update of the document. See <https://bit.ly/2Omj1zR> for more information. ▼

Staff Notes

- Kirsten Cruikshank was promoted to ElderCare Development Partnership (EDP) & Title IIIB Coordinator, Program Coordinator II. In this new position, Kirsten is responsible for oversight of Title IIIB programs in the Arrowhead Region, overlap of development between Program Development and Coordination related to the Area Plan, grant coordination, high-level technical support, and other activities related to the EDP. ▼

“Ped Plan,” Cont’d from page 1

physical fitness, decreased vehicle emissions, reduced automobile travel spending, and increased social interaction.

The Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Pedestrian Plan incorporates extensive local stakeholder input to provide guidance to decision-makers on how best to focus transportation investments in the MPO area to improve the environment for people who walk and use wheelchairs.

The Plan includes a map that shows where highest-priority walkways are needed, where key gaps should be filled, and where it is critical that the pedestrian walkways are available and reliably clear of obstructions. It can be viewed at <https://dsmic.org/study/pedplan2020>. ▼

Regional Roundup

Recent community happenings from across northeast Minnesota have caught the attention of ARDC staff. Below are a couple stories from our region that inspire us.

- The Downtown Duluth Inn, which has been used as a COVID-19 prevention shelter throughout the pandemic, will provide the largest increase in housing units in five years for people experiencing homelessness: <https://bit.ly/3dA2RM2>.
- ARDC has been lending working capital funding using a substantial award from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). These Urgent Loans are providing low interest loans to Pandemic-impacted businesses and non-profits. One such loan was provided to RaeAnne Conat, owner of Swanky Gifts on Rainy in International Falls. She had this to say about use of her loan funding: “It has increased our business ten-fold, especially for this time of the year. We could not have done that organically with all the money we had lost for being closed and little to no business with COVID last year. Our sincerest thank you to ARDC and its loan committee!” Swanky Gifts on Rainy can be found at swankygiftsonrainy.com. ▼

Upcoming ARDC Meetings

Mark these upcoming ARDC Commission and Board meeting dates on your calendar!

- Thursday, May 20 @ 10 am – Virtual Board Meeting
- Thursday, June 17 @ 10 am – Virtual Board Meeting
- Thursday, July 15 @ 10 am – Virtual Commission Meeting

To learn about events hosted by ARDC’s Divisions, connect with us online at www.ardc.org/connect. ▼

“Health,” Cont’d from page 1

Foundation’s Integrated Rural Community Aging Program – Quality of Care Strategy. AAAA proposed to work with the Arrowhead Regional Consortium for Healthcare Staffing (ARCHS) to develop a comprehensive website that would house recruitment, training and retention information/tools aimed at the “helping” or “caring” professions and create a region-wide marketing campaign with the goal of raising awareness around regional healthcare jobs.

In addition, the AAAA proposed to strengthen the healthcare career pipeline by expanding the healthcare career exploration opportunities for secondary students through the development of a regional virtual SCRUBS Camp and tribally focused SCRUBS Camp (in 2022).

AAAA is currently working with partners to deliver on their goals. The NE MN virtual SCRUBS Camp was launched in March 2021 with more than 60 students enrolled. Required student modules include Surgical Technician, Medical Lab Technician, Radiological Technician, Licensed Practical Nurse, Medical Assistant, and Professional/Job Seeking Skills.

The ARCHS group is currently working on member recruitment and developing RFPs for both development of the website and marketing program. We look forward to great things from these initiatives! ▼