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NCJDA Executive Director Update December 2025

The Nelson County Job Development Authority explores new business opportunities, supports local community development efforts, and provides financial and technical assistance to develop and implement community and economic development projects.

BOARD MEMBERS

Amie Vasichek, *Chairwoman / (2027)*
Paul Retzlaff, *Vice Chairman / Member at Large (2027)*
Jay Vasichek, *Exec. Comm. / Member at Large (2026)*
Elaine Brooks, *Exec. Comm. / Member at Large (2025)*
Mike Haugland, *Nelson County Commission (2025)*
Dennis Fahey, *City Council / Cities Over 500 (2025)*

Nancy Charles, *Township Officer (2025)*
Scott Sand, *Township Officer (2025)*
Cody Johnson, *Nelson County Commission (2026)*
Lindsay Maresh, *Member at Large (2026)*
Kevin Sundre, *City Council / Cities Under 500 (2027)*
Nathan Flom, *Member at Large (2027)*

HIGHLIGHTS

ECONOMY

Build a strong, flexible, and fair economy that benefits everyone in Nelson County.



Storefront Improvement Grant Program

- Lakota American Legion application received November 2025

REAP vs. Rural Catalyst

- Lots of discussion on which projects fit either program
- Over 5 projects being considered in Nelson County

Loans Payable Update

- Updated payment expected in 2026

Board Member Search

- 3 interested at-large members to be appointed, if voted for, for 2026 year
- Unable to procure a township member from the entirety of the county or city council member from Lakota at this time
- More attempts to procure interested parties in the 2026 year

COMMUNITY VITALITY

Create vibrant and inclusive communities through improved spaces, leadership, and engagement.

Arts and Community Initiatives

- Collaboration with Nelson County Arts Council strengthened for countywide beautification.
- Beautification of community expanded potentially outside of murals

The Reyleck

- The new name of 532 Hill Ave Incubator Project in Grafton
- Future offices of Red River Regional Council
- **Rendering of front lobby to the right**

2026 NCJDA Goals

- Attempting late 2025 board agreement on goals for 2026



Note: The NCJDA partners with the RRRC for professional staff

HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

WORKFORCE

Attract, retain, and develop skilled workers and entrepreneurs to drive a resilient and growing local workforce.

RWIP 3.0 Update

- Part of Region 4 planning team for regional allocation of \$620,767 with a 25% match requirement
- Weekly meetings through extended January 22, 2026 deadline

eNewsletter

- Forwarded onto board members as editions come out
- Available on social media platforms

NCJDA Social Media and Communications

- NCJDA Website - meeting minutes and executive director report uploaded to the website. New headshots planned for early 2026
- NCJDA now at 728 followers. Serves as the county hub for community events and regional initiatives

Requests

- Funding assistance for Reality Check program this year was granted **(to the right)**
- NCJDA once again sponsoring Scrubs Camp, helping students explore healthcare careers



HOUSING

Provide more and better housing options for everyone, regardless of their situation.

Region 4 Housing Rehab Project

- Over 40 applications processed and verified
- RRRRC Housing Committee to meet soon to select final candidates
- Anna now taking on more responsibility with this project
- Recent presentation by Lisa Rotvold **(below)**

SNAPSHOT OF REGION 4



2024 region wide housing study indicated a need for as many as 4,800 additional housing units in the region by 2030.

- 70% of homes built before 1970
- Strong manufacturing sector
- Lack of housing holding back economic growth
- Strong need for entry level housing and "move over" housing

Spark Build Homes

- Michigan - funds committed and plan on a spring start with Gemmill as the builder - same plan as Lakota, hope to get the land transferred and loan closed in January
- McVile - we met and they are considering the needs/market in the community, and appropriate lots - we want to have a good sense of what will sell
- Lakota - HIF application done but have not submitted yet, hope to do that by the end of the year
- For more information, visit www.redriverrc.com/housing

Brookstone Apartments in Grand Forks - a win for RRRRC/CHDO

- Lisa and Dawn assisted in this endeavor
- The Brookstone Apartments project is expected to offer 160 units and will be slated to be built on 39th Avenue South, near Furniture Row
- Read the article from GF Herald here: <https://www.grandforksherald.com/news/local/with-3-2-vote-county-commission-approves-brookstone-apartments-pilot-agreement?vfz=medium%3Dsharebar>

Looking Ahead

1. Confirm board candidates needed for township officer and city council official in 2026
2. Make decisions on grant applications, through Rural Catalyst, REAP or other, focusing on grocery stores
3. Assist significantly in Region 4 Housing Rehab Project through 2026
4. Assist in RWIP 3.0 application and career-based programming, with extended deadline of January 22, 2026
5. Increase social media presence with planned posts, updated headshots of members on website in early 2026
6. Schedule visits to local councils, businesses, schools, and regional partners to increase storefront improvement, Spark Build, Mural Projects and Rural Catalyst applications in early 2026
7. Re-establish NCJDA Mission and Vision, as well as board member duties in early 2026

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