

NELSON COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

August 13, 2025

Stump Lake Campground Pavillion

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Nelson County Job Development Authority (NCJDA) was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at the Stump Lake Campground Pavillion. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board Chairwoman Amie Vasichek.

Members and Others Present

Members: Paul Retzlaff, Dennis Fahey, Jay Vasichek, Elaine Brooks, Nancy Charles, Nathan Flom and Amie Vasichek

RRRC/NCJDA Staff: Anna Halvorson, NCJDA Executive Director

Others: Deb Hensrud, Stump Lake Arts Camp Director; Dr. Kendra Rosencrans, Economic Resilience Specialist

Members Absent

Members: Cody Johnson, Kevin Sundre, Lindsay Maresh, Mike Haugland and Scott Sand

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

J. Vasichek made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as written, seconded by Retzlaff. The motion was carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the financial report as provided. A motion was made by Fahey to approve the financial report as written. Brooks seconded. The motion was carried.

NELSON COUNTY ARTS' COUNCIL PRESENTATION AND TOUR OF STUMP LAKE ARTS CAMP

Deb Hensrud distributed a handout which listed a summary of the Nelson County Arts Council (NCAC) and its role in our county. Notably, NCAC produces one of the largest judged art shows and sales in North Dakota.

Among the 2025 NCAC projects are the following: continuing NCAC Events and completing more building repairs; Fine Arts Youth Camp is a long-standing, multi-day annual event for grades 3-12, held at Stump Lake Park; NCAC also hosts One Act Plays where local high schools perform for the public; a judged Student Art Show and Winter Art Auction. The Council also manages an Art For Life Grant that provides art programs in area Nursing Homes.

In 2024, NCAC hosted a Rural Art Display which will continue in 2025. Their newest project is Art Redux/Art for Life Display. Donated, preowned original art will be auctioned to the public at this Fall 2025 event with proceeds helping with building repairs. Art for Life will also have a display and presentation.

NCAC structure includes seven board members and two student members (both to be replaced in September 2025), one part time Administrative Assistant (approx. 35 hrs./month). Coordinators are contracted for Art for Life and Stump Lake Fine Arts Camp, Social Media/Website Coordinator and

accounting.

Implementation of all other events (Art Auction, Student Art Show, Rummage Sale, Art Show, Art Redux, Mobile Art Display, Raffle Ticket Sale, and One Act Plays) completed by unpaid NCAC Board members. Board members also write grants. Primary funding is from Art Sales, Rummage Sales & Raffle Tickets. Additional funds are from Grants, Sponsorships, Donations and Membership. NCAC expenses include artists' pay, supplies, utilities, coordinator pay, food/catering, mailings/advertising, insurance, repairs, secretarial work, and bookkeeping.

Deb then took the NCJDA on a tour of the Stump Lake Arts Camp and some of the art the students completed over the years. This included a trip along the beach, showing the board formed sundials in the sand and nature-related work. In addition, NCJDA was taken through a forest path adorned with art made from old scrap metal, wood, tires, and the like. The entrance to the path was a large arbor with a lot of student artwork and natural representations. There were also sculptures around the pavilion with similar materials, most of which were still there from Art Camps in the past, after many years.

After Deb Hensrud exited the meeting, the NCJDA Board had some discussion surrounding public murals in our county. It was determined that the board wanted to place \$7,500 in the 2026 budget to support mural projects across the county.

TRENDS AND GROWTH IN NELSON COUNTY

Kendra Rosencrans led the Board through trends in Nelson County. Notably, this included: the grocery stores are central to the recreation community, community resources are abundant, Nelson County lost the least amount of people and actually grew post COVID-19, there have been 185,400 visitors from July 1, 2024 to August 1, 2025 whom stopped in the county for more than ten minutes, and that most are coming from Grand Forks, Devils Lake and Fargo. Handouts were given to support these key takeaways.

RURAL GROCERY STORE SUSTAINABILITY GRANT UPDATE

The Executive Director, Anna Halvorson, assured the board that the goal was for all four grocery stores in Nelson County to apply for the grant, with the deadline of September 4th. Halvorson expressed the need for help gathering letters of support from Michigan, and the board recommended Leading Edge, McVile Motors, SSR, Rod's Auto Body, First United Bank and Michigan Munchkins. Halvorson reviewed the grant application purposes for each grocery store, which included: Lakota intended to apply for a mobile island, electronic labeling, self-service station with scale, and asset management software; Michigan intended to apply for a produce cooler, meat cooler, produce case and multi-deck case; McVile intended to apply for an updated HVAC system and ADA door on the south side of the building; Tolna intended to apply for a compressor system, roof, flooring and light fixtures.

REQUESTS

Scrubs Camp at Nelson County Health Systems (NCHS) had requested the NCJDA to promote the event by multiple means – social media, etc. J. Vasichek made a motion to approve the request, including a signed agreement, and Charles seconded. The motion carried.

The Bins Coffee and Spirits in Lakota had applied for a Storefront Improvement Project of \$2,500 to renovate the exterior of the building which housed Elaine's House of Dreams. The City of Lakota shares the \$5000 cap, in this case, and they also agreed to award the Bins \$2,500. This included new paint, windows, entrance, and much more. The Bins, as proposed, would be a unique hybrid business combining a coffee shop with dine-in and drive-thru services and a liquor store when a drive-thru option. This would include

two grain bins integrated into separate drive-through windows, serving as functional service points and a rustic aesthetic. The Bins will emphasize high-quality products, fast service, and was a rustic, community-oriented atmosphere to establish itself as a local landmark and profitable venture. It will also include an outdoor courtyard with a stage for special events and indoor-outdoor space for private party rentals. A motion was made by Retzlaff to approve the \$2,500 grant, Flom seconded, and the motion was carried.

Halvorson brought up that a Storefront Improvement Project from Lyndi's Market in Tolna should be forthcoming.

REGION 4 BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM PROPOSAL

The RRRC is proposing a \$1.5 million Coalition Assessment Grant in fall 2025. If awarded, the program would launch in fall 2026 and complete a formal inventory of potential sites, conduct hazardous material assessments, develop abatement plans and costs; and host redevelopment conversations within communities. If successful, another grant would be prepared and submitted to cover abatement of hazardous materials. The board brought up several sites for consideration: Treasured Creations in Lakota, the old nursing home in Michigan, the curling club in Petersburg, and the Old Twete building in McVile. Halvorson ensured the board those locations would be placed on the list of facilities that could be listed in the RRRC's Coalition Assessment Grant.

HOUSING UPDATES

A SPARK build project of two houses is currently underway in Michigan, ND. The location proposed is north of Michigan. Construction to start soon.

BOARD MEMBER TERMS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Halvorson asked the board whether they preferred email versus mailed copies of the meeting packets sent previous to the meeting, and the board agreed on email communications. Retzlaff mentioned, as well as others, that, if the paper copy is in front of them at the meeting, they are agreeable. Halvorson ensured the meeting packets would be sent out one week before the meetings, as well would have paper copies for everyone once they arrived.

Halvorson expressed that several board members' terms would end at the end of 2025 and would be reaching out to each member to see if they would like to serve another three-year term. A. Vasichek recommended Taylor Schaley as a replacement, if any member did not want to serve another three-year term.

ADJOURNMENT

J. Vasichek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brooke. The meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.

Submitted by:

Anna V. Halvorson
Executive Director

Attested by:

Amie Vasichek
Chairwoman