

Beautification
Efforts in Aneta
July 2026

BOARD REPORT

August 2026



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's rewarding to see our work making a real impact. Over the past few months, we've expanded apprenticeship opportunities, invested in housing and local businesses, and continued building stronger, more vibrant communities across Nelson County.

✓ Anna V. Halvorson, Executive Director
✉ anna@redriverrc.com C: (612) 387-6500

FUNDING AND ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- **2027 NCJDA Budget:** Preliminary 4-mill budget presented to the County Commission on July 21. Initial feedback was favorable and aligned with projections.
- **Region 4 Housing Rehab:** Two Nelson County homes (Tolna and Lakota) have been completed. One project has been fully reimbursed, with the second reimbursement in progress.
- **Real. Good. NE ND Virtual Job Fair:** Held July 23, resulting in at least five applicants for Nelson County employers.
- **NCJDA Apprenticeship Program:** Four reimbursable apprenticeships awarded. Initial employer and apprentice surveys were overwhelmingly positive, with retention tracking underway. Program guidelines will be reviewed by the Board.
- **Michigan Ambulance Grant:** Awarded a \$1,500 reimbursable grant for a CPR training mannequin and office computer.
- **RRRC Contract:** Board approved a renewed service agreement with the Red River Regional Council for 2027-2029.
- **Beautification Grants:** Awarded two \$5,000 reimbursable grants to the Aneta Park Board and the City of Michigan for community beautification projects.

STRATEGIC GOALS PROGRESS



Economy

GOAL: Engage at least 5 businesses in storefront improvement program - Pekin CC, Aunt Janie's

✓ Progress 40%

GOAL: Assist at least 3 add'l businesses with Flex Pace Loans

Lakota Car Wash, Michigan Apartment Project

✓ Progress 66%

GOAL: Support at least 3 grocery stores with funding

Lyndi's Market, Michigan Hometown Foods

✓ Progress 66%



Community Vitality

GOAL: Reach at least 2 communities for beautification
Aneta Park (awarded), Tolna, Petersburg, Michigan (awarded)

✓ Progress 200%



Workforce

GOAL: Assist 2 businesses to establish apprenticeships
Lakota Drug, Lakota Pool, J&E Financial Services, Aneta Parkview

✓ Progress 200%

GOAL: Host at least 1 career-focused event - Real.Good. NE ND Virtual Job Fair held on 7/23

✓ Progress 100%



Housing

GOAL: Assist at least 10 homes with housing rehabilitation projects - Tolna (completed), Lakota (completed)

✓ Progress 20%

GOAL: Identify 2 additional communities for SparkBuild homes - Michigan, Lakota, Petersburg, Pekin, McVile

✓ Progress 200%

UP NEXT All board members, community and staff to canvas to promote **Storefront Improvement Program, Flex PACE Loans, Grocery Store Funding** to further NCJDA goals for 2026