

NELSON COUNTY JOB DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

October 22, 2025

Sissy's Bakery; McVile, ND

--DRAFT--

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Nelson County Job Development Authority (NCJDA) was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at Sissy's Bakery in McVile, ND. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board Chairwoman Amie Vasichuk.

Members and Others Present

Members: Amie Vasichuk, Paul Retzlaff, Nathan Flom, Kevin Sundre, Cody Johnson, Lindsay Maresh, Mike Haugland, Dennis Fahey, Nancy Charles, and Scott Sand

RRRC/NCJDA Staff: Anna Halvorson, NCJDA Executive Director

Others: None

Members Absent

Jay Vasichuk and Elaine Brooks

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Vasichuk noted the line item in the August 13, 2025 minutes regarding the amount awarded to The Bins Coffee & Spirits was incorrect: it should have read the NCJDA awarded The Bins \$2,500 for their storefront improvement application and the City of Lakota has the opportunity to award an additional \$2,500. With those changes noted, a motion was made by Retzlaff to approve the minutes as read. Flom seconded. The motion was carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

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

COMMISSIONER'S 2026 BUDGET

As per most years, the NCJDA proposed a budget of 4 mils to the Commissioner's Meeting on August 19, 2025. The four mils budget was approved at the October 7, 2025 Commissioner's Meeting. Johnson added that the value of one mil in 2026 is \$29,999.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Halvorson reported that her time remains split between the Red River Regional Council and NCJDA. Since August, her work has focused on Region 4 Housing Rehab income verifications and Rural Food Sustainability Grant applications for Michigan, McVile, and Tolna grocery stores, with support also provided to Lakota Cenex.

All four county grocery stores applied for the grant; Lakota Cenex was awarded. With nearly \$5 million in

statewide requests and only \$1 million awarded to 11 stores, competition was strong. Halvorson plans to pursue Rural Catalyst or REAP grants to support the remaining stores.

She attended Developer's Day, the EDND Annual Conference, and Manufacturing Day at Marvin Windows, bringing back key insights. The Arts Across the Prairie project near Fordville is moving forward, with installation planned for 2026.

Halvorson highlighted Agristo's forthcoming potato processing plant in Grand Forks and encouraged outreach to farmers interested in contracting potato production, noting available state funding for related equipment and storage.

The board approved \$1,200 to support the Reality Check program. The former Michigan nursing home will be added to the regional Brownfield project. SparkBuild Homes applications are open, with Michigan preparing to pour concrete before winter.

Region 4 Housing Rehab has received over 40 applications, with 20 verified and roughly \$800,000 in expected rehabilitation work.

Halvorson invited members to the Partners in Progress Luncheon on November 6 in Grafton and encouraged continued learning about datacenter development. She will continue outreach to promote storefront improvement, SparkBuild, mural projects, and Rural Catalyst opportunities.

MURAL PROJECTS IN NELSON COUNTY

At the August meeting, it was brought up that the NCJDA should set aside some funding (approximately \$7,500) to assist with public murals in Nelson County. The board seemed to agree on a process like the Storefront Improvement Application. Another idea floated was requiring the applicant to be an entity, rather than an individual. Discussion on whether county murals were the best use of taxpayer funds and instead could be used to support the business community.

NCJDA 2026 GOALS

Halvorson opened the idea of creating goals for 2026. Some ideas which came from board members included: expanding storefront improvement projects to other items, such as roofing, heating and cooling, etc., broadening the word regarding the BND Flex Pace Loan to many more businesses in Nelson County, bringing in manufacturing companies into Nelson County to increase jobs, and improving retention rates.

BOARD MEMBER TERMS

Halvorson stated that two seats needed to be filled by the end of 2025 – that of Dennis Fahey, who holds a city council seat, and Nancy Charles, who holds a township seat. Some names were brought up across the county, and Halvorson stated she would come to the December meeting with a list of interested candidates. Also asked of members to send Halvorson ideas for candidates and the executive committee will make the recommendation for new members.

UPDATES FROM THE BOARD

A. Vasichek stated the Lakota Car Wash was close to being up and running, while Haugland noted the car

wash was doing “practice runs” today.

Retzlaff stated that the Aneta Parkview Health Center is three days away from completing the laundry room addition.

ADJOURNMENT

Fahey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Retzlaff. The meeting adjourned at 7:04p.m. The board agreed that the next NCJDA meeting on December 10, 2025, would be held at the Town Pump 2 in Petersburg, ND.

Submitted by:

Attested by:

Anna V. Halvorson
Executive Director

Amie Vasichuk
Chairwoman