



NWRDC



NEWSLINE

Your news & updates

109 S Minnesota Street, Warren MN, 56762 | (218) 745-6733 | www.nwrdc.org

[Visit our Website](http://www.nwrdc.org)



Executive Director - Darla Waldner

Dear NWRDC Board and Commission Members,

We're thrilled to introduce a new way to stay informed and inspired — the **NWRDC Newsline Newsletter**

This quarterly update is part of our renewed Strategic Plan and will keep you connected to the programs, services, and opportunities bringing vital resources back to Northwest Minnesota.

As we enjoy the long days of summer — a time of gatherings, growth, and reflection — we are also reminded of the importance of honoring our region's rich cultural heritage. Whether through preserving traditions, supporting local voices, or investing in community-centered projects, our work at NWRDC is rooted in respect for the people and history that make Northwest Minnesota so special.

Each newsletter will include:

- Brief program and initiative updates
- Regional success stories and partnerships
- Grant and funding alerts
- Opportunities for collaboration

- Inspiration from across the region

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and support. Together, we can continue to build resilient, connected communities that celebrating who we are.

Wishing you a safe and meaningful summer season.

Warm regards,

Darla Waldner

Executive Director

Northwest Regional Development Commission

Aging - Heather Pender

**Dancing Sky was chosen by MBA for a Center of
Excellence for Resource Coordination.
Congratulations team!**



The Northwest Minnesota Foundation, with the assistance of Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, is assessing the needs of older adults, caregivers, service providers, and community members across the 12-county service area of the Foundation. Please assist this process by completing the survey.

The NW MN Foundation serves the 12 counties of Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau.

[Survey](#)

IF you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Amy Dallmann at Dancing Sky via email: amy@nwrdc.org or phone: (218) 745-9117

Economic Development - Sean Ranum

The U.S. Economic Development Administration has announced an FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program. \$1.45 billion has been available to communities that have received major disaster declarations in 2023 and 2024. Expected grant awards can range between \$100,000 up to \$50 million depending on the funding pathway that is selected.

The NWRDC region has 4 eligible counties (Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, and Norman) for this special funding opportunity.



[More Information](#)



Transportation - Tim Finseth

MnDOT Transit Plan Survey

MnDOT is developing a transit plan for greater Minnesota and wants to hear from you.

Your input will help identify transit needs across the region and guide policies and recommendations to address them.

Help improve your ride by taking a short onboard survey! Tell MnDOT what's working and what's not working.

[Survey](#)

Community Development - James Retka

"Discovery Place Early Learning Center in Thief River Falls celebrated the grand opening of their second location with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and community open house on August 6th. The new location is adjacent to Valley Assisted Living and has a capacity of 156 additional childcare slots to serve the community. Future plans include inter-generational programming between the residents of Valley Assisted Living and Discovery Place students.



This was made possible by a collaboration of First Children's Finance, Discovery Place, Valley Assisted Living, Digi Key Corp., Advance Thief River, private donors, community foundations, and several local businesses and individuals who donated

their time to make this project a success. NWRDC is proud to support this effort over the past three years and looks forward to their continued growth".



Finacial Advisor - Ann Joppru

Welcome to our newest Team Member!

Tori Peterson - RTCC Mobility Manager (Transportation Dept)

Tori lives in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, and brings with her a strong academic and professional background. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Minnesota State University Moorhead and a Master of Science in Information Technology with a specialization in Project Management. In addition, Tori has experience with grant writing through her recent employment with the Grand Forks School System and Anne Carlsen Center. A fun fact to include from her resume is that she began her career at North Star in Warren as a Social Service Designee and spent 7 years working for the ODC in Thief River Falls.



We are excited to have Tori join our team and bring her unique skill set to help advance accessible, coordinated transportation services throughout our region. Her combination of human services understanding and project management expertise will be a great asset to our mission.

Please extend a warm welcome to Tori as she gets settled into her new role. We look forward to working with her and supporting her success at the NWRDC!

Upcoming Events



September Commission Meeting: Red Lake Falls Minnesota

Voyageur's View and Meeting at Community Hall

LOCATION

Red Lake Falls

DATE AND TIME

09/02/25 4:00pm - 09/02/25 8:00pm America/Chicago

Tour 4:00 PM Voyageur's View (105th Ave SW); Meal & Meeting 5:30 PM Community Hall (108 2nd Street)

Tour & Meeting

Meeting Only - In Person, No Zoom Available

Unable to Attend

Past Events



June Commission Library Tour

Some members of the NWRDC Commission and staff participated in a tour of the EGF Campbell Library prior to the quarterly meeting on Tuesday, June 3rd. The tour offered a fascinating and informative look into the history of East Grand Forks. Highlights included the impact of the 1997 flood and the transformation of the downtown DeMers Avenue block—now home to Cabela's—which at one time housed 36 operating bars. It was also noted that East Grand Forks once earned a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for having the highest concentration of neon signs on a single block!

Thank you to all who participated!

To take a virtual tour of this informational experience by clicking the link below:

EGF Walking Tour

Service Spotlight: Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels in Warren, MN, is provided by LSS Meals, a part of the **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** network. They offer home-delivered, hot, and nutritious meals to seniors aged 60 and older who are homebound and unable to prepare meals themselves. The service also includes friendly visits and safety checks.



Our team here at the NWRDC volunteers to deliver meals 2 weeks per year. This year the dates are August 18-29.

Commission Membership

***Board Member **Chairperson**

Kittson County

David Treumer - Hallock - Municipalities
Kimberley Johnson - Kennedy - Townships
Loren Younggren* - Hallock - Counties

Marshall County

Gary Kiesow** - Goodridge - Counties
Loren Lusignan - Grygla - Townships
Loyal Lefrooth - Grygla - Municipalities

Norman County

Darin Johnson - Halstad - Municipalities
Jesse Lee* - Ada - Counties

Pennington County

Bruce Lawrence* - Thief River Falls - Counties
Jason Bitzer - Thief River Falls - Townships
John Syvertson - Thief River Falls - School Board
Judy Jones - Goodgridge - Municipalities

Polk County

Gerald Amiot - Crookston - Public Interest
Johnny Barbosa - Public Interest
Kathleen Twite - East Grand Forks - Public Interest
Keith Sistad - Fosston - Townships
Norma Campos - East Grand Forks - Public Interest
Sarah Finseth - Warren - Public Interest
Toby Strom - McIntosh - Municipalities
Warren Strandell* - East Grand Forks - Counties

Red Lake County

Anthony "Chuck" Flage* - Red Lake Falls - Counties
James DuChamp - Plummer - Municipalities
Kevin Reich - Red Lake Falls - Townships
Ronald Weiss - Red Lake Falls - Public Interest

Roseau County

Dan Fabian - Roseau - Municipalities
Daryl Wicklund* - Badger - Counties
Debra Wiskow - Greenbush - Townships
Gus Booth - Warroad - School Board

Did you enjoy this email?



Northwest Regional Development Commission | 109 S Minnesota Street | Warren, MN 56762 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!