

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 8:30 AM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

(At the beginning of each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the Agenda. Public comments will be limited to two (2) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson)

**II. HOUSING: Joy Watson**

- A. Tal Anderson, Community Initiatives Manager for Minnesota housing, presented a PowerPoint which discussed the programs involved. Minnesota Housing is a foundation for collaboration with individuals, communities and partners to create, preserve and finance affordable housing. Tal discussed the mortgage programs involved; home improvement-fix up, home improvement-rehab/emergency loans, and lender programs. Minnesota Housing provides education, counseling and coaching, so individuals know what they are getting into. The Minnesota City Participation Program (MCP) is a bonding authority to provide first mortgage financing. This program runs on behalf of local communities. This is targeted at 80% median income levels. Contact for this program is Greg Krenz @ 651-297-3623 if you have any questions or concerns.

**III. EXTENSION SERVICE: Claire LaCanne**

- A. Bridget Tuck talked about Ag Horizons Stress Task force and how this program works. Agricultural leaders and stakeholders from Rice County participate in the University of Minnesota Extensions' Ag Horizons workshops. During the four-hour workshop, participants learned the impact agriculture has on Rice County. They analyzed data tailored to the Agriculture Industry in Rice County. They generate ideas for supporting agriculture within the county. And create action items that are specific to Rice County needs.

**IV. FINANCE: Paula O'Connell**

- A. Fran Windschitl went over the investments for the Period Ending December 31, 2021.
- B. Paula O'Connell gave us a brief overview of the Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2021 year-to-date.

**V. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe**

- A. Dennis Luebbe, talked about upcoming projects that are being focused on in the days to come. He received a proposal for design work in Lonsdale. He received a proposal from Stonebrook in regards to safety improvements. Future projects consist of Southside of Faribault, 6 Lane roundabout on Hwy 19, Public Safety Center Drainage, MNDot interchange on County Road 9, pedestrian crossing in Dundas, MNDot 20 year Hwy investment plan and upcoming Northfield projects.

**VI. PARKS & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT: Matthew Verdick**

- A. Gabrielle Grinde and Bryan Harjes presented a PowerPoint presentation which went over the future plans and possibilities for the Parks and Recreation System plan for Rice County. Gabrielle discussed in detail the project process, peer County comparison, parks inventory and mapping analysis, possibility of a new parks brand and logo, the initial observations & recommendations framework. Public engagement and the next steps were a point of topic also. HKS will be reaching out to the public asking for general input. <https://hkgsocialpinpoint.com/rice-county-park-system-plan/map#/>  
A web page is provided on the County Website which will provide information for the public to obtain.
- B. Jordan Wold gave a presentation which gave 4 different possible scopes on what could take place in the downtown area. Concept 1 consisted of maintaining the existing site and proposed demolition scope. Concept 1 also looked at the possibility of maintaining an existing site plan. Concept 2 would make it a Vacant Site proposed phasing timeline. Concept 2 also discussed the vacant site and proposed demolition scope. Concept 3 would consider a new parking lot with a proposed timeline, and proposed demolition. Concept 4 included the possibility of new development in the area of demolition sites. Each of these went into detail as to what could possibly take place down the line, depending on cost. All of these are examples. Nothing has been finalized at this time.

**VII.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Dave Miller, seconded by Steve Underdahl, to adjourn the meeting.**

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Jeff Docken, Dave Miller, Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst,

NAYS: None