



Vol. 4, No. 2

The Official Newsletter of Redwood County

Fall Edition 2022

Redwood County Justice Center Update

The Redwood County Board of Commissioners have worked for the past several years to identify a solution to address the century-old courthouse and problems with an aging building. After many discussions at their public board meetings and review of potential designs, in 2018 the Board approved the construction of a new Justice Center to replace the courthouse, as the development of a new facility outweighed the value of the courthouse building. As a result of the numerous modifications made over the years, including the 1960 addition, the building did not qualify for a National Historic Registry designation. The County Board recognized the historical significance of the Courthouse and sought efforts to record our county's history. Interior and exterior pictures were captured prior to demolition and will be housed on the Redwood County website in the coming months for the public to view. We extend thanks to County Commissioner Wakefield for giving his time and skills to assist in capturing these images.

Safety and security were the primary objectives of the project. As such, extensive planning began in May of 2018 with the Board engaging Wold Architects and Engineers to complete the design and construction manager, Contegrity Group, Inc., in September 2019. During the design phase, Wold conducted a needs



Judge Patrick Rohland in Courtroom A of the Justice Center

assessment by collecting input from the Sheriff's Office, Court Administration, and County Attorney as departments that will utilize the building. At the conclusion, a final design of a multi-level 27,000-square-foot Justice Center was approved by the County Board of Commissioners.

Construction of the new Justice Center began Spring of 2021 and incorporates current best practices for security in court facilities starting with three separate zones of circulation for users; each of these zones connect but does not cross each other. The first is the public zone where all the public-facing business occurs. When entering visitors and court users will be screened for weapons at a centralized security checkpoint with a metal detector and screening. The second zone is the staff areas for Court Administration and County Attorney. A separate entry and exit points were also constructed to enhance security for staff. The third zone is for in custody transfer from the jail,



adjacent to the new building. This is done via an underground tunnel that connects under Courthouse Square and connects the jail to a secure holding area between both courtrooms. This allows detainees to be moved through the



Aerial view of project construction underway

Minnesota Veterans Cemetery Project Update

by David Swantek, Deputy Director of Memorial Affairs Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs

More than 20,000 Veterans reside in southwestern Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) wants to provide a Veteran cemetery option closer to home for these Veterans and their families.

In 2009, MDVA submitted a federal construction grant application to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) for the establishment of a new State Veterans Cemetery to better serve the burial needs of this region of Minnesota. This started a decade-long process of securing support from the Minnesota State Legislature, searching for a suitable cemetery site, conducting technical site suitability analysis, securing the cemetery site, project design, and securing the necessary full construction funding.

Redwood County has been a valuable partner for this project, providing support to MDVA during the entire process. County officials supported the project during several legislative sessions and provided guidance in searching for a suitable cemetery site. The Redwood County Board of Commissioners ultimately provided funding for the purchase of the new cemetery site which was then donated to the State of Minnesota. Redwood County also secured funding for improvements to Noble Avenue for the main entrance to the new cemetery located east of Redwood Falls.

In October 2020, NCA officially provided MDVA a federal construction grant opportunity which allowed the detailed design of the cemetery project to begin. MDVA contracted with Stantec, a professional design firm from the Twin Cities, to provide design services for the project. Stantec partnered with Bentz Thompson Rietow to provide architectural design

court process in a safe and secure manner and does not rely on public hallways or outdoor connections. These secure zones are further enhanced with cameras and door security that require security cards to gain access.

Demolition of the former courthouse was completed in August 2022 and the installation of sidewalks and a parking lot is currently underway. The Justice Center opened in mid-September for official court business only and is anticipated to open to the public in mid-November. A grand opening will be planned for the public in the latter part of November. Announcements for this event will be provided closer to construction completion through the newspaper, Redwood County website, and Facebook page.



Concept image of completed Veterans Cemetery

services. The design for the new cemetery was completed during the summer of 2021 and a construction contract was executed between the State of Minnesota and Donlar Construction Company after a public bidding process during the early fall of 2021. Donlar Construction Company has subcontracted with several local contractors in a variety of trades to provide quality local service during construction of the new cemetery.

Limited construction started in the fall of 2021 with major construction starting in the spring of 2022. The first phase of construction includes a combined administration/maintenance building, a committal service shelter, a flag assembly area, an entry feature, roadways, 2,000 burial sites, landscaping, irrigation, and other supporting infrastructure. The first Phase will develop approximately 21.7 acres of the total cemetery site. Additional gravesite development will occur as more gravesites are needed in the future. The cemetery is estimated to have available burial space for the next 75-100 years.

Completion of the new cemetery, which will be officially known as the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery - Redwood Falls, will occur during the early fall of 2023. A formal dedication event will be planned and coordinated by MDVA and will be open to the public. Further details regarding the official cemetery opening and dedication event will be provided during the summer of 2023.



Redwood County Environmental Office applied and was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota State Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) to add new signage within Plum Creek Park. The SHIP program seeks to create sustainable, systemic changes in schools, worksites, communities and health care organizations to make it easier for Minnesotans to incorporate healthy behaviors into their daily lives.

Plum Creek Park is excited to utilize the grant to install a variety of trail signage. On the signs will be "you are here" indicators so visitors are not only aware of where they are located on the trail, but how much further they have to reach the end. The Plum Creek Park team aims to improve outdoor experiences and encourage active living.



Beacon™ Redwood County, MN

Layers Map Search Comp Search Results Comp Results Report Pictometry Imagery

Parcel Summary

Parcel ID:
Property Address:
Sec/Twp/Rng:
Lot/Block:
Plat:
Final Tax Description:
Dedicated Acres:
CEN:
Class:
Homestead:
Twp/City:
School District:

Owner Information

Sales Information

| Buyer | Seller | Transaction | Sale Descr | Full Parcel | Purchase Price | Adj |
|-------|--------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------|-----|
| | | | | | | |

Current Valuation

| | Market | Taxable |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Land | \$32,600 | \$32,600 |
| Building | \$205,100 | \$205,100 |
| Machine | \$0 | \$0 |
| Exemptions | | |
| Exclusions | | \$27,205 |
| Total Value | \$237,700 | \$210,495 |

Valuation Taxation

| Year | Est Market Value | TC Value | TC Rate | Credits | Abatements | Special Asmts | Net Tax |
|--------------|------------------|----------|----------|---------|------------|---------------|---------|
| Payable 2022 | \$222,100 | 2,566 | 60.67100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 198.16 | \$2,310 |
| Payable 2021 | \$212,900 | 2,466 | 60.32100 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 178.00 | \$2,206 |
| Payable 2020 | \$211,600 | 2,451 | 71.72000 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 198.16 | \$2,514 |
| Payable 2019 | \$208,500 | 2,414 | 71.35700 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 178.00 | \$2,426 |
| Payable 2018 | \$204,300 | 2,378 | 69.99300 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 190.10 | \$2,362 |

View Ditch Assessments on Beacon

Within the property report, under the heading “Valuation Taxation” any ditch assessment applied is listed under “Special Assessment”. Important to note, this amount does include any other special assessments levied against your property. The Environmental Office is working to add a separate heading within the property report to display just ditch assessments, to include the specific ditch and the exact amount.

If you have any questions about how to access these features, contact the Redwood County Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023.

redwoodcounty-mn.us

Redwood County Highway Department Update

by Anthony Sellner, Highway Engineer

The Redwood County Highway Department had a busy summer both in Construction and Maintenance.

Our maintenance crews have installed over 50,000 tons of gravel on roadway surfaces and shoulders, as we continue on a multi-year effort to re-gravel our County roads. In 2023 we intend to finish shouldering the remaining roadways not done in 2021 or 2022, and continue re-graveling our roadways to establish a 4" to 6" base. Additional work completed this summer has included crack filling, pot-hole patching, flood repairs, chip sealing 42 miles of roadway, ditch and bridge mowing, tree removal, and various erosion control projects alongside our roads and bridges.



CSAH 8 Bridge 89825 replacement that occurred in September 2022. Note the advanced deterioration of the abutment and abutment pile caps.



CSAH 13 is planned for pavement rehabilitation in 2023, which will be a mill and overlay project.

We also began a right-of-way weed spray program and plan to continue those efforts in the coming years. Next year we are planning for 56 miles of chip sealing and county-wide bridge deck maintenance in addition to our regular maintenance program.

The Highway Department has noted significant deterioration of our asphalt roadways, as our pavements are showing substantial cracking, rutting, and delamination due to old age and pavement oxidation from the sun. The rapid deterioration results in our maintenance crews spending not weeks, but many months out of the year just repairing asphalt pavements, which leaves much less time for other necessary maintenance actions. So how do we get our roads in better shape and how often should our roads be receiving new pavement surfacing?

We typically see a paved road needing reconstruction every 20 years and chip sealing every 7 years. With 333 miles of paved roads that the County Highway Department is responsible for, we should be re-constructing about 17 miles of roadway each year. Over the last five years, we have averaged 13 miles per year of pavement reconstruction and continue to fall behind. This results in 4 additional miles of pavements falling into disrepair each year. Taken over a 15-year period, this would be 60 miles of our paved roads that have not received the necessary reconstruction that is needed. As a point of reference, a typical asphalt mill and overlay project cost \$300,000 per mile, a concrete overlay can cost \$650,000 per mile, and full reconstruction can cost \$1.5 Million (M) to \$2M per mile, depending on the grading required. If each of those 60 miles were to be milled and overlaid, we would need \$18M alone to do this necessary road work.

At this time, our yearly road and bridge construction budget is a minimum of \$5M per year, and is required by state and federal law to be spent on construction (not maintenance). None of these funds are through the local levy or your property taxes. Instead, the construction program is funded through the gas tax, currently at 28.5 cents per gallon, license fees, vehicle sales tax and auto parts tax, bridge bonds thru the State of Minnesota, and the ½ percent local option sales tax (\$970,000 per year) and \$20 wheelage tax (\$360,000 per year). This construction budget is supplemented with Federal funds when available.

For 2022, the Highway Department's construction program was \$22M, which included the \$5M mentioned above along with the following additional funds:

- \$3.5M in Federal funds for rehabilitation of CSAH 1 and 24 southeast of Redwood Falls; with a total project cost of \$4.5M.
- \$1.25M in Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds from the State of Minnesota for the reconstruction of CSAH 1 in Clements; with a total project cost of \$4.1M.

- \$1.25M in Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds from the State of Minnesota for the reconstruction of Cedar Street in Wabasso.

- \$1.4M in bridge bonds from the State of Minnesota to reconstruct various County owned bridges.

- \$3.3M in regular and special Township Bridge funds from the State of Minnesota, for use exclusively on township bridges.

- \$1M in reimbursement from Township and Cities for their local share of road and bridge construction projects.

- \$4.7M Highway bond to fund the CSAH 6 project from TH 19 to Wabasso. The bond will be paid back over the next 15 years from our construction and maintenance funds, thereby reducing future maintenance and construction funds by an amount of \$500,000 per year.
- \$1.2M that was advanced from our 2023 gas tax funds to pay for construction done in 2022; which reduces our minimum \$5M of construction funds for next year to a lower minimum of \$3.8M.

- In 2023 we also completed a CR 63 reconstruction project in Clements for \$516,000, which was funded by the \$20 wheelage tax. We also completed the 46 miles of chip sealing at a cost of \$1.1M through the gas tax fund, and \$200k in culvert replacements on CSAH 13 prior to next year's overlay.

For 2023, our construction program will include:

- Rehabilitation of CSAH 13, from the South County line to CSAH 24, funded from \$2.2M in Highway bond funds, \$960,000 in ½ percent local option sales tax, and \$1.8M from the gas tax fund for a total project cost of \$5M.

- 56-mile chip seal project for a cost of \$1.3M funded from the gas tax fund.

- Completion of bridge projects that were funded in 2022, however, were not constructed yet.

- Additional bridge projects if the Minnesota State Legislature passes a bonding bill to fund bridges in May of 2023. These bridges, if funded in May, will likely not be constructed until 2024

due to contractor material acquisition lead time requirements and work scheduling conflicts, as by May bridge contractors' schedules may be full for the year.

So one might ask, what additional funding is available for road and bridge reconstruction and have we applied for it? The Redwood County Highway Department pursues every funding source that we are eligible for, and as of this year, we have applied for an additional \$80M in competitive federal highway discretionary grants at the national level through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. If received, this money would be for construction projects such as mill and overlays, reconstructions and bridge projects.

Let's transition for a minute and discuss the Road and Bridge levy and where those funds go. In 2023, we expect our maintenance budget will be \$6.3M, whereas previously it has been around \$5.2M. We have broken down the projected income and expenditures for everyone to see in the table shown. Of this \$6.3M, the Highway Department's proposed levy is \$2.9M (in 2022 this was \$1.9M), which is funded from the County portion of your property taxes. So for example in 2022, only \$1.9M of the combined maintenance and construction budget of \$27M was funded with local property taxes. That means the property taxes collected funded only 7% of our total yearly highway department program in 2022.

The highway department reserve balance has decreased from \$5M to \$2M from 2017 to 2019 due to overspending, and we are projected to have a reserve balance of \$1.9M at the end of this year. There are several reasons why our reserve balance has dropped so low. These reasons include the additional work and costs of emergency flood repairs, additional asphalt patching and crack filling due

to aging pavements and re-establishing our gravel roads and shoulders. The increased cost of materials has also played a role in the increased budget, along with upgrading our aging fleet of support equipment. This additional work has been occurring without a notable tax levy increase for the highway department over the last 15 years, resulting in the deficit that we see today for our maintenance program. This includes 9 years out of the last 15 with either a \$0 increase or decrease in the budget for the highway department.

The Highway Department appreciates the continued support from each of you to fund our maintenance program so we can continue to keep our roads patched, plowed, and drive-able.

The Highway Department will continue to plan upcoming projects based on available funding. Our five-year plan on our webpage is intended to be flexible, recognizing road and bridge priorities may shift due to rapid changes in highway and bridge conditions, public input, goals, priorities, and budget constraints. If you ever have a question regarding our work at the highway department, please do not hesitate to call our office at 507-637-4056.

| 2023 Highway Department Maintenance Budget | | |
|--|--|---------------|
| Income: | | |
| | 2022 Property Tax Levy | \$1.9M |
| | 2023 Additional Property Tax Levy | \$1.0M |
| | 2023 One Time Reserve Transfer | \$400k |
| | State Aid Maintenance (State Gas Tax) | \$2.7M |
| | Other | \$300k |
| | TOTAL | \$6.3M |
| Expenditures: | | |
| | Wage, Benefits, Insurance | \$2.6M |
| | Diesel Fuel and Gasoline | \$535k |
| | Gravel/Patching/Salt/Culverts/Washouts | \$1.1M |
| | Capital Outlay - Plow trucks, graders | \$1.0M |
| | Equipment Maintenance | \$393k |
| | Equipment Rental | \$90k |
| | Shop Utilities | \$138k |
| | Road Re-striping | \$74k |
| | Right-of-Way/Bridge Design | \$140k |
| | Bond Repayment | \$225k |
| | TOTAL | \$6.3M |

Redwood-Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority Implements QR Codes for Recycling Education

The Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority (RRRSWA) staff recently implemented this helpful and useful tool as they continue to find different ways to educate on the correct way to recycle in Redwood and Renville County.

There are so many materials that fall into the “Solid Waste” category that the website is sometimes flooded with resources and one doesn’t always know where to look. This often results in many unacceptable items being placed into recycling receptacles, instead of the garbage can.

As always, time marches on, technologies change, and educational pathways need to be adjusted. With QR codes, you will now be able to scan the code and it will take you directly to the “Recycling Information” portion of our website. There, you will find materials that will show you exactly what is accepted in our single-stream recycling system. You will also see what to include in recycling and even some information on how to properly dispose of certain items that frequently find their way into the recycling boxes/carts/dumpsters. Please look on the front of the BLUE recycling dumpsters you see at each of the rural recycling sites and on the ends of the GREEN roll off boxes, found at the recycling facility in Redwood Falls. Find the code and follow these simple steps:

1. Open the camera on your smartphone
2. Scan the QR code (no need to take a picture)
3. Click on the yellow bar that appears
4. Scroll & view the contents of the site

While this code is specifically for Recycling Information, in the very near future, we will also be unveiling codes that pertain to the RRRSWA in general, the Renville County Demolition Landfill/Household Hazardous Waste and also Redwood County Household Hazardous Waste.



At this time the RRRSWA does not have plans to place the codes on curbside recycling carts as there are just too many out there, but feel free to keep this article and scan the code whenever you have recycling questions.

Still have questions? Contact RRRSWA:
 - Call 320-523-8002 or 507-637-1800
 - Like our Facebook page “Redwood/Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority”
 - info@rrrswa.com

WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH NEWS FROM REDWOOD COUNTY?

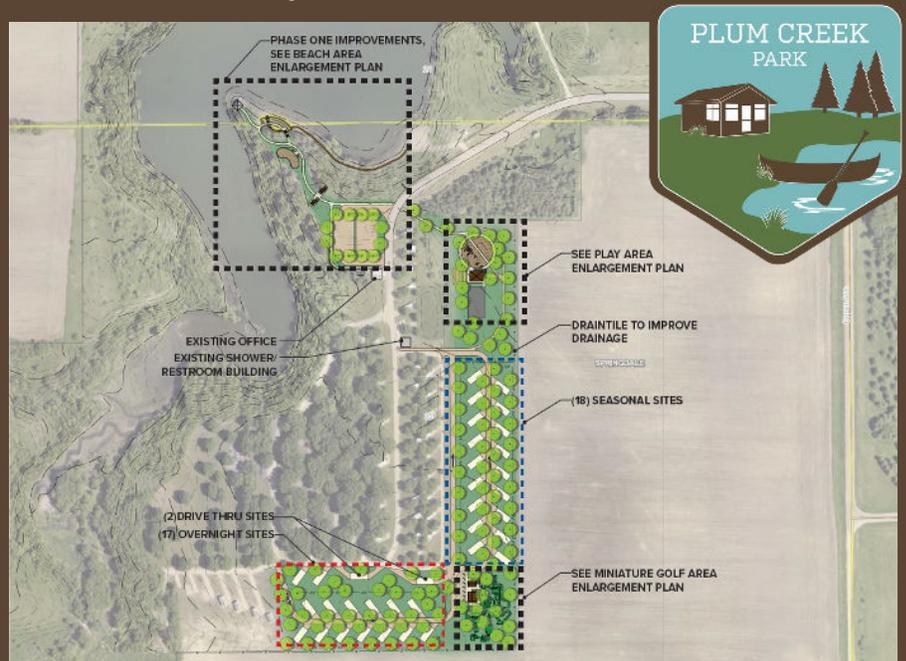
SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTICES

redwoodcounty-mn.us



Plum Creek Park Seeks Funding for Park Expansion and Enhancements

At the beginning of 2022, Redwood County hired engineering firm TKDA to develop an expansion plan for Plum Creek Park on 10 acres of property the County purchased in 2016. The plan includes adding 30-35 RV sites, shelters, recreational activities and bathroom facility. Included in the planning was the redesign and reconstruction of the beach area, new parking lot, bathrooms. Phase one of the project is to complete the beach area renovations. A grant application has been submitted to the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission to complete phase one, and additional funding will be sought in the next couple of years to complete the campground expansion. For additional information, contact the Redwood County Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023.



plumcreekpark.com

2022 PLUM CREEK PARK RESERVATION OVERVIEW

RESERVATION LOCATIONS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Reservations for the 2023 season open January 12th at 10 am

610 TOTAL RESERVATIONS
34 STATES
28% OUT OF STATE
2 INTERNATIONAL



ELECTION DAY

November 8th



Register to Vote
Check Voter Registration



Register to Vote



Absentee Voting



Find Your Polling Place



What's on my Ballot?



View Candidate Filings

sos.state.mn.us

DRIVER'S LICENSE TESTING IS BACK AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTER IN REDWOOD FALLS



Written Driver's License Testing

No appointment needed
Every Thursday between 10 and 11 am
Redwood County Government Center
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls

Driver's License Road Testing

By Appointment ONLY
To make an appointment contact
MN Driver and Vehicle Services at
(651) 284-1234 or online at drive.mn.us



Reinstatement fees are collected by the State Examiner
ONLY on Thursdays between 10 am and noon.

The Redwood County License Center cannot collect reinstatement fees.

TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC MEETING



November 29, 2022 at 6 p.m.



Redwood County Government Center
Commissioners Board Room
403 South Mill Street, Redwood Falls



Open to the public



redwoodcounty-mn.us

The purpose of the meeting is to present budget and levy information, and conduct a public hearing for the 2023 budget, pursuant to MN State Statute 275.065. Please note, market values shown on your Truth-In-Taxation notice are final, and are not subject for the hearing.



Redwood County Auditor/Treasurer
(507) 637-4013

Redwood County applied for and successfully received \$10.3 million from FEMA to fix damage to County 103E Public Drainage systems sustained in the 2018 and 2019 flood events. All repairs are currently underway with the largest project taking place on Judicial Ditch 36. When completed, these repairs will restore the integrity of the drainage systems and prevent additional erosion and sedimentation from washing downstream. The goal is to have all repairs completed by the end of 2023, pending cooperative weather conditions. For additional information, contact the Redwood County Environmental Office at (507) 637-4023.



FEMA



Redwood County Government Center
 403 S Mill St
 PO Box 130
 Redwood Falls, MN 56283

PRST-STD
 ECRWSS
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT #20

Local Postal Customer

Contacts

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Administration | 637-4016 |
| Assessor | 637-4008 |
| Attorney Office | 637-4010 |
| Auditor/Treasurer | 637-4013 |
| Court Administration | 616-4018 |
| Economic Dev. | 637-1122 |
| Emergency Mgmt. | 637-4035 |
| Environmental | 637-4023 |
| Extension | 637-4025 |
| Highway Dept. | 637-4056 |
| Human Services | 637-4050 |
| License Center | 637-4029 |
| Public Health | 637-4041 |
| Probation Office | 637-4047 |
| RRRSWA | 637-1800 |
| Recorder | 637-4032 |
| RRSWA/Solid Waste | 637-1800 |
| Restorative Justice | 637-1139 |
| Sheriff's Office | 637-4036 |
| Technology/IT | 637-4016 |
| Veteran's Office | 637-4034 |



Commissioners

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Rick Wakefield | 859-2369 |
| Jim Salfer | 342-2431 |
| Dennis Groebner | 692-2235 |
| Bob VanHee | 616-1000 |
| Dave Forkrud | 938-4269 |

BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Briana Mumme, Economic Development Coordinator

The Redwood County Economic Development Authority continues to remain engaged with broadband activity to support the County's broadband vision: *Every resident and business have access to an affordable, reliable high-speed internet connection delivered by committed community partners skilled in operating and maintaining a successful fiber broadband network.* Learn more by visiting redwoodcountyyeda.com/broadband or contact Briana at briana_m@co.redwood.mn.us or (507) 637-1122.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| PROJECT LOCATIONS | City of Sanborn and Charlestown Township |
| FUNDING SOURCE | Community Development Block Grant - Coronavirus Broadband Program |
| STATUS | Active - construction to begin Spring 2023 with completion March 2024 |
| PROJECT LOCATION | City of Redwood Falls |
| FUNDING SOURCE | Nuvera - Internet Service Provider |
| STATUS | Active - construction to begin Spring 2023 through 2026 |
| PROJECT LOCATIONS | Townships around Wabasso, Belview, Seaforth, Clements |
| FUNDING SOURCES | Arvig - Internet Service Provider Federal Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) |
| STATUS | Active - construction began in 2021 with completion 2026 |
| PROJECT LOCATION | City of Delhi and Surrounding Township |
| FUNDING SOURCE | Arvig - Internet Service Provider Federal Alternative Connect America Cost Model (ACAM) |
| STATUS | Active - construction anticipated to begin Spring 2023 through 2024 |
| PROJECT LOCATIONS | Cities of Lamberton and Revere |
| FUNDING SOURCE | Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program Hanson Communications - Internet Service Provider |
| STATUS | Pending - award notice from DEED is anticipated for early November |
| PROJECT LOCATIONS | Cities of Belview, Clements, Morgan, Seaforth, Vesta, Wabasso, Walnut Grove & Wanda |
| FUNDING SOURCES | Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant Program Arvig - Internet Service Provider Redwood County, Federal American Rescue Plan Funds |
| STATUS | Pending - award notice from DEED is anticipated for early November |