

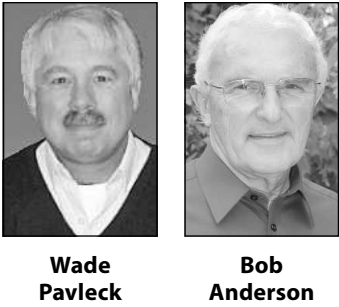
KEDA hears from DEED representative

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Borderland’s business climate was the focus of a discussion led by a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development official Wednesday at the Koochiching Economic Development Authority Board meeting.

Heather Rand, from DEED’s Business and Community Development division, works with the northeast region. Rand discussed the incentives available for businesses that reward growth, and the assist in meeting the challenges facing the region.

Most jobs are being cre-



Wade Pavleck
Bob Anderson

ated in retail, Rand said, but the programs with which the BCD division works focus on growing manufacturing jobs. The best resource for developing businesses are the Small Business Development Centers, she said, and the International Falls office is no different.

“They’re helping with everything, from suc-

cession planning, to recapitalization, business plans, marketing, etc.,” she said. “We find a lot of small businesses, typically they need that help, that outside set of eyes with professional experience.”

The services SBDC offers are free and confidential, Rand said, and research has shown the services provided increases the success of the businesses. The SBDC in International Falls is at 405 Third Street, and is operated by Jenny Herman, who Rand said has done a good job reaching out and helping local businesses.

The Minnesota Legislature has provided the BCD

division with funding to support high-tech businesses like manufacturing or data centers, Rand said, through things like grants and low-interest loans.

“They’ve chosen to put the resources there because they’re higher-wage jobs,” she said. “Typically, you’re selling a widget and the dollars are flowing back into the state, as opposed to going nowhere.”

Business activity is growing in east central Minnesota, Rand said, another area where she works, as well as Duluth.

“I’d really like to see a heck of a lot more up here, and in the Iron Range and Grand Rapids,” she said.

“That’s why it’s important folks are aware of these programs.”

The three biggest issues stifling development in International Falls are transportation, distance, and wetlands, KEDA Board member Wade Pavleck said, and the programs don’t focus on helping rural communities “get a leg up” over more populated areas, he said.

“To me, I wish there was a mechanism to help these rural communities that have such a hard time building and maintaining employment,” he said. Pavleck also serves as a county commissioner.

The past decade has seen

many losses in the forest products industry, KEDA Board member Bob Anderson said, which is a concern for this area as well. Anderson, who also serves as Falls mayor, said he brought the idea of creating a study team to find solutions for the industry to Gov. Mark Dayton’s attention when he visited International Falls in October.

Minnesota Forestry Industries officials, Rand said have stressed the importance of a one-day summit, and not another task force.

“We just need our legislators to hear us out,” she said. “We just need some creative minds and we need to prioritize.”

Economic study to focus on Arrowhead region

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

A Twin Ports-based bank has launched a research program aimed at economic trends and business opportunities in northeast Minnesota.

National Bank of Commerce is coordinating and funding the research, which is being conducted by participants from the College of St. Scholastica, University of Minnesota Duluth and University of Wisconsin-

Superior. Additional resources are being provided by the UMD Center for Economic Development, the UW-Superior Small Business Development Center, the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion, the Development Association of Superior-Douglas County and others.

The study area will include the Minnesota counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Pine and St. Louis, as well as counties in north-

west Wisconsin. It will focus on economic trends and business opportunities, and findings will be presented every six months at Regional Economic Indicators Forums.

A study of this size for the region was done about ten years ago, Steve Burgess, CEO of National Bank of Commerce, said, but it died for two reasons: lack of funding and trouble gathering reportable data. Big box retailers started moving into the region, he said, and

it was hard to get sales data from them.

“We’re going at it from a different means to get data that’s not company specific,” he said.

The study will benefit the region by providing companies with reliable, current data they can use to make decisions, Burgess said.

“The greatest benefit is that by receiving new information every six months, companies will be able to more confidently consider new opportunities while

also tracking this region’s progress compared to other regions of the country,” Burgess said in a release.

James Skurla, director of UMD’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said the study will obtain most of the data from secondary sources, but certain surveys will be conducted online and via telephone. They will be gathering demographic data, housing and real estate data, labor force data, and industry sector analysis, he said.

- Demographic Trends
 - Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Trends
 - Key Local Industry Sectors Economic Activity
 - Real Estate, Housing and Interest Rate Trends
 - Companies of Local Interest Equity Performance
- Deciding which economic indicators to study was an interesting process, Burgess said. The indicators they study will be fluid, he said, meaning if they find better indicators or ones they can more easily get data for, they’ll switch them out or make changes.

Research is now underway, Burgess said, and the first Regional Economic Indicators Forum will be 7:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center’s Harborside Ballroom. The inaugural session’s keynote speaker will be Toby Madden, a regional economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He is past president of the Minnesota Economic Association and serves on the Boards of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education, Saint Paul Academy of Finance and the Institute for Financial Economics.

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It's sometimes hard to know
why some things happen as they do
for so much joy and happiness
was centered around you
it seems so hard to comprehend
that your no longer here
but all the happy memories
will help to keep you near
you're thought of often, daughter
with each mention of your name
death cannot change a single thing
the love will still remain.

Gone but not forgotten...
Love and miss you dearly sweet angel
Dad, Mom and Kyan



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PUBLIC NOTICE							
Minnesota Department of Education		Division of School Finance 1500 Highway 36 West Roseville, MN 55113-4266		DISTRICT REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES BUDGET FOR FY 2013 AND FY 2014		ED-00110-37	
GENERAL INFORMATION: Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10 requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.							
District Name: International Falls Public Schools						District Number: 0361	
FUND	FY 2013 BEGINNING FUND BALANCES	FY 2013 ACTUAL REVENUES AND TRANSFERS IN	FY 2013 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	JUNE 30, 2013 ACTUAL FUND BALANCES	FY 2014 BUDGET REVENUES AND TRANSFERS IN	FY 2014 BUDGET EXPENDITURES AND TRANSFERS OUT	JUNE 30, 2014 PROJECTED FUND BALANCES
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 545,810.00	\$ 1,188,373.00	\$ 1,374,654.00	\$ 359,529.00	\$ 1,580, 738.00	\$ 1,481, 760.00	\$ 458,507.00
General Fund/Other	\$ 2,953,140.00	\$ 11,653,469.00	\$ 11,106,974.00	\$ 3,499,635.00	\$ 10,744,988.00	\$ 10,731,811.00	\$ 3,512,812.00
Food Service Fund	\$ 6,706.00	\$ 641,890.00	\$ 640,252.00	\$ 8,344.00	\$ 602,690.00	\$ 605,706.00	\$ 5,328.00
Community Service Fund	\$ 36,364.00	\$ 324,567.00	\$ 314,762.00	\$ 46,169.00	\$ 326,576.00	\$ 329,645.00	\$ 43,100.00
Building Construction Fund	\$ 636,775.00	\$ 4,245.00	\$ 641,020.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Debt Service Fund	\$ 7,007.00	\$ 176,185.00	\$ 168,563.00	\$ 14,629.00	\$ 173,999.00	\$ 175,158.00	\$ 13,470.00
Trust Fund	\$ 45,819.00	\$ 13,988.00	\$ 13,987.00	\$ 45,820.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,820.00
Internal Service Fund	\$ -			\$ -			\$ -
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL- ALL FUNDS	\$ 4,231,621.00	\$ 14,002,717.00	\$ 14,260,212.00	\$ 3,974,126.00	\$ 13,428,991.00	\$ 13,324,080.00	\$ 4,079,037.00
LONG-TERM DEBT			CURRENT STATUTORY OPERATING DEBT PER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 123B.81				
Outstanding July 1, 2012	\$ 1,892,985.00		AMOUNT OF GENERAL FUND DEFICIT, IF ANY, IN EXCESS OF 2.5% OF EXPENDITURES 06/30/2013			\$	-
Plus: New Issues	\$ 346,957.00		COST PER STUDENT- AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (ADM) 06/30/2013				
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 119,852.00		TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES			\$	12,868,379.00
Outstanding June 30, 2013	\$ 2,120,090.00		FY 2013 TOTAL ADM SERVED + TUITIONED OUT ADM + ADJUSTED EXTENDED ADM			\$	1,176.68
SHORT-TERM DEBT			FY 2013 OPERATING COST PER ADM			\$	10,936.18
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$ -						
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$ -						
The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.							
Comments:							

* Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)

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