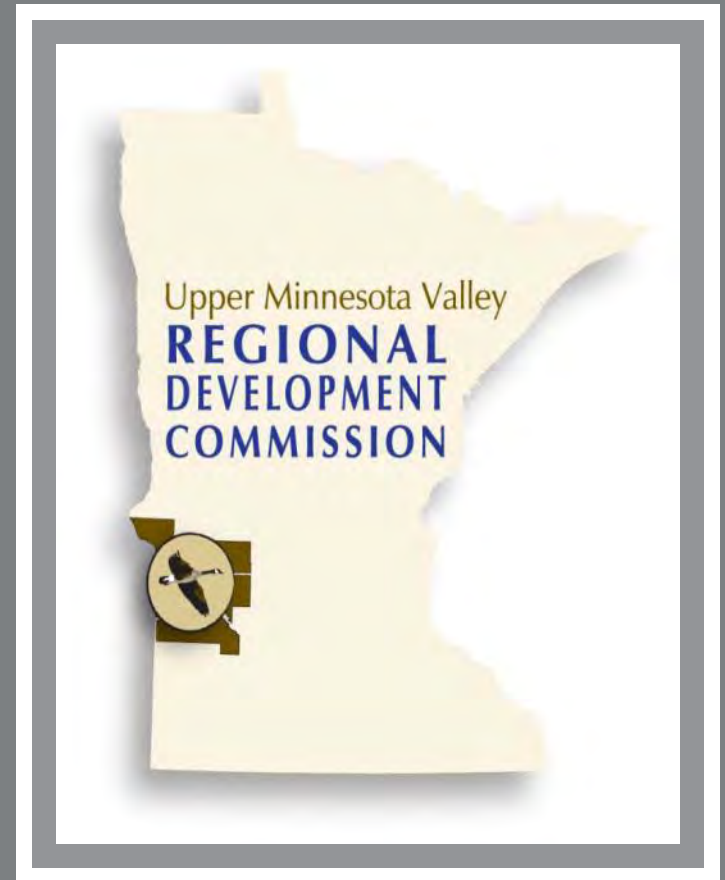


Case Study: Working with Foundations

Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC)



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

UMVRDC Region

5 Counties

37 Cities

94 Townships

10 School Districts

1 Tribal Community

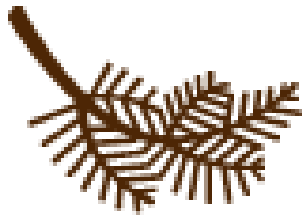
- 70% of cities have populations under 500
- 67.5% Computer Ownership in the region
- Compared with 74.3% in rural MN statewide
- Broadband adoption rate in the region is 57.6%
- Compared with 64% in rural MN statewide



Big Stone, Chippewa,
Lac qui Parle, Swift &
Yellow Medicine
Counties

1 of 11 demonstration communities in MN working on :

- ✓ **Broadband** – ensuring wired and/or wireless broadband availability
- ✓ **Knowledge Workers** – ensuring that workers have the skills necessary for good jobs
- ✓ **Digital Inclusion** – ensuring that all have broadband access and necessary skills
- ✓ **Innovation** – providing new or more efficient government and business services
- ✓ **Marketing/Advocacy** – attracting investment and talent to your community



Blandin Foundation™

STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

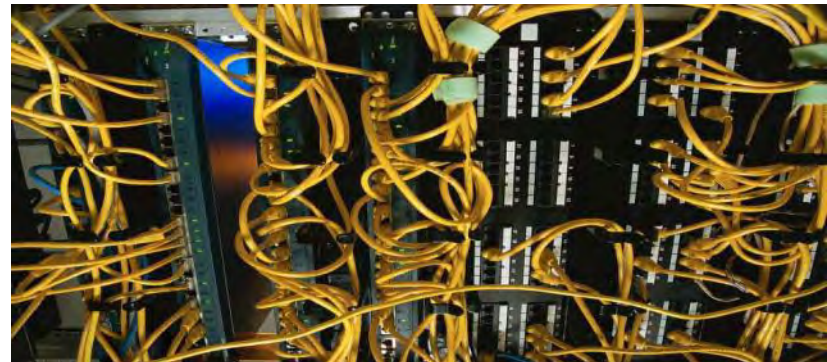
- Private foundation based in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.
- The state's largest rural-based and rural-focused foundation.
- As of Dec. 31, 2010, the foundation leveraged the proceeds from a trust worth more than \$395 million.
- Our mission is to strengthen communities in rural Minnesota by working in three primary areas:
 - Grant making
 - Community leadership development
 - Public policy programs

www.blandinfoundation.org

UMVRDC was an implementation partner



We had access to
different networks



Connected New Partners

7 Projects • \$90,000 Granted • \$137,000 Leveraged

Marketing/ Advocacy

Pioneer Public
TV
Regional
non-profit

Echo &
Bellingham
2 small cities

Digital Inclusion

Lac qui Parle
County
Computer
Commuter
Local non-profit
venture

Knowledge Workforce

Ortonville
EDA & School

Innovation

Dawson Boyd
School

Johnson
Memorial
Health Facility

Big Stone
County

Pioneer Public TV

Farming



Youth

Producing video content for broadcast and/or web use describing the challenges facing rural areas in the availability and use of broadband

Business

Newcomers



Bellingham & Echo City Websites

- Bellingham
 - Population: 168
 - 0.4 square miles
 - Median age: 48 years
 - Median household income: \$27,083
- Echo
 - Population: 278
 - 1.0 square mile
 - Median age: 40 years
 - Median household income: \$27,656



19 of 37 cities ***do not***
have websites.

Lac qui Parle County Computer Commuter

Increasing Digital Literacy – Traveling 5 days a week to 6 different communities –
Twelve local partners making this project happen – Offering 1 on 1 assistance

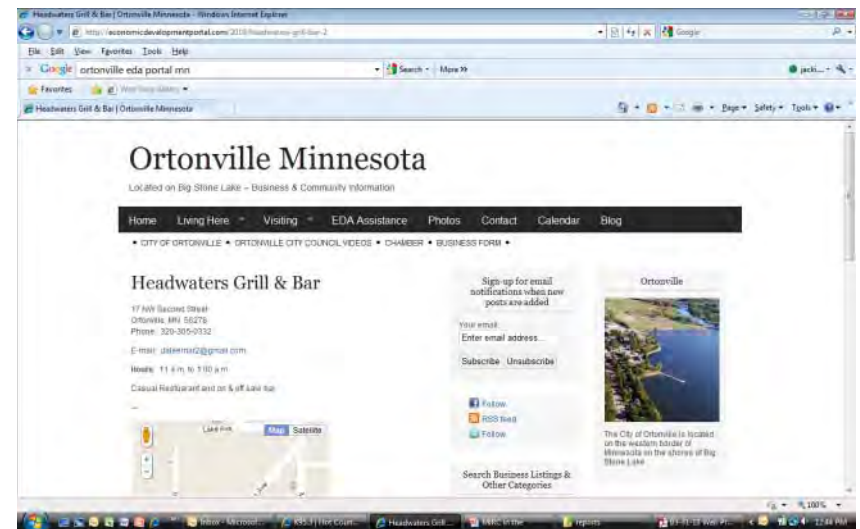
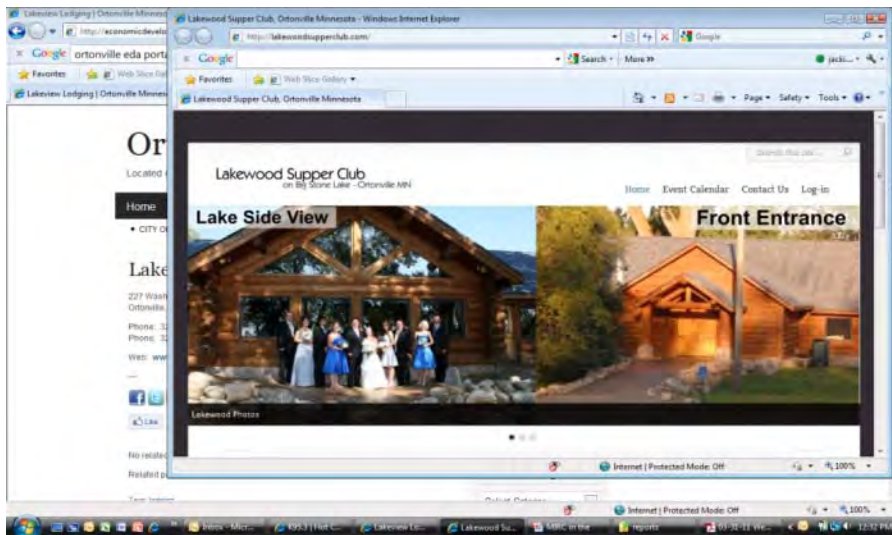


Ortonville School / EDA Project

Goal: For every business in Ortonville to have a web presence!

❑ Lakewoodsupperclub.com

❑ Economicdevelopmentportal.com



Johnson Memorial Home Health Project

Using broadband-based remote support tools and enhanced family engagement to reduce hospital readmissions and to achieve increased medication adherence for better health outcomes.

Staying Home Longer

Enhancing Family Connections

Keeping Health Records Organized

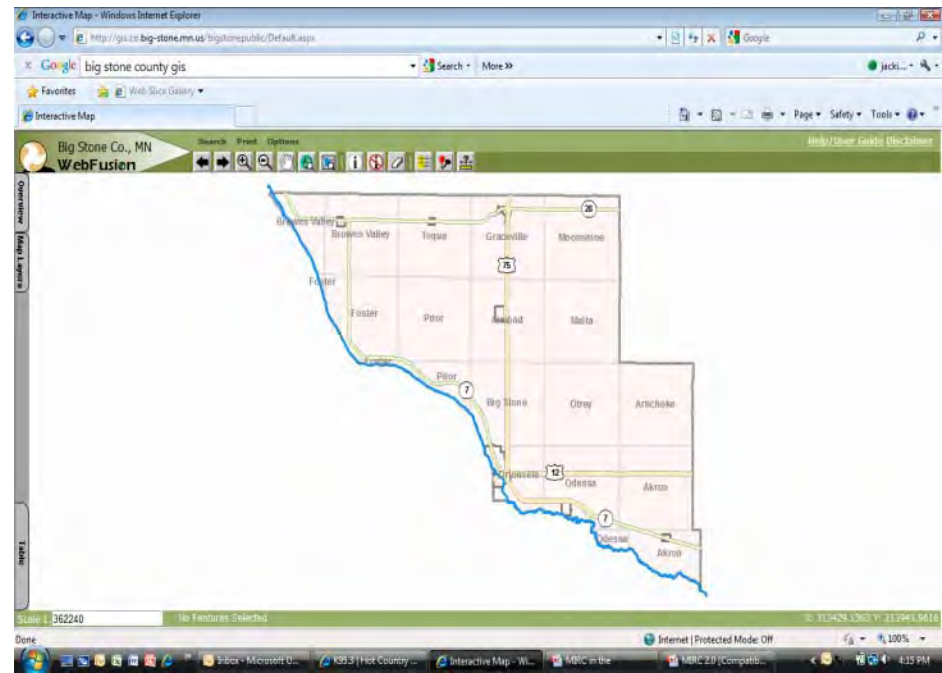


Big Stone County GIS Project

- GIS files are now accessible online
- Added a public GIS kiosk at the County building
- Updated computers in the Recorder & Assessor Offices with GIS
- The Recorder, Assessor & Environmental offices are assisting and teaching the public how to use these systems

“It is important to provide access to information they need regardless of our office hours, especially to real estate businesses and banks that could be working on a purchase or sale where time is critical.”

Big Stone County IT Coordinator



A hybrid online
classroom

Teacher /
Community
Training
Academy

Student Tech
Team

Computer
Savvy
Specialist

Raising the
bar!

Dawson / Boyd Schools Multi-Collaboration Center



Even More Partners!



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION



Minnesota Learning Commons
Supporting quality online education and resources



Minnesota Department of
Education

Adult Basic Education

SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
PRIVATE INDUSTRY
COUNCIL

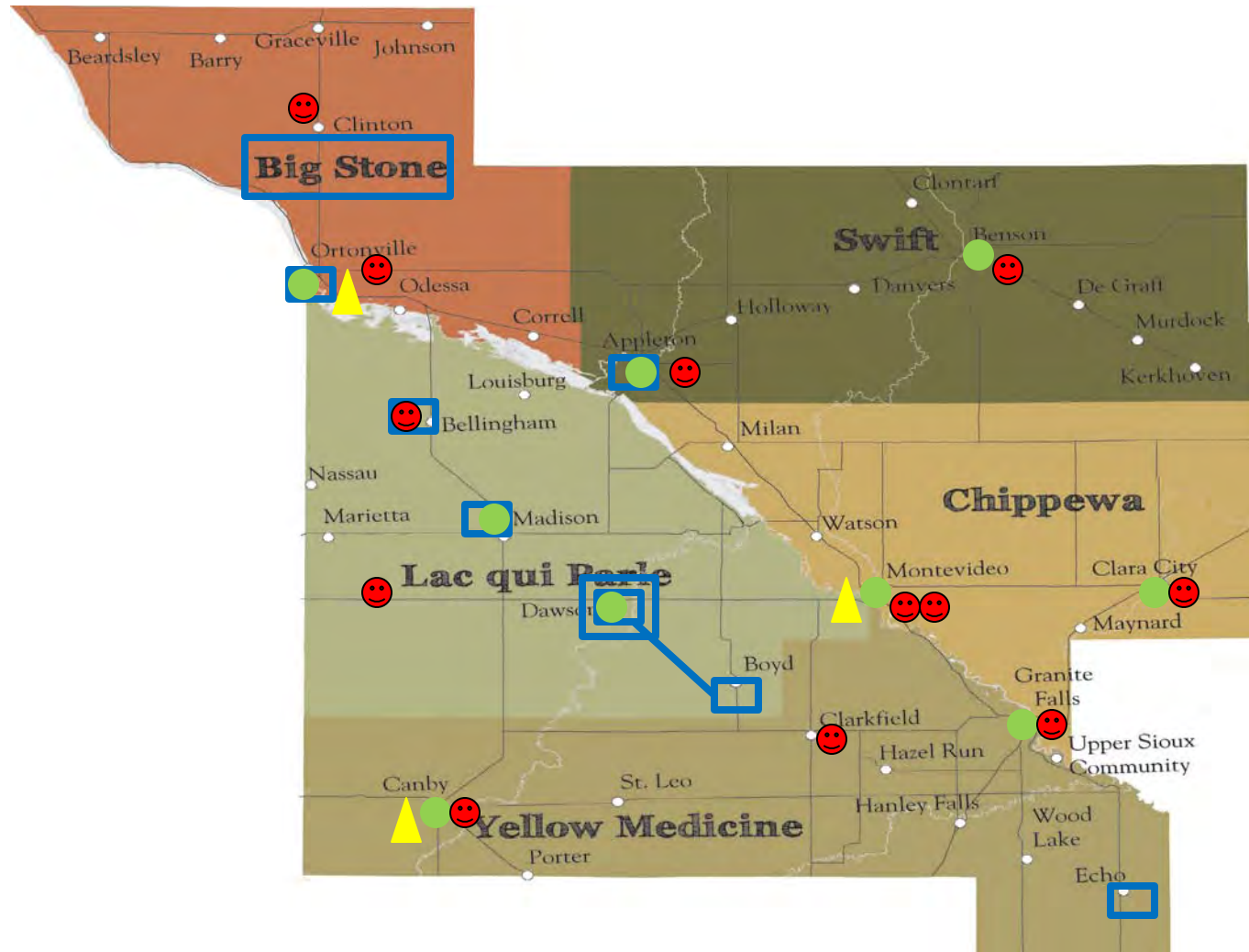
Project Impact

Demonstration
Project

Extension
Classes

Knowledge
Worker Courses

Steering
Committee
Partners



Project Insights

Best Practices

1. Get the right people on board-
who is in your network?
2. Be prepared to explain how a new program or opportunity can fit into existing programs
3. Clearly identify expectations from steering committee and project recipients
4. Leverage, Leverage, Leverage!



On-going Challenges

1. Geography- statewide vs regional vs local
2. Defining early what metrics will define success
3. Planning & Knowing the Options
 - Business
 - Government
 - Individuals
 - Non-profits
4. On-going Communication

THANK YOU!

Dawn Hegland
Executive Director

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www.umvrdc.org



RDO Project Examples shared at the NADO Conference

- Lake Area Foundation- Russell Springs, KY - Sarah Roberts Hart Fund:
www.runwithallyourhart.com Also developing women's groups in 10 counties working to raise funds for issues affecting women

RDO Project Examples shared at the NADO Conference

- Lake Cumberland Area Development District created the Lake Area Foundation: The project is the creation of a community foundation in a foundation desert in South Central Kentucky. www.lakeareafoudnation.org

RDO Project Examples shared at the NADO Conference

- Bland County Medical Clinic: Wytheville, VA- Worked with the Wythe Bland Foundation on the expansion/upgrading equipment in the clinic

<http://www.wbcfoundation.org/>

RDO Project Examples shared at the NADO Conference

- Oklahoma Masonic Lodge
Foundation/Grand Gateway
EDA/Oklahoma Association of Rural
Regional Councils: Accept \$700,000 a
year to meet needs of seniors which are
not met with government funding
<http://www.grandgateway.org/home>