

**4c. Consideration of 2022 Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) Membership and approving Annual Dues in the amount of \$2,606 (JT)**

**A. REFERENCE AND BACKGROUND:**

The EDA is asked to consider approving 2022 membership in the Wright County Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) and further authorizing the annual dues payment in the amount of \$2,606. The dues are the same amount as in 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively.

The EDA has been a member of the WCEDP for many years. In collaborating with and supporting the WCEDP, it offers the potential to leverage additional funding for projects through the WCEDP Loan Program. The WCEDP also pays membership fees to organizations that allow the EDA-City to gain access to regional events held by MNCAR and CMMA (Central MN Mfgs. Association). Collaboration on economic development efforts is a key strategy noted in the Draft Monticello 2040 + Comprehensive Plan in achieving local progress.

It should be pointed out that the WCEDP has now taken the lead role in a County-wide workforce development program, leading and collaborating with the local school district, businesses, the MN Workforce Center, technical schools and others on job training awareness building efforts. In 2021 the WCEDP also launched a County-wide Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program effort. In this role, WCEDP staff collaborated with City staff in conducting BRE visits in the City of Monticello through the early summer and fall of 2022.

**A1. Staff Impact:** There is minimal staff time involved in preparing the staff report for consideration of the 2022 annual WCEDP membership dues.

**A2. Budget Impact:** Funds for the 2022 membership dues to the WCEDP amount to \$2,606. These projected expenses were budgeted in the 2022 “Dues, Membership and Subscriptions” budget line, approved by the EDA in August 2021.

**B. ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:**

1. Motion to approve 2022 membership in WCEDP and the annual dues in the amount of \$2,606.
2. Motion to table approval of 2022 membership in WCEDP and the annual dues in the amount of \$2,606 for further research and/or discussion.

**C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Alternative #1 wherein the 2022 membership in the WCEDP and the annual dues in the amount of \$2,606 are approved. The 2022 membership dues remain unchanged since 2019. By participating in the WCEDP, the EDA benefits through marketing and networking opportunities, BRE visitations, information sharing and

collaborating in project funding, as well as workforce training efforts that are more effective on a larger geographic scale.

**D. SUPPORTING DATA:**

- A. 2022 WCEDP Membership Dues Invoice
- B. Summary 2021 WCEDP Accomplishments

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the initiatives, successes, and importance of the Wright County Economic Development Partnership. Thank you for your continued and increased support of economic development efforts for the benefit of Wright County, its communities and businesses. Our missions interconnect and we are proud to work together to enhance the vitality of our County.

During the last year, the WCEDP has been involved in many initiatives to support the economic development needs of Wright County, and the communities and businesses of Wright County.

- WCEDP processed 179 applications for \$2.5 M to small businesses and non-profits and assisted 9 Townships with **CARES Funds**.
- A **new Executive Director** has continued to lead the Partnership with integrity and positivity as stewards of Wright County resources.
- WCEDP has responded to many **requests from businesses for information**, demographic data, and sources of financial assistance.
- The Partnership has been a guiding force in the creation of the **CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities)** class which will begin its seventh year in September and run throughout the school year for junior and senior high school students from 9-member school districts.
- The Partnership is continually nurturing its **relationship with the 11 Chambers of Commerce** located throughout the County and hosted **Chamber Summits** with all of the Chambers and the MN Chamber of Commerce.
- In 2021 the Partnership continued efforts by leading **Workforce Pathway Initiative** and creation and ongoing implementation of the **Workforce Pathways Wheel** to better understand the needs of the Wright County employers and their ongoing struggle to find, train and retain employees to allow them to grow their businesses.
- We are the Fiscal Agent for the **Central Minnesota Job Fair** in Monticello each spring.
- Our **Marketing Program** efforts have included website updates, social media campaigns, magazine articles, and radio spots along with our monthly newsletter which is sent to over 1100 contacts.
- Began an outreach effort to re-establish relations with **Community Colleges** in the region including the St. Cloud Tech & Community College and RidgeWater Community College.
- Participated in the **Wright County EDA Advisory Committee** and participate on the **Wright County Economic Development Authority**, as well as **Waverly EDA, Clearwater EDA, Hanover EDA, Monticello IEDC, Maple Lake IEDC, St. Michael EDA**.
- Advocate for **Wright County Dental Access** and **Wright County Childcare Retention**.
- Applied for and received grants from **Initiative Foundation** for **Workforce Pathways** and **Childcare Retention**.
- Participated in 8 **Business Retention and Expansion** visits with largest employers in Wright County.
- Participated in **MAPCED, Central Mississippi River Regional Partnership, 7W Regional Broadband Committee**, etc.
- Created and hosted 3 **Capacity Building Seminars** that were free to Wright County businesses and focused on Energy Efficiency, Pedestrian Experience, and Small Business Financing.
- Created and proposed programming for **ARPA Funds** in the areas of Regional Economic Development, Higher Education Opportunities, Workforce Training, Childcare Retention and Mental Health Initiatives.

*On behalf of the entire Partnership, a dedicated Board of Directors, and staff:*

***Thank you!***

*We look forward to working together for the benefit of our County.*

# INVOICE

Date: 12/3/2021

Wright County Economic  
 Development Partnership  
 1405 3rd Ave NE  
 Buffalo, MN 55313  
 763.496.5632  
 admin@wrightpartnership.org

Sold To

Jim Thares  
 City of Monticello  
 505 Walnut Street Suite 1  
 Monticello, MN

<i>Payment Method</i>	<i>Check No.</i>

<i>Qty</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Discount</i>	<i>Line Total</i>
1	2022 Partner Dues		\$2,606

**Total Discount**

Please Note 2023 Dues Will Increase Which  
Will Reflect 2020 Census Numbers.  
Your Current Est. For 2023 Will Be \$3401

<b>Subtotal</b>	\$2,606
<b>Sales Tax</b>	
<b>Total</b>	\$2,606



*If you have any questions please contact Missy at 763.496.5632*

**Thank you for your participation!**