

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tom Anderson, Integrated Retirement Initiatives
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Arnie Johnson, Johnson Enterprises, LLC
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Clint Nelson, Positive Realty
John Newhouse, Retired
Angella Roby, Oakridge Woodview Services

BLAEDC BOARD LIAISONS

Rosemary Franzen and Tim Houle,
Crow Wing County
Ed Menk and Cassandra Torstenson,
City of Brainerd
Darrel Olson and Brad Chapulis,
City of Baxter
Matt Kilian, Brainerd Lakes Chamber
Eric Charpentier, CREDI

BLAEDC UNIFIED FUND BOARD

Chair, Eric Charpentier - CREDI Rep
Vice Chair, Brad Chapulis - Baxter Rep
Paul Means - BLAEDC Rep
Mike Larson - BLAEDC Rep
Char Kinzer - Crow Wing Power Rep
Kevin Larson - CTC Rep
Bart Taylor - Crosslake Rep
Rosemary Franzen - Crow Wing Cty Rep
Gabe Johnson - Brainerd Rep
Theresa Goble - CWC HRA Rep

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In my new role as President of the BLAEDC Board of Directors for 2018, I anticipate celebrating the economic development successes of Crow Wing County and look forward to what 2018 and beyond may have in store for us. I have been engaged with BLAEDC in past years through BLAEDC's "Tech Services" efforts and more recently, helped lead the way with establishing the new KEY Recruitment Program.



Janelle Riley
2018 President

BLAEDC is truly an inspiration for all of us through strong community and business partnerships, private sector leadership, and impressive local and regional results. Our efforts to promote business growth and development in our area include our need to be progressive and competitive in making sure we have a community that is "expanding business, building community and growing jobs."

Please connect with me, share ideas, and carry the message that "We're Ready. Let's Grow!"

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

KEY RECRUITMENT - Hires: 11
New People to Area: 22

BLAEDC UNIFIED FUND - Projects: 1
Total Project Investment: \$98,000
Total BLAEDC Unified Fund Financing: \$24,500
Jobs Retained: 2 Jobs Created: 3

<u>2017 BLAEDC YTD ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u> (1987-2016)	<u>2017 BLAEDC ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u>
431 projects	11 projects
\$693.98 million in capital investments	\$29.29 million in capital investments
4,894 jobs created	153 jobs projected + 78 jobs retained



THE BLAEDC TEAM

Mike Bjerkness, Workforce Director
Sheila Haverkamp, Executive Director
Megan Rehbein, Office Administrator
Tyler Glynn, Economic Development Officer



www.growbrainerdlakes.org • Phone 218-828-0096
224 West Washington Street, Brainerd MN 56401



PARTNERSHIPS

**Working Together to Create Economic
Development Opportunities**



BLAEDC PARTNERSHIPS



We are stronger unified.

By partnering with business, utilities, and government, the BLAEDC Unified Fund brings enhanced economic development opportunities to entrepreneurs and businesses in Crow Wing County.



BLAEDC's vision to assemble various funding resources into a BLAEDC Unified Fund that coordinates marketing and management processes to streamline access to financing for businesses in our area has become a reality! Nearly a dozen utilities and government funding sources were pooled to create this Unified Fund. The total amount of money is nearly \$2.5 million dollars. Current partners with BLAEDC include: City of Brainerd, City of Baxter, Crow Wing County, Crow Wing County HRA, Consolidated Telecommunications Company, City of Crosslake, and Crow Wing Power.



Taking the lead as the first BLAEDC Unified Fund loan recipient, GreenForest Recycling signed the documents for their almost \$100,000 expansion at the Brainerd Industrial Center this fall.



BLAEDC worked with GreenForest Recycling as their lender to make this project a success. Additional projects and financing opportunities are in the pipeline and BLAEDC looks forward to meeting with local lending institutions and companies to offer this exciting program.



We can help.

BLAEDC's introduction this year of the KEY Recruitment Program developed partnerships with local businesses, resulting in 11 new hires in high-tech, manufacturing, engineering, management and other positions.

The KEY Recruitment Program is offered through BLAEDC. It's a fee-for-service program that's available to all businesses in the Crow Wing County area. A program membership offers workforce assistance and valuable marketing benefits.



Our community. Our commitment.

The Brainerd River to Rail Initiative is an effort to coordinate several projects between the Mississippi River and the Northern Pacific Center. BLAEDC and partners are working to build on this momentum by bringing stakeholders to the table and developing and contributing to a comprehensive plan that brings new private sector investment to the area.



BLAEDC EXEC, Bruce Buxton, is leading the River to Rail effort. Meetings with stakeholders and potential developers, tours of properties, schematics, planning, and a resolution of support by the Brainerd City Council are just a few of the accomplishments that occurred in 2017.



Babinski Shelter & Office Complex



Crosslake Developments



NP Center Adds Luminary Fern



EXECs Aid Ultra Paws



Barrett Petfood Innovations Expansion



Celebrating The Good Life



New Website & Social Media



Manufacturing Week at CRA

