

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR ANOKA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

By and Among

**THE COUNTY OF ANOKA, CONNEXUS ENERGY, METRONORTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
AND PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN ANOKA COUNTY**

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is by, between, and among the County of Anoka, a political subdivision of the state of Minnesota, (hereinafter “the County”); Connexus Energy, a Minnesota corporation in Ramsey, Minnesota; MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce, a Minnesota nonprofit organization; and participating Municipalities located within Anoka County, Minnesota (See Exhibit A). For purposes of this MOU, the aforementioned are referred to collectively as the “Hosting Agencies” for the Anoka County economic development initiative.

WHEREAS, a research study was completed by a Consultant, Ady Advantage, in December 2017 (“the Study”) for a market research analysis and evaluation of business opportunities, targets, and strategies for economic development within Anoka County; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Study, the Hosting Agencies plan to gather with one another as well as other community partners to develop a vision, create an action plan, and set realistic goals to implement shared objectives for economic development and business recruitment within Anoka County; and

WHEREAS, the Hosting Agencies wish to enter into this MOU to establish organizational structures and to develop specific goals and objectives for the collaboration;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this MOU is to set a framework for the Hosting Agencies and other participating entities, to further the goals of the economic development collaboration by: (a) outlining general objectives, (b) defining mutual responsibilities, and (c) setting goals, timelines, communication, and other details necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.
- B. Term. This Memorandum of Understanding is effective upon execution and will continue in effect for five (5) years, or until completion and implementation of a Final Action Plan, as determined by the Executive Committee. The term of this MOU may be renewed for subsequent five (5) year terms upon written agreement of the parties.
- C. Executive Committee. For purposes of this MOU, the Executive Committee for the Anoka County economic development initiative is comprised of representatives from Anoka County, Connexus Energy, Metro North Chamber, and up to four participating cities (“City members”). City members of the Executive Committee shall have staggered, rotating terms as addressed below. A Chairperson may be selected by the members of the Executive Committee to set and conduct meetings and be the primary point of contact between the Executive Committee and any subcommittees.

The names and contact information for the initial Executive Committee members are listed in the attached **Exhibit B** to this Agreement.

1. Executive Committee Members' Terms, Election, and Appointment:

- The members of the Executive Committee shall serve for initial terms of eighteen (18) and twenty four (24) months, as designated on Exhibit B. Certain Executive Committee members' terms may be renewed, as appropriate, to fulfill the objectives set forth in this MOU.
- No more than two County representatives may be designated as "voting members" on the Executive Committee. Other County representatives serving on the Executive Committee, in excess of two voting members, shall participate as non-voting members.
- The four City members of the Executive Committee shall have staggered, rotating terms to enable other participating municipalities to serve on the Executive Committee, as desired. City members may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.
- As City members' terms expire, the Executive Committee shall survey interest among all participating cities and elect new City members to the Executive Committee to fill expired or vacant terms. The Committee's selection of new City members shall take into consideration such factors as the size of each municipality, and location, to ensure that the Executive Committee constitutes a diverse geographic representation of Anoka County.
- Election of Executive Committee members shall be accomplished by majority vote, to take place at a regular meetings of the Committee, or by electronic means (email) if a vacancy arises. .

2. Executive Committee Meetings:

- The Executive Committee members will hold regular meetings approximately every other month, with the first meeting to be scheduled in the fall of 2018.
- At least two times per year, the Executive Committee will schedule broad based meetings and invite a larger group of City officials and staff, community partners, and other stakeholders, to provide updates and information regarding the current priorities of the economic development collaboration.
- The Executive Committee may also communicate electronically (via email) to review opportunities and give direction to subcommittees as needed.

3. Executive Committee Goals and Objectives:

- Define a Vision: The Executive Committee is responsible for gathering information from its subcommittees to form a vision for the business climate and opportunities within Anoka County. The Executive Committee will then communicate that vision with all Cities, community partners and identified stakeholders in the County.

- Develop a Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee will engage in strategic planning, to develop goals, interim activities, and a Final Action Plan, within applicable time frames as set by the Executive Committee.
- Communication. The Executive Committee will ensure that reliable communication occurs with all subcommittees, and that cities and community partners are kept informed of the progress and results of the collaboration.
- Review and Contracting. The Executive Committee will continually review its progress and may enter into contracts with outside partners or private companies, as required to effectively research and/or implement work developed over the course of this project.

D. Subcommittees. The purpose of subcommittees is to ensure diversification of ideas and representation across Anoka County in taking on specific tasks related to economic development.

- The Executive Committee may, at any time during one of its regular meetings, seek to establish, modify, or eliminate one or more subcommittees, which may be comprised of County and City officials/staff, community partners, or other public or private individuals or entities assisting in the economic development collaboration.
- Subcommittees may also include additional advisory members with expertise relevant to the work of the subcommittee.
- As of the date of this MOU, three Subcommittees have been formed: (1) Alignment/Regionalism; (2) Readiness; (3) Marketing and Differentiation.
- Subcommittees should attempt to meet on a monthly basis if possible.

E. Reporting. The following persons/entities should provide written or oral monthly reports to the Executive Committee:

- a. Subcommittee Reports. All subcommittees shall promptly deliver reports to the Executive Committee on matters which the subcommittee has addressed.
- b. Economic Development Specialist. Anoka County will direct its Economic Development Specialist (“ED Specialist”) to assist the Executive Committee and other entities in this collaboration. The ED Specialist will report directly to the County Administrator regarding day-to-day operations and activities. At the request of the Executive Committee, the ED Specialist will provide reports to the Executive Committee as to research outcomes and progress. The ED Specialist may also be asked to present findings at the broader, semi-annual meetings attended by cities, community partners, and other stakeholders.

F. Financial Contributions.

- a. Economic Development Specialist. The County is subsidizing and monitoring the activities of the Economic Development Specialist, described herein, to provide direct project assistance and research in connection with this collaboration.
- b. Budget and Cost Sharing. If the Executive Committee seeks continued services for website and social media support, marketing assistance, or other outside services,

the cost allocation among cities and financial responsibilities will require execution of separate agreements. On or around August of each calendar year, a proposed budget for the following year will be voted on by the Executive Committee at a regular meeting, and distributed to the members. An agreement for voluntary cost sharing among participating municipalities will also be distributed, with the first agreement effective for year 2019. Negotiation, execution, and administration of any such cost sharing agreement must comply with applicable statutes and regulations. Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the agencies or partners to obligate or transfer any funds absent a separate agreement authorizing such contributions.

G. Modification: Material alternations, modifications, or variations of the terms of this MOU must be reduced to writing as an amendment and signed by the parties. Election or appointment of members to the Executive Committee, the formation of subcommittees, and updates to Exhibits A and B to this MOU do not require formal amendment of this MOU.

H. Authorized Representatives. By signing this MOU, the undersigned certifies that he/she is authorized to act and carry out the terms of this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the dates indicated below.

County of Anoka:

Rhonda Sivarajah, Chair
Anoka County Board of Commissioners

Date: _____

Attest:

Jerry Soma, County Administrator

Date: _____

Connexus Energy:

Bruce Sayler, Principal

Date: _____

NorthMetro Chamber of Commerce:

Lori Higgins, President

Date: _____

City of Andover:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Anoka:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Bethel:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Blaine:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Centerville:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Circle Pines:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Columbia Heights:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Columbus:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Coon Rapids:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of East Bethel:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Fridley:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Ham Lake:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Hilltop:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Lexington:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Lino Lakes:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

Linwood Township:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Nowthen:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Oak Grove:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Ramsey:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of St. Francis:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____

City of Spring Lake Park:

By: _____
Its: _____

Date: _____