



SEMLM

Southeastern Minnesota League of Municipalities

www.semlm.org

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Contact SEMLM:
brenda@semlm.org

January 2019

January 31 Byron
 April 30 Chatfield
 July 30 Red Wing
 October 30 Spring Valley

**Look for treats on
 pages 4, 5, 7!*

From the Prez – We're rolling!

It's a new year, and we're already rolling forward with activity on many fronts for the SEMLM.

First, there are already legislative bills arising from the results of the SE MN Economic Impact Study we had done last year, which was released in October. Only three months later, we are seeing bills based on study results. That's impressive! It's also very important for our region. We're seeing bills to help deal with our housing issue, workforce issue, and other issues with growing the regional economy. You'll hear about these bills at the January 31 SEMLM event in Byron.

Second, we are rolling forward with new board member activity. You'll be voting on adding two new members to the SEMLM Board. Make sure your city is represented for that at the January 31 meeting. Many thanks to our departing board members Mayor Rollin Hall of Wabasha and Councilmember Rebecca Albrecht of Hokah. You served our region well!

Third, we have some brand new legislative policies to consider and adopt at the January meeting. Our member communities have brought forward some new and innovative topics for everyone to consider, and I think you will be impressed. Sure, there will be plenty of discussion, too, and you should bring several people from your city, both elected officials and staff, to add your community's thoughts and perspective.

Don't worry! We won't work you too hard at the Byron event. You'll have a delicious dinner, a relaxing social time, and bring home ideas to share at the next council meeting. SEMLM events are always fun, and we get a lot done, too. You can't beat that!

See you January 31 in Byron!

SEMLM President Dan Egger
 Kasson City Council

SEMLM Board of Trustees

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kim.beise@ci.red-wing.mn.us

Boardroom News

The SEMLM Board has seats to fill at the January 31 event in Byron, and we need your city represented for voting. We have two applicants for the membership to consider for voting to the board:

Mayor Ryland Eichhorst, City of Oronoco
Mayor Rick Butler, City of Claremont

As you may know, we had two departures from the Board, Mayor Rollin Hall of Wabasha, and Councilmember Rebecca Albrecht of Hokah. We thank both of them for their tremendous service to the region!

We can still take more board applications at this time, because we will have one open seat remaining. Preference will go to candidates from these counties: Fillmore, Houston, and Wabasha. Candidates can be either elected officials or staff for this position.

You will find the board application form at <https://www.semlm.org/how-to-join>. This one-pager is fast and easy, and you can send it to Brenda at brenda@semlm.org for Board consideration.

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David Drown Associates has served as a municipal financial advisory firm since 1997. With two offices in SE Minnesota (Spring Valley and Faribault), we are well positioned to meet the needs of SEMLM members.

Our services include, but are not limited to, bond structuring and sales, capital financial planning, economic development, executive searches, and organizational consulting.

Contact **Mike or Gary** today!

Spring Valley Office:

507-346-7895

Faribault Office:

612-920-3320 ext. 109

HOUSING CRUNCH! WHAT TO DO???????



How bad is the housing shortage here? We're already short by 1,900 units. During the next 20 years, we have to **double** our housing growth rate to keep up with needs of young families, seniors, young singles, downsizing middle-agers, ...

What can city officials and planners do to help?

Start by **attending the SEMLM Event Jan. 31st in Byron**. Get the results of the latest MN Housing Taskforce Study, with **solution options for cities**.

Every city has to make its own plans for addressing housing growth, and we all need some new ideas to ease the housing shortage in our region.

How many? **THOUSANDS**

What kinds? **ALL KINDS**

When? **NOW AND FUTURE**

Where? **SE MN**

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Sven and Ole work for the City

Funny on 4

(Be glad it's not your city!)

City manager Lena and Councilmember Sven are in charge of reviewing the applicants for the next new city Parks Department employee. After reviewing numerous applications, and selecting several for interviews, they begin the process.

It is a very long day of interviews, each one more difficult than the last, and they finally bring in the last applicant. Both Lena and Sven are exhausted.

This applicant, Ole Johnson, pronounced Yon-son, seems sincere if not bright, so the interview continues to the education section of the application. Manager Lena asks him: "Do you know vat da meaning of Ph.D. is?"

Ole Johnson answers timidly: "Passed high school vit' difficulties?" Ole Johnson was hired for his creativity!



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MN Trivia Test

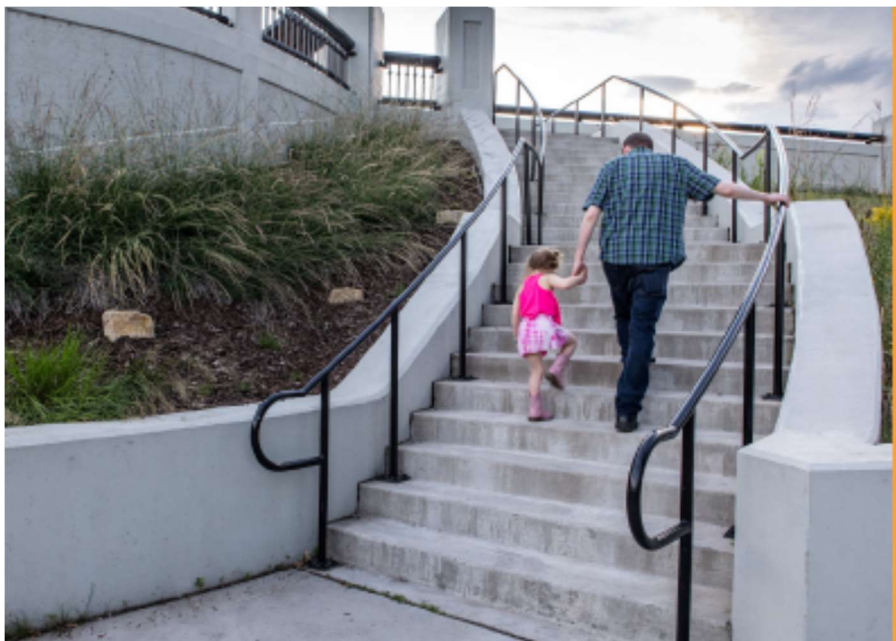
*In the HOT NEWS about
Byron article in this
newsletter, what BCRC
mean?*

A: Ask Mary Blair-Hoett. ☺

Legislative News

Bring your city's legislative topics to
the **7:00 PM SEMLM membership
meeting in Byron on January 31.**

The membership will discuss and
vote to adopt their SEMLM
Legislative Policies for the 2019
session on January 31st in Byron.
Please have your city represented
at the meeting for **VOTING.**



More is possible
when we work
together.

Community solutions for the
spaces, places and systems
that support our lives.

Forge ahead.

Venture SE MN

Diversification Loan Fund Bill

What is the concept?

- Development of a fund that provides low interest loans and support for location and growth of regional businesses outside of Rochester proper.
- Regional leaders and stakeholders involved in process of crafting fund that truly represents and benefits the region as a whole.
- Strategy and meeting with Rep. Greg Davids to review bill language and engage other legislators and gather bipartisan support in 2019.
- Journey to Growth Governing Committee leading the effort.

More info on page 11 of this newsletter.

Learn more about this proposed bill at the January 31 SEMLM event in Byron.



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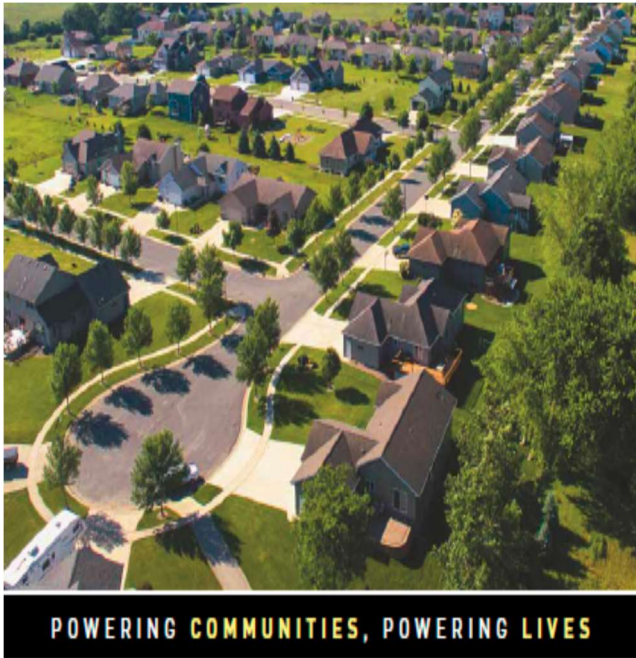
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Did you miss the news?

The SEMLM
SE MN Economic Impact Study
is now complete, with forecast
information through 2040 for
the entire eight-county SEMLM
region, including specific
forecasts for each county.

*The full SE MN Economic Impact
Forecast Study report and the
database links are at the SEMLM
website: www.semlm.org*

The study results are available to all cities,
counties, regional groups, and planning
entities throughout the region and beyond.

We thank the MN State Legislature for
the providing the funds through DEED to
allow this study to inform planning
decisions throughout SE MN.

News from Mosquito Heights

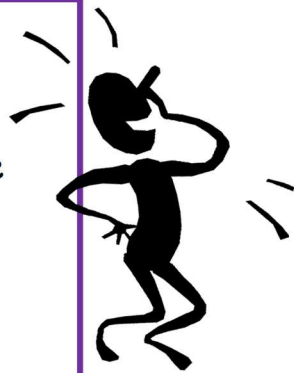
Ole Johnson was hired by the city council in Mosquito Heights, Minnesota to be one of their town's traffic cops. While on duty one day, Officer Johnson stopped a speeder and began to write up a ticket.

"What's your name?" asked Officer Johnson.

The motorist answered, "Tchichailow Nladivkowski."

Ole hesitated for a while before he put his pen back into his shirt pocket.

"Well, I'll let you go this time, but don't let me catch you speeding in Mosquito Heights again!"



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What's HOT in BYRON?

From Byron's terrific City Administrator, Mary Blair-Hoeft, here are the things Byron is looking forward to for 2019:

"Looking forward to 2019, we will be working on our commercial district, which we hope includes a grocery store; selling the City's vacant lots; developing BCRC (*ask Mary about this*); working on a future pool; deciding on how or if we are to move forward with a community library. Plans are being made for a roundabout at the intersection of 10th Ave NE and 7th Street NE. We expect to see a couple of new subdivisions moving forward and the completion of 13th Street NW. And one big step forward for the public works department as they make the new facility home base."

WOW! Go Byron! 😊

How the SEMLM works

1.

Member cities have at least one person representing their city attend quarterly meetings to share issues their community faces. This person can be an elected or appointed official, or a staff person.

2.

Cities can send a different person each time, the same person, or more than one person. Each city has one vote for any official action, no matter how many representatives it sends.

3.

Shared issues can become regional legislative policy positions to promote with area lawmakers, the governor, and state commissioners.

4.

Executive Board members maintain contact with legislators on regional priorities. Background information on policy positions can be provided in the form of "Talking Points" to assist lawmakers in promoting our members' positions.



Annual Meeting

Thursday

January 31, 2019

Chef Bill's

505 Frontage Road NW Byron

Directions at this link:

<http://mapq.st/1iqzAEs>

6:00 pm Social Time with cash bar

6:30 pm Dinner: Fresh rolls, Garden salad, Roast pork tenderloin with wild rice pilaf, Skillet-fried boneless chicken breast with peppered gravy and honest mashed potatoes, Fresh herbed carrots, Green vegetable, Dessert
Welcome from City of Byron

7:00 pm SEMLM Business – Dan Eggler, SEMLM President

7:15 pm 2019 Legislative Policy Adoption (**Please have your city present for voting**)

Presentations –

Child Care Tax Credit Bill

Venture SE MN Fund Bill

MN Housing Taskforce (focusing on ways cities/counties can encourage range of housing options)

8:28 pm Closing remarks from SEMLM President Eggler. Adjourn meeting. **Open time for networking.**

Hosted by the City of Byron

Registrations Due Monday, January 28

Send to: Mary Blair-Hoeft, Byron City Administrator

680 Byron Main Ct. NE, Byron, MN 55920

mhoeft@byronmn.com

507-775-3418 Direct

507-775-3400 City Hall

507-775-3401 Fax

Registration from _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number snack/meals member city _____

x \$30 = \$_____ (current paid SEMLM member)

Number snack/meals nonmember city _____

x \$35 = \$_____ (no membership fee paid)

Make checks payable to "City of Byron"

Names of attendees for this registration:

Venture SE MN Diversification Loan Fund

OVERVIEW

- \$25M evergreen revolving loan fund
- Eleven counties are eligible: Dodge, Fillmore, Freebom, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona
- Excludes the City of Rochester
- This fund is a result of the economic development initiatives identified in the state funded 2018 SE MN Regional Economic Study

ELIGIBILITY

- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Technology
- Health Care
- Childcare
- Residential Development
- Political Subdivisions may borrow for:
 - Redevelopment Projects
 - Main Street Commercial Improvements
 - Local Business and Transportation Infrastructure

LOAN PROCEEDS CAN BE USED FOR

- Equipment
- Facility improvements
- Employee housing
- Daycare construction or improvements

LOAN TERMS

- Maximum 10 years
- Competitive interest rate not more than 1% above the published prime rate
- Lesser of 25% of the total project or \$500,000 per project, in partnership with the borrower's participating financial institution.

ADMINISTRATION & REVIEW

- Administered by Journey to Growth
- Experienced loan approval committee will be established
- Annual reporting to DEED Commissioner and economic development legislative committees

APPROPRIATION

- One-time appropriation of \$25M from the State's general fund

RETURN ON INVESTMENT PROJECTIONS

- \$25 million state funding results in \$200 million investment by SE MN businesses
- Results in \$8 of capital investment for every \$1 of state money provided