

Representing Region 8
Supporting Southwest North Dakota

2025

Annual Report



From the **Director**

This past year reinforced how important it is for rural communities to have a strong, unified voice, especially at the legislative level. The conversations that took place in 2025 mattered, and they will continue to be important as our communities navigate shared challenges and opportunities.

Bringing people together through efforts like State of Region 8 helps strengthen that voice. These gatherings create space for honest discussion, shared priorities, and a better understanding of what rural communities need to move forward. When we come together, we are better positioned to be heard and to advocate for solutions that reflect the realities of Southwest North Dakota.

As these conversations continue, our focus remains on supporting communities in practical ways. We want to keep growing our technical assistance offerings so rural communities have access to the tools, guidance, and support they need, whether that means navigating funding, planning for growth, or responding to new challenges.

At the heart of this work is relationship building. We continue to deepen our connections with communities and serve as a connector across the region, linking local leaders with one another, with state partners, and with resources that help move ideas forward. Trust and collaboration are what make regional work effective, and we take that responsibility seriously.

I'm grateful for our board, our partners, and the many local leaders who continue to engage in these conversations and invite us into their communities. It's a privilege to do this work, and I'm encouraged by the continued commitment across Southwest North Dakota to work together and speak with one voice.

Teran Doerr
Executive Director

Our Team



Kate Buer
Director of Operations



Shannon Ellig
Regional Program
Coordinator



Jessica Buer
Community Program
Coordinator



Andrea Bowman
Rural Growth
Coordinator

Board of Directors

Josh Buchmann

Chairman
Bowman County

Troy Mosbrucker

Vice Chairman
City of Mott

Devan Laufer

Secretary
Hettinger County

Steven Klym

Treasurer
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Stark County

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City of Bowman

Greg Nordsven

City of Killdeer

Tom Marman

City of Beach

Dennis Rice

City of Marmarth

Joe Ridl

City of Dickinson

Ryan Jilek

Stark Development
Corporation

Dean Baar

Billings and Stark Soil
Conservation District

Andrew Sampsel

Dunn County Soil
Conservation District

Stuart Nielsen

Slope-Hettinger Soil
Conservation District



Our Mission

To support Southwest North Dakota through rural innovation, regional collaboration, leadership, tourism, economic and community development.

Our Vision

Inspire regional collaboration for a prosperous Southwest North Dakota.

From the Chairman

As we reflect on Roosevelt Custer's third year since reestablishing in 2022, we recognize another year of growth and regional impact.

Our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy remains the foundation of our work, ensuring our efforts align with regional priorities. Collaboration continues to be central to our success.

In 2025, our lending capacity expanded, creating new opportunities to support entrepreneurs and small businesses. Through CDBG and technical assistance programs, we continued advancing projects that strengthen communities across Southwest North Dakota.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to building a thriving region.

Josh Buchmann

Chairman



Regional Impact & Representation

STATE OF REGION 8

Roosevelt Custer hosted the annual State of Region 8 event in May, bringing together legislators, local leaders, state officials, and community members from across Southwest North Dakota. The event convened leaders from all eight counties, reinforcing regional alignment following the 2025 legislative session.

Representing all eight counties in Region 8, the event created space for open conversation following the 2025 legislative session. Regional legislators shared insights, and participants discussed issues impacting rural communities, including workforce, housing, infrastructure, and long-term regional sustainability.

State of Region 8 has become a cornerstone convening for regional alignment and legislative dialogue. By bringing voices together in one room, the event helps align priorities, build understanding, and reinforce the value of a unified regional approach.



LEGISLATIVE ENGAGEMENT

The 2025 legislative session was an important year for rural communities, and Roosevelt Custer was actively engaged throughout the process. RCRC worked to elevate the needs of Southwest North Dakota and advocate for policies and investments that strengthen rural communities.

STRENGTHENING RURAL CAPACITY

A major outcome of the session was increased support for rural capacity and technical assistance. New funding allows regional councils to expand services that help communities navigate housing, workforce development, local food initiatives, and economic development efforts. This support is especially critical for small towns with limited staff and resources.

FLEXIBLE FUNDING FOR LOCAL PRIORITIES

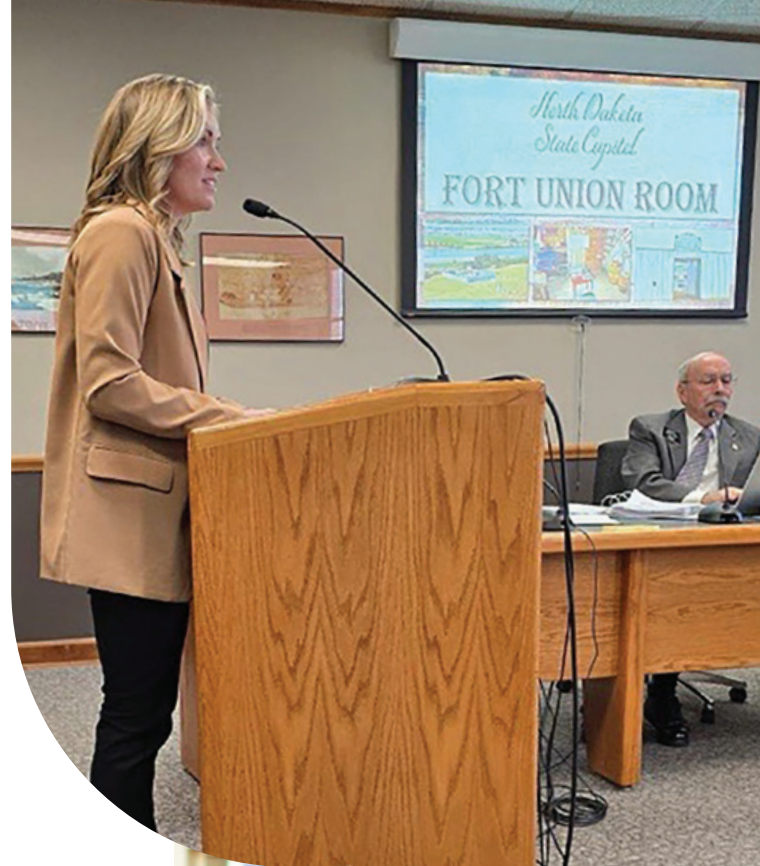
The session also reinforced the importance of flexible funding for rural communities. Continued investment in programs such as the Rural Catalyst Grant Program provides small communities with tools to address local priorities, from community development projects to quality-of-life improvements.

INVESTING IN LONG-TERM REGIONAL STABILITY

Additional investments in workforce development, business growth, tourism, and infrastructure align with regional priorities and support long-term economic stability across Southwest North Dakota. These legislative efforts reflect growing recognition of the unique challenges facing rural areas.

CONTINUING THE REGIONAL VOICE

Roosevelt Custer will continue to serve as a connector and advocate for the region, ensuring rural voices remain part of ongoing legislative and policy conversations.



Funding & Financial Support

2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Admin & Service Revenue	\$131,378	\$116,708
County Contributions	\$96,440	\$82,440
Grant & Program Funding	\$767,784	\$565,502
Interest Income	\$57,827	\$45,447
Other Revenue	\$4,124	
Total Revenue	\$1,057,553	\$810,097
EXPENDITURES		
Advertising & Marketing	\$6,268	\$5,011
Contract Services	\$210,972	\$180,408
Professional Development	\$4,170	\$2,689
Projects & Programs	\$584,021	\$238,003
Salary & Benefits	\$201,915	\$124,001
Travel	\$15,012	\$5,276
Other Operating	\$28,787	\$31,376
Total Expenditures	\$1,051,145	\$586,764
Net Income	\$6,408	\$223,333

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents

General Fund	\$104,899	\$254,520
USDA Loan Fund	\$331,886	\$205,301
EDA Loan Fund	\$77,892	\$79,411

Total Current Assets **\$514,678** **\$539,232**

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable	\$126,480	\$15,240
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Total Accounts Receivable **\$126,480** **\$15,240**

Other Assets

Loans Receivable	\$785,877	\$889,637
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Total Other Assets **\$785,877** **\$889,637**

Total Assets

\$1,427,035 **\$1,444,109**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Current Liabilities	\$1,099	\$570
Long-Term Liabilities	\$18,743	\$42,754

Total Liabilities **\$19,842** **\$43,324**

Net Assets

Retained Earnings	\$6,885	\$6,885
Net Assets	\$1,393,900	\$1,170,567
Net Income	\$6,408	\$223,333

Total Net Assets **\$1,407,193** **\$1,400,785**

Total Liabilities & Equity

\$1,427,035 **\$1,444,109**

Lending Recap

LOAN PROGRAMS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Roosevelt Custer loan programs remain an essential tool for supporting entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout Region 8. In 2025, RCRC continued to contribute to the economic vitality of the region by funding loans, with a total investment of \$40,896.38. These funds supported local businesses by providing capital needed to strengthen operations, invest in equipment, and support ongoing growth.

This continued interest reflects the ongoing demand for accessible financing options within the region.

To further strengthen lending capacity, RCRC applied for additional funding through the USDA and were awarded additional funds to support our loan pools. This award positions RCRC to expand our impact and assist more businesses moving forward. RCRC looks ahead to 2026 with anticipation, building on this momentum and continuing to grow loan programs to better serve the region.

\$161,553

secured in
lending funds



Economic & Community Development

ESSENTIAL FUNDING THROUGH CDBG

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds housing, public facilities, and economic development projects in North Dakota, benefiting low-to-moderate income and underserved communities.

Roosevelt Custer supports local communities by providing grant administration and technical assistance, helping navigate through applications, compliance, and implementation.

In 2025, RCRC managed seven CDBG projects across six communities, totaling over \$7 million, including one new project awarded in November.

\$7M+

COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT
THROUGH CDBG

6 COMMUNITIES

7 PROJECTS



Wing Sanitary Sewer Improvements | \$2,156,000

This project includes replacing the city's current lift station and sealing off a storm drain located on Main Street.

Mott Water Main Repair | \$615,075

Over the past several years, the City of Mott has experienced multiple water main breaks throughout the community. Funding was awarded through the Governor's CDBG fund in 2024 to address this emergency infrastructure need.

Medora Lift Station Replacement | \$1,181,279

After experiencing multiple system failures, the City of Medora received funding through the Governor's CDBG fund to replace its undersized lift station. The project will help prepare the city for increased seasonal traffic and future growth.

Regent Water & Sewer Main Repairs | \$1,042,500

The City's water and sewer mains that were installed in the 1930's are aging and failing. This project will replace both of these as part of a larger Main Street Reconstruction Project.

Belfield Lift Station Replacement | \$1,000,000

Awarded in 2025, this project will address the city's aging lift station by replacing and relocating the infrastructure to a more suitable location.

Mott Clinic | \$1,094,131

This project was awarded in 2023 through a special round of CARES Act funding focused on healthcare projects addressing COVID-19 mitigation. The project remodeled the north wing of the Mott Nursing Home to expand the clinic and better support healthcare services in the community.

Bowman ABLE Landing Apartments | \$508,965

The Landing Apartments in Bowman are owned and operated by ABLE, Inc., which provides housing for adults with disabilities. This project made updates and improvements to the apartment building to ensure it remains a safe and functional home for its residents.



RCRC continues to see an increasing need for infrastructure and housing projects across the region. The team remains committed to providing technical assistance and grant administration to help local communities secure funding and complete these critical improvements.

PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Enchanted Theme Park Study

Roosevelt Custer supported research to explore opportunities for expanding and sustaining tourism in Regent through the development of an Enchanted Theme Park, funded through a Rural Business Development Grant. Conducted by Aerlig and Associates, the study assessed ways to build upon the Enchanted Highway, which currently attracts approximately 16,000 visitors each year.

Three companies developed conceptual designs as part of the research. The study concluded that a combined approach, a family entertainment center paired with an artist-in-residence program, offers the most realistic and fundable path forward. This model supports preservation of Gary Greff's legacy, strengthens local commerce, and helps ensure the Enchanted Highway remains a thriving tourism destination.



Hettinger County JDA Contract

Roosevelt Custer continued its partnership with the Hettinger County Job Development Authority (JDA) to support local businesses and advance community-driven initiatives. Over the year, business visits and numerous business drop-ins were conducted, helping stay connected to local needs and opportunities. The JDA website was updated, and ongoing relationship-building efforts continue to strengthen county economic development.

North Dakota Association of Regional Councils Contract

In 2025, Roosevelt Custer took on a statewide technical assistance and communications role with the North Dakota Association of Regional Councils (NDARC). This work focuses on strengthening coordination, increasing visibility, and elevating the role of regional councils across North Dakota.

Through this contract, Roosevelt Custer supports consistent communication tools that highlight regional council work, share funding opportunities for rural communities, and promote key events. Monthly statewide newsletters help ensure local leaders and partners have access to timely information and resources.

Roosevelt Custer also hosts monthly resource calls that bring in speakers to educate regional partners on issues impacting rural communities. These calls provide opportunities for learning, shared problem-solving, and collaboration across regions.

In addition, Roosevelt Custer is coordinating content and support for a rebuild of the NDARC website, creating a more accessible and informative platform that reflects the work of regional councils statewide.

This effort reinforces Roosevelt Custer's role as a connector, helping strengthen the collective voice of regional councils and expand access to technical assistance for rural communities across North Dakota.





\$118,854
Grant dollars
received for
SWND

Rural Grocery Grant

Roosevelt Custer supported participation in the Rural Grocery Store Sustainability Grant program. During the year, RCRC assisted with four grant applications, helping local grocery stores navigate the application process and identify opportunities to improve long-term viability.

Two Region 8 projects were selected for funding, including Bronson's Marketplace in Bowman and Golva Grocery. Both projects will use grant funds to modernize equipment, improve energy efficiency, and enhance day-to-day operations. These improvements will help reduce operating costs while ensuring reliable access to fresh and affordable food for local residents.

Grant Writing Workshop

Roosevelt Custer partnered with NDSU Extension to offer a Grant Writing Workshop aimed at strengthening local capacity to pursue funding opportunities. Two sessions were held in Hettinger County.

The workshops were led by RCRC staff in collaboration with NDSU Extension. Participants learned the core components of successful grant writing and had the opportunity to actively work on developing a grant proposal. The sessions provided practical tools and hands-on experience to help communities, organizations, and small businesses better compete for grant funding and advance local projects.



Rural Catalyst

The Rural Catalyst Grant Program was designed to support economic development and quality of life projects in rural North Dakota communities. The program funds initiatives that address critical community needs, including healthcare access, essential services, housing, transportation, and rural grocery store preservation or reopening.

In 2025, Roosevelt Custer assisted projects across the region in applying for this funding opportunity. In total, eleven projects were supported and submitted through Roosevelt Custer. These projects ranged from building and infrastructure renovations to business support and tourism-related initiatives, with a project being submitted from every county in Region 8.

WIDE OPEN WONDER

In 2025, Phase 2 of the Regional Workforce Impact Program grant focused on expanding reach, building regional awareness, and supporting long-term workforce and community attraction across Southwest North Dakota. Targeted media buying and paid social campaigns helped deliver messaging to priority audiences, increasing visibility, engagement, and efficiency. Collaboration with local high school students also produced authentic TikTok content that boosted awareness and connected with younger audiences.

RCRC also created a 90-page relocation guide highlighting communities, amenities, and quality of life across the region. Now in distribution locally and through the state rest area program, it serves as a key tool for tourism and workforce attraction. Overall, the grant strengthened marketing efforts, increased exposure, and delivered lasting resources for community growth.



Businesses are encouraged to be part of the campaign by listing their open job positions on [WideOpenWonderND.com](https://www.wideopenwondernd.com).

8 County Plans



EDA TOURISM GRANT AWARD

Roosevelt Custer led development of the Southwest North Dakota Tourism Plan through county-level stakeholder meetings, engaging local leaders, businesses, and tourism partners to identify priorities and opportunities. RCRC secured grant support, assisted AE2S, and worked with a regional steering committee representing each county to shape a unified vision.

The completed plan provides a framework to strengthen tourism, collaboration, and local economies. It identifies key attractions, partnership opportunities, and strategies to enhance visitor experiences, while supporting local businesses and encouraging travel across communities. Overall, it positions the region for coordinated marketing and long-term growth.

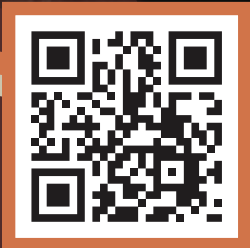
LIVESTOCK PLANNING GRANT

Roosevelt Custer facilitated a regional livestock planning effort analyzing the eight counties to identify locations best suited for future livestock development. Led by the First District Association of Local Governments, the study evaluated utilities, transportation access, zoning, and state siting standards to ensure alignment with local priorities.

Final reports were delivered to each county in July, providing valuable guidance for local leaders, landowners, and developers. Funded through a Regional Livestock Development and Planning Grant from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the project supports informed decision-making and long-term growth of the region's livestock industry.

**\$196,000
Total Grant Funded**





WIDE OPEN
WONDER
— SOUTHWEST NORTH DAKOTA —

Explore Careers &
**DISCOVER
YOUR NEXT
OPPORTUNITY**

