

# The East Central Regional Development Commission

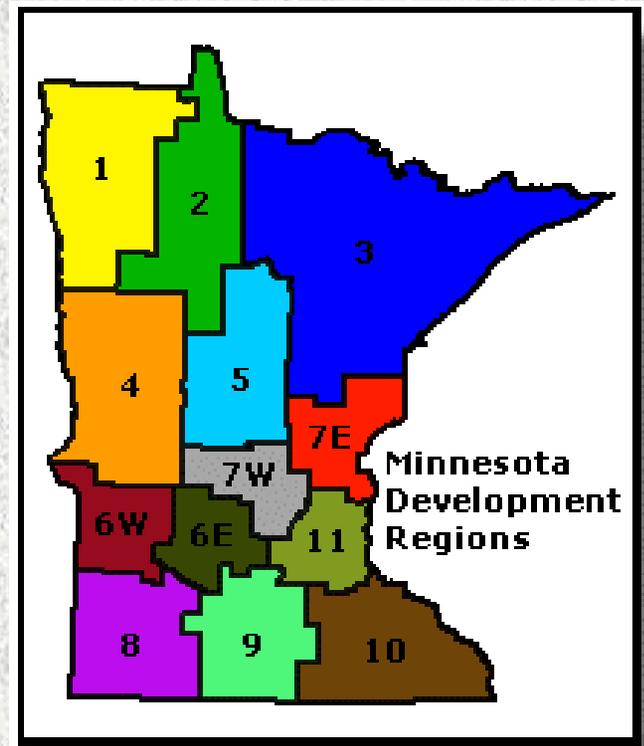
## Presentation to the East Central Landscape Committee

July 29, 2004



# Historical Overview

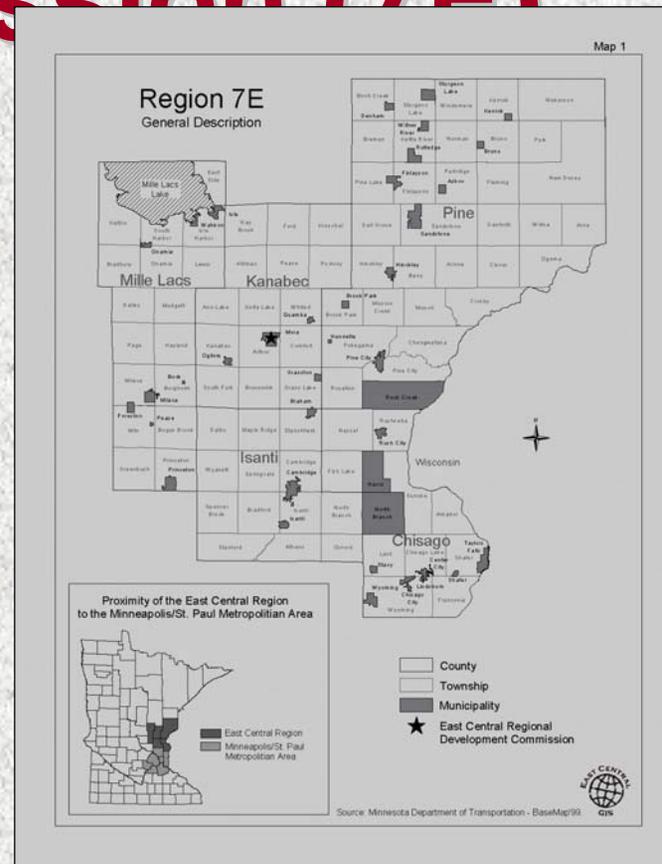
- ★ Regional Development Act of 1969
- ★ Thirteen Development Regions in Minnesota
- ★ EC RDC formed by petition of local governments in 1973

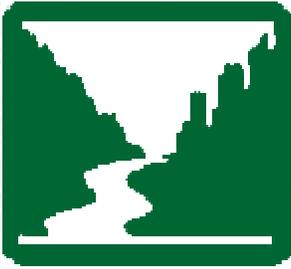




# East Central Regional Development Commission (7E)

Serving the  
Counties of Pine,  
Isanti, Chisago,  
Kanabec, and  
Mille Lacs





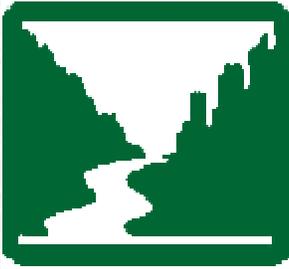
# Programs & Services

- ★ Community and Economic Development
- ★ Transportation Planning & Technical Assistance
- ★ East Central Arts Council
- ★ Area Agency on Aging
- ★ Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- ★ Regional Data and Information Center



# Region 7E Facts

- ★ 3,367 square miles
- ★ 39 statutory cities, 88 townships, and 20 ISDs
- ★ Population: 136,244 (2000 Census)
- ★ MN 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District
- ★ 3 State Senate seats, 5 State House seats



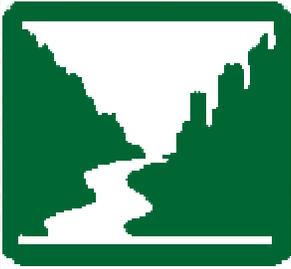
# Region 7E Population Change 1990-2000

## Census 2000 Redistricting Data

### Population Change by County between Censuses

County	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-2000	% Change 1990-2000
Chisago	25,717	30,521	41,101	59.8	34.7
Isanti	23,600	25,921	31,287	32.6	20.7
Kanabec	12,161	12,802	14,996	23.3	17.1
Mille Lacs	18,430	18,670	22,330	21.2	19.6
Pine	19,871	21,264	26,530	33.5	24.8
Totals	99,779	109,178	136,244	36.8	24.8
MN	4,075,970	4,375,099	4,919,479	20.7	12.4

Source: MN Planning 2000 Census



# Region 7E Facts (1999 CEDS )

- ★ 61% of working age work within region
- ★ Average commute time is 23.47 minutes
- ★ Land use was 13.12 % urban, 86.88% rural  
- 38% of total was forest
- ★ Total employment within region – 40,680



# Region 7E Major Employment (1999 CEDS)

- ★ Manufacturing – 6,644 employed, 254 firms, \$26,357 annual wage
- ★ Trades – 9,724 employed, 844 firms, \$14,072 annual wage (includes retail and restaurant jobs)
- ★ Service – 12,239 employed, 802 firms, \$19,239 annual wage
- ★ Government – 6,635 employed, \$26,799 annual wage



# Economic Development Initiatives

- ★ Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- ★ Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ)
- ★ Partnerships



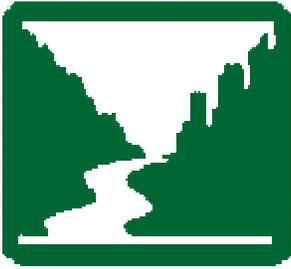
# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

- ★ ECRDC approved federal Economic Development District (EDD)
- ★ Develop a 5-year economic development program
- ★ Intended to "...stimulate employment and increase income in distressed communities"
- ★ Helps communities organize and access needed resources for effective development



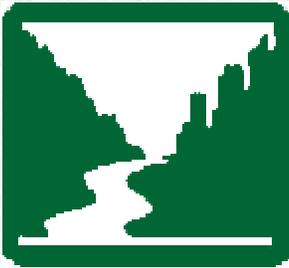
# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

- ★ Establish regional goals and policies relating to development and job creation
- ★ Regional voice – committee structure, etc.
- ★ August 2004 deadline for CEDS – 90 day extension due to departing staff



# CEDS Forestry

- ★ 38 % of land cover is forest
- ★ Primarily deciduous but some coniferous
- ★ Most abundant in Pine County (62%)
- ★ Most owned by private landowners
- ★ Government should encourage balance of forest production and preservation



## Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ)

Pine County – Sandstone, Pine City, and Hinckley

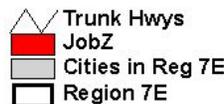
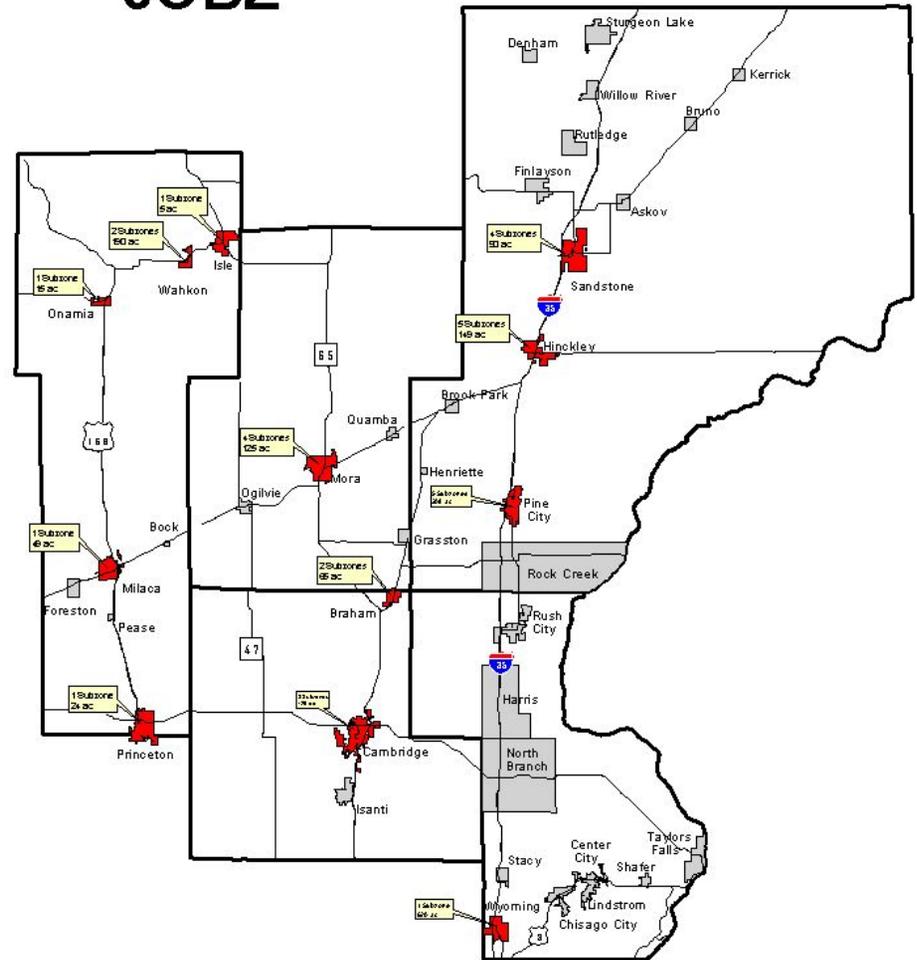
Chisago County – Wyoming

Kanabec County – Mora

Isanti County – Braham and Cambridge

Mille Lacs County – Princeton, Milaca, Isle, Wahkon, and Onamia

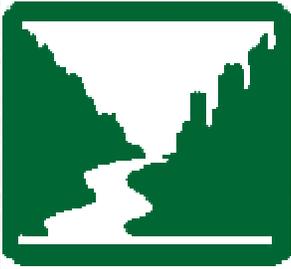
## JOBZ





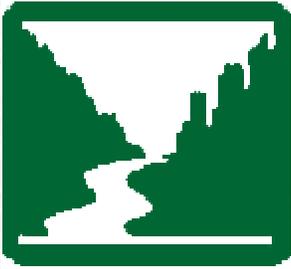
# JOBZ Subzone Characteristics

- ★ Total number: 27
- ★ Total acreage: 1,486 acres
- ★ majority located in industrial parks, on vacant land, and owned by the municipality
- ★ Selected sites had access to city infrastructure and were zoned industrial
- ★ Cities have business subsidy policies that establish business requirements



# Job Oppportunity Building Zone (JOBZ)

- ★ Duration of up to 12 years starting 2004
- ★ Only “Greater Minnesota” local units of government were eligible
- ★ Eligible Business
  - Startups
  - Relocations from other states
  - MN Relocations if 20% increase in employment



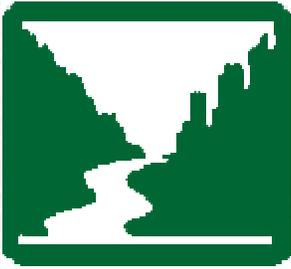
# JOBZ Tax Exemptions

- ★ Corporate franchise tax
- ★ Income tax for operators and investors
- ★ Sales tax on goods and services used in the zone
- ★ Property tax (except for G.O. bonds, school levies, etc. in place prior to JOBZ zone)
- ★ Winder energy tax
- ★ Employment tax credit for high paying jobs



# Partnerships

- ★ Regional Economic Development Entities
  - Northern Technology Initiative
  - East Central MN Workforce Partnership
  - East Central Regional Development Commission
  - Area Technical/Community Colleges
  - Initiative Foundation
  - State Offices: DEED, MNPro Website ([www.mnpro.com](http://www.mnpro.com))
  - *East Central Landscape Committee???*
- ★ Local Economic Development Entities
  - Chambers of Commerce
  - County HRA/EDA
  - City Staff, Star City Groups and local EDAs
  - Local Utility Companies
  - Mille Lacs Band of the Ojibwe



# Where do we go from here???

- ★ Participation in regional economic development strategy
- ★ Join with other regional partnerships to identify areas which promote forestry management
- ★ Industry clustering
- ★ Other???