

NEWS LOCAL

## Grand Forks EDC announces new board member, new leadership for 2025

Grand Forks County Commissioner Mark Rustad will be the new county representative and Shawn Gaddie the new board chairman.



The Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation is located in downtown Grand Forks. (Herald staff photo)

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### By Staff reports

January 12, 2025 at 7:00 AM

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GRAND FORKS – The Grand Forks Regional Economic Development Board of Directors has announced new leadership and members for 2025.

Grand Forks County Commissioner Mark Rustad will join the board as Grand Forks County representative, taking over for Dave Engen, the previous representative. In a statement, EDC President and CEO Keith Lund thanked Engen for his service to the board, which lasted for nearly a decade.

“The Grand Forks Region EDC would not be what it is today without his leadership,” Lund said. “Welcome to our new board member, Mark Rustad, who is passionate about the success of local businesses and the growth of our regional economy. ... We are fortunate to have another committed and strong leader from the county fill his shoes.”

The board also transitioned to new leadership in 2025. Shawn Gaddie, director and strategic client lead at AE2S, will be the new board chair and Meghan Compton, chief clinic operations officer at Altru Health System, will be vice chair. Chris Wolf, commercial banking executive and market president at Alerus Financial, will be the board secretary and treasurer.

The EDC board is comprised of eight members who are elected by EDC investors for three-year terms, a maximum of three consecutive terms. The other three members are appointed and include the EDC president, a city representative and a county representative. The 11-member body oversees the EDC operations and strategy, making recommendations to the Grand Forks Growth Fund Committee and Jobs Development Authority.

The advisory board — which is a separate body from the board of directors — also has seven new members. Melissa Beach of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Mike Bibow of AE2S, Tal Elseth of J.R. Simplot Company, Kristin Hanson of Edward Jones, Sandi Luck of North Dakota Coffee Roastery, Curtis Regan of Dakota Commercial, and Ross Rivard of Rivard’s Turf & Forage. The advisory board meets with the board of directors to provide input on priorities.

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