

## **Executive Director's Report June 2020**

We have already discussed budget and a lot of work has gone into that in this past month. I can really only say a couple things more about it, which is that it's put forward with the best information we have right now, and I'm sure it will be subject to change.

We advertised and conducted interviews for the administrative services director and human resources coordinator positions. We did hire internally on both, Karen Mauer has moved up to the new director position, and Daurine Petersen has moved over from transit to the HR position. I'm very excited to have these two in these roles. Daurine's position in transit will be filled by a more entry level dispatch position, although the exact roles are to be determined. Daurine's particular specialization has been in transit outreach, and Mark will be taking on some of those duties as well as other staff.

Flood recovery work is really ramping up and staff is doing a great job of moving the Mills County buyouts along, even though there are many headaches along the way. We are far ahead of others doing the same work because we have a capable staff that is large enough to handle this project, along with the Fremont County and Hamburg buyout programs as well.

We are seeing ridership return to transit. Transit is also working hard to implement the Paraplan software and get the most out of it as we can. We officially rolled it out March 7—so because of Covid it hasn't been a fair test. We did a lot of training, but now as more drivers are back and ridership is there, we are learning new things all the time and need to communicate that.

Planning and housing projects are chugging along and we are starting to have in-person meetings again. As I discussed in the budget we will be receiving significant funds from EDA for Covid response, and some of that will be subcontracted to our local economic development partners and we will be relying heavily on you the members of the board to ensure that we are placing those funds in the best place in your communities. Because of the Covid recovery money, we will more than likely be hiring a 2 year position to manage the new Covid RLF and business recovery outreach. We're more than out of space, so we will be looking to some creating solutions, including having more positions work at least part of the time from home. Currently the majority of housing and planning staff work at least some time from home, and I think it is working fine.

Again I want to thank the executive committee and budget committees for their work on the budget and my annual review. I very much appreciate their recommendations and confidence. As we close FY20 and move in FY21 I can only promise that it is going to be a busy time for SWIPCO/SWITA!