

April 21, 2026

ITEM: New Business – Watonwan County Housing Study, Final Presentation

BACKGROUND: Brianna Sanders, EDA Director, will present the Watonwan County Housing Study.

The Watonwan County Housing Study, conducted by CEDA, was approved by the Watonwan County Board on April 7th. The study includes countywide analysis as well as focused findings for the communities of St. James and Madelia. It evaluates current and projected housing conditions through an analysis of demographic trends, survey data, community engagement, and existing housing stock conditions. Overall, the county has identified ongoing housing needs across multiple areas, including single-family owner-occupied housing, both market-rate and subsidized rental housing, and housing rehabilitation to address aging housing stock and maintain existing units. The findings highlight the need for a balanced approach that supports both the preservation of existing housing and the development of new housing options to meet current and future demand.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve/Deny Agenda Request.