

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Executive Department



**Governor Tim Walz**

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT**

**Rita Albrecht**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Citizen Member**

**Legislative-Citizen Commission On Minnesota Resources**

Effective: April 5, 2021

Expires: December 31, 2024

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 31, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

Replacing: Nicole Kessler

Filed on March 31, 2021  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon

# Application for the position Public Member - Governor Appt

## Part I: Position Sought

---

**Agency Name:** Legislative-Citizen Commission On Minnesota Resources

**Position:** Public Member - Governor Appt

## Part II: Applicant Information

---

**Name:** Ms. Rita Christine Albrecht

**Phone:** (218) 760-8715

**County:** Beltrami

**Mn House District:** 05A

**US House District:** 7

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

## Part III: Appending Documentation

---

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

### Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

**Veteran:** No Answer

## Part V: Signature

---

**Signature:** Rita C. Albrecht

**Date:** 11/23/2020 7:36:46 PM

November 23, 2020

Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Application to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

Dear Governor Walz,

Please accept this letter and attached résumé as my application for appointment to the **Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources**. I believe my background and experience would be assets to the Commission.

*My experience is deep and broad across many sectors.* I was first elected to the Bemidji City Council in 2010 and have served as Mayor since January 2013. I will finish my fourth term and leave elected office at the end of 2020. As an elected official, I have learned the importance of being prepared, listening, asking good questions, building consensus, and making informed decisions.

I retired as NW Region Director for MN Department of Natural Resources in 2019 after serving three years as the regional planner for the DNR. Region 1 in NW Minnesota is a 23-county region that stretches from Lake of the Woods County in the north to Pope County in the south and includes the Red River Basin, agricultural, forested, prairie, and lakes regions. This experience gave me a broad understanding of our state's natural resource conservation efforts, economic benefits, and recreational importance. In my role as regional director, I was a member of the agency's leadership team and oversaw seven divisions – parks and trails, forestry, fish and wildlife, ecological water resources, lands and minerals, enforcement, and operations services. I worked together with a diverse group of partners including local governments, watershed districts, and advocacy groups for recreation, conservation, industry, and the environment.

My background also includes working as development specialist for Headwaters Regional Development Commission, a five-county regional planning organization and as assistant planner and community development director for the City of Bemidji. I was a Planner/Developer for Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe for three years prior to my positions with MN DNR. As a planner, I have experience writing comprehensive plans, reviewing applications and site plans, and assessing plans and projects against criteria, rules, and ordinances. I am a member of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and serve on the Board of American Planning Association, Minnesota Chapter.

In addition to my professional career, I've been a business owner and an adjunct professor at Bemidji State University where I taught courses in geography and political science.

*I understand the grant-making process from both the application side and the review and recommendation side.* I served 2013-2019 on the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails


Commission, which oversees the Parks and Trails Legacy funding for greater Minnesota. The GMRPTC works to recommend park and trail projects and build a recreational system for greater Minnesota that will serve our state for generations. During my tenure, we authored a system plan, developed a designation and funding application portal, and implemented an objective evaluation process that provides guidance and equity for recommendations.

As a planning professional, I have successfully authored state and local grant applications, securing funding in excess of \$6 million for public safety, telecommunications, infrastructure, park and trail development, public facilities, historic preservation, market research, comprehensive planning, downtown planning, and active living.

*I'm a dedicated public servant.* As I leave my elected role behind and look to the future, I continue to have the time, energy, and desire to serve the state of Minnesota. The state needs public servants who are dedicated to ethical, accountable, and transparent leadership. My service as an elected official and public employee speaks to that dedication. I look forward to continuing to help Minnesota be the best it can be. I hope you will agree that my background and experience would be assets to the Commission.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my application. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Governor and the state as a member of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita C. Albrecht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rita C. Albrecht

[ritaalbrecht@midco.net](mailto:ritaalbrecht@midco.net)

218-760-8715

# Rita C. Albrecht, AICP

---

1911 Norton Avenue NW ~ Bemidji, MN 56601 ~ (218) 760-8715 ~ [ritaalbrecht@midco.net](mailto:ritaalbrecht@midco.net)

## Profile

---

Experienced and versatile elected official and planning professional dedicated to improving quality of place by promoting community development and natural, recreational, and lifestyle amenities, and celebrating the historic culture of northern Minnesota.

## Elected Experience

---

### City of Bemidji

*City Council Member – 2011-2012*

- Joint Economic Development Commission
- Paul Bunyan Transit

*Mayor – 2013-2020*

- Represent the City of Bemidji on local organizations
  - Greater Bemidji
  - Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board
  - Bemidji Area Forestry Affairs Council
- Represent the City of Bemidji on affiliated state and national organizations
  - Board member Coalition of Greater MN Cities
  - Board member and second vice president, League of MN Cities
  - Executive committee, Minnesota Mayors Association
  - Executive committee, Minnesota Mayors Together
  - Executive committee, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
  - Governor's Workforce Development Board

## Professional Experience

---

### Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

*NW Region Director – 2016-2019*

- Participate in agency leadership team. Represent the Commissioner in NW Minnesota.
- Oversee agency divisions: Ecological & Water Resources, Enforcement, Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Lands & Minerals, Parks & Trails, Operation Services.
- Consult with and coordinate work with tribal governments.
- Collaborate with and assist partners, including local governments, advocacy groups, and constituents.

*NW Regional Planner – 2013-2016*

- Work with and assist Regional Director to carry out the agency's mission.
- Assist all divisions to carry out their roles and mission.
- Collaborate with and assist partner organizations.
- Conduct training, provide meeting facilitation and strategic planning for divisions.

### Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake, Minnesota

*Planner/Developer—2011-2013*

- Provide planning and development support for reservation priorities for Tribal Development division.
- Research and author feasibility studies for community and economic development projects. Author grants for drug abuse prevention, recovery support, workforce training, early childhood education, public safety, cultural preservation, and business development.
- Make presentations to tribal council.
- Recognized team leader and mentor to colleagues.

# **Rita C. Albrecht, AICP**

---

## **Self-Employed**

*Private Consultant – 2010-2011*

- Provide facilitation and strategic planning services to Bemidji State University and local non-profits

## **City of Bemidji, Minnesota**

*Community Development Director – 2008-2009*

- Directed planning and development for the city and assisted city manager with special projects. Promoted public and private projects and coordinated with developers to meet goals and deadlines.
- Assisted new and existing businesses with planning, permitting, and financing solutions. Responded to JOBZ business inquiries, monitored participants, and filed state reports.
- Coordinated consultants and volunteer committees to complete design guidelines and permitting for the regional event center and mixed-use redevelopment and cleanup project. Provided leadership for a variety of committees and consultants to advance and complete city projects.
- Presented at state and national APA conferences. Authored memos, reports, press releases, and grant applications for contamination cleanup, infrastructure, parks and trails, and preservation.

## **Headwaters Regional Development Commission, Bemidji, Minnesota**

*Development Specialist 2007 – 2008*

- Worked with communities and tribal governments in a five-county region to improve quality of place through comprehensive planning, community stewardship, and economic development.
- Provided grant administration and project management for the Small Cities Development Program in Bemidji. Marketed the program and assisted in loan closings; monitored projects to completion and filed reports and payment requests.
- Authored grants for community initiatives, including market research, community stewardship, comprehensive planning, downtown planning, recreation, and active living. Facilitated planning efforts for community organizations, including B-WELL, Active Living, and Shared Vision.

## **City of Bemidji, Minnesota**

*Assistant City Planner 2005 – 2007*

- Administered and enforced the land use, zoning, and subdivision controls in the city. Provided leadership for land use ordinance development and the implementation of growth management, housing, and transportation plans.
- Provided staff support for the Planning Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, and Paul Bunyan Trail Committee and contract consultants.
- Managed the process to search and select the A/E consultant for the regional event center.

## **Bemidji State University, Bemidji, Minnesota**

*Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography and Political Science 2003, 2008*

*Graduate Assistant Center for Research and Innovation 2003 – 2005*

*Learn & Serve Coordinator 2001-2003*

## **A&W Family Restaurant, Bemidji, Minnesota**

*Owner/Manager 1988-1998*

## **Education**

---

Bemidji State University

Bachelor of Arts Degree *Summa Cum Laude*, Geography

Bachelor of Science Degree *Summa Cum Laude*, Education (Social Studies)

Additional coursework completed toward Master of Science in Education

Brainerd Area Vocational Technical School

Accounting I

## **Rita C. Albrecht, AICP**

---

### **Professional Development and Training**

---

Red River Watershed Management Board Annual Conference 2014-2019  
Red River Basin Commission Annual Conference 2017, 2018, 2019  
Minnesota Tribal-State Relations Training, U of M 2017  
Plain Language Training (DNR)—2015  
Climate Minnesota, Local Stories, Community Solutions, Bemidji, MN—2015 (presenter)  
Pedal MN Conference, Minneapolis, MN—2015 (presenter)  
Clean Energy Resource Team Conference, St. Cloud, MN—2015 (presenter)  
BushCON Leadership Conference, Minneapolis, MN—2014  
Intermediate Project Management Training (DNR)—2014  
Bicycle Alliance of MN Action Day, St. Paul, MN—2013 (presenter)  
MN Historic Preservation Conference, Lanesboro, MN—2013 (presenter)  
Blandin Foundation Community Leadership Program, Grand Rapids, MN—2011  
Coalition for Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference—2011-2020  
League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference—2011-2020 (presenter 2017)  
Member, American Institute of Certified Planners—since 2010  
Blandin Foundation Leadership in Ethnically Diverse Communities – 2010  
Peacemaker Resources Non-Violent Communication Workshop, Bemidji, MN—2010  
Ruby Payne Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop, Bemidji, MN—2009, 2019  
American Planning Association (APA) National Conference, Minneapolis, MN – 2009 (presenter)  
APA MN Annual Conference – 2005-2020 (presenter 2008, 2014)  
LCCMR Best Practices for Parks and Outdoor Recreation Workshop Series – April, October 2006, May 2007  
Northwest Minnesota Foundation Leadership Program I and II, Park Rapids, MN – 2004, 2005  
National Council for Geographic Education Annual Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia – 2001  
Competent Toastmaster Award, Toastmasters International, Inc.– 1996

### **Affiliations and Board Service**

---

American Planning Association	Bemidji Area United Way Board, Past President
APA Minnesota Chapter	Greater Bemidji Economic Development Commission
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)	Beltrami/Cass Community Action Program (Bi-CAP)
BSU Alumni and Foundation Board	Peacemaker Resources
Bemidji Area Chamber of Commerce	VisitBemidji Convention and Visitors Bureau
Northern Dental Access Center Board	Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board