**Solar for Public Rural Entities Key Staff**

**Sabri Fair (Environment and Sustainability Planner)**Sabri has worked at the Region Nine Development Commission since August of 2021. Prior to this role he graduated from Macalester College with a degree in Environmental Studies and Geology and was a Doris Duke Conservation Scholar at Yale University and the University of Michigan. He has successfully written and received grants from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). These grant awards have gone towards developing community climate resilience plans, increasing access to Minnesota fruits and vegetables for underserved communities, and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in rural communities. Sabri speaks Spanish and Kiswahili fluently after studying Spanish for 10 years and having family who are first generation immigrants from Zanzibar.

**Samuel Sharp (Energy and Sustainability Planner)**Samuel brings a comprehensive background in energy planning and sustainability initiatives. Having worked in both the public and private sectors, Samuel offers a unique perspective on the processes and workflows conducive to strategic energy planning. Samuel has experience in navigating state and federal funding opportunities and has proven success in securing grants designed to support renewable energy and climate resilience.

**Jay Trusty**

Jay has served as the Executive Director of the Southwest Regional Development Commission for 22 years. During this time his organization has become a leader in the rural clean energy sector by developing and running the Rural Minnesota Electrical Board as well as administering one of only two commercial PACE programs operating in the state of Minnesota. They have helped rural communities develop a wide range of energy and efficiency related projects.

**Anna Wasescha**

Anna is a proven organizational leader with experience in post-secondary education and community development. As the Executive Director of the West Central Initiative Foundation, she has developed important climate related programming including a climate action plan for her nine county region as well organizing a cohort of rural mayors to work on climate action collaboratively.

**Dawn Hegland**

Dawn has served as the Executive Director of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission since 2008. During her tenure the organization developed a robust Revolving Loan Fund for rural businesses and helped establish the Minnesota River Valley Scenic By Way.

**Eric Day**

Eric has served as the Executive Director of the Mid Minnesota Development Commission for four years. Prior to this position he served as the Central Minnesota youth employment specialist and youth program manager. He has brought this passion for youth development to his new role by bring the Minnesota Technical Assistance Partnership to his region allowing college students to conduct energy assessments on rural manufacturers.