



**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**February 14, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Nichols Office Building in Mankato.

**II. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leo Bauer, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Charlie Hurd, Dwayne Krenz, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Fred Juni, James Stangler, Tim Strand

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, Brent O'Neil, James Stenson, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Leo Bauer moved approval of the December 13, 2006 minutes as presented. Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

**IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bob Roesler moved approval of the treasurer's report as presented. Eldo Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried.

**V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich shared information from meetings he recently attended. They included Jan. 26 attending an Area Transportation Partnership meeting where legislators were present; Jan. 29 attended a routine Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Joint Powers Board meeting in Redwood Falls; Jan. 31 attended a R9 Strategic Planning Committee meeting; Feb. 8 attended a R9 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Chair Broich noted that he will be attending a R9 Strategic Planning Committee meeting following the Board of Directors meeting.

Chair Broich requested approval of two new commissioners. Diane Norland will fill the city of North Mankato position. She replaces Terri McGee. Dan Kuhns will fill the Waseca County Commissioner position. He replaces Wendell Armstrong. Eldo Brandenburg moved approval of the appointments, Dwayne Krenz seconded. Motion carried.

## **VI. BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

Previously, the Board of Directors reviewed the proposed ground rules with the Strategic Planning consultant, Paul Murphy, during a board training session. The purpose of the ground rules is to establish a shared understanding and agreement of what rules ought to govern the behavior and operation of the board as an official body of the Region Nine Development Commission. Chair James Broich presented Resolution 2007-1 that the RNDC adopt the ground rules document as a guide for its behavior and operation as a board. Bob Roesler moved approval of the resolution as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried. The ground rules will also be presented to the full Commission as a basis for operation. A FYI (for your information) of the document will be distributed.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive director, Reggie Edwards, presented his monthly report for review. Highlighted from the report was a summarization of the results from a survey that was sent to jurisdictions asking about the work of the RNDC. The results were copied in R9's 2000 to 2005 five-year report and may be discussed at a Strategic Planning session. Commissioners reviewed a letter from the chair and executive director that will be in the 5-year report.

Edwards said the R9 Legislative Committee will meet February 15. The legislative session continues with a few issues being watched and acted upon by the Committee and staff. The primary focus is transit, 10-ton roads, local planning funding and increased transportation planning funding. The committee will be discussing the annual Capitol trip – if there will be one or have visits done by committee chairs. The focus will be what is the most effective and strategic when getting issues addressed at the Capitol.

Edwards said the R9 Budget / Personnel Committee will be meeting to discuss the executive director contract, his evaluation and the personnel policy manual.

Edwards presented two out-of-state travel requests. (1) Staff Troy Bonkowske and Jon Noerenberg to attend the National Main Street conference in Seattle, Washington (March 25-28). The total cost is \$2,435.00. (2) Staff Troy Bonkowske and Brent O'Neil to attend the National Association of Development Organizations conference in Washington, D.C. (March 12-15) the cost would be \$1,450 per person. Dwayne Krenz moved approval of the travel requests, Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

Edwards noted the new R9 marketing item - mouse pads that you can insert a personal picture.

## **VIII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Economic & Community Development Update**

Transportation planner, Brent O'Neil, presented a transportation update. Highlighted was that under a request from Mn/DOT, Region Nine spent considerable time last fall updating and correcting the functional class basemaps for all roads in the state. Mn/DOT is currently reviewing them and adding changes to their database. O'Neil said that Region Nine continues to be active in advocacy of Highway 14 and 15 expansions and he currently serves as director on the Highway 14 Partnership Executive Committee. The transportation program also

continues to work on elderly transit and volunteer driver programs. O'Neil said at the last R9 Transportation Advisory Committee it approved a vision statement and goals for 2007 and beyond which was enclosed in the meeting packet.

O'Neil presented two resolutions that were approved by the R9 Transportation Advisory Committee. (1) Resolution 2007-2 supporting state legislation designating weight limits of 20,000 pounds per axel on all paved county and county state-aid roads unless posted down by local jurisdictions. (2) Resolution 2007-3 to remove exemptions for implements of husbandry from bridge weight limits and bridge damage liability. Alvis More moved approval of both resolutions. Leo Bauer seconded. (A correction was requested on Resolution 2007-2 of changing 10,000 pounds per axel to 20,000.) Motion carried.

Reggie Edwards noted in the Community Development update report that the cities of Sleepy Eye, Gaylord and Truman have entered into contracts with the RNDC to do various projects. Edwards said that the cities of Darfur, Lewisville and St. James have submitted candidates to fill the vacancy on the full Commission for the cities under 10,000 population for Watonwan County.

## **B. Small Business Development Center**

Small Business Development Center director, Bob Klanderud, updated members on the activities of the SBDC. He said that the new board has established three subcommittees – fundraising, marketing and programming. Klanderud said they are in the process of closing out 2006 and are working on a Request For Proposal for 2008, 2009 and 2010 that is due March 30. The SBDC has been busy planning a Resource Fair that will be held at the Rasmussen College April 24. Advertising will be publicized on TV and notices will be put in utility bills for the cities of Mankato and North Mankato.

## **C. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging**

MNRAAA executive director, Linda Giersdorf, said that in January an orientation session for new members of the four Advisory Councils on Aging within the MNRAAA area was held. Giersdorf said that the Minnesota Board on Aging has requested MNRAAA staff, Gail Gilman Waldner, to coordinate the statewide Family Caregiver Public Awareness Campaign. This would involve 8 to 10 hours a week of her time. Giersdorf said authors for a legislative bill on Communities for a Lifetime are being sought. The Minnesota Board on Aging supports the concept of the bill. Giersdorf said staff is beginning to work on the 2008 budget.

## **D. Finance Department**

Finance director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, said she is busy working on the MNRAAA budget and beginning to review the RNDC fiscal year 2008 budget. Vanderwerf said that there continues to be computer problems in the finance department. The auditors have been at the RNDC preparing the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. Also, reviewing a server proposal that RNDC will be installing which is necessary for computer backup purposes, new laws for storage of documents and for State mandated plans to address an emergency if staff cannot get to the office.

Reggie Edwards reported on the Revolving Loan Fund Tornado Recovery program that was administered by the RNDC in 1998. One million dollars was allotted for historical replacement purposes from the Minnesota Historical Society. The remaining balance plus interest totals

\$134,000. Representatives Cornish and Gunther inquired about the funds to be used on projects in the cities of Wells and Winnebago. However, but to transfer the funds, there needs to be approval from the legislature, which is expected to happen.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair James Broich noted that he, Reggie Edwards and Brent O'Neil will be attending a National Association of Development Organization conference in Washington, D.C. March 12-15. The next regular Board meeting is March 14. Chair Broich requested approval to move the Board meeting date to March 21. Alvis More moved approval to change the meeting date, Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried.

Eldo Brandenburg announced that he is not seeking re-election as a township official. He has served on the FreedomTownship board for 45 years. Brandenburg represented townships in Waseca County.

R9 Strategic Planning Committee chair, James Stenson, reported that the committee will be meeting following the Board of Directors meeting. Agenda items that will be discussed is committee goals review, R9 officers election process and Special Interest Positions on the full Commission, Three River Resource Conservation and Development office merger and a renewable energy program development proposal.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary