

**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**February 9, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Nichols Office Building in Mankato.

**II. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Janet Froslan, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, James Stangler

MEMBERS EXECUSED: Leo Bauer, Fred Juni, Bob Roesler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Kagermeier

OTHERS PRESENT: Reginald Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Susan Jaeger, Wes Judkins, Elaine Spain, Cheryl Weston

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

James Stangler moved to approve the December 15, 2004 minutes as presented. Eldo Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried.

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

Alvis More moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Eldo Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried.

**V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich said he attended a Minnesota Regional Development Organization (MRDO) meeting where Matt Kramer, who is the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED), was present. The meeting focused on additional funding for bio-diesel and railroads. The Chair attended a Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Joint Powers Board meeting and a Memorandum of Understanding meeting in Redwood Falls.

Chair Broich was invited to attend the upcoming lecture by Peter Hutchinson, who co-authored the book "The Price of Government".

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

Executive Director, Reginald Edwards, said that the annual trip to the Capitol by commissioners and staff that was held prior to the meeting was successful. He thanked commissioners for joining together to raise the voice of the Region Nine area and special thanks to Commissioners Tom Loveall and Bob Schabert for their leadership.

Edwards presented highlights from his monthly report. The R9 Strategic Planning Committee will be moving ahead completing assessments of the organization and its impact in the region. Evelyn Carrasco was recently hired as a community outreach specialist for the Salud program. R9 Community and Economic Development director, Lisa Hughes, resigned to take a position with the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development. She will be covering the 27-county area including regions 9,8, 6E and 6W. Her office will be located in Mankato. A job posting has been submitted to local and statewide newspapers and other bulletins. Until further development of this department and upon developments in the strategic plan, the position is being advertised as a coordinator position instead of a director position.

Staff have been working to develop the transit initiative. Additional funding has been allocated by the state to cover further development of volunteer drivers throughout the region, software coordination packaging and evaluation. Staff recently completed a grant application to the USDA Rural Utilities Services for Telehealth, distant learning and economic development. This program will be piloted in the Henderson, Gaylord and Arlington areas. A second alternative energy meeting is being scheduled. The Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development has agreed to work with R9 on the project.

Edwards said he received an inquiry on assistance in establishing an economic development district in the Region 10 area. Minnesota Regional Development Organizations (MRDO) has discussed the issue and requested input from Region Nine. After discussion, it was decided the issue would be presented to the full Commission for discussion purposes.

## **VII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. R9 Transportation Update**

Transportation director, Wes Judkins, said the R9 Transportation Advisory Committee will meet February 12 to rank regional significance projects and review district plans. Judkins informed Commissioners of Mn/DOT's re-evaluation of the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) Target Formula. There are strong concerns for rural Minnesota on Mn/DOT's draft proposals to change the target formula that determines how much Federal transportation dollars are made available to the various rural regions of the state.

At the state Legislature, Judkins said it is estimated that there is a \$750 million to \$1 billion shortfall in transportation funding. He said there is some movement on the 5-cent gas tax and a change from a one-year indexing to a three-year indexing.

Judkins said there was a recent Highway 14 West Statement meeting where 3 to 4 alternatives were reviewed for a 4-lane highway. The completion date is 2017.

## **B. Transit Update**

Eldercare Development Partnership (EDP) & Reaching Out to Support Elders (ROSE) planner, Elaine Spain, said the current focus of the Elderly Transit Project is to network volunteer driver programs and begin coordination of rides that cross county lines. Several meetings have been held to gather input at the grassroots level. Most volunteer driver programs charge between 20-25 cents per mile, but reimburse the driver at 40.5 cents per mile. One of the goals is to increase the number of persons per vehicle so that these programs can recover some of their costs. Negotiations are underway with VINE Faith in Action in Mankato to become the coordinating entity for the volunteer driver programs in the Region Nine area. Outreach is being conducted with health care providers in the region. Part of the outreach process is to ask providers (medical clinics, dentists, etc.) to report on how many “no shows” or client cancellations they have had in the past year.

Staff is also providing technical assistance to interested persons in the Region 8 area to develop a similar project. A long-range goal would be to combine the coordination efforts of both regions.

Staff will be submitting a grant proposal for second year funding through the Community Service/Service Development grants available through the Department of Human Services.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary