



**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**March 21, 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: James Broich, Fred Juni, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, James Stangler, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Leo Bauer, Charlie Hurd, Dwayne Krenz

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, Brenda Pautsch, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alvis More moved approval of the February 14, 2007 minutes as presented. James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

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

Roger Oldfather moved approval of the treasurer's report as presented. James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

**V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich shared information from meetings he recently attended. They included Feb. 15 - attended a R9 Legislative Committee meeting; Feb. 21 - attended an Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) meeting in St. James which reviewed enhancement funds; Feb. 22 - attended a R9 Revolving Loan Fund meeting that reviewed two loan applications; Mar. 7, 16 and 20 - attended R9 Budget / Personnel Committee meetings. Mar. 19 he attended a Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Joint Powers Board meeting in Redwood Falls and participated in a new commissioner orientation session that evening in Mankato. Chair Broich said March 11-15 he attended a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) conference in Washington, D.C. with executive director, Reggie Edwards and transportation planner, Brent O'Neil. While there, they visited seven area congressman and/or staff where they presented regional issues.

Chair Broich said at the countywide township meeting Gary Owens was recommended to fill the vacancy left by Eldo Brandenburg, who represented townships in Waseca County. Owens previously served on the full Commission from 1995 to 2003 representing school boards. Alvis More moved approval of Gary Owens, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried.

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

Executive director, Reggie Edwards, presented his monthly report for review. Highlighted from the report was the message from federal agencies, congressional representatives and federal budget experts of the looming federal budget that is projected to balloon and not decrease. The message is that the U.S. is not prepared for the "Fiscal Tsunami" and there is no federal plan to address the matter and it is not being told to the American public. Edwards said a speaker on the federal budget might be scheduled for an upcoming full Commission meeting.

Edwards said while attending the NADO conference, as Chair Broich previously mentioned, they visited with Congressmen on issues such as transportation funding to do corridor studies, pilot transit projects and environmental studies; the Older Americans Act was discussed as to not to reduce funding; the Farm Bill to ensure diversification of crops plus other concerns.

The issue of increasing the state gas tax and not having matching funds to acquire Federal transportation funds was discussed. A motion was moved by Fred Juni that with the support of the R9 Legislative Committee that a letter be sent to the Governor to urge him to reach an agreed upon level of new gas tax funding for the transportation system. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried.

Edwards said that the original date that was selected for Commissioners and staff to travel to the Capitol to visit legislators, they will be on Easter break. It was suggested that only a select group of Commissioners would go to the Capitol to visit legislators at a date to be determined.

## **VII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Community Development Update**

Community Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, presented his report for review. Highlighted from his report was the contracts with the cities of Pemberton, Sleepy Eye and Truman; the Loan Review Committee approved two loans from businesses in the cities of Lake Crystal and North Mankato; the R9 Economic Development Committee met to approve the 2006 CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies) update that will be submitted for federal approval by March 31, 2007. Bonkowske said staff is working on a Sibley County Comprehensive Park proposal. Word was received from the Chicago EDA office that there are no funds available, currently, for a regional GIS (Geographic Information System). Also, Hazard Mitigation Plans will be submitted to the state for review by April 30, 2007.

Small Business Development Center director, Bob Klanderud, reported that a RFP (Request for Proposal) is due March 30, 2007 to the State who is seeking bids for the south central Minnesota center over the next three years. Klanderud reported a relationship is forming with area media. For an example, clients' names of the SBDC are submitted to KYSM, who will give

them one-half hour of free airtime. Klanderud said he would be on 'Talk of the Town' where he will talk about the Small Business Fair that will be held April 24. Bonkowske said that he and Regional Development planner, Jon Noerenberg, would be attending a Main Street conference in Seattle.

## **B. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Update**

MNRAAA executive director, Linda Giersdorf, read to Commissioners a paragraph of an article that contained statistics of the aging population in the year 2030. She noted the aging populations are a global concern not just regional or statewide. Giersdorf reported that a Joint Powers Board meeting was held March 19 in Redwood Falls. Discussed was the match responsibility of 6W (Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission). Work has begun on the 2008 budget. An update was given on the past nutrition provider litigation. Giersdorf said Commissioners who are on the R9 Legislative Committee received a notice from her that the Area Agencies of Minnesota presented a Bill (Senate File 1563 and House File 2004) to the legislature for funds for the "Community for a Life Time" project that will assist communities with an aging population.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Broich reminded Commissioners that the full Commission will meet April 11 and the next Board of Directors meeting will be May 9.

It was noted that Chair Broich's term as chairman expires in July. He has served two terms of two years each. Alvis More moved and Fred Juni seconded that the executive director bring to the Strategic Planning Committee that the by-laws be reviewed regarding the position of the chairman being able to serve more than two terms. Motion carried. Currently, the Strategic Planning Committee is seeking candidates to serve on the slate for chairman.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary