

MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
June 8, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman James Stangler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Nichols Office Center in Mankato. He noted that Chair James Broich was excused from the meeting.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendell Armstrong, Leo Bauer, Jim Berg, Eldo Brandenburg, Sue Devens, Alvin Dietz, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Janie Flores, Terry Genelin, Harlan Gorath, Ken Hanson, Jerry Hawbaker, Janet Holicky, Matt Johansen, Frederick Juni, Dwayne Krenz, Brian Lynch, David Lynch, Terri McGee, Mick McGuire, Lance Mikkelson, Alvis More, Dennis Nelson, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, Mary Jean Rohlfing, Bob Schabert, Dan Schmidke, James Stangler, William Stangler, Patricia Steckman, James Stenson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: James Broich, Kip Bruender, Tom Loveall, Brenda Pautsch

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Anderson, Ron Fleischmann, Jeff Kagermeier, Norbert Kaufmann, Lynette Martin

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowski, Reginald Edwards, Bob Klanderud, Cheryl Weston, Dell Zempel

IV. LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

Representatives John Dorn, Bob Gunther, Ruth Johnson and Connie Ruth gave an overview of the legislative session. A questions and answer period followed.

V. GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair James Stangler introduced new commissioner, Sue Devens. She is the mayor of the city of Lewisville and represents cities under 10,000 populations in Watonwan County. Devens replaces Dennis Firchau. (She was approved at the May full Commission meeting.)

Stangler also introduced new commissioner, Brian Lynch. He is the mayor of the city of St. Clair and represents cities under 10,000 populations in Blue Earth County. Lynch replaces Clell Hemphill. Wendell Armstrong moved approval, Harlan Gorath seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alvis More moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2005 as presented. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Fred Juni moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Ken Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairman James Stangler read Chair James Broich's report. The report said that he attended a Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) meeting in Redwood Falls to discuss issues and he also attended an Area Transportation Partnership meeting in St. James where funding for projects in the coming years was discussed. He noted until a transportation bill is passed it is mostly a guessing game.

Presentation of Special Interest Candidates

Vice-Chair James Stangler said two terms of special interest categories (Commerce and Tourism/Recreation) on the full Commission will expire in July. He introduced incumbent Pat Steckman who gave a presentation on her qualifications to continue to serve as the Tourism/Recreation representative. It was noted the Commerce position had no applicants. The full Commission will vote on the candidate at the July meeting.

IX. R9 BUDGET / PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Director, Reginald Edwards, presented the proposed 2006 Budget Summary Report. The proposed FY'06 budget is \$1,517,353. Noted was that the in-progress Strategic Plan will also be aligned with the budget. There is uncertainty yet in the proposed cut in the aging program formula, which is moving from a base formula to a population-based formula. The budget reflects some funds returned to reserves. Keeping the indirect rate low is a priority. Edwards said there would be a transition for the Salud and ChYLI (Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Institute) programs, which would involve five staff. Conversations are being finalized with Gustavus Adolphus College to host the programs. The budget includes a step increase and a cost of living increase for staff excluding the executive director who is voluntarily giving up the increase. Edwards noted it has been three years since staff has received a cost of living adjustment. Edwards said at the July annual meeting a formal budget document will be available listing all departments by line item with their goals and objectives and revenue sources. Dwayne Krenz moved to forward the proposed FY'06 budget to be presented at the public hearing and annual meeting in July. Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

X. R9 SHARING & OPPORTUNITIES

Brown County Area Representatives

Vice-Chair James Stangler read to Commissioners, Chair James Broich's report. Broich is the mayor of the city of Sleepy Eye. Reported was that the city was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation to promote Broadband Internet. This was matched by local entities for a \$20,000 grant to use for the promotion and education of Broadband access. The Del Monte Corporation has started the construction of a new farm shop (a million dollar project). The city will be opening bids soon on the construction of water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer, street, curb and gutter along with a new holding pond near the Del Monte Plant. Norwood Promotions,

a calendar manufacturer, has been hiring more full time employees and installing equipment that they have brought from other plants that have closed. Norwood is having a community day on June 23 and will be conducting tours of the plant. The city of Sleepy Eye has submitted a plan to the state of Minnesota and other agencies for a bike trail around the lake.

Jim Berg, representing Brown County Commissioners, reported that the county has started reviewing its budget for FY'06. A grant was received from the state to work on county roads in the Hanska area. Ditch problems are being addressed and a bridge on County Road 10 near Sleepy Eye will be replaced. Berg said the county fund that supplies septic system improvement loans received \$100,000 from the county's general fund. The county offers loans to pay for half of the cost of a septic system upgrade. The loans are a five-year note at a 3.5 percent interest rate.

Fred Juni, township representative, said the city of New Ulm will be the location of a Walmart Superstore. The city and Milford Township will be signing documentation to annex acreage for the project. A hard surface road will be applied to a subdivision and a wastewater treatment solution for the village of Essig is being reviewed. It is hoped that grant funds will become available. Juni commented on the good working relationship between the county and township officials.

Project Opportunities

Janie Flores shared with Commissioners that the USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA) would like to enhance the participation of FSA programs to underserved customers (minorities, women, religious minorities and the physically challenged) by working with community stakeholders. The FSA has loan programs for beginning farmers, youth loans, direct and guaranteed loans. Their website is www.fsa.usda.gov Flores also said that the local Workforce Council, through the Minnesota Department of Education, has received workforce incentive monies from the Governor's Workforce Development Council to serve incumbent workers in workforce education classes. To learn more there is a meeting June 16 at 9:00 a.m. at the Workforce Center in Mankato.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Reginald Edwards, presented his report, which included updates on the R9 Legislative and R9 Strategic Planning committees; staff and R9 programs; a statewide update regarding the Minnesota Regional Development Organization and a national update on federal legislation.

Edwards presented an out-of-state travel request – The Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with several other entities, is sponsoring a 2005 InterCity Leadership Visit. Commissioners reviewed a document with an overview of the visit. The cost is \$1,495 and includes traveling to Bellingham, Washington, October 2-5, 2005. Funds are available in the existing budget. Wendell Armstrong moved approval of the travel request, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried. Edwards said that scholarships are available, but not to elected officials. He said he would seek a scholarship for the trip and have R9 Commissioner and mayor of the city of Courtland, Bob Schabert, use R9 funds.

Harlan Gorath asked which staff is going to be affected when the Salud and ChYLI programs transition to Gustavus Adolphus College. Edwards said staff involved are Rosanna Balboa, Gina Borchardt, Evelyn Carrasco, Sylvia Pena and Ellen De La Torre
Edwards said the Region Nine Area Inc. (RNAI) has replacement and open seat vacancies on its Board in the R9 liaison categories. Edwards requested volunteers preferably from Brown, Martin, Nicollet or Waseca counties. Matt Johansen, Waseca County and Bob Schabert, Nicollet County, volunteered to serve on the RNAI. Their next meeting is July 5th.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

James J. Broich, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary

