



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
ANNUAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
July 11, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Nichols Office Center in Mankato.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Maria Bartsch, Leo Bauer, James Berg, Jerry Boler, James Broich, Alvin Dietz, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Ron Fleischmann, Terry Genelin, Harlan Gorath, Ken Hanson, Janet Holicky, Charlie Hurd, Frederick Juni, Norbert Kaufmann, Dwayne Krenz, Mick McGuire, Lance Mikkelson, Diane Norland, Roger Oldfather, Gary Owens, Mary Jean Rohlfing, James Stangler, William Stangler, Patricia Steckman, James Stenson, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Kip Bruender, Matt Johansen, Alvis More, Brenda Pautsch, Bob Roesler, Bob Schabert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janie Flores, Denny Jahnz, Dan Kuhns, Tom Loveall, Greg Young

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

IV. LEGISLATIVE SESSION REVIEW

Senator Dick Day and Representatives Kathy Brynaert, Terry Morrow, Connie Ruth was present. Also present was Gerald Woodley from U.S. Senator Norm Coleman's office.

R9 Legislative Committee chair, Terry Genelin, welcomed the legislators. He asked legislators and Mr. Woodley what was the preferred way to communicate with them.

Gerald Woodley said his contact information is gerald_woodley@coleman.senate.gov and telephone number is 507-625-6800. He noted U.S. Senator Coleman's email is coleman.senate.gov; and there are offices in St. Paul and Washington, D.C. with outreach offices in Grand Rapids, Mankato and Moorhead. Rep. Dick Day said his contact information is sen.dick.day@senate.mn and 651-296-9457. Rep. Terry Morrow said his contact information is rep.terry.morrow@house.mn and 651-296-8634. Rep. Kathy Brynaert said her contact information is rep.Kathy.brynaert@house.mn and 651-296-3248. Rep. Connie Ruth said her contact information is rep.connie.ruth@house.mn and 651-296-5368.

There was a question and answer session.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2008 BUDGET

The full Commission meeting was recessed at this point.

Chair James Broich opened the public hearing on the proposed FY 2008 budget of \$1,611,033. Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented the budget document. He noted that the budget included adding 1.3 staff positions – community development planner and a Region Nine Area, Inc. part-time person at 15 hours per week; a staff salary increase of one step plus cost-of-living and an indirect rate of 23.76%. After a question and answer period, Chair Broich closed the public hearing.

R9 Budget / Personnel Committee member, Fred Juni, said that the committee has met several times to review the budget and the committee recommended approval. Fred Juni moved to accept the FY 2008 budget as presented. Diane Norland seconded. Motion carried.

The preliminary Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2008 document that listed funds to be levied in each of the nine counties (\$435,227) was presented for review. The final amount will be presented at the September meeting. Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval of the document, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried. Finance Director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, provided additional information on final audit results.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Fred Juni moved to approve the April 11, 2007 minutes as presented. Ken Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Alvin Dietz moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. ELECTIONS

Nomination Committee Chair, James Stenson, presented the slate of candidates for the R9 Chairman. They included Faribault County commissioner, Tom Loveall and city of St. Peter mayor, Tim Strand. R9 Chair James Broich asked if there were any nominations from the floor, hearing none, Ken Hanson moved to cease nominations, Maria Bartsch seconded. Motion carried. Chair Broich appointed Terry Genelin and Fred Juni to pass out ballots and count them. James Stenson announced that Tim Strand would be the next chairman of the RNDC for a two-year term. After the ballot count, James Berg moved to destroy the ballots, Ron Fleischmann seconded. Motion carried.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair James Broich noted meetings he attended in the past month. They included: June 27-29 - the Minnesota League of Minnesota Cities conference where valuable information was presented; July 9 - Aging Program Joint Powers Board meeting in Redwood Falls that focused on RDC 6W; July 9 - Minnesota Regional Development Organization (MRDO) where strategic planning for the coming years was discussed; July 11- prior to the full Commission meeting, he attended the R9 Area Agency on Aging Committee meeting where updates on program activities was presented.

Chair Broich introduced Brad Ahrenstorff, who was approved at the June Board of Directors meeting to represent cities under 10,000 in Blue Earth County. He replaces Brian Lynch.

Commissioners were asked to update their addresses, emails, etc.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Area Agency on Aging Committee

Committee Chair, James Berg, reported that at their meeting Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) staff, Robin Thompson, gave a very informative report on changes for Medicare Part D and other health plans and provided the schedule for Senior Surf Days. She urged people to call the Senior LinkAge Line® (1-800-333-2433) if they know of anyone that needs assistance. Berg said that MNRAAA executive director, Linda Giersdorf, reported on the dissolution of MNRAAA because of the withdrawal of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission.

James Berg presented Resolution 2007-06 that the RNDC intends to enter into a new Joint Powers Agreement with the Southwest and Mid-Minnesota Development Commissions for the purpose of continuing to provide services to the elderly in the Southwest Planning and Service Area. Diane Norland moved approval of the resolution, William Stangler seconded. Motion carried. Linda Giersdorf requested action to appoint two Commission members to make decisions that will be needed in order to move forward with the development and implementation of the new Joint Powers Board as well as a third Commission member to serve as an alternate decision maker in one of their absences. Jerry Boler moved to reappoint James Broich and James Stangler and that Candace Fenske would continue to be the alternate. The term expires January 2008. Diane Norland seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf announced that the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), Minnesota Board on Aging and Health Department would be sponsoring a summit, "Transform 2010 – Preparing for Minnesota's Age Wave". It will be held September 27 at the National Guard Armory. The guest speaker will be Loren Coleman, assistant Commissioner with the DHS. Also, September 20, the Minnesota Board on Aging will be holding a retreat in the city of St. Peter, followed by their board meeting September 21.

B. Legislative Committee

Committee Chair, Terry Genelin, gave an update on items discussed at their meeting. The outcome of state legislative bills were reviewed and the letters to the Governor regarding the gas tax and calling a special session. The committee looked at ways to encourage legislators to use the R9 website to keep citizens informed on legislative issues.

Vice Chairman, James Stangler, submitted for consideration the issue of terms of office for 'special interest' representatives on the full Commission. The terms are staggered in four-year terms and by-laws require updating. After discussion, Stangler moved to reappoint Jack Fitzsimmons (represents Transportation) to finish his term from 2006 to July 2010 and Alvin Dietz (represents Environmental Quality) and Alvis More (represents Agriculture) to a four-year term from July 2007 to July 2011. Jerry Boler seconded. Motion carried. Special interest categories, Commerce and Crime Prevention, will remain on hold.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented his monthly report for review.

Edwards presented Resolution 2007-5 that establishes the meeting dates for fiscal year 2008 for the Region Nine Development Commission. The full Commission will meet September 12, 2007, January 9, 2008, April 9, 2008 and July 9, 2008. The Board of Directors will meet during the months that the full Commission does not meet. James Stenson moved approval of the resolution as presented. Diane Norland seconded. Motion carried.

XII. CAUCUS OF COUNTIES

Commissioners caucused by county to review board of directors and committee membership seats. Blue Earth County - Brad Ahrenstorff (Legislative Committee); Maria Bartsch (Transportation); Brown County - James Broich (Board); Frederick Juni (Legislative); Faribault County - No changes; LeSueur County - Mick McGuire (Economic Development); Martin County - No Changes; Nicollet County - No changes. Sibley County - No changes. Waseca County - Gary Owens (Budget/Personnel); Watonwan County - Dennis Jahnz (Legislative Committee).

XIII. R9 SHARING AND OPPORTUNITIES

Because of time restraints, Martin County commissioners will present at the September full Commission meeting.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

Pat Steckman said that she brought copies of the *Minnesota Explorer, Explore Southern Minnesota, Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway* plus other tourism material to share with Commissioners. She said the Governor's conference on tourism would be held in Mankato in January 2008. A slide show is being prepared to highlight the nine county area.

Chair James Broich thanked Commissioners and staff for letting him serve as chairman of the RNDC for (2) two-year terms. He also congratulated new chairman, Tim Strand. Commissioners extended appreciation to James Broich for his services.

Fred Juni expressed concern if there could be a more effective forum for legislators – noting time constraints, attendance, etc. After discussion, it was decided the Legislative Committee will review how best to engage legislators.

Chair Broich reminded Board of Directors members that there is a brief meeting following the Commission meeting to elect officers.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

James J. Broich, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary