



**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**ANNUAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**  
**July 12, 2006**

**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: Wendell Armstrong, James Berg, Jerry Boler, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Sue Devens, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Terry Genelin, Harlan Gorath, Ken Hanson, Matt Johansen, Fred Juni, Tom Loveall, Brian Lynch, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Mary Jean Rohlfing, James Stangler, William Stangler, Pat Steckman, James Stenson, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Leo Bauer, Kip Bruender, Alvin Dietz, Ron Fleischmann, Janie Flores, Mick McGuire, Lance Mikkelson, Brenda Pautsch, Bob Roesler, Bob Schabert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janet Holicky, Norbert Kaufmann, Dwayne Krenz, David Lynch, Terri McGee

OTHERS PRESENT: Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, Jon Noerenberg, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

Chair James Broich requested approval of Charlie Hurd who will be representing the city of Mankato. He replaces John Brady. Wendell Armstrong moved approval, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

**IV. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2007 BUDGET**

The full Commission meeting was recessed at this point.

Chair James Broich opened the public hearing on the proposed FY 2007 budget. Budget / Personnel Committee member, Fred Juni, said that the committee met three times to review the proposed total budget of \$2,691,090 that includes an operating budget of \$1,474,663. Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented the budget document. He noted that compared with the draft budget that was reviewed at the June meeting, there were no significant changes made. The budget summary that listed revenues and expenditures and individual programs that listed mission statements and goals was reviewed. After a question and answer period, Chair James Broich closed the public hearing.

Fred Juni said that the Budget / Personnel Committee recommended approval of the budget as presented. Matt Johansen moved approval of the fiscal year 2007 budget, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

The preliminary Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2007 document that listed funds to be levied in each of the nine counties (\$422,550) was presented for review. The final amount will be presented at the September meeting. James Stangler moved approval of the document, Brian Lynch seconded. Motion carried.

## **V. GUEST SPEAKER**

Jan Forfang from the Minnesota Department of Health gave a presentation on the H5N1 Avian Influenza “bird flu” virus. She explained how flu viruses develop and spread between humans and how the “bird flu” virus is being carefully monitored throughout the world. She stressed the importance of jurisdictions planning for the pandemic flu. A question and answer period followed. The Minnesota Department of Health’s website on the bird flu is [www.birdflu-state.mn.us](http://www.birdflu-state.mn.us)

## **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Fred Juni moved to approve the June 14, 2006 minutes as presented. Pat Steckman seconded. Motion carried.

## **VII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT**

Eldo Brandenburg moved to approve the treasurer’s report as presented. James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

## **VIII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

Chair James Broich noted meetings he attended in the past month. They included June 28-30 - the League of Minnesota Cities conference in St. Cloud where valuable information was presented; July 10 - Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Joint Powers Board meeting which was routine; July 13 - will be attending the annual meeting of the Southwest Regional Development Commission in Walnut Grove and will be in Windom to attend an Area Transportation Partnership meeting.

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

## **IX. R9 SHARING & OPPORTUNITIES**

Agriculture representative, Alvis More reported that upgrades to Highway 22 are currently being worked on. In the city of Lake Crystal they are redoing their ballpark diamond. In August Blue Earth County will be mowing area ditches. In the cities of St. Clair and Pemberton area the soil is very dry, but the crops are looking good so far.

Blue Earth County Cities under 10,000 representative Brian Lynch reported the city of St. Clair is working on annexation with a township and three of the property owners have already petitioned the city to join them. The city of St. Clair is working on securing funds for a new city well and a new tank to contain the water. There will be a public hearing held to present the findings to the public. Lynch announced that R9 Commissioner, Alvis More and his wife Carol, were selected to serve as Grand Marshals for St. Clair Days - 2006.

City of Mankato representative, Charlie Hurd reported that several projects are in progress in the city of Mankato. They include the Wal-Mart Distribution Center; the downtown hotel is beginning; and plans for Riverside Park are being developed. A committee was formed to look at redevelopment of the center of the city for the next 15-20 years. To bring a balance for development, the group will study the issue of new homes and businesses being built on the edge of town. Hurd said that the \$24 million water project came in 15% over the engineer's estimate.

## **X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Area Agency on Aging Committee**

Committee chair, James Berg, reported that Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) staff, Gail Gilman Waldner and Robin Thompson were present at the meeting. Thompson who is the senior outreach specialist gave an update on Medicare Part D. Aging legislative items were reviewed. R9 Vice Chair James Stangler presented insight to the MNRAAA meetings, as he has attended several. The committee's next meeting is September 13, prior to the full Commission meeting.

### **B. Budget / Personnel Committee**

Fred Juni reported that what was discussed at the committee will be presented at the public hearing on the FY'07 budget.

### **C. Strategic Planning Committee**

Committee chair, James Stenson, reported that consultant, Paul Murphy, was a guest at their meeting. Murphy assisted the committee with developing R9's Strategic Plan. The committee discussed the format of the leadership development training that Board of Director members and committee chairs will be participating in.

The committee is reviewing the 'Special Interest' representatives on the full Commission.

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

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, distributed notepaper to commissioners instructing them to write down their thoughts regarding the question "What is the purpose of the Region Nine Development Commission." Edwards said input from staff has also been requested. The comments will be used to review R9's mission statement.

Edwards requested approval of two travel requests. (1) Linda Giersdorf, Elaine Spain and Robin Thompson to travel to Chicago to attend the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging conference August 6-10. The \$950 cost per person is included in the Area Agency on Aging budget and the Elderly Transit grant. (2) Reggie Edwards and James Broich to travel to Reno, Nevada, to attend the annual National Association of Regional Development conference August 26-29. The approximately \$1,100 cost per person is included in the R9 budget. Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval of the two travel requests. Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

Edwards said he was approached regarding two development opportunities. (1) To participate in a leadership group (Meadowlark Project) from the Midwest area that would be trained in a new approach to strategic thinking with a final outcome of developing optional future outlook scenarios for the Northern Great Plains. It is an 18-month process that will require periodic travel to development meeting locations. All expenses are paid except travel to the meeting locations. (2) The German Marshall Fellowship Fund is requesting a call for applications for transatlantic fellowships to spend one month in Europe to do research and comparison of regional economic and social challenges. All expenses are paid except income. Matt Johansen moved approval for Reggie Edwards to participate in the Meadowlark Project and apply for a fellowship for the transatlantic study. Jerry Boler seconded. Motion carried.

James Stenson said the Budget / Personnel Committee recommended approval of Resolution 2006-6 that establishes the meeting dates for fiscal year 2007 for the Region Nine Development Commission. The full Commission will meet September 13, 2006; January 10, 2007; April 11, 2007 and July 11, 2007. 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. Jack Fitzsimmons seconded. Motion carried.

## **XII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

Regional Development Planner, Jon Noerenberg, said that the federal Economic Development Administration has implemented new requirements that 50% membership of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Committee be from the private sector and the Loan Review Committee. The R9 Community and Economic Development Committee met recently and recommended approval of Resolution 2006-7 that approves to install four members of the Community and Economic Development Committee and two members of the Loan Review Committee are from the private sector. William Stangler moved approval of the resolution as presented. James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

## **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

James Stangler reminded commissioners at the annual meeting they need to caucus by county to select a representative to serve on the Board of Directors. After the caucus – there were no membership changes on the Board of Directors.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary

