



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 8, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Strand called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Nichols Office Building in Mankato.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leo Bauer, James Broich, Charlie Hurd, Dan Kuhns, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, Bob Schabert, James Stangler, Tim Strand

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dwayne Krenz, Alvis More

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Roesler moved to approve the June 13, 2007 and July 11, 2007 minutes as presented. James Broich seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Tim Strand introduced new Board of Directors member, Bob Schabert. He fills the position for Nicollet County representative, replacing Tim Strand, who is now chairman.

Chair Strand said that on July 23 he attended a R9 staff meeting where he was acquainted with staff.

Chair Strand requested approval for Blue Earth County Commissioner, Will Purvis, to replace Kip Bruender on the full Commission. Charlie Hurd moved approval, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, said that prior to the Board meeting, he met with R9 county commissioners for the purpose of informing them as to the impact of Region 6W's withdrawal from the aging collaborative between four regions including Regions 6E, 8 and 9. The commissioners will be asked to carry specific messages back to their county boards and secure letters of support for the new aging collaborative of the three regional development commissions to serve the entire public service area (27 counties). Edwards said the R9 Budget / Personnel Committee will meet following the Board meeting to review the R9 Personnel Policy Manual.

Edwards presented his monthly activities report. Highlighted from the report was that James Broich was named chair of the R9 Transportation Advisory Committee. Jon Noerenberg, regional development planner, has resigned to take a position with the city of Mankato. All staff participated in a two-day training and development session where there was discussion regarding increasing the capability of the organization as well as identifying areas of challenge. Edwards said he visited with the Bricelyn City Council this week and next week he will give presentations at the city councils of Delavan and Winnebago. Edwards met with the new leadership of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to discuss direction of the organization and partnership opportunities. He also met with Dan McElroy, DEED (MN Department of Employment and Economic Development) commissioner. Topics discussed at the meeting were the aging workforce, small business development centers and main street development.

Edwards presented Resolution 2007-07 that requested clarification to the Employee Health Insurance Coverage Eligibility section of the R9 Personnel Policy Manual. The stated change included, "employees working less than 40 hours per week, but at least 32 hours per week (one month average) shall be eligible for insurance coverage by payment of prorated portion of premium." Chair Strand noted that the R9 Budget / Personnel Committee has discussed the matter. Bob Roesler moved approval of the resolution as presented, James Broich seconded. Motion carried.

Reggie Edwards presented the following staff travel requests. (1) The Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) has requested Robin Thompson to travel to Chicago, IL, August 19-21 to receive training on the changes of Medicare for 2008. Cost: \$1,100 – covered by the MBA. (2) Bob Klanderud to travel to Denver, CO, September 16-19 to attend the National Small Business Development Center (SBDC) annual conference. The state SBDC encourages directors to attend this conference. Cost: \$1,100 – covered in budget. (3) Reggie Edwards and Tim Strand to attend the National Association of Development Organization (NADO) annual conference in Austin, TX, August 25-28. Cost: \$1,643 / person – covered in budget. Charlie Hurd moved approval of the three travel requests, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Community and Economic Development Update

Community & Economic Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, presented his report for review. Highlighted from the report was that the Revolving Loan Fund Committee recently met to review three loan applications. The Committee also discussed marketing and collection issues. Bonkowske said he has been working with the city of Gaylord on a weekly basis on economic development and housing issues which includes working with three committees – EDA, Downtown and Housing.

Small Business Development Center Director, Bob Klanderud, reported that a SBDC strategic planning session that is made up with board members of the new partnership met to develop a plan for 2008. He reported that lenders and sales tax seminars were held that had good attendance.

Bob Roesler, who is a member of the Revolving Loan Fund Committee, commended Troy Bonkowske and staff on the collection rate on delinquent loans.

Bonkowske said that Region Nine is advertising for a new Regional Downtown Coordinator to fill the position left by Jon Noerenberg who has accepted a position with the city of Mankato. He also reported that two hazard mitigation plans have been approved by the state and federal agencies. FEMA is currently reviewing four more plans that have been completed by R9.

B. Aging Program Update

Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) Executive Director, Linda Giersdorf, reported that with the withdrawal of one of the MNRAAA partners, the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) would publish a Request for Proposal in the State Register. The MBA will then solicit agencies to apply to be designated. The application is due October 8 to the MBA. Giersdorf said a meeting with R9 county commissioners was held prior to this meeting to request letters of support from each county board for the new RFP.

Giersdorf said that she and grants/contractor, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, will be in Redwood Falls next week to meet with the Task Force Review Committee who will be reviewing the Title III grant applications. She said that the MBA would be holding a retreat and board meeting in St. Peter September 20-21. Giersdorf said she recently returned from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging annual conference that was held in San Francisco. Some of the sessions she attended were disaster preparedness, consumer directed care, and also several updates on what is happening at the national level with funding for older adults.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Tim Strand thanked former chair, James Broich, for serving four years as chairman of the RNDC.

Chair Strand noted that there is a full Commission meeting September 12 and the next Board of Directors meeting will be October 10.

Reggie Edwards asked Commissioners if they had any thoughts on issues / speakers for the full Commission meetings. Mentioned was – a regional jail; regionalism. Chair Strand said he suggests looking at getting the word out about what R9 has to offer; what kind of ideas to promote R9. There was discussion on how to get all R9 area legislators more involved with R9.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Timothy Strand, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary