

MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 10, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Nichols Office Building in Mankato.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leo Bauer, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Jerry Hawbaker, Fred Juni, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, James Stangler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Kagermeier, Dwayne Krenz

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, Cheryl Weston, Del Zempel

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leo Bauer moved to approve the minutes from the April 13 and July 13 meetings as presented. Eldo Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair James Broich informed members of meetings he recently attended. They included July 15 – Mankato, MnDOT meeting where transportation across county lines was discussed; July 25 – St. Peter, R9 Strategic Planning meeting; July 27 – Willmar, Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) meeting; August 8 – St. Cloud, Minnesota Regional Development Organizations (MRDO) meeting.

Bob Roesler, chair of the R9 Strategic Planning Committee, reported that a subcommittee group has met three times. Members include himself, Mick McGuire, Jim Stenson, James Broich, Executive Director - Reggie Edwards and facilitator - Paul Murphy. The work group is reviewing RNDC's purpose and direction, how it has changed the past five years and operational procedures for staff and the Commission. A strategic plan is being created and will be presented at the September full Commission meeting for comments.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented his monthly report. He commented that the R9 Legislative Committee will be convening soon to discuss the upcoming legislative session, which is proposed to start in early March. RNDC has finalized conversations with Gustavus Adolphus College regarding hosting the ChYLI program, but the College did not pick up the Salud program. Different funders have been contacted, but if no agreement is reached by the end of August, the program will end. Regarding office space, Region Nine is working on contract amendments with Blue Earth County and contract creation with the city of Mankato to relocate all economic development staff to the Technology Plus building.

Edwards noted that he is continuing to work on completing work with Waseca County on their Comprehensive Plan and hazardous mitigation plans for eight of the nine counties. He and staff have met with Mn/DOT representatives from St. Paul and District 7 to discuss working together on the transit project. RNDC was successful in securing grants from the Department of Human Services for the ROSE (\$281,000) and Transit (\$170,000) programs. Edwards said that interviews have been completed for the finance director position. A decision will be made next week.

Edwards said that the MRDO members have voted to move forward with its restructuring that would increase the members by including appointments from state associations for townships, cities, counties and others. A document was reviewed regarding the appointments.

Edwards reported on the Wes Judkins litigation. A discovery meeting was held earlier in the day, where it was decided on what information could be used, a list of submitted witnesses, etc. The hearing date is September 20.

Edwards requested approval of the following travel request. Chair James Broich, Reggie Edwards, Community & Economic coordinator, Troy Bonkowske, to attend the annual National Association of Development Organizations conference in Seattle, Washington, August 28-30. The request also included Bonkowske to attend a revolving loan fund training. Bob Roesler moved approval, Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Small Business Development Center Update

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) executive director, Bob Klanderud, updated Commissioners on the following items. In July the R9 SBDC partnered with the South Central College to hold an employers conference with speakers from the MN Department of Labor, OSHA, Internal Revenue Service, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development. There were more than 20 businesses that were present. Also in July, the R9 SBDC held its annual lenders seminar where the state SBDC director and staff from the Small Business Administration (SBA), R9 SBDC, RNDC

programs, 504 Corporation and the Southern Minnesota Initiative Fund reviewed the economic development loan programs. Klanderud said that he met to review SBDC programs with the Gaylord EDA group and he and R9 staff, Troy Bonkowske, have been visiting cities regarding RNDC programs and SBDC assistance. Klanderud said they recently received the results from the state SBDC's client survey for 2004. The results were very positive. A site visit was held earlier that day where federal SBA officials reviewed the office facilities and recordkeeping. It was noted that from January 2005 through the month of July, 170 clients were assisted through the R9 SBDC.

B. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Update

MNRAAA executive director, Linda Giersdorf, updated Commissioners on the following. Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Support Elders) was refunded. The project includes all Region Nine counties plus Chippewa County. The program develops services to assist caregivers. Giersdorf said that staff is in the process of the 2006 funding cycle. Applications are due September 1. MNRAAA staff, Robin Thompson, is very busy giving presentations on Medicare Part D. Giersdorf said she has been working on the 2006 budget where two meetings have been held with RDC 6W, RDC 6E and RDC 8. There continues to be issues. The 2006 work plan and budget are due to the Minnesota Board on Aging October 10. There is a public hearing on the budget October 5 in Olivia.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Fred Juni asked what the executive director's timeframe is if he plans to seek the office of state auditor. In May 2006, if Edwards is not endorsed, he will not proceed. Otherwise, he will take a leave of absence.

There was a brief discuss on alternative energy.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

James J. Broich, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary

