



**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**FULL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 13, 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, Leo Bauer, James Berg, Jerry Boler, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Kip Bruender, Alvin Dietz, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Ron Fleischmann, Janie Flores, Terry Genelin, Ken Hanson, Janet Holicky, Charlie Hurd, Matt Johansen, Fred Juni, Norbert Kaufmann, Dwayne Krenz, Brian Lynch, Terri McGee, Mick McGuire, Lance Mikkelson, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, Mary Jean Rohlfing, Bob Schabert, William Stangler, Patricia Steckman, James Stenson, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Harlan Gorath, Brenda Pautsch, James Stangler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Devens, Tom Loveall, David Lynch

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Linda Giersdorf, Larry Kroeger, Bob Klanderud, Kathy Miller, Brent O'Neil, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Gail Gilman Waldner, Cheryl Weston

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Leo Bauer moved to approve the July 12, 2006 minutes as presented. Lance Mikkelson seconded. Motion carried.

**V. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jack Fitzsimmons moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

**VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich noted meetings he attended in the past month. They included – August 14 he attended a Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) Joint Powers Board meeting in Redwood Falls where the draft budget for MNRAAA's public hearing was reviewed. The public hearing will be September 20 in Appleton. On August 16 Broich and executive director, Reggie Edwards, traveled to Slayton for a Minnesota Regional Development Organization's (MRDO) award that was presented to Congressman Norm Coleman. On August 29 Broich and

Edwards attended the National Association of Development Organization's (NADO) annual conference in Reno, Nevada. Chair Broich said he found the conference to be very informational and has distributed material of interest to R9 committees. Also, while there, he toured Wal-Mart and Starbucks distributing centers. On September 6, Broich said he attended a special meeting of MNRAAA. Issues continue with one of the other three regional development commissions that comprise MNRAAA.

Chair Broich announced that Commissioners have the opportunity to order clothing items with R9's logo on them. A signup sheet was circulated.

Chair Broich asked Commissioners who were running or giving up their seat in the November elections. They included: Brown County commissioner - James Berg; Environmental Quality representative - Alvin Dietz; New Ulm city councilman - Ron Fleischmann; St. Clair mayor - Brian Lynch; North Mankato city councilwoman - Terri McGee; school board representative - Mary Jean Rohlfing; Sherburn city councilman - Bob Roesler; Courtland mayor - Bob Schabert and LeSueur County commissioner - William Stangler.

## **VII. R9 SHARING & OPPORTUNITIES**

James Berg, Brown County commissioner reported that County Road 7, near the airport, and the county bridge that had contractor issues are completed. Renovation and an addition to the County Human Services Building are running over budget because of increases in material and energy items (from an estimate of \$750,000 to \$1,200,000). An ethanol plant is being planned near the city of Springfield. Berg noted that state funding has gone down and programs are not being funded as in the past. There are two candidates running for sheriff in the November elections. Brown County recently celebrated its 150-year anniversary.

James Broich, mayor of the city of Sleepy Eye reported that the Delmonte Plant was annexed to the city. Since then, the plant has built a \$1,000,000 farm shop. The city of Sleepy Eye, with the cooperation of Delmonte, has redone the streets plus added curb and gutters. Delmonte is also tearing down its 1920's feed building and replacing it with a \$10,000,000 facility. Chair Broich said the Norwood Promotions that manufactures calendars and other supplies, is doing well and looking for employees. The city is booming except for the downtown area that is struggling.

Ron Fleischmann, city councilman for the city of New Ulm reported that a city of New Ulm councilman, Clark Tuttle, recently passed away. Ken Rockvam was appointed to replace him until the November elections. Fleischmann said the shell of the building for the new Wal-Mart is up and a new Walgreen's will open next month. The city of New Ulm's mayor, Joel Albrecht, had three other candidates running for the mayor's office, but at the primary last week Albrecht came in first. The city's preliminary levy and budget is expected to be less than 4%.

Fred Juni, township representative for Brown County reported on the primary that was held. The township had an 11% turnout. A trial run was held to test the new voting machines that are handicapped accessible. There was a glitch, but a call was placed for technical support and the problem was resolved. Juni noted that geographically, Milford Township is getting smaller because of annexing land for the new Wal-Mart, additions to the airport and other projects in New Ulm. Juni added information to the bio-energy plant proposed for the city of Springfield and Brown County's 150-year celebration. Juni announced the availability of a video about Brown County since the pioneer days. The unincorporated village of Essig has had a continuing

problem with its septic systems and the Midwest Assistance Rural Development Agency and others are assisting at looking at different options. Juni noted that for his township to access federal funding for Essig it needs to be audited at a cost of \$5-9,000 and audited annually thereafter.

Project Opportunities Fred Juni asked representatives from LeSueur and Nicollet County how they are doing after the tornado on August 24. Janet Holicky, Mick McGuire, Mary Jean Rohlfing, William Stangler and others gave an update. They emphasized the help from people was remarkable and there was great cooperation that was shown throughout the devastated area.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Committee Chair, James Berg, reported that transportation planner, Brent O'Neil, gave a presentation on how the inter-county transit project is progressing. MNRAAA program developer, Gail Gilman Waldner, gave an update on projects the aging program staff is involved in. Berg said a list of issues were prioritized and put into four groups that will be reviewed at future meetings.

### **B. Legislative / Communications Committee**

Committee Chair, Wendell Armstrong reported that each committee member would be assigned a state or federal legislator to make monthly contacts with. After the elections in November, legislators will be contacted to visit the RNDC more often and have house and senate members from the region appointed as an ex-officio member to our full Commission. The committee plans to be well informed and active not just observe the political process.

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

Committee Chair, James Stenson reported that the committee looked at the special interest category of representatives on the full Commission. There are eight positions and all but the minority populations representative can be changed in the RNDC by-laws. The issue is changing views and the outlook on the region. Stenson said committee members discussed how to measure the accountability of RNDC and the committee. It was decided that staff will be assigned to each committee and the goal is for staff to meet with the chair of the committee monthly. The chairs may meet prior to the R9 Board of Directors meeting. Matt Johansen volunteered to be vice-chair of the committee. The next meeting will be October 25 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Reggie Edwards presented his activities report for review. Highlighted from the report was staff birthdays, MNRAAA administrative assistant, Erica Gahlon, will be on maternity leave soon; a bookkeeper position is being advertised and Eileen Roesner has returned to work after a long illness.

We continue to wait to hear back on a transit grant (\$800,000) that was submitted at the federal level for planning the use of technology equipment for coordinating transit between providers and human service entities. The Region Nine Area, Inc. has received a \$10,000 grant to do development training.

The past month Edwards has visited with the Martin and Sibley county board of commissioners. Cities and schools will also be visited and briefed on RNDC activities.

Edwards requested approval of two out-of-state travel requests. (1) Community Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, to attend an economic development financial training Oct. 11-13 in Chattanooga, Tennessee. The cost is approximately \$1,200 and is within his budget. (2) MNRAAA planner, Elaine Spain, will be giving a presentation to the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning conference in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 27-29. The cost is \$450 and is within her budget. Alvin Dietz moved approval, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried.

Edwards presented the Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2007 document that lists the levy amounts owed by each county. The total amount owed is \$422,550. Wendell Armstrong moved approval, Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

## **X. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging**

#### **1. 2007 Title III Funding Recommendations**

MNRAAA grants manager, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, presented the 2007 Title III B, D and E funding recommendations of the MNRAAA funding task force. The task force was made up of two members from each of the four Advisory Councils on Aging. RNDC's recommendations will be presented at the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board on September 20. **Title III-B Supportive Services Grant Requests and Contract Extension Proposals** - (1) Montevideo Chore Service project from the city of Montevideo - \$6,000. (2) Granite Falls Intergenerational Chore Service project from Yellow Medicine East Community Education - \$11,243. (3) One to One Peer Counseling project from Western Mental Health Center - \$11,800. (4) FIA Homemaker project from Volunteers of America dba Adult Day Services/Faith in Action of Brown County - \$16,369. (5) Elder Network of VINE Faith in Action project from VINE Faith in Action - \$20,000. (6) Life Transition Mentoring project from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District - \$12,660. (7) Senior Transportation Program project from Kandiyohi Area Transit – up to \$30,000. (8) Volunteer Driver Program project from Meeker County Council on Aging – up to \$25,616. (9) Senior Transportation project from Renville County Human Services – up to \$11,250. (10) Prairie 5 RIDES project from Prairie Five CAC, Inc. – up to \$30,500. (11) Legal Advocacy for Older Americans Project from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services – up to \$3,000. Bob Roesler moved to recommend approval, James Stenson seconded. Motion carried. **Title III-D Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Grant Request** – (1) Medication Management project from Summit Center - \$17,541. William Stangler moved to recommend approval, Matt Johansen seconded. Motion carried. **Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Services Grant Requests** (1) Lutheran Social Service Caregiver Support and Respite Program project from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota - \$50,383. (2) Prairie 5 CARE project from Prairie Five CAC, Inc. - \$32,736. (3) Shetek Home Care Respite Project

from Shetek Home Care - \$15,000. (4) RSVP Respite Care project from RSVP of SW Minnesota - \$20,000. (5) One to One Program project from Western Mental Health Center – not to recommend for funding. (6) Caregiver Coaching project from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District - \$34,000. (7) Brown County Caregiver Education/Faith in Action of Brown County project from Volunteers of America dba Adult Day Services - \$18,866. (8) Wellspring Faith in Action Family Caregiver Program project from First Presbyterian Church/Wellspring Faith in Action - \$19,180. Candace Fenske moved to recommend approval, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried.

## **2. 2007 Nutrition Services Proposal Recommendations**

Fjeldberg gave background information on the 2007 Nutrition Services selection process. A nine-member technical review panel reviewed and scored the proposals. Fjeldberg said that the RNDC would be giving a recommendation only on the four service areas - Region 6E, Region 6W, Region 8 and Region 9. Final proposal selection will be September 20 MNRAAA JPB in Appleton. Fjeldberg presented the results and recommendations for the four-service area. The review panel recommended selection of the proposal submitted by Proposer D for Region 6E, Region 8 and 9 and the panel recommended selection of the proposal submitted by Proposal A for Region 6E. Brian Lynch moved to accept the recommendations, Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried

## **3. 2007 Area Plan**

MNRAAA executive director, Linda Giersdorf, presented the 2007 Area Plan Outcomes for Administration, Program Development & Coordination (PD&C) and Access. Giersdorf also presented the 2007 budget that listed administration, PD&C and Senior Outreach Specialist costs. The outcomes and budget cover the 27-county area.

Giersdorf said that the R9 Advisory Council on Aging met this morning. Because there wasn't a quorum, Council members asked her to bring forward the following statement to the Commission. "It is the consensus of those Council members present at the September 13 meeting that the 2007 Area Plan be recommended for approval. Matt Johansen moved to recommend approval of the 2007 Area Plan as presented. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried. The Plan will be presented at a public hearing September 20 in Appleton.

## **4. Appointments to Joint Powers Board**

Giersdorf requested approval for James Broich and James Stangler to continue to serve as Region Nine's members on the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board for fiscal year 2007. James Stenson moved approval, Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf requested approval for Jo Cattrysse from the R9 Advisory Council on Aging to continue to serve as an ex-officio member on the Joint Powers Board. Brian Lynch moved approval, Dwayne Krenz seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation of the excellent work Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg and Linda Giersdorf continue to do for the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging.

## **B. Transportation – Washington D.C. Fly-In**

Transportation planner, Brent O'Neil, said in June he and other interested officials attended the Minnesota Transportation Alliance Fly-In in Washington, D.C. While there, he visited with our Congressmen or their staff regarding funding for Highway 14 and 15 and regional transit activities.

## **C. Community Development Update**

Community Development director, Troy Bonkowske, presented Resolution 2006-8 that states RNDC agrees to execute an Offer of Project Completion and Satisfaction of Grant Agreement for said Financial Assistance Award (#06-06-04869) to the complete obligation of \$39,000 in used Economic Development Administration funds. Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval of the resolution as presented, Wendell Armstrong seconded. Motion carried.

Bonkowske presented a list of activities the Community Development department has been involved in. They included contacting the EDA office and asking about financial assistance for people that were involved in the tornado of August 24. An update of the Revolving Loan Fund; the city of Truman Redevelopment Plan; the Waseca County zoning and planning project; a regional GIS (Geographic Information System) system and hazard mitigation plans.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Broich reminded Commissioners that the next full Commission would be January 10. The Board of Directors will meet monthly and committees will continue to meet.

Chair Broich said commissioners that are mayors are invited to meet after the meeting to discuss creating the first annual R9 Mayor's Gathering and the Budget / Personnel Committee members are to meet after the Commission meeting to schedule a time to meet.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary