



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
October 10, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Strand was excused from the meeting; therefore, Vice-Chair James Stangler chaired the meeting. He 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, Dwayne Krenz, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, James Stangler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Kuhns, Bob Schabert, Tim Strand

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Broich moved to approve the August 8, 2007 minutes as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

There was no chairman's report.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reggie Edwards said the Governor and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) put out a proposed plan for economic development across the state titled "*Strategic Entrepreneurial Economic Development – Cultivating Business Growth in Rural Minnesota.*" The plan outlines funds that support the Small Business Development Center (SBDC). RNDC would like to encourage the Governor

and Commissioner to include supportive funding that leverages the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) programs of the regional development commissions across the state. Region Nine has a history of using RLFs creating start-up or assisting with the expansion of existing businesses throughout the region.

Edwards said he continues to do city council visits where he distributes a packet of information and does about a 20-minute presentation. Edwards said that he and Chair Strand discussed the city council visits and it was suggested to bring to the Board for their ideas on “*what if R9 Commissioners visited local jurisdictions where they would present R9 happenings*”. It was noted that there are 270 jurisdictions and 43 commissioners and that staff would also be with them for assistance. Comments included – I think it is a good idea, I don’t get the opportunity to visit with other jurisdictions; could be a burden for R9 Commissioners to do. *After further discussion, Alvis More moved that the executive director prepare an outline and / or packet of material to be reviewed at the November meeting, then it will be decided whether the city visits to be made by commissioners subject will move forward to the full Commission meeting in January. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried.*

Reggie Edwards said Matt Johansen who represents cities under 10,000 population in Waseca County has resigned and the process to follow to fill the position is to send requests for candidates to the cities. Then a ballot of the candidates is voted on by the cities. The four cities in Waseca County presented two candidates and after a tally of the votes, there is a tie. Edwards said a second ballot with the two candidate names has recently been sent to the cities for a second vote. He asked commissioners if there is a tie again, what is their recommendation on how to fill the position. After discussion, it was decided that it is up to the cities on how they want to pick their representative; RNDC can help facilitate, but they need to make the decision.

Edwards presented his monthly activities report for review. He said the R9 Legislative Committee is meeting following the Board meeting to discuss the annual holiday event, the upcoming legislation session, among other items. He said there are four slots open for commissioners to attend the Minnesota Regional Development Organization annual conference that will be held Oct. 30-31 at Cragun’s Resort. Let him know after the meeting if they are interested.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging® Update

Reggie Edwards said that Linda Giersdorf is on vacation and he would be giving the update on Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA). He reported that Region 6W did withdraw from MNRAAA which includes Regions R9, R8 and 6E and covers 27 counties. The withdrawal will result in the termination of MNRAAA on Dec. 31, 2007. Since the withdrawal, the MBA has announced a Request for Proposal (RFP) for designation of an area agency on aging to cover the 27 counties. After seeking our

Attorney's advice, a nonprofit was created and registered with the state to respond to the RFP. The RFP was submitted to the MBA on Oct. 8. After discussion, Bob Roesler moved to approve the executive director seeking the nonprofit status to create the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Inc. James Broich seconded. Motion carried.

B. Community Development Update

Community & Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, presented his Community Development Report. Highlighted from the report was that the Revolving Loan Fund Committee recently met to review and approve four loans for the cities of Gaylord, Minnesota Lake, St. Peter and Wells. He also recently met with potential clients from the cities of Madison Lake, New Prague and North Mankato.

New staff - Brian Warzecha, Downtown Coordinator, has been working with the city of Gaylord on several projects including establishing the Main Street program. John Considine, Regional Development Planner, has been working with the city of Truman on their compensation plan.

Bonkowske said there is a possibility of additional Economic Development Administration funding for the region. Legislation is being monitored.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Finance Director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, announced that a server for staff computers would be installed in a couple of weeks.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Timothy Strand, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary