



MINUTES  
Region Nine Development Commission  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 8, 2006

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## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at the Nichols Office Building in Mankato.

## II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leo Bauer, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Charlie Hurd, Fred Juni, Dwayne Krenz, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, James Stangler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Tim Strand

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Bob Klanderud, Paul Murphy, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Roesler moved approval of the October 11, 2006 minutes as presented. James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

## IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Eldo Brandenburg moved approval of the treasurer's report as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

## V. STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Consultant, Paul Murphy, provided an "in-service" training session on board development. R9 has now shifted from the "planning" stage into the "implementation" phase of its Strategic Planning Plan. Murphy explained the practicality on how the Board of Directors, Committees, full Commission and staff may interact.

Murphy presented a document entitled, "Ground Rules of Board Members". He suggested that Commissioners review the list and present for approval at the December Board of Directors meeting. Also presented for review was a R-9 Committee Reporting Form. The form will be used by committee chairs to identify if the committees are meeting regularly; to assist in collaboration and communication and items that need to go to the full Commission. Murphy stressed the importance of having a record to share what the committees are working on.

Murphy suggested that items that need to go onto the full Commission should be labeled FYI (for your information), For Discussion, Need Decision and to also put time limits on each agenda item.

## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich shared information from meetings he recently attended. They included: Oct. 25 – R9 Strategic Planning Committee meeting; Nov. 2 - Broich presented at a news conference announcing new partners assisting with the Small Business Development Center. Broich noted the news article published in the Free Press and the speech he gave at the event. Nov. 8 - Area Transportation Partnership regular and enhancement meeting.

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

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, noted that Waseca County Commissioner, Wendell Armstrong and North Mankato city councilperson, Terri McGee did not win reelection and Susan Devens, cities under 10,000 representative for Watonwan County, did not seek re-election as mayor of the city of Lewisville. Therefore, those three positions will need to be filled in 2007.

Edwards said today he attended a Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) Hearing, which was convened at the request of NSI, Inc. NSI, Inc. is the current nutrition services provider in R9. NSI, Inc. is appealing the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging's decision to select another nutrition services provider for 2007 contract negotiations. The MNRAAA appeals board found that no procedural errors were made during the contract procurement process, then an appeal was made to the MBA. A decision from the MBA will be made on Nov. 15. If that decision is not accepted by NSI, Inc., the next step may be filing an appeal with the court system.

Edwards noted the Free Press article dated Nov. 5 entitled, "Rural Areas Hurt by Brain Drain."

Edwards said R9 Legislative Committee members and staff would be attending training on legislative effectiveness presented by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits on November 9 in St. Paul. The training will cover both state and federal budget policy.

Edwards invited Commissioners to two upcoming events that RNDC is co-sponsoring: (1) The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Rural Legislative forum that will be held December 1 at the South Central College in North Mankato. The theme of the forum will be "Designing the next farm bill...what to keep and what to change". (2) The annual South Central Plus Legislative Eggs and Issues Breakfast that will be held December 8 at the South Central College in North Mankato. South Central Plus is a consortium that focuses on networking and communication about issues important to the Region Nine area.

Edwards requested input from Commissioners regarding the annual holiday gathering of staff and themselves. The decision was to continue the event; to be held at the Applewood Restaurant; continue with entertainment / games and the white elephant gift exchange will be done. The event will be December 13 and the Board will meet prior to the event.

Reggie Edwards requested out-of-state travel approval for Troy Bonkowske to travel to Chicago, Illinois, Nov. 15-16. Bonkowske will be attending an EDA mandatory debriefing on rules and

regulation changes for the Economic Development grant. James Stangler moved approval of the travel request. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

## **VIII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Community Development Update**

Economic Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, presented Resolution 2006-9 that says the RNDC agrees to execute an Offer for Termination and Deobligation of Grant Agreement for Convenience for said Financial Assistance Award (#06-06-04869) and to the deobligation of \$39,000 in unused EDA funds. Fred Juni moved approval of the resolution as presented and Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried

Bonkowske requested approval of new hire, Michal Clobes. She is from the city of New Ulm and will be the Bookkeeper / Revolving Loan Fund assistant. James Stangler moved approval of the hiring of Clobes, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried.

Bonkowske said the R9 Revolving Loan Fund Committee recently met to approve two loans for businesses in the cities of Mankato and Montgomery.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioners briefly talked about the DM&E Railroad project.

Reggie Edwards asked Commissioners to briefly brainstorm on speakers or topics that would be of interest for the four full Commission meetings that will be held in 2007. Topics mentioned – brain drain, Mankato city manager to speak on the effects of the new Wal-Mart Distribution Center; work force issues.

Small Business Development Center director, Bob Klanderud, thanked Chair James Broich for his participation in the press conference that was held November 2. Klanderud said the director of the Minnesota Small Business Development Center Network said that because of the diversity of the new partners of the SBDC, this model might be used for other SBDC regions.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary