

**MINUTES**  
**Region Nine Development Commission**  
**FULL COMMISSION MEETING**  
**November 9, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Nichols Office Center in Mankato.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendell Armstrong, Leo Bauer, Jim Berg, Eldo Brandenburg, James Broich, Kip Bruender, Susan Devens, Alvin Dietz, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Ron Fleischmann, Terry Genelin, Ken Hanson, Jerry Hawbaker, Janet Holicky, Fred Juni, Mike Laven, Norbert Kaufmann, Tom Loveall, Brian Lynch, Terri McGee, Lance Mikkelson, Alvis More, Dennis Nelson, Roger Oldfather, Brenda Pautsch, Bob Roesler, Mary Jean Rohlfing, Bob Schabert, Dan Schmidtke, James Stangler, William Stangler, Pat Steckman, James Stenson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Matt Johansen, Mick McGuire

MEMBERS ABSENT: Janie Flores, Harlan Gorath, Dwayne Krenz, David Lynch, Lynette Martin

OTHERS PRESENT: Stacey Beil, Troy Bonkowske, John Considine, Reggie Edwards, Ronda Hiller Fjeldberg, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, Elaine Spain, Cheryl Weston

**IV. GUEST INTRODUCTIONS**

Community & Economic Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, introduced MSU-Mankato & HUD Fellowship intern, John Considine, who is assisting the Community and Economic Development Department. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging planner, Elaine Spain, introduced MSU-Mankato student Stacey Beil who is assisting the aging program with various activities.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alvis More moved to approve the October 12, 2005 minutes as presented. Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried.

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

Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval of the treasurer's report as presented. William Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

## **VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chair James Broich informed Commissioners of meetings he recently attended. He attended a R9 Transportation Advisory Committee in Mankato; an Enhancement and Area Transportation Partnership meeting in St. James and prior to the full Commission meeting, he participated in a R9 New Commissioner Orientation.

## **VIII. R9 SHARING & OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Nicollet County Area Representatives**

Terri McGee, who represents the city of North Mankato, mentioned the joint recycling project between Nicollet County and the city of North Mankato, the Riverbend Recycling Center. She said the partnerships provided a great way to protect land and save resources.

Terry Genelin, who represents townships in Nicollet County, said that the state auditor was in the area to explain the rules and procedures laws that will be helpful to local governments. New legislation allows for a waiver to contract for services. The townships are in the process of selecting a vendor for voting machines and trying to comply with the HAVA (Help Americans Vote Act) issue. Genelin noted that township elections might be moved to March. The National Association of Townships held their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Medo Township officer, Sandy Hooker, received a grassroots leadership award. The annual Minnesota Association of Townships annual meeting will be held this month in Alexandria.

Jerry Hawbaker, who represents the city of St. Peter, said today he participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Peter Health Care Center's nursing home. The 80-bed facility is scheduled to be completed in a year. A new 26-bed regional treatment center will be built west of the hospital. The existing treatment center continues to hire new employees – two hundred this year and more next year. A new 500,000-gallon water tower is being built on the northwest side of town. Hawbaker announced that after being the mayor of St. Peter for the past ten years, he decided not to run for reelection. Tim Strand, therefore, was elected mayor of the city of St. Peter.

Bob Schabert, who represents cities under 10,000 in Nicollet County, reported that the city of Nicollet had 17 new homes built so far this year; 69 new building lots starting infrastructure with 63 near the school; in December there will be a \$6,500,000 referendum for school improvements; bids are being accepted for a new water tower. The city of Lafayette is in the process of reviewing the personnel policy and no new homes were built this year. The city of Courtland had 11 new building lots developed with infrastructure, with another 11 lots approved; there has been 10 new homes built so far this year and starting next week a group of citizens will be working with the city on updating their Comprehensive and Land Use Plan.

Jim Stenson, who represents county commissioners in Nicollet County, said the county's levy would be 7.5% with a \$24,000,000 budget. There continues to be concern about road funding with the increase in traffic and the heavy loads on the roads. Bonds were passed last year to fund work on Highway 5. The county recently reviewed a draft of a wind energy ordinance. It was noted that Nicollet County was rated number one in the quality of life out of a three state area (Iowa and Illinois) and ranked seventeenth in the United States. It included counties with a population between 5,000 and 50,000. Also, Nicollet County was ranked number one in the state of Minnesota as the most profitable. It was published in the Farm Finance Magazine.

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

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented his monthly report for review. Highlighted from the report was that the R9 Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting to determine the next steps in the plan. Surveys have been mailed to all jurisdictions on behalf of the R9 Legislative Commission. The purpose of the survey is to gather input on issues from all units of local government and higher education institutions.

Edwards informed Commissioners that a ruling was received on former employee, Wes Judkins. RNDC received a unanimous ruling in favor of RNDC. Troy Bonkowske has been moved to the position of director of Community and Economic Development and Transportation. He has successfully completed his first six months of work as coordinator. The R9 Finance Department will be working with the auditors in the coming week. Edwards said he participated on a grant review panel for Blue Cross/Blue Shield for its annual dissemination of the interest from the remaining tobacco funds. He also was on KMSU Radio to talk about RNDC. Edwards was recently appointed as a board member of the area Workforce Center. Members of Congress have rallied to change the language of the Federal Economic Development Administration's proposed rules and regulations changes in favor of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) activities across the country, which RNDC participates.

Edwards invited Commissioners to attend the open house of R9's expanded offices at the Technology Plus building at 1961 Premier Drive in Mankato. The open house is November 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. He also noted the flyer announcing the Rural Legislative Forum December 9, 2005 at the South Central College. The forum theme is "Fueling Our Future...Energy from the Land".

## **X. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Elder Transit Project – Elaine Spain**

Elaine Spain presented a handout that explained the results of a recent transportation needs survey. A map of existing and proposed transit systems was also reviewed. Spain said transportation continues to be the top issue for citizens. A steering committee comprised of representatives from public transportation systems, county human services, non-profit volunteer organizations and medical services from throughout the nine counties has been meeting monthly the past year to discuss coordination of services. Spain said a regional transportation forum in the Region 8 area will be December 9. The Region 9 area will be holding a similar forum in February.

### **B. R9 Area Agency on Aging**

#### **1. 2006 Area Plan**

Linda Giersdorf, executive director of the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, presented the 2006 MNRAAA Outcomes of the Area Plan that included administration, program development and coordination and access. Jim Berg moved approval, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried. The approved recommendations of the Area Plan will be presented to the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board November 14.

## 2. Appointments

Giersdorf presented the individuals recommended to be appointed to the Region Nine Advisory Council on Aging (ACA) for terms beginning January 1, 2006. It was noted that Region Nine Commissioner and liaison to the ACA, James Stangler, and Giersdorf reviewed the applications and/or interviewed the applicants. The recommendations were Wally Schmiesing to represent Brown County 60+; Cathy Sandmann to represent County Social Service; Robert Leary to represent LeSueur County 60+ and Scott Morgan to represent Public/Private. Wendell Armstrong moved approval, Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf noted, in accordance with revised ACA by-laws, that two RNDC members are to be appointed to the ACA and will have voting rights. Currently, three RNDC members serve and have no voting rights. William Stangler moved to appoint Candace Fenske and Jim Berg to serve on the ACA. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried. Because of availability to attend all of the meetings, it was requested that an alternate be appointed. Jim Berg moved to appoint William Stangler as an alternate, Jerry Hawbaker seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf said the ACA recommended that Jo Cattrysse continue to serve as the ex-officio member to the Joint Powers Board. Brenda Pautsch moved approval, Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf requested that two RNDC members be appointed to the Joint Powers Board beginning January 1, 2006. Currently, R9 Chair, James Broich, and R9 Vice Chair, James Stangler, represent the RNDC on the Joint Powers Board. William Stangler moved to reappoint Broich and Stangler. Jack Fitzsimmons seconded. Motion carried.

## 3. Title III Funding Recommendations for 2006

Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, grant/contract manager, presented the 2006 Funding Task Force recommendations for Title III funding for calendar year 2006. Fjeldberg commended Task Force members Jo Cathrysse and Mary Bliesmer who spent countless hours interviewing, reviewing and scoring the projects. They were two of the eight members of the task force that included the four Advisory Councils on Aging. Title III-B Supportive Services (1) Project: Senior Transportation from Renville County Human Services; Amount: \$11,250. (2) Project: One to One Peer Counseling from Western Mental Health Center; Amount: \$11,800. (3) Project: Granite Falls Intergenerational Chore Service from Yellow Medicine East Community Education; Amount: \$11,243. (4) Project: Montevideo Chore Service from the city of Montevideo; Amount: \$6,000. (5) Project: Prairie 5 RIDES from Prairie Five CAC, Inc.; Amount: \$30,500. (6) Project: FIA Homemaking from Volunteers of America dba Adult Day Services/Faith in Action of Brown County; Amount: \$25,243. (7) Project: Senior Transportation Program from Kandiyohi Area Transit; Amount: \$30,000. (8) Project: Volunteer Driver Program from Meeker County Council on Aging; Amount: \$25,616. (9) Project: CARE Chores from Grove City Area CARE; Amount: \$6,000. (10) Project: Elder Network of VINE Faith in Action from VINE Faith in Action; Amount: \$20,000. (11) Project: Legal Advocacy for Older Americans Project from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services; Amount: \$43,000. (12) Life Transition Mentoring Program from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District; Amount: \$15,452. Mike Laven moved approval, Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried. Title II-D Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (1) Project: Medication Management from Summit Center; Amount: \$17,541. Candace Fenske moved approval, William Stangler seconded. Motion carried. Title III-E

National Family Caregiver Support Services (1) Project: Prairie 5 CARE from Prairie Five CAC, Inc.; Amount: \$32,736. (2) Project: Brown County Caregiver Education from Volunteers of America dba Adult Day Services/Faith in Action of Brown County; Amount: \$19,480. (3) Project: Caregiver Coaching from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District; Amount: \$34,000. (4) Project: Wellspring Faith in Action Family Caregiver Program from First Presbyterian Church/Wellspring Faith in Action; Amount: \$19,258. (5) Project: Shetek Home Care Respite Project from Shetek Home Care; Amount: \$15,000. (6) Project: RSVP Respite Care from RSVP of SW Minnesota; Amount: \$20,000. (7) Project: LSS Caregiver Support and Respite Program from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota; Amount: \$50,440. Fred Juni moved approval, Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried. Title III-C Congregate & Home Delivered Meals Programs Contract Re-Negotiation Proposals (1) Project: Prairie 5 Congregate Meals Program & Prairie 5 Home Delivered Meals Program from Prairie Five CAC, Inc.; Amount: Congregate Meals - \$167,947; Home Delivered Meals - \$49,069. (2) Project: Region 6E Congregate Meals Program & Region 6E Home Delivered Meals Program from Nutrition Services, Inc.; Amount: Congregate - \$116,355; Home Delivered Meals - \$66,481. (3) Project: Regions 8 & 9 Congregate Meals Program & Regions 8 & 9 Delivered Meals Program from Nutrition Services, Inc. Amount: Congregate - \$491,746; Home Delivered Meals - \$196,800. William Stangler moved approval, Dan Schmidtke seconded. Motion carried. Fjeldberg said the approved recommendations would be presented at the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board November 14.

### **C. Transportation**

Troy Bonkowske said that the Area Transportation Partnership Enhancement Committee met and developed a process to prioritize enhancement project funding requests. Bonkowske said the Committee recently received word that southern Minnesota was awarded another \$4,400,000 for this year and \$6,000,000 for 2006 for enhancement projects. Bonkowske noted the email that Commissioners received in their packet from Mike Wagner, who is the Nicollet County engineer. The email is regarding road weight restrictions for gravel roads legislation. RNDC intern, John Considine, is in the process of gathering input from area county engineers regarding the subject. A recommendation will be presented at the R9 full Commission in January.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Candace Fenske, who represents health and human welfare on the RNDC and is the administrator of the Madelia Hospital, encouraged everyone to get their flu shots.

Chair Broich announced that there is no full Commission meeting in December. The holiday event for Commissioners and staff will be December 14 at the Applewood Restaurant following the Board of Directors meeting. Invitations will be mailed next week.

Finance director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, explained the revised expense form. She noted that receipts for meals, etc. need to be attached for reimbursement.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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James J. Broich, Chairman

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Roger Oldfather, Secretary