



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 13, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Broich called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Applewood Restaurant 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, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: James Stangler

OTHERS PRESENT: Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Roesler moved to approve the November 8, 2006 minutes as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair James Broich shared information from meetings he recently attended. They included attending a Minnesota Regional Development Organization meeting November 13 in St. Cloud; he traveled to Redwood Falls November 20 to attend a Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Joint Powers Board meeting; he attended a R9 Strategic Planning Committee meeting November 28 and attended a R9 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting November 30.

VI. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Chair James Broich presented the Ground Rules for Board Members form that was presented by Consultant, Paul Murphy, at the November meeting. Murphy suggested at that time board members should review the form and come to a consensus on rules that will be followed.

Confidentiality, closed sessions, legal implementation, open meeting law were some of the items that were discussed by members.

It was suggested that members review the form again, and send ideas or changes to the Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, and present for final review at the February Board of Directors meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented his report for review. Highlighted from the report was his continuing work with the Meadowlark project. They are moving toward the stage of scenario development for the Northern Great Plains, which includes the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. Edwards asked commissioners to encourage their boards, planning commissions, etc. to go out and look at projects periodically. This process encourages shared understanding and agreement of reality and builds relationships among board members. It also opens up thoughts about a given area, which most likely would have previously been based upon personal assumptions, experiences and values.

Edwards reported the R9 Legislative Committee members, along with staff, attended training on legislative effectiveness November 9 in St. Paul. The Legislative session begins January 3. This year instead of sending out surveys requesting regional legislative issues, two issues will be focused on from last year's responses. The issues are transportation / transit and health care. The R9 Legislative Committee will also develop and move forward our federal legislative agenda for 2008. In order to seek funding or policy change at the Federal level, communications have to be made a year in advance in order to help Congress members meet congressional timelines.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Small Business Development Center Update

Bob Klanderud, director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), gave an update on SBDC activities. He said they received an additional \$20,000 in funding that will be used to update or replace computers, replace research books and increase their reference library. In the new contract for the upcoming year, an additional \$25,000 will be received because of the newly formed partnerships. Primary partners include Minnesota State University, Mankato; Southeast Minnesota Initiative Fund; South Central College and the Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation along with the Region Nine Development Commission. There is soliciting of other partners at a lower fee. The Board will meet every three months with the next meeting to be held January 16. A subcommittee of the partners was formed to put together a marketing strategy for the center. Klanderud said he was on the KMSU radio station earlier in the day discussing the new partnership.

Klanderud said the SBDC has assisted 281 clients so far this year. He also noted that the Sibley County Economic Development Authority is making it mandatory for businesses to meet with the SBDC before they receive funding.

B. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

Linda Giersdorf, executive director of the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA), said that earlier in the day MNRAAA staff, Gail Gilman Waldner and Advisory Council on Aging (ACA) member, Jo Cattrysse, interviewed applicants to fill vacancies on the ACA. Giersdorf distributed the ACA recommendations to Commissioners. They included: Faribault County - Carl Savick; Martin County - Sylvan Struck; Nicollet County - Charles Wagner; Waseca County - Fauniece Witt; Watonwan County - Jerry Engstrom and Nursing Home Representative - Annyea Berg. All positions are for a three-year term except the Waseca County position, which is a one-year position that is being filled in mid-term. Bob Roesler moved to approve of the appointments to the ACA, Fred Juni seconded. Motion carried. Giersdorf said that Jo Cattrysse, who serves as the ex-officio on the Joint Powers Board will not be able to continue in that role because her term expires on the ACA at the end of the year; therefore Giersdorf requested approval for Candace Fenske to fill that position. Dwayne Krenz moved approval of the ex-officio appointment, Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried. Giersdorf requested approval for R9 Commissioners - James Berg and Candace Fenske to continue to serve as the liaison between the ACA and the RNDC and for William Stangler to continue to serve as an alternate. She also requested that James Broich and James Stangler continue to serve on the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board. Fred Juni moved approval of the recommendations, Eldo Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf announced that the Minnesota Board on Aging recently approved the 2007 Area Plan and Budget. Beginning January 1, Redwood County Commissioner, Gene Short, will serve as chair of the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board. MNRAAA staff, Robin Thompson, continues to be busy with Medicare Part D clients. All the grants and contracts for 2007 that grants manager, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, submitted to the MNRAAA Joint Powers Board were approved.

Giersdorf gave an update on the switch to the new provider for nutrition services that provide meals in Regions 6E, 8 and 9 areas. A letter was sent to all nutrition sites that the new provider is Lutheran Social Services as of January 1, 2007.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Reggie Edwards, Leo Bauer and Dwayne Krenz shared information from the Association of Minnesota Counties annual conference that they attended December 4-6 in Rochester.

Tim Strand said that the city of St. Peter is working with the Coalition of Minnesota Cities. One of the Coalition's issues that they are involved with is the MVAT (Motor Vehicle Sales Tax) distribution of funds.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

James J. Broich, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary
