



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 11, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair James Stangler called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Nichols Building in Mankato.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leo Bauer, Dwayne Krenz, Dan Kuhns, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Bob Roesler, James Stangler

MEMBERS EXCUSED: James Broich, Charlie Hurd, Bob Schabert, Tim Strand

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Bob Klanderud, Mary Oudekerk, James Stenson, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leo Bauer moved to approve the May 14, 2008 minutes as presented. Dan Kuhns seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice Chair James Stangler said that he assisted in the orientation of new commissioners that was held May 21. The session went very well with new commissioners asking many questions. Subject matters related to the origin, current operation and future of R9 were discussed at the orientation.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Budget / Personnel Committee

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented the RNDC Proposed 2009 Budget Summary Report document. The document included the Strategic Direction and Growth, Future Growth Challenges, Future Growth Opportunities, Strategic Initiatives and the Budget Principles. He reported the levy will increase to the capped 3% amount of \$448,283 and the FY09 revenue sources and expenditure by departments was explained. The total budget for FY09 is

\$1,537,730 with pass thru dollars of \$1,669,304. Bob Roesler moved to forward the proposed FY09 budget to be presented at the public hearing and annual meeting in July. Alvis More seconded. Motion carried.

B. Strategic Planning Committee

Committee Chair, James Stenson, reminded Commissioners that the revised R9 By-Laws were presented at the May Board meeting for their review. He asked if there were any changes or comments of the by-laws, if not he asked for them to be presented to the full Commission at the July meeting. Leo Bauer moved to forward and recommend adoption of the revised R9 By-Laws at the full Commission meeting in July. Bob Roesler seconded. Motion carried. Stenson noted Article X – Amendment of By-Laws states that the by-laws of the Commission may be amended by the majority vote of the members of the Commission at any regular meeting of the Commission or at any special meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reggie Edwards presented his executive director report. Highlighted from the report was that the Budget / Personnel Committee has been meeting to update the personnel policy manual and reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed 2009 budget. The architectural firm of I&S has been hired to assist in conducting an assessment plan for office site location options. RNDC's lease ends December 2010, but Blue Earth County says after the expiration, a month-by-month lease is available. The Aging Program received notification from the Minnesota Board on Aging of the results of Community Service/Service Development (CS/SD) grant applications from across the state. Coming out of the legislative session, the Minnesota Department of Human Services received a 1.8% cut in its budget, which impacted the amount of funding available for grants. Staff continues to develop the Main Street (Downtown Revitalization) program. Staff has established contracts with the cities of Amboy, Gaylord and Sleepy Eye. Edwards said that Congressman Walz's office has indicated that the application for funding of a transit study including highways 14 and 169 corridors is moving forward.

Reggie Edwards requested approval for the chair and executive director to attend the National Association of Development Organizations' annual training conference that will be held October 3-7 in Anchorage, Alaska. The approximate cost will be \$1,562 per person. Dan Kuhns moved approval, Dwayne Krunz seconded for the chair and executive director to attend the annual conference. Motion carried.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Small Business Development Center

SBDC Counselor, Mary Oudekerk, reported that the SBDC hosted a Resource Fair that was held April 24 and was held at Rasmussen College's new building. Over 170 people attended. There were 25 exhibits and 10 seminars that were held throughout the day. There was also an entrepreneur panel of three SBDC clients that answered questions on starting a business. Oudekerk said she recently went to the city of Henderson and presented a Going Into Business presentation. There were twelve participants. Oudekerk said she has been working on two loan packages that includes refinancing for a hotel chain and a manufacturing company in LeSueur.

SBDC Director, Bob Klanderud, said the SBDC has been working with an independent Hispanic contractor that counsels Hispanic St. James area business owners. The SBDC has also hired their former African immigrant intern as an outside consultant to continue to assist the SBDC in working with African immigrant entrepreneurs.

Klanderud announced that they are in the process of sending funding request letters to local jurisdictions so the request can be included in their 2009 budgets.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Finance Director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, presented a May 2008 Program Summary of dollars budgeted, actual dollars, percent spent and percent of pass thru dollars.

Economic Development Director, Troy Bonkowske, reported that he has been working with the communities of Amboy and Sleepy Eye. He distributed a picture of Amboy's main street from 1910. Bonkowske said there was a visioning session held in Sleepy Eye regarding the future outlook of their downtown.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Timothy Strand, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary