



M I N U T E S
Region Nine Development Commission
ANNUAL MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING
July 9, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Strand 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: Brad Ahrenstorff, Joel Albrecht, Leo Bauer, Jerry Boler, James Broich, Cindy Coy, Alvin Dietz, Candace Fenske, Jack Fitzsimmons, Terry Genelin, Ken Hanson, Janet Holicky, Charlie Hurd, Norbert Kaufmann, Dwayne Krenz, Dan Kuhns, Tom Loveall, Mick McGuire, Lance Mikkelson, Diane Norland, Roger Oldfather, Gary Owens, Brenda Pautsch, Will Purvis, Mary Jean Rohlfing, Bob Schabert, Doug Schaller, James Stangler, Patricia Steckman, James Stenson, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Janie Flores, Harlan Gorath, Alvis More, Bob Roesler, Greg Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Berg, Denny Jahnz, Frederick Juni, William Stangler

OTHERS PRESENT: Ronda Allis, Troy Bonkowske, Reggie Edwards, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Cheryl Weston

IV. GUEST SPEAKER

Jennifer Ridgeway, who is a regional labor market analyst for the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development, gave an overview of the regional labor market in terms of hiring demand, job growth, unemployment and distinguishing industries that are unique to the region. A question and answer session followed.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2009 BUDGET – 7:15 P.M.

The full Commission meeting was recessed at this point.

Chair Tim Strand opened the public hearing on the proposed FY 2009 budget at 7:15 p.m. Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented the budget document. He noted that the R9 Budget / Personnel Committee met several times to review the budget and the R9 Board of Directors also reviewed the proposed budget and moved the budget forward to be presented at the annual meeting. The document was divided into budget message and summary and the administration, aging, community development, economic development and transportation departments. The proposed budget is \$1,488,749 with \$1,554,536 pass thru funds that go to other organizations to provide services. Edwards noted the levy amount of \$448,284, which is a 3% increase. Minnesota State Statute limits the RNDC to a capped levy increase of 3%. After a question and answer period, Chair Strand closed the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the Budget

Joel Albrecht moved to approve the proposed FY09 budget of \$1,488,749 as presented. Leo Bauer seconded. Motion carried. Edwards thanked the R9 Budget / Personnel Committee and staff for their work on the budget.

2. Approval of Preliminary Resolutions for Levy

The preliminary Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2009 document that listed funds to be levied in each of the nine counties (\$448,284) was presented for review. The final amount will be presented at the September meeting. James Stenson moved approval of the document, Gary Owens seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Broich moved to approve the April 9, 2008 minutes as presented. Ken Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Tim Strand said that since the last full Commission meeting, he has attended several R9 committee meetings and chaired the R9 Board of Directors meeting in May. He thanked Vice Chair, James Stangler, for chairing the June meeting in his absence, while he attended the Minnesota League of Minnesota Cities conference.

Commissioners were asked to update their addresses, emails, telephone numbers, etc.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Strategic Planning Committee

1. R9 By-Laws

Strategic Planning Committee Chair, James Stenson, moved approval of the R9 revised July 2008 By-Laws. Brad Ahrenstorff seconded. Discussion followed. Stenson reported that the Committee met four times to review the by-laws and the Board of Directors were asked for their comments. Stenson noted Article X - Amendment of By-Laws that says the by-laws can be amended by the majority vote at any regular meeting of the Commission. Noted changes to the by-laws were Article III- Commission Membership and Representation, which expanded the public interest categories for the eight positions, with the Minority Population a required position. The terms of the position were changed from four years to two years. Article IV - Commission Meetings were noted. Article VI – Officers: The Strategic Planning Committee will act as the Nominating Committee in the selection of a chairman for the RNDC. Article VIII - Finance: The Budget / Personnel Committee shall be a standing committee to annually review the budget.

Chair Strand requested the passage of the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Brenda Pautsch requested the Committee to review the electronic transmission of information, minutes and meeting notices.

2. R9 Special Interest Representatives

James Stenson moved to reappoint Janie Flores as the Minority Population representative and Candace Fenske as the Health & Human Welfare representative on the full Commission of the RNDC. James Broich seconded. Motion carried.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reggie Edwards presented his activities report for review.

Edwards presented Resolution 2008-5 that establishes the meeting dates for fiscal year 2009 for the Commission of the Region Nine Development Commission. The full Commission will meet September 10, 2008; January 14, 2009; April 8, 2009; July 8, 2009. The Board of Directors will meet during the months that the full Commission does not meet. Charlie Hurd moved approval of the resolution as presented. Candace Fenske seconded. Motion carried. Edwards said that the Strategic Planning Committee is in discussion regarding Commissioners meeting two additional times to participate in workshops.

XI. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Community Development

Reggie Edwards introduced interim Community Development Director, Ronda Allis. She is the former city administrator for the cities of Wells and Winnebago. Her hiring was approved at the June Board of Directors meeting.

Ronda Allis presented Resolution 2008-6 that enters into an agreement for distribution of Mn/DOT Planning Funds Agreement Number 93061 in the amount of \$50,000 with a match of \$8,824. The Chair and Executive Director of the RNDC are also authorized to execute such agreement. Jack Fitzsimmons moved to approve of Resolution 2008-6. Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

XII. CAUCUS OF COUNTIES

A. Committee Appointments

Commissioners caucused by county to review board of directors and committee membership seats. Changes or additions to committees include: Blue Earth County – Will Purvis (Transportation), Doug Schaller (Strategic Planning); Faribault County – Greg Young (Community Development); Nicollet County – Diane Norland (Aging); Sibley County – Pat Steckman (Strategic Planning); Waseca County – Cindy Coy (Legislative, Strategic Planning); Watonwan County – Candace Fenske (Legislative), Denny Jahnz (Community Development). Brown, LeSueur and Martin counties had no changes.

B. Region Nine Area, Inc. Members

Janie Flores and Brenda Pautsch volunteered to serve on the Region Nine Area, Inc. Leo Bauer moved approval, Bob Schabert seconded. Motion carried.

XIII. R9 SHARING & OPPORTUNITIES

Cindy Coy, Cities Under 10,000 in Waseca County representative reported that construction has begun on the Highway 14 interchange on the south side of Waseca. The city of Waseca completed a purchase agreement for land where the wastewater treatment plant will be located. The city is reviewing a social host, restaurants that provide outdoor seating and historic district ordinances. Coy said there is concern of the 3.9% property tax freeze and what may occur. The city of Waseca and the Chamber are partnering to create a marketing plan. Last weekend an all-school reunion was held where lots of people visited the city.

Jack Fitzsimmons, Transportation representative from Waseca County said he attended a gathering of officials to review the Highway 14 plans. It was very interesting and he liked the alignment. He attended the all-school reunion that was very successful. He announced that the county fair is coming up soon which has become profitable. The Birdseye pea pack has begun its operation.

Gary Owens, Waseca County townships representative invited Commissioners to take a walk around Clear Lake on their new walking path. The ethanol plant in Janesville is nearing completion. The school district is looking for a levy renewal. Owens said the new water park has been an exciting addition to the city of Waseca and has an excellent staff that runs the park.

Dan Kuhns, Waseca County Commissioner reported that the new ethanol plant would open in October, but not at full production. The county is working on a classification compensation for employees that, hopefully, will be completed by the end of the year. The county is looking at vacant buildings in the city of Waseca for the relocation of the Human Services / Public Health offices. Kuhns announced that the city of New Richland would be holding their summer festival this weekend.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Tim Strand announced that the mileage rate as of July 1 has increased from .505 to .585 per mile effective until December 31, 2008. The R9 personnel policy states that mileage reimbursement shall be based on the rate established by the IRS.

James Broich informed Commissioners that the city of Sleepy Eye's new water park has far exceeded its expectations in the number of visitors and revenue.

Diane Norland informed Commissioners that Fun Days in North Mankato begins July 10, with the parade on Saturday.

Chair Tim Strand reminded Commissioners that the next full Commission meeting is September 10 and the Board of Directors will meet August 13. Also, the Board of Directors will meet following this meeting to elect officers.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Timothy Strand, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary