



MINUTES
Region Nine Development Commission
FULL COMMISSION MEETING
September 12, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Leo Bauer, James Berg, James Broich, Alvin Dietz, Jack Fitzsimmons, Ron Fleischmann, Janie Flores, Terry Genelin, Ken Hanson, Janet Holicky, Charlie Hurd, Denny Jahnz, Tom Loveall, Alvis More, Roger Oldfather, Brenda Pautsch, Will Purvis, Bob Roesler, Mary Jean Rohlfing, Bob Schabert, James Stangler, James Stenson, Tim Strand

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Candace Fenske, Fred Juni, Mick McGuire, Diane Norland, Pat Steckman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Maria Bartsch, Jerry Boler, Harlan Gorath, Norbert Kaufmann, Dwayne Krenz, Dan Kuhns, Lance Mikkelson, Gary Owens, William Stangler, Greg Young

OTHERS PRESENT: Troy Bonkowske, Ernestine Edwards, Reggie Edwards, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Linda Giersdorf, Bob Klanderud, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Brian Warzecha, Cheryl Weston, Gerald Woodley

Troy Bonkowske introduced new staff, Brian Warzecha, who will be the Regional Downtown Coordinator. Chair Tim Strand requested approval of Warzecha. Alvin Dietz moved approval, James Broich seconded. Motion carried.

Chair Strand introduced Gerald Woodley who is from U.S. Senator Norm Coleman's Mankato office. He gave a brief update of the Senator's activities.

Chair Strand introduced Executive Director; Reggie Edwards' mother Ernestine Edwards who is visiting from Florida.

IV. GUEST SPEAKERS

Chair Strand introduced the panel of mayors who will share happenings in their respective city. They included Mayor Bob Schabert, city of Courtland; Mayor James Swanson, city of Mapleton; Mayor Brad Ahrenstorff, city of Lake Crystal; Mayor Robert Oberle, city of LeSueur. Highlights from the panel discussion included.

Mayor Oberle shared that the city of LeSueur is updating their wastewater treatment plant in partnership with the city of Henderson and developing an industrial park area. A group called the Minnesota Design Team will be visiting the city in October. The team is comprised of city planners and architects that will give recommendations and take the city's ideas to come up with a vision for its future. Also, the city is in the beginning stage of how to link the hiking trails in southern Minnesota.

Mayor Ahrenstorff shared that the city of Lake Crystal is a growing community. There are two businesses in their industrial park. They have the Poet Ethanol Plant that has added more than 45 jobs to the area. The city recently finished construction on their \$18,500,000 high school that came about after 7 failed referendums. The Thro Company will be purchasing the old school building and constructing a 46-unit nursing home. Some challenges include empty buildings on Main Street; no pharmacist in the community, rural health care issues, utility rates and an aging infrastructure.

Mayor Swanson shared that the city of Mapleton is a growing community. The city is the central location for the Maple River Schools that include an elementary and high school. They include students from the cities of Amboy, Good Thunder and Minnesota Lake. A \$2.5 million curb and gutter project on the southwest side of town is almost completed that will be a potential subdivision. The city recently hired an economic development authority director to assist with the development of the area. With some special legislation approval, the city will be purchasing the old restaurant and hiring a manager. The project includes utilizing volunteers, partnerships with the South Central College and others. His concerns for the city include LGA (Local Government Aid) funding; aging infrastructure and retention of graduating youth.

Mayor Schabert noted that a city administrator was recently hired that will be shared by the cities of Courtland, Lafayette and Nicollet. The city of Courtland is a growing community with new homes being built. The city clerks for the cities of Courtland, Lafayette and Nicollet recently attended a state sponsored meeting. At the meeting the clerks learned that they might have to have an accounting degree to serve as a clerk, at which the clerks expressed concerns of losing their positions. Mayor Schabert said the city of Courtland would be building a ballpark that will host younger children and have daylight games. His concern for the city included the gas station and convenience store is for sale and hopefully there will be a buyer.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jack Fitzsimmons moved to approve the July 11, 2007 minutes as presented. Ken Hanson seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Leo Bauer moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Ron Fleischmann seconded. Motion carried.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Tim Strand noted that this was his first meeting as chairman. He and Commissioners thanked former Chair, James Broich, for serving four years as chairman of the RNDC.

The past month Chair Strand said he attended a staff meeting to introduce himself and to get to know them. He also attended a National Association of Development Organizations conference in Austin, Texas with the executive director. While there, he said he made several good contacts and attended several informative seminars.

Chair Strand introduced Will Purvis who represents Blue Earth County Commissioners and replaces Kip Bruender. Purvis was approved for his appointment at the August Board of Directors meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Area Agency on Aging Committee

Committee Chair, James Berg, said that at their meeting, Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) executive director, Linda Giersdorf, gave an update on the new application for the MNRAAA and its timelines. Grants/Contract Manager, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, explained the process of the 2008 Title III Funding Cycle. Program Developer, Gail Gilman Waldner, updated the committee on the Community Service/Services Development grants. Berg said the committee would like to invite State Demographer, Tom Gillaspy, to be a guest speaker at their next meeting January 9.

B. Budget / Personnel Committee

Committee Chair, Brenda Pautsch, reported that the committee continues to meet to review the personnel policy manual that was last updated in 1999. The committee has discussed the 2008 staff health insurance increase and has recommended that employees pay 50% of the expected 13.9% increase. Chair Pautsch said the committee reviewed the cover letter to the 2006 audit report and has made recommendations that have been implemented.

Finance Director, LuAnn Vanderwerf, distributed the Audit Report from Year Ended June 30, 2006, which also contained a cover letter to the Commissioners. Items Vanderwerf explained for further clarification was travel expenditures that exceed approved amounts, use of PO's for unearned revenue, commission approval for loan write-offs, and proper documentation of credit card receipts. After discussion, Tom Loveall moved approval of the audit report as presented, Ron Fleischmann seconded. Motion carried. It was noted that the audit report is available to the public, but the cover letter is to the Commissioners only.

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Executive Director, Reggie Edwards, presented his activities report for review.

Edwards presented for approval an out-of-state travel request for Aging Program staff, Elaine Spain, to attend the National Summit on Caregiver Support in Americus, Georgia October 24-27. The total cost is \$1,070 and is within her budget. Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval of the travel request, Brenda Pautsch seconded. Motion carried.

Edwards presented the Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2008 document that lists the levy amounts owed by each county. The total amount owed is \$435,227. James Stenson moved approval of the Levies Payable 2008 document, James Stangler seconded. Motion carried.

X. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

Grants/Contract manager, Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, presented the 2008 Title III funding recommendations of the Funding Task Force that met August 16. The task force is comprised of two members from each of the four regions that makeup MNRAAA. Fjeldberg said the funding recommendations are being presented to the other three regions to request acceptance. The recommendations will be presented to the Joint Powers Board on September 19 for final approval. **Title III-B Supportive Services Grant Requests & Contract Extension Proposals**

(1) Delivery to Your Door Project from Prairie Five CAC, Inc. - \$42,000; (2) Life Transition Mentoring Program from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District - \$10,551; (3) One to One Peer Counseling Program from Western Mental Health Center - \$11,800; (4) Somali Elder Asset Center Services from Coalition of African Community Services - \$14,592; (5) Granite Falls Intergenerational Chore Service from Yellow Medicine East Community Education - \$11,243; (6) Montevideo Chore Service from City of Montevideo - \$6,000; (7) FIA Homemaking project from Volunteers of American dba Adult Day Services - \$16,369; (8) Caring Connection project from VINE Faith in Action - \$19,995; (9) Legal Advocacy for Older Americans Project from Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services – up to \$40,000; (10) Senior Transportation Program from Kandiyohi Area Transit – up to \$30,000; (11) Volunteer Driver Program from Meeker County Council on Aging – up to \$25,616; (12) Prairie Five RIDES from Prairie Five CAC, Inc. – up to \$30,500; (13) Senior Transportation project from Renville County Human Services – up to \$11,250. Total Title III-B Funding - \$272,916. Bob Roesler moved approval of the recommendations, Roger Oldfather seconded. Chair Strand asked if there were any conflicts of interest, hearing none, the motion carried. **Title III-C Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Contract Extension Proposals**

(1) Prairie Five CAC, Inc. for Prairie Five Congregate Meals Program – up to \$192,743 & Prairie Five Home Delivered Meals Program – up to \$77,670. (2) Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota for LSS Congregate Meals Program – up to \$748,324 plus \$5,000 for Consumer Directed Meals & LSS Home Delivered Meals Program – up to \$325,370. Total 2008 Title III-C1 Congregate Meals Recommendations - \$946,067 and Total 2008 Title III-C2 Home Delivered Meals Recommendations - \$403,040. Leo Bauer moved to approve the nutrition grants as presented, Bob Schabert seconded. Fjeldberg added that Title III-C carryover funds are being used and will be depleted in 2009. She asked Commissioners if they had any comments / recommendations on how best to implement the upcoming funding cuts. After discussion, Tom Loveall added an amendment to the motion recommending the JPB negotiate a reduced federal cost to extend the Title III-C carryover for a longer period of time. Charlie Hurd seconded. Amendment to the motion carried. Motion carried with all in favor.

Title III-D Health Promotion & Disease Prevention Grant Request (1) Medication Management Program from VINE Faith in Action - \$17,520. Charlie Hurd moved approval, Brad Ahrenstorff seconded. Motion carried. **Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Services**

(1) Family Caregiver Program from Wellspring Faith in Action - \$17,385; (2) Brown County Caregiver Education for Volunteers of America dba Adult Day Services - \$17,101; (3) RSVP Respite and Caregiver Support Groups from RSVP of SW Minnesota - \$18,129; (4) Shetek Home Care Respite Project from Shetek Home Care - \$6,000; (5) Caregiver Coaching

from Interfaith Caregivers c/o United Hospital District - \$30,819; (6) Consumer Directed Services from Elderberry Institute – Recommend No Funding; (7) CARE: Caregiver and Resource Education from Prairie Five CAC, Inc. - \$29,673; (8) LSS Caregiver Support and Respite Program from Lutheran Social Service of MN - \$50,383. Total 2008 Title III-E Funding Recommendation - \$169,490. Jack Fitzsimmons moved approval, Mary Jean Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Giersdorf presented the 2008 Area Plan that contained the breakdown of funding and work activities for the 27-county area. She explained the administration, program development and coordination and access outcomes. She noted that the Region Nine Advisory Council on Aging reviewed the Plan and recommends approval. After RNDC's recommendation for approval, the Plan will be presented to the Joint Powers Board for their approval, and then submitted to the Minnesota Board on Aging by October 8. James Berg moved to recommend approval of the Area Plan to the Joint Powers Board, Ron Fleischmann seconded. Motion carried.

Giersdorf said that notices were sent to county administrators requesting letters or resolutions supporting the new MNRAAA Joint Powers Board and its application for designation as the Area Agency on Aging for the Southwest PSA.

Giersdorf invited Commissioners to attend the Catch the Wave: A Transform 2010 Regional Summit that will be held September 27 at 1:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Mankato. Loren Colman, Assistant Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services will present their Blueprint for 2010, a plan to prepare Minnesota for the dramatic demographic shifts that will begin in 2011.

XI. R9 SHARING AND OPPORTUNITIES

Bob Roesler who represents cities under 10,000 in Martin County said he contacted the cities of Sherburn, Trimont, Truman, and Welcome. One of the cities has applied for a grant for one of its dilapidated buildings on Main Street. Another city will be home to a 100,000,000-gallon ethanol plant that will cover about 360 acres. Sixty of the acres are in a JOBZ zone and the 300 acres will be annexed into the city. Also an issue with a city is the amount of water that is pumping into their water tower and the amount of water that is billed out. Roesler said that the levy increases for the four cities ranged from 11.7 to 18%. The city of Trimont in partnership with the cities of Ormsby and Odin are working on a wastewater treatment replacement project. Trimont is also working on a housing development and continued work on their community center. Two cities are working on a sports complex and sharing a baseball facility.

Ken Hanson who represents townships in Martin County reported that their township building is now completed. It holds their road equipment and has a meeting room. The good news is that it is paid for already. For the two ethanol plants that are going to be built in Martin County, roads are being upgraded in the area. Hanson announced that former R9 Commissioner who represented townships in Martin County, Roland Thiesse, passed away.

Project opportunities - Commissioner, Janie Flores, invited Commissioners to a Community Health Worker Employment Meeting September 26 from 11:00-1:00 p.m. at the South Central College in North Mankato. The meeting is about recent legislation that allows services provided by Community Health Workers (CHW) to qualify for public and private medical reimbursement.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Strand reminded Commissioners that the next full Commission meeting is January 9 and the Board of Directors will meet October 10.

Bob Klanderud, director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) program, wanted to share that the SBDC has worked with numerous business owners in the four cities of the panelists. The general public would not know this, because their assistance is confidential and not open to the public.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Timothy Strand, Chairman

Roger Oldfather, Secretary