

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

## **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **III. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, Terry Anderson, Elliot Belgard, Drew Campbell, Candace Fenske, Terry Genelin, Frederick Juni, Gerri Lienke, Tom Loveall, Pam Meyer, Doug Munsch, Blair Nelson, Diane Norland, Darwin Olson, Mike Pfeil, Steve Rohlffing, Jeff Ross, Abdi Sabrie, Phil Schafer, Charles Schmitz, Jim Swanson, Bill Yock

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Daren Arndt, James Broich, Marie Dranttel, Peggy Evenson, Ray Gustafson, Tim Strand, Gary Sturm

MEMBERS ABSENT: James Berg, Jim Grabowska, Richard Peterson, Bryant Stiernagle

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, Lu Vanderwerf, Linda Giersdorf, Ashley Aukes, Bruce Schwartau

## **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Anderson moved to approve the agenda as presented, Rohlffing seconded. Motion carried.

## **V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Campbell moved to approve the January 14, 2015 minutes as present, Ross seconded. Motion carried.

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

Norland moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Munsch seconded. Motion carried.

## **VII. BRAIN GAIN PRESENTATION**

Bruce Schwartau, University of Minnesota Extension, gave a presentation on the *Brain Gain*. The presentation reviewed current myths and statements being made about rural areas. Schwartau provided statistics showing the *brain gain* trend, young families returning back to rural communities after college and career development, and what this means for rural areas.

Discussion followed.

## **VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **A. Approval of Waseca County Representative, Blair Nelson**

Chairman Swanson reported that Blair Nelson has been selected by Waseca County to be the representative on the Region Nine Commission.

### **B. Approval of Waseca County Small Cities, Daren Arndt**

Chairman Swanson reported that Daren Arndt has been selected by Waseca County cities under 10,000 to be the representative on the Commission.

**C. Approval of City of Fairmont Representative, Terry Anderson**

Chairman Swanson reported that Terry Anderson has been selected by the City of Fairmont to be the representative on the Region Nine Commission.

**Belgard moved to appoint Blair Nelson, Daren Arndt, and Terry Anderson to the full Commission, Norland seconded. Motion carried.**

**D. NADO Conference**

Chairman Swanson reviewed the NADO Conference he attended in March. A main topic that has been seen at recent NADO Conferences is resilient communities and the quality of life of a community. Broadband has also been a hot topic for discussion. The NADO Conference provided a lot of opportunities to meet with the Department of Commerce, FEMA, and other entities housed in Washington D.C. The MADDO group at the conference spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with our Representatives and Senator's staff.

**E. Strategic Planning Update**

Chairman Swanson reported that the Strategic Planning Committee met and finalized the 2015 Strategic Plan for Region Nine.

Rohlfing gave an overview of the strategic planning process and the 2015 Strategic Plan on behalf of the committee. The Strategic Planning Committee will meeting bi-annually to review the progress of the plan.

**Rohlfing moved to accept and adopt the 2015 Strategic Plan as presented, Juni seconded. Motion carried.**

Rohlfing stated that another duty of the Strategic Planning Committee is to act as the Nominating Committee for the position of chair. Nominations must be submitted from the committee to the full Commission 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting (July 8<sup>th</sup>). At this time the only nomination that has been brought to the committee is Brad Ahrenstorff. Contact a member of the Strategic Planning Committee if you wish to nominate another commissioner.

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

**A. RNDC Promotional Video**

Ashley Aukes, Communications Specialist, presented the Region Nine promotional videos. The videos will be used to help explain Region Nine to the public and promote our services.

**B. Hiring Update**

Josh Pearson, Transportation Planner, has put in his resignation. Pearson has accepted a position at MnDOT. Pearson's last day will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. The position has been posted applications are being collected and reviewed.

**C. Resolution 2015-02: EDA Authorization**

Griensewic Mickelson presented the Resolution 2012-02 authorizing Region Nine Development

Commission's Executive Director to commit local share to match Federal EDA grant amount.

**Munsch moved to approve Resolution 2012-02, Juni seconded. Motion carried.**

Griensewic Mickelson reported that Senator Franken held a Rural Health Forum at the Open Door Health Center in Mankato. Griensewic Mickelson had the opportunity to explain the Safe Routes to School, Active Living, and Communities for a Lifetime programs during the meeting.

Griensewic Mickelson reported the Intergovernmental Center entrance/parking lot will be undergoing construction in April to be turned into a grand lawn.

## **X. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc.**

#### **a. MNRAAA Transition Update**

Giersdorf reported that the MNRAAA Transition Team and Governance Committee had meetings on April 8<sup>th</sup>. The groups are in the process of finalizing updated job descriptions which will then go to an outside agency to determine the salary structure for all staff. Rental proposals have been received from SRDC and RNDC for space next year. MNRAAA is in the process of reviewing the proposals and then will go to the MNRAAA Board for consideration.

Giersdorf stated she also attended the Rural Health Forum with Senator Franken. Franken has been very supportive of the reauthorizing of the Older Americans Act as well as the services the AAAs provide.

#### **b. Hiring Update**

Giersdorf reported two staff have resigned in the Pre-Admission Screening department: Denise Rahn, Pre-Admission Screening Specialist and Carrie Sharp, First Contact Client Service Center Specialist. Kristen Mullen has been promoted to fill Sharp's position as Client Service Center Specialist. Offers have been made to two applicants to fill the Pre-Admission Screening positions. The vacant Administrative Assistant position has been filled by Kelly Wolle. Interviews for the Lead Program Developer in the northern MNRAAA area will be held next week.

Giersdorf requested approval to create a new Return to Community (RTC) position to be housed in the Region Nine office. The Minnesota Board on Aging has asked MNRAAA to add the position due to increased workload in the RTC program.

**Fenske moved to approve the new Return to Community position, Norland seconded. Motion carried.**

#### **c. PERA**

Giersdorf gave an update on the PERA legislation that has been drafted. Staff working on behalf of MNRAAA on December 31, 2015 would be grandfathered into the PERA system on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. MNRAAA Chairman Bob Roesler and Giersdorf testified at the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement. The legislation has been laid over for possible inclusion in the Omnibus Pension bill.

## B. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

Vanderwerf reported that there has been an increase in interest in the Revolving Loan Fund, however not all inquiries have made it to committee or have been eligible for funds. RNAI has also seen an increase in interest in fiscal sponsorship. The Town Center project is almost at completion and should break ground this month.

Vanderwerf reported that the Budget and Personnel Committee will be meeting soon to start the budget process. The committee will meet several times before submitting a budget to the Board.

### a. Budget Season Process

Vanderwerf gave a review of the budget season process. The Budget and Personnel Committee will meet several times to discuss the proposed budget and then will present a recommendation to the Board in June. The recommendation from the Board will then go to the full Commission at the Annual Meeting in July.

### b. RLF Committee Update

Vanderwerf reported that the Revolving Loan Fund Committee has not met since the last Commission meeting. Term limits will be going into effect, however the committee is working on how that will be implemented.

## C. Community Development

### a. Watonwan County Functional Class Change

Pearson presented the Watonwan County Functional Class Change request. Watonwan County is requesting approval to swap the functional classification on three roadways. The Transportation Advisory Committee has discussed the requested changes and recommend the Commission's approval.

**Campbell moved to approve the Watonwan County Functional Class Change as presented, Norland seconded. Motion carried.**

### b. Faribault – Martin – Watonwan SHIP Active Living Plan

Pearson reported that Region Nine was approached by SHIP to complete an Active Living Plan for Sherburn, Trimont, and Truman. The process will be led by Jacob Thunander, Project Development Planner.

Jost reported that Region Nine has been asked to meet with MPCA and Blue Earth County to participate in a contract to conduct civic engagement sessions for watershed planning.

Jost reported that in addition to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Fillmore County, there is now the same opportunity for Houston County.

## XI. Other Business

### a. Ideas, Issues, Information Sharing

Chairman Swanson stated that the Annual Report is now completed and in the handouts. Also in the handouts is the list of Commissioner committee assignments. Please review as there will be a caucus at

the next full Commission meeting.

Chairman Swanson requested the Commissioners to fill out the meeting evaluations. Staff will review to continue working on meeting effectiveness and value.

Campbell stated that the Citizens Academy in Blue Earth County is a program to help citizens learn about county government and encourages people to join.

Anderson stated that the Computer Science Department at MSUM completed a pilot project with Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial Elementary School on teaching coding and programing concepts to students. The program trained teachers on the curriculum, at no cost to the school. The teachers then utilized the coding curriculum as they saw fit. This pilot project is available for other school districts that would like to pursue it.

Genelin stated the HWY 169 Coalition has been working on safety. The Coalition had a lobby day at the State Office Building and had fifteen senators and representatives visit.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Munsch moved approval to adjourn the meeting, Norland seconded. Motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Jim Swanson, Chairman

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Brad Ahrenstorff, Vice Chair