

January 14, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, Elliot Belgard, James Berg, James Broich, Drew Campbell, Marie Dranttel, Peggy Evenson, Candace Fenske, Terry Genelin, Ray Gustafson, Frederick Juni, Gerri Lienke, Tom Loveall, Pam Meyer, Diane Norland, Darwin Olson, Mike Pfeil, Steve Rohlring, Jeff Ross, Abdi Sabrie, Phil Schafer, Charles Schmitz, Tim Strand, Gary Sturm, Jim Swanson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Doug Munsch, Richard Peterson, Doug Schaller, Bryant Stiernagle, Bill Yock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Laura Elvebak, Jim Grabowska, Dan Kuhns

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, Lu Vanderwerf, Linda Giersdorf, Ashley Aukes, Danielle Walchuk, Jacob Thunander, Jason Etter

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Broich moved to approve the agenda as presented, Belgard seconded. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sturm moved to approve the October 8, 2014 minutes with the edit of including Commissioner Broich as present, Rohlring seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Committee Caucusing regarding Special Interest Groups

Chairman Swanson reported that the Board has decided to have the commissioners representing special interest groups meet as a group during caucusing instead of with the members of their county.

Commissioners who do not represent a special interest group will continue to caucus with their county.

B. Clarification of Bylaws

Chairman Swanson reported that the Board decided to add clarification to the bylaws regarding *The Board of Directors shall have a chair, one per county, and a representative from any city over the size of 25,000.* The board recommended editing the bylaws to state: *The board of directors of the Commission shall consist of one commissioner from each county and one commissioner, who must be an elected official,*

from each city with a population more than 25,000. One of the board of directors shall be the Commission chair.

C. Strategic Planning Committee Update

Chairman Swanson reported that the Strategic Planning Committee and finance and planning staff have each met with Wes Pruett, HR Advisors, to complete a SWOT analysis. The Strategic Planning Committee will now begin working on making goals and is scheduled to meet on January 21st.

D. Budget & Personnel Committee Update

Ahrenstorff reported the Budget and Personnel committee has been working with HR Advisors on updating the Policy Manuel and on a Professional Development Policy.

E. Commissioner Attendance Update

Chairman Swanson stated the importance of commissioner attendance at Region Nine meetings. The commissioners input is important for Region Nine to continue to prosper. If attending the meetings does not fit into your schedule, consider finding someone in your entity who can better represent your county on the commission.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Legislative Policy Positions

Griensewic Mickelson presented the legislative priorities that were established by the Legislative and Communications Committee.

Berg moved to adopt the presented legislative priorities as Region Nine Development Commissions policy positions for 2015, Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

B. Outreach Plan

Griensewic Mickelson reported that Region Nine staff will be presenting to various city councils in the counties where new commissioners will need to be reappointed.

Griensewic Mickelson reported MADO representatives, including herself, will be testifying to the Greater Minnesota Economic and Workforce Development Committee on the impact that the RDOs have throughout the state.

Griensewic Mickelson reviewed her Executive Directors reported highlighting:

- Griensewic Mickelson was nominated to serve as the Greater Minnesota Partnership's Treasurer.
- During the Greater Mankato Growth REDA meeting there were conversations about what type of economic summit the group would like to have and what Region Nine's involvement should be.
- Region Nine's relationship with MSUM has strengthened, staff are being asked to present and guest lecture.
- Region Nine is looking to add interns to assist with communications and public relations.

IX. AUDITOR'S REPORT

Jason Etter from Abdo, Eick and Meyers presented the Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2014. The Discussion and Analysis page of the report was reviewed. There were no findings. Etter reviewed the operating

grants section.

Belgard moved to approve the 2014 Auditor Report, Norland seconded. Motion carried.

X. PROGRAM REPORTS

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

a. MNRAAA Transition Update

Giersdorf gave an update on the restructuring of MNRAAA. A governance committee has been appointed and will review salaries, by-laws, board structure, etc. A transition team, made up of MNRAAA staff, has been formed to provide feedback and input. MNRAAA has contracted with Aurora Consulting to help facilitate the process.

Giersdorf stated she is currently working with legislators to have legislation written to grandfather current staff into the PERA system effective December 31, 2015.

Giersdorf gave an update on the status of finding insurance (retirement, health and dental) for MNRAAA staff.

Giersdorf reported that Kaylee Kamm, First Contact Client Service Center Specialist, has given her resignation. Kamm's last day will be January 16th, 2015. At this time, the position will not be filled.

b. MNRAAA Contract Decision

Giersdorf reported that the SRDC will not be contributing match to MNRAAA for CY2015. Giersdorf has notified SRDC that due to them not providing match they will no longer be financial partners and will not have membership on the MNRAAA Board. Giersdorf asked for direction of whether or not Region Nine would contribute match to MNRAAA for CY2015.

Chairman Swanson stated the Board recommends Region Nine contribute match to MNRAAA for CY2015. Griensewic Mickelson outlined the scenario should Region Nine decline the CY2015 MNRAAA match.

Discussion followed.

Campbell moved to approve signing the MNRAAA CY2015 contract and contributing match, Norland seconded. Motion carried.

B. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

Vanderwerf reviewed the activity of the Revolving Loan Fund including two loan approvals.

a. Update – Board Recommendation – RLF Committee Structure Change

Vanderwerf reported that the Region Nine Board has moved to set term limits for the Revolving Loan Fund Committee of four years with an option to serve a second consecutive term after which you must take one term off before re-serving.

Vanderwerf gave an update on Region Nine Area Inc. (RNAI). RNAI has been obtaining more fiscal sponsor contracts. The Town Center Project, located in the Trimont area, has notified Region Nine it

plans to be breaking ground this spring. RNAI has been acting as fiscal sponsor for the Town Center Project.

C. Community Development

a. Introduction of New Staff – Jacob Thunander

Jost introduced the new Project Development Planner, Jacob Thunander.

b. EDA Annual Planning Grant

Jost reported that Region Nine has been on a one year planning grant cycle with the EDA, however, the other Regional Development Commissions in MN are on a three year cycle. Region Nine has received a letter from the EDA stating that Region Nine has been put back on the three year planning grant cycle.

Jost reviewed the Community Development report highlighting activities of the Region Nine Renewable Energy Task Force and Safe Routes to School projects.

Jost presented the Community Development contracts timeline spreadsheet handout. Jost highlighted the three new contracts that Region Nine staff will begin work on soon.

XI. Other Business

a. Ideas, Issues, Information Sharing

Chairman Swanson reported on the new solar gardens that will be in Sibley County.

Campbell stated information about long term care insurance and the partnership program offered in Minnesota.

Anderson shared information on Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the projects they are currently working on.

Swanson thanked the commissioners that will no longer be serving on the commission for their service:

- William Wencil, *Le Sueur County Small Cities*
- Cindy Coy, *Waseca County Small Cities*
- Doug Schaller, *Blue Earth County Townships*
- Laura Elvebak, *MN Valley Council of Government*
- Dan Kuhns, *Waseca County*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Jim Swanson, Chairman

James Broich, Secretary