

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, James Broich, Terry Genelin, Tom Loveall, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Gary Sturm, and Jim Swanson

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Gerri Lienke

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Ashley Aukes, and Barb Dressen

## **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Sturm moved to approve the June 8, 2016 minutes as presented, Genelin seconded. Motion carried.

Rohlfig moved to approve the June 22, 2016 minutes as presented, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

## **V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Rohlfig presented the treasurer's report and asked for feedback on the new layout. Vanderwerf explained the new layout of the treasurer's report.

Rohlfig moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **A. Resolution 2016-08 Local Human Services Transit Coordination**

Chair Ahrenstorff presented Resolution 2016-08 authorizing Region Nine to enter into agreement for distribution of federal funds for local human service transit to coordinate the planning process.

Griensewic Mickelson explained how this resolution is different from the transit planning work that is done at the county level through human services.

Discussion followed on the results of this planning process.

Rohlfig moved to approve Resolution 2016-08 as presented, Genelin seconded. Motion carried.

## B. Out of State Travel Request

Chair Ahrenstorff presented an out of state travel request for Griensewic Mickelson and himself to attend the NADO 2016 Annual Training Conference in San Antonio, Texas in October.

Sturm moved to approve the out of state travel request for Griensewic Mickelson and Chair Ahrenstorff for the NADO 2016 Annual Training Conference as presented, Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

## C. October Full Commission Update

Chair Ahrenstorff stated the commission meeting on October 12 would be at Turner Hall in New Ulm. This change in location is to recognize the three commissioners from Brown County who will not be running for re-election and therefore will no longer be able to serve on the commission. There will be an open house from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and will be open to the public. The commission meeting will be at the regular scheduled time of 6:00-8:00 p.m.

# VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

## A. Finance

Vanderwerf reported the finance staff is currently preparing for the annual audit.

### a. Revolving Loan Fund Update

Vanderwerf reported the Revolving Loan Funds have been very active. There are currently four loans in various stages of closing. Four additional loan applicants are preparing for committee review. Vanderwerf reviewed the types and locations of the pending loans.

### b. Region Nine Area Inc.

Vanderwerf reported the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is taking over the Madelia Strong Inc. project per Region Nine Area Inc. board's request. Madelia Strong Inc. is looking at pursuing foundation status and SMIF is better equipped to help them achieve this goal. All parties are aware of this transition.

Vanderwerf reviewed the current RNAI projects.

Vanderwerf stated staff is currently reviewing the contract process and guidelines for RNAI to consider revising the contract language to be more clear.

# VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## A. Projects, Contracts, and Staffing Timeline

Griensewic Mickelson presented the Projects, Contracts, and Staffing Timeline and called for any questions; there were none.

## B. Other Business

Jesse Womack has filled the VISTA position. Womack's focus will be on local foods. SMIF is the host

site for the overall program. Griensewic Mickelson stated there might be an opportunity for Region Nine to be a host site in the future. However, more information is needed before considering.

The Federal EDA contacted Region Nine stating the technical assistance grant application for Madelia is undergoing further review.

A meeting was held with the Blandin Foundation to see how they can collaborate with RNDC in the future. Several opportunities developed from the initial meeting, one of which includes doing cultural competency trainings throughout the region. The training will be completed with the YWCA and Diversity Council.

Region Nine has been involved with facilitating conversations with various partners on how to expand the Youth Employment Acceleration Program (YEAP).

Griensewic Mickelson gave the following staff updates: the vacant planner position has not been posted; the staff retreat on August 24 will have a strategic planning component that will help determine the future of the vacant position; former intern, Allison Bluhm, has been reclassified as a temporary employee; and a position has been posted for a communications intern.

An overview of the upcoming communications projects was presented.

A five-year assessment of Region Nine is due to the state October 2016. A survey was created and the results will be compiled and sent to the state to meet the deadline.

The Mankato/North Mankato ACT on Alzheimer's Team main project has been completed and they are currently seeking funds to continue their work. Region Nine has continued to assist the team, but has been unable to secure additional funding. Region Nine will be applying for Statewide Health Improvement Program funding; however, the funding may not cover administrative expenses.

Griensewic Mickelson will be moderating a panel session during the Entrepreneur Bridge Event on September 20, organized by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

A Budget and Personnel meeting will be held on August 31. The meeting will include reviewing personnel policies and a by-law revision.

Genelin asked if Region Nine offers paid internships and Griensewic Mickelson stated Region Nine internships are paid.

The MedTech Connect process started with a tour of Coloplast in North Mankato with representatives from Greater Mankato Growth and South Central College. Region Nine continues to build partnerships and has identified workforce issues to be addressed through MedTech's work plan.

Questions arose on the Regional Economic Development Alliance group regarding their mission and differences from Region Nine.

MnDOT is looking for entities to take on a Regional Transit Coordinator role. Currently there are many unknowns and Region Nine will be requesting more information.

Discussion followed.

Genelin gave an overview of a meeting he attended regarding the progress of broadband.

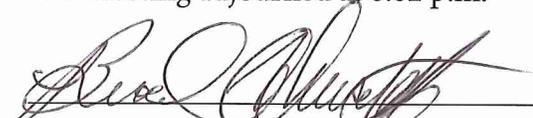
## X. OTHER BUSINESS

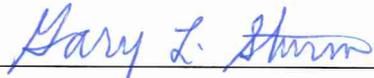
Swanson asked for information regarding the filling of the vacant office space; there were no new updates available. Griensewic Mickelson stated she would talk with the City of Mankato again.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

Rohlfing moved to adjourn the meeting, Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

  
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Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman

  
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Gary Sturm, Secretary