

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Mankato Event Center in Mankato.

## II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Terry Anderson, Daren Arndt, Elliot Belgard, Jim Berg, Robert Broeder, Jim Broich, Drew Campbell, Steve Cooling, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Candace Fenske, Jim Grabowska, Brian Gramentz, Ray Gustafson, Frederick Juni, Gerri Lienke, Olivia Lippert, Tom Loveall, Pam Meyer, Doug Munsch, Blair Nelson, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Steve Rohlring, Jeff Ross, Abdi Sabrie, Phil Schafer, Charles Schmitz, Gary Sturm, Jim Swanson, and Chuck Zieman

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Eric Anderson, Terry Genelin, Diane Norland, Darwin Olson, John Pioske, and Richard Scholtes

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Lu Vanderwerf, Ashley Aukes, Barb Dressen, Brent Pearson, and Allison Bluhm

## IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Grabowska moved to approve the agenda as presented, Juni seconded. Motion carried.

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Broich moved to approve the April 13, 2016 minutes as presented, Arndt seconded. Motion carried.

## VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Rohlring presented the Treasurer's Report.

Rohlring moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Munsch seconded. Motion carried.

## VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Ahrenstorff asked commissioners to update their contact information on the forms provided.

### A. Bus Tour Overview

Chair Ahrenstorff summarized the Fourth Annual Regional Bus Tour that took place on June 22. Chair Ahrenstorff congratulated Region Nine staff for their outstanding job planning and leading the tour.

### B. Introduction and Appointments of New Commissioners

#### a. John Pioske, Sibley County Townships

Chair Ahrenstorff gave an introduction of John Pioske who was nominated by Sibley County Townships to serve on the Commission. Pioske has been a farmer in Sibley County for 32 years on a cash-crop farm, is active in 4H and on various boards in Sibley County.

**b. Olivia Lippert, Youth Commissioner**

Chair Ahrenstorff welcomed Olivia Lippert who was nominated by the Budget and Personnel Committee to serve on the Commission representing youth.

Lippert gave a brief introduction stating she has lived in the nine-county area all her life, growing up outside of Easton in Faribault County, and is currently a sophomore at Bethany Lutheran College.

**Broeder moved to appoint John Pioske and Oliva Lippert to the Commission, Nelson seconded. Motion carried.**

**c. Barb Dressen, Executive Assistant**

Barb Dressen, new executive assistant for Region Nine, introduced herself stating she grew up in Nicollet and attended South Central College. She previously worked for DuPont Pioneer and currently lives in Eagle Lake.

**C. Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015**

Chair Ahrenstorff reported the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Annual Report has been completed and is available on Region Nine's website.

**D. Resolution 2016-06 Meeting Dates FY2017**

Chair Ahrenstorff presented Resolution 2016-06 establishing the meeting dates for FY2017.

**Juni moved to approve Resolution 2016-06 establishing the meeting dates for FY2017 as presented, Campbell seconded. Motion carried.**

**E. Resolution 2016-07 Commitment to Federal EDA Application**

Chair Ahrenstorff presented Resolution 2016-07 authorizing Region Nine to commit to the application submission to the Federal EDA for technical assistance to the City of Madelia as proposed in the grant application.

**Gustafson moved to approve Resolution 2016-07 as presented, Ardnt seconded. Motion carried.**

Griensewic Mickelson gave a brief update on Madelia's recovery stating the matching funds for the Federal EDA technical assistance grant were assigned by the state as part of the tax bill. Madelia is still hoping for a special session to potentially pass the bonding bill which includes assistance for Madelia, not associated with Region Nine. Region Nine Area Inc. has been the fiscal host for Madelia Strong Inc.; however, Madelia Strong Inc. is working with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to look into doing a community fund instead.

Griensewic Mickelson thanked those who participated in the bus tour.

**VIII. PUBLIC HEARING OF THE FY2017 BUDGET**

*The meeting was suspended to open the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.*

Chair Ahrenstorff opened the public hearing on the proposed FY2017 budget at 6:15 p.m.

#### A. Approval of the Budget

Rohlfing reported that the Budget and Personnel Committee has reviewed and approved the FY2017 budget and recommend it to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board of Directors has approved the budget for recommendation to the Commission.

Rohlfing presented the FY2017 budget which includes a 2% salary enhancement for staff, assumed 10% increase for health insurance, and a 3% levy increase. The total budget is \$1,019,656. There was a question and answer session on the budget.

**Munsch moved to approve the proposed FY2017 budget as presented, Ross seconded.**  
**Motion carried.**

Chair Ahrenstorff commended Vanderwerf on her work with the FY2017 budget.

#### B. Approval of Preliminary Levy

Chair Ahrenstorff presented the preliminary Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2017 listing funds to be levied from each of the nine counties. The final amounts will be presented at the October Commission meeting.

**Grabowska moved to approve the preliminary Certification of Apportioned Levies Payable 2017, Gustafson seconded.**

Discussion followed on the necessity of the 3% levy increase.

**Motion carried.**

**Chairman Ahrenstorff closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.**

### IX. STATE OF THE REGION

Brent Pearson, resource development planner, gave a *State of the Region* presentation detailing the economics, demographics, and education of the region as well as where the region is headed.

Discussion followed on workforce needs in the region. Sabrie mentioned the potential growth for labor force within the minority populations and detailed some of the barriers minorities face. Femrite encouraged education on minorities needs and becoming more literate in understanding ethnic groups.

### X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### A. Organizational Updates

Griensewic Mickelson thanked those who participated in the executive director assessment.

Griensewic Mickelson announced Jesse Womack has accepted the offer for the VISTA AmericCorps position. Womack's focus will be on local foods and an entrepreneur assistance program.

Griensewic Mickelson regretfully informed that Jacob Thunander, project development planner, has resigned his position. Thunander has accepted a position with the City of Monticello in their community development department. His last day will be on July 8, 2016. Before rehiring of the position, Griensewic Mickelson will reassess the needs of the organization and report back to the Budget and Personnel Committee.

Griensewic Mickelson stated the Strategic Planning Committee made a lot of great progress last year. Internally, staff are re-assessing Region Nine's Strategic Plan. A committee meeting will be held soon. Griensewic Mickelson reported staff are working on a proposal for a federal grant for a city within the region. More details cannot be released at this time.

Griensewic Mickelson requested commissioners to complete the five-year assessment of Region Nine that was distributed as a handout during the meeting.

Griensewic Mickelson informed that U.S. Senator Al Franken's staff will be conducting a *Rural Infrastructure Listening Tour* with stops in Blue Earth and Mankato. Region Nine staff have helped coordinate these sessions.

Griensewic Mickelson announced Region Nine will be submitting a NADO Innovation Award application for the ACT on Alzheimer's work completed to date.

Griensewic Mickelson reported the Community and Economic Development Committee has been reorganized and retitled to Community and Economic Development Planning Committee. The first meeting of the committee was a success with great region-wide representation.

#### **B. Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline**

Griensewic Mickelson reviewed the *Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline*.

Griensewic Mickelson announced the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation supported Region Nine's efforts in Madelia with \$10,000 check presented during the bus tour.

### **XI. FINANCE REPORT**

#### **A. Revolving Loan Funds Update**

Vanderwerf reported the Revolving Loan Fund Committee has approved four new loans. There are five more loan requests being prepared to go to committee.

#### **B. Region Nine Area Inc. Update**

Vanderwerf stated she attended the Town Center Inc. grand opening event.

Vanderwerf reported Region Nine Area Inc. continues to receive requests for fiscal sponsorship.

### **XII. COMMITTEE CAUCUS**

#### **A. Board of Directors and Committee Appointments**

Commissioners caucused by county and special interest groups to review the board of director's and committee appointments.

### **XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Ideas, Issues, Information Sharing**

Anderson thanked Region Nine for their assistance in explaining services Region Nine has to offer to the City of Fairmont.

Campbell gave an update on new developments at the Ponderosa Landfill.

Juni asked about counties affected by the recent storms and if they are doing FEMA requests.

Discussion followed.

Sabrie recommended the commission send a condolence card to U.S. Congressman Tim Walz for the loss of his brother.

**B. Complete Your Meeting Evaluation**

Chair Ahrenstorff requested commissioners to complete their meeting evaluation.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Ross moved approval to adjourn the meeting, Grabowska seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman



Gary Sturm, Vice Chair

