



I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Sturm conducted roll call.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, James Berg, Elliot Belgard, James Berg, Robert Broeder, Drew Campbell, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Candace Fenske, Jim Grabowska, Brian Gramentz, Ray Gustafson, Gerri Lienke, Tom Loveall, Pam Meyer, Blair Nelson, Diane Norland, Darwin Olson, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Steve Rohlring, Jeff Ross, Phil Schafer, Richard Scholtes, Charles Schmitz, Gary Sturm, Jim Swanson, Bill Yock, and Chuck Zieman

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Terry Anderson, Daren Arndt, James Broich, Terry Genelin, Frederick Juni, and Paul Menne

MEMBERS ABSENT: Doug Munsch and Abdi Sabrie

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, Lu Vanderwerf, Peggy Jorgenson, Scott Reiten, and Allison Bluhm

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Belgard moved to approve the December 9, 2015 minutes, Nelson seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Grabowska moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

VII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Approval of Chuck Zieman, City of St. Peter Representative

Chairman Ahrenstorff introduced and welcomed Chuck Zieman to the commission. Zieman is a long time resident of St. Peter and was on the city council for four years. Zieman stated that he is looking forward to being a part of Region Nine.

Broeder moved to approve the appointment of Chuck Zieman to the Commission, Norland seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Scott Reiten, Regional Emergency Management Planner, gave a presentation about the Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) program. Since beginning the program in 2003, the number of traffic related deaths in Minnesota has decreased significantly, from 655 down to 361 in 2014. However, there are still areas in which Region Nine counties could improve, including seat belt compliance, lane departures, and intersection related accidents. Reiten noted a jump in Minnesota fatalities in 2015 for motorcyclists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. By 2020, Minnesota's TZD goal is 300 fatalities and less than 850 serious injuries. Reiten added that funds are available for from the Department of Public Safety for Safe Road Coalitions.

Reiten informed the commission that he would be representing Region Nine, along with South Central Minnesota EMS, to try and get Safe Roads Coalition funding. TZD needs sponsors to help apply for the grant, and it is Reiten's goal to get one for each county in the region. The grant would be for around \$15K-\$20K, and would pay for a part-time TZD coordinator.

Commissioner Campbell mentioned the cost savings for having properly funded roads and bike paths when it comes to maintenance. Blue Earth County has also asked MnDOT for extra paving for bike lanes.

Commissioner Anderson discussed funding for new and old roads and inquired if there has been a cost benefit analysis study done, particularly when it comes to insurance carriers. Reiten replied that there has, and less traffic accidents amount to millions of dollars in savings to the State of Minnesota.

Discussion followed.

IX. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

i. Final Audit Approval

LuAnnVanderwerf, Finance Director, presented the final audit for approval. Vanderwerf stated that while MNRAAA has completed their transition, there will still be some financial transactions for at least another month. Region Nine and MNRAAA have been working together on finalizing any financial items.

There are currently four Revolving Loan Fund applications in process. Vanderwerf stated that two of the loans are still in development.

Vanderwerf restated some of the audit results and highlights from the December audit presentation and pointed out important areas in the audit for commissioners that may have missed the December meeting.

Commissioner Campbell requested a report on MNRAAA's effect on the audit and financial impact moving forward. Vanderwerf stated that MNRAAA is totally separate from Region Nine's financials with the exception of payroll, since MNRAAA employees were part of Region Nine.

Commissioner Anderson requested clarification about the addition of pension liability to the audit. Vanderwerf explained that it is in the audit only for reporting purposes, and stated that the liability included in the current audit is actually FY2014's number, since it is always calculated a year behind.

Grabowska moved to approve the Final Audit as presented, Swanson seconded. Motion carried.

ii. **Update on RNAI and Fiscal Sponsorships**

Vanderwerf reported that there are no new contracts for RNAI. RNAI has closed out the SMIF grant to Envision Lab. Friends of North Mankato is continuing to raise funds, and RNAI will still be collecting on their behalf.

RNAI will be serving as fiscal sponsor for the non-profit HerVision, which is part of Envision Lab. HerVision's mission is to help women get into business with a focus on assisting new Americans with their English language skills to become business owners.

B. **Community Development**

i. **Projects & Contracts Review**

Byron Jost, Community Development Director, highlighted projects the Community Development Department is working on:

- EDA planning grant: The 2015 CEDS Annual Performance Report is almost complete and ready to be approved by the Economic Development Committee on Friday, January 15. The CEDS Strategy Committee will also be discussing the report on February 10, which is the same day that Region Nine will be asking the board to approve the resolution supporting the report. This year, Region Nine will pattern their CEDS after the greater Minnesota plan that MADDO put together called DevelopMN.
- EDA local technical assistance grant with a focus on medical manufacturing: It is a three year grant, with the goal to bring more medical device manufacturing into the area along with any related businesses. Region Nine is partnering with

GreaterMSP, gathering data and ensuring the industry codes used are consistent. Region Nine will also be creating a taskforce to manage the grant.

- CCATF: The vulnerability assessment is nearing completion, and the taskforce will be starting on the adaptation component. From there, they will develop a template that communities in the region can use to develop strategies of their own. Jost also talked about the MDH health assessment grant that will look at each of the strategies developed by the CCATF.
- ACT on Alzheimer's: Region Nine is continuing to seek funding for ACT on Alzheimer's. Grants are now complete, but there is interest to continue the effort and expand past Mankato/North Mankato and into more communities in Region Nine.
- Women's Foundation of Minnesota: Region Nine is helping the group by working with law enforcement regarding an anti-sex trafficking initiative grant.

X. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Resolution 2016-01 – Supporting the Minnesota Broadband Vision Statement

Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Executive Director, presented a Resolution 2016-01 supporting the Minnesota Broadband Vision Statement. The resolution, put forth by the Blandin Foundation, has been supported by two other development commissions so far.

Commissioner Broeder wanted to clarify that the resolution was to support the concept and not necessarily the legislation that is involved.

Belgard moved to approve Resolution 2016-01 as presented, Norland seconded. Motion carried.

B. Other Business

Griensewic Mickelson updated the commission on the completion of MNRAAA's transition.

Griensewic Mickelson reported that progress had been made on the search for candidates for the Youth Commissioner seats. Region Nine sent letters to 33 high schools and four colleges, and will keep the commission informed as responses come in.

Griensewic Mickelson announced, as of now, all the seats on the commission are full. In conducting commissioner orientations, one of the questions that came up was about commissioner expectations, and what the commission needs from them. Region Nine is currently working on these expectations, and will be looking for input from the commission once a working document is completed. Another idea from commissioner orientation involved conducting newly elected officials training, which would

include any of the commissioner's counterparts in the region. Griensewic Mickelson asked the commission to let her know if they had any ideas/input.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that Nicollet County will need to caucus after the meeting. The current committee list will be updated with the new information.

Griensewic Mickelson spoke about Minnesota Medical Manufacturing Partnership (MMMP). Griensewic Mickelson was asked to serve on the committee representing Region Nine, since Region Nine has the local technical assistance grant. The MMMP Executive Committee will have meetings once every other month.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that Ashley Aukes will be returning from maternity leave on Thursday, January 21st. It is also intern Taylor Nelson's last week before returning to college.

Griensewic Mickelson mentioned that Commissioner's Broich and Juni are recovering from illnesses, and asked the commission to have them in their thoughts.

Discussion occurred regarding indirect costs now that MNRAAA has transitioned.

XI. Other Business

A. Ideas, Issues, Information Sharing

Chairman Ahrenstorff mentioned that the Holiday Party would commence after the meeting in the Mankato Event Center.

B. Complete Your Meeting Evaluation

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.



Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman



Gary Sturm, Secretary

