

March 11, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, James Broich, Gerri Lienke, Tom Loveall, Steve Rohlfig, Phil Schafer, Tim Strand, Gary Sturm, Jim Swanson

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Linda Giersdorf, Ashley Aukes, Danielle Walchuk, Drew Campbell

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sturm moved to approve the agenda as presented, Strand seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Broich moved to approve the February 11, 2015 minutes as presented, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Swanson congratulated the City of St. Peter for the passage of their school referendum and gave an update on the City of Gaylord's referendum challenges.

Chairman Swanson reported that in June his term as chair will expire. The Strategic Planning Committee is also the Nominating Committee for the position of chair. If you have any recommendations for nominations, please let the committee members know.

Chairman Swanson reported that Sibley County hired a new county administrator that will start in April.

VII. DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Danielle Walchuk, Regional Development Planner, and Elaine Spain, Program Developer, presented on the ACT on Alzheimer's project. In July of 2014, Region Nine received a grant through ACT on Alzheimer's to examine Mankato/North Mankato's dementia readiness and help create a dementia-friendly environment. An Action Team was formed representing the following sectors: transportation, senior service providers, local government, legal and financial, among others.

The Action Team collected surveys from the community to assess the dementia readiness of the community. Those findings were then turned into action steps and prioritized at a community meeting. The community meeting had about 50 participants. The next phase of the project is to apply for Phase 4 Funding to implement the top action steps.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Waseca County Representative Update

Griensewic Mickelson gave an updated on the current vacant commission seats. Contacts have been made with the representing entities and are awaiting response back. Two new commissioners will be completing their orientation in March, Terry Anderson, City of Fairmont, and Blair Nelson, Waseca County.

B. Communications and Admin Internship Update

Griensewic Mickelson reported that Public Relations and Marketing intern interviews were held this week.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that she met with Grace Webb, editor for Connect Magazine. The meeting was to explain Region Nine to Webb and let her know of our current events. From the meeting, Webb is interested in doing a workforce housing news series in the magazine. The South Central Business Development Network (SCBDN) and the Economic Development Committee will be holding a joint Workforce Forum with Webb to discuss the topic.

Griensewic Mickelson attended a meeting of the SCBDN with Representative Gunther as the presenter. Rep. Gunther made complimentary remarks about Region Nine and the work we are doing. The focus of the meeting was on workforce housing.

Griensewic Mickelson gave an update on the 2015 Regional Bus Tour route that has been identified. The tour will be passing through the following communities: Madelia, Trimont, Sherburn, Fairmont, Blue Earth, Winnebago, and Wells.

Griensewic Mickelson stated the Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting on April 1st at 5:00 p.m.

IX. PROGRAM REPORTS

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

a. Hiring Update

Giersdorf reported there are currently three positions posted for MNRAAA: Pre-Admission Screening Specialist, Lead Program Developer, and Administrative Assistant. The new Senior Outreach Specialist for the northern nine counties started work on Monday and is working closely with Robin Thompson and Sarah Reiman.

b. Transition Update

Giersdorf reported that Senator Klobachar's staff are holding a Supporting Our Seniors Staff Tour. MNRAAA was a presenter for the communities in our area.

Giersdorf gave an update on the PERA legislation. The bill has been introduced and needs to have a hearing by March 20th. MNRAAA Chairman Bob Roesler and Giersdorf will be meeting with Senator Julie Rosen to be an author on the Senate side. Staff have been asked to contact their House Representatives to let them know the bill is important for them.

The next MNRAAA Board meeting will be held on April 1st.

B. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

Vanderwerf reported that the budget process has begun and a tentative schedule has been set. The Budget and Personnel Committee will be meeting on April 15th.

Vanderwerf stated that management have been reviewing the computer IT services and looking at what

other options may be available to better meet Region Nine's needs.

Vanderwerf reported that the life insurance renewal began in January with the increased benefits. A representative from the company spoke to staff about the changes.

Vanderwerf reported that two loans will be ready to go to committee soon. In April, Vanderwerf will be sitting on a panel discussion for new entrepreneurs in Springfield and also will be presenting for the Waseca County EDA.

a. RNAI Update

Vanderwerf reported that the Centennial and Town Center projects are still collection donations. RNAI will be the fiscal sponsor for donations for Envision Lab and The 410 Project. Federal and State returns are being completed.

C. Community Development

a. RNDC/MnDOT/MPO 2019 Projects Open House

Jost stated the Transportation Advisory Committee has a meeting on March 31st. The Area Transportation Improvement Plan will be hosting an Open House for the public to see the 2019 projects that MnDOT is planning on constructing. The Open House provides an opportunity for the public to make comments on the projects.

b. Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline

Jost reviewed the Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline spreadsheet.

Jost reported that Jacob Thunander, Project Development Planner, is now administering the Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF). The group was considering doing a name change and staff looked into what the value would be if the name were changed. Due to RETF's success in the last five years, it was decided that it would be best to keep the same name.

Jost reported that Brent Pearson, Resource Development Planner, has been helping with data needs for the statewide CEDS document, *DevelopMN*.

Jost reported that the Climate Change Task Force has held its first meeting and can now begin working on the project.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

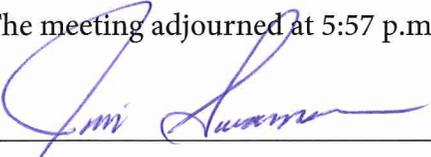
Discussion was held on W2s for commission members.

Anderson thanked the Board for their support over the past month.

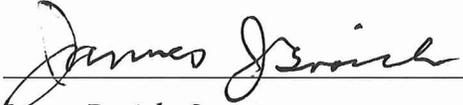
XI. ADJOURNMENT

Strand moved approval to adjourn the meeting, Broich seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.



Jim Swanson, Chairman



James Broich, Secretary

