

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

## **II. ROLL CALL**

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

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

## **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Anderson moved to approve the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 minutes as presented, Genelin seconded.

Motion carried.

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

Rohlffing presented the Treasurer's Report.

Rohlffing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Swanson seconded. Motion carried.

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

### **A. Introduction of Executive Assistant**

Chair Ahrenstorff introduced the new Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, Barb Dressen.

Dressen gave a brief introduction of herself including that she grew up in Nicollet, MN, and currently resides in Eagle Lake. Dressen was previously employed at DuPont Pioneer.

### **B. Commissioner Update, Sibley County**

Chair Ahrenstorff stated Sibley County Townships Representative Paul Menne has stepped down from his position on the Commission. Menne will be focusing his efforts on the Henderson Comprehensive Plan that Region Nine recently finished.

Swanson reported that the executive committee for Sibley County Townships has appointed John Pioski of Henderson to be the Sibley County Townships Representative on the Commission.

## **VII. PROGRAM REPORTS**

### **A. Finance**

Vanderwerf reported that the Budget and Personnel committee has begun the budget process for Fiscal Year 2017. The budget will assume a 3% levy and a 10% increase in health insurance. Vanderwerf reviewed the levy history and previous years levy usage with the committee.

#### **i. Revolving Loan Fund**

Vanderwerf stated the Revolving Loan Fund Committee has begun implementing the term limits which has resulted in some members needing to be replaced. Committee member Bob Roesler's position has been filled with Mitch Nelson from Profinium Bank and committee member Jim Broich's position has been filled with Brian Gramentz from the Minnesota Valley Council of Governments. Le Sueur County and Sibley County replacements still need to be completed.

Vanderwerf reported there has been increased interest in the revolving loan funds recently. There are five new loans that will be brought to committee and with the potential for an addition two. Many of these loan requests have learned about Region Nine through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and the Small Business Development Center.

ii. **Region Nine Area Inc. Update**

Vanderwerf reported there have been two new contracts for Region Nine Area Inc. (RNAI) including the Martin County Veterans' Memorial project and Dream Closet. The 410 Project has also signed a new contract with RNAI.

Vanderwerf reviewed the Resolution 2016-04 requesting the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust to accept RNAI in its coverage program that passed at the Commission meeting in April 2016. The League of Minnesota Cities will allow the insurance coverage because RNAI is an instrumentality of Region Nine. What makes RNAI an instrumentality is that the by-laws state RNDC appoints the RNAI Board members. If this language were to change then RNAI will need to receive their insurance through another entity.

Vanderwerf stated the RNAI Board reviewed the contract with Madelia Strong Inc. and gave a summary of the board's discussion. Vanderwerf will be working with the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) to determine if Madelia Strong Inc. could be better suited in SMIF's Community Foundation Program. The Community Foundation Program may align with Madelia Strong Inc.'s future goals and plans for the organization.

Genelin detailed the reasoning for the potential transition of Madelia Strong Inc. to SMIF.

Discussion followed on the relationship of RNAI with Madelia Strong Inc.

## VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

### A. Resolution 2016-05 MnDOT Planning Funds Agreement

Griensewic Mickelson presented Resolution 2016-05 authorizing Region Nine to enter into an agreement for distribution of *MnDOT Planning Funds Agreement Number 1003081* with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation.

**Swanson moved to approve Resolution 2016-05 as presented, Rohlfing seconded. Motion carried.**

### B. Bus Tour Update

Griensewic Mickelson reviewed the draft agenda for the Fourth Annual Regional Bus Tour and those who will be attending. The tour will focus on Madelia's recovery, Revolving Loan Fund clients, emergency services, a tour of MTU Onsite Energy, and the Youth Employment Acceleration Program (YEAP).

### C. Madelia Update

Griensewic Mickelson gave an update on the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) technical assistance grant application for the City of Madelia. The City of Madelia, Watonwan County, Madelia Chamber of Commerce, and Region Nine have together requested assistance from the State of Minnesota to provide matching funds for the EDA technical assistance grant.

Griensewic Mickelson reviewed her participation at the Minnesota Medical Manufacturing Partnership (MMMP) Launch event. Jay Williams, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, and Shawntera Hardy, DEED Commissioner, were present at the event as well as other national and state leaders. This event provided an opportunity for Griensewic Mickelson to re-inform the leaders of Madelia's grant application.

Griensewic Mickelson detailed other resources Region Nine has brought to Madelia including the University of Minnesota, Extension to discuss completing an economic impact analysis for the City of Madelia. Region Nine will also be completing Madelia's comprehensive plan; however, the process is on hold until the city is ready begin.

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

Griensewic Mickelson gave an overview of the projects, contracts and staffing timeline highlighting that the addition of the Blue Earth County Clean Lakes projects. Griensewic Mickelson noted the Climate Change Adaptation Project is 90% complete.

#### **E. Other Business**

Griensewic Mickelson mentioned that the Renewable Energy Task Force is asking for responses to a community solar garden survey. A copy of the survey was distributed.

Griensewic Mickelson stated new commissioners Steve Cooling and Chuck Zeiman completed their orientation on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The Budget and Personnel Committee approved an application from Olivia Lippert to serve as a youth commissioner. Lippert will be recommended for appointment at the Commission meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. There is still an open youth commissioner position.

Griensewic Mickelson reminded that the commissioners will be asked to caucus for committee assignments at the Commission meeting in June.

Griensewic Mickelson gave a more detailed review of the MMMP Launch event. The event included a tour of Mayo Square and Coloplast Corporation. Coloplast Corporation also has a facility in North Mankato.

Griensewic Mickelson showed the list of acronyms that has been added to the Board packet. This was a recommendation from the meeting evaluations. Griensewic Mickelson encouraged participation in providing feedback on the meeting evaluations.

Griensewic Mickelson gave an update on the AmeriCorps VISTA position. There is currently one applicant and an interview will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Aukes announced a new service Region Nine will be able to provide through Constant Contact. This new partnership will allow Aukes give social media trainings throughout the region with compensation from Constant Contact.

Aukes mentioned the Region Nine website has been recently updated and encouraged commissioners to

provide any feedback on the new design.

Griensewic Mickelson stated there will be a Budget and Personnel Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Griensewic Mickelson described a meeting that was held with Greater Mankato Growth President and CEO Jonathon Ziert.

Anderson explained the purpose and activities of GMG's REDA group.

Discussion followed on the relationship with GMG's REDA group and the small cities throughout the region.

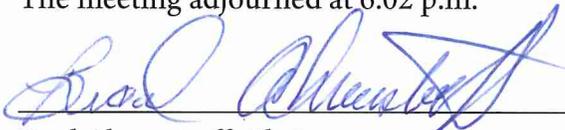
## X. OTHER BUSINESS

Swanson clarified that the Board of Directors will be meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and the full Commission and annual meeting will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

**Anderson moved approval to adjourn the meeting, Rohlving 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