

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, Jim Swanson, Jim Broich, Steve Rohlffing, Gary Sturm, Phil Schafer, Tom Loveall, Tim Strand, Gerri Lienke, and Eric Anderson

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Ashley Aukes, Sam Parker, and Bobbi Retzlaff

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sturm moved to approve the November 18th, 2015 minutes as presented, Swanson seconded. Motion carried.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Nicollet County Representative

Chairman Ahrenstorff welcomed Commissioner Terry Genelin as a new board member representing Nicollet County.

VII. STATEWIDE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Bobbi Retzlaff, Planning Program Coordinator for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), gave a presentation on the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan Update. It is a four phase process to update the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan. Currently, MnDOT is in phase three of the update which is policy direction. MnDOT representatives are traveling around Minnesota holding public and stakeholder meetings to gain input and determine priorities for the plan. Retzlaff reviewed the components of the plan and their impact throughout Minnesota.

Discussion followed.

VIII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. Finance

Vanderwerf stated that all of the reporting for January (1099s and 1095s) has been completed. The majority of the MNRAAA items have also been completed.

a. Revolving Loan Fund Update

Vanderwerf reported there are three potential loans going to committee for review. Vanderwerf gave a presentation in New Ulm regarding Revolving Loan Funds to startup businesses.

Vanderwerf shared she has been collaborating with SMIF and SBDC in regards to clients who have little or no collateral.

b. **Region Nine Area Inc.**

Vanderwerf reported that RNAI is working on a contract with Madelia Strong Inc. to accept donations for recovery from the February 3rd fire. RNAI is also helping Envision Lab apply for another grant for a new initiative called *Her Vision*.

B. Community Development

a. **Resolution 2016-02 CEDS APR**

Jost presented the 2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Performance Report (CEDS APR) and requested approval of Resolution 2016-02 authorizing the report.

Genelin moved to approval Resolution 2016-02 authorizing the RNDC CEDS 2015 APR, Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

b. **Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline**

Jost stated the most current timeline was distributed in the board packet.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Grants Update

Griensewic Mickelson gave a review the of the MBA grant RNDC had applied for to continue and expand the ACT on Alzheimer's work. RNDC's proposal was not selected for funding from the MBA; however, due to the support of key partners, including Mayo Clinic and Mankato Clinic, RNDC has decided to pursue other options for funding the proposal. RNDC has submitted the proposal to the Otto Bremer Foundation for a \$200,000 grant. A proposal is also being submitted to the Mankato Foundation to continue work with the ACT Mankato/North Mankato group during the interim.

If awarded the Otto Bremer grant, RNDC would hire an additional staff person who would have space in the RNDC office and at VINE Faith in Action. This person would work on outreach strategies to connect a person with Alzheimer's and their caregivers to available resources. The outreach would cover RNDC's nine county service area.

Griensewic Mickelson reported that RNDC has applied for a one-year full-time AmeriCorps VISTA. If awarded, this person would work on capacity building for entrepreneur support focusing on local foods and agriculture starting in August.

B. Out of State Travel Request: NADO / EDA Conferences

Griensewic Mickelson presented an out of state travel request for the NADO Policy Conference and the EDA Anniversary Conference. It is unclear at this time if Griensewic Mickelson will be required to attend both conferences as agendas have not been released.

Swanson moved to approve out of state travel costs of up to \$2,500 to be used to attend the NADO Policy Conference and/or the EDA Anniversary Conference, Schafer seconded. Motion carried.

C. DevelopMN

Griensewic Mickelson gave a presentation on DevelopMN, the Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for greater Minnesota. This plan is part of creating one voice for greater Minnesota and serve as a blue print for the RDOs.

D. Transition Update

a. MNRAAA Accrued Leave

Griensewic Mickelson stated that everything was finalized with staff regarding the transition with MNRAAA on December 31st. RNDC has met all of the required deadlines that were agreed upon between the two entities. However, the December invoice owed by MNRAAA to RNDC had not been paid as of February 1st. Griensewic Mickelson shared conversations that had taken place between herself and MNRAAA's chair. As a result of these conversations, overdue payment has now been received from MNRAAA.

Griensewic Mickelson requested a motion of approval to pay the accrued leave balance to MNRAAA.

Swanson moved to approve payment of the accrued leave balance to MNRAAA, Rohlfig seconded. Motion carried.

b. Build Out Payment

Griensewic Mickelson presented a request for approval to pay the owed build out payment to MNRAAA before the March deadline as a sign of good faith to the other organization.

Loveall moved to approval the payment of the build out at the discretion of the executive director, Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

c. Other Business

Griensewic Mickelson stated that there has been a perceived conflict of interest have MNRAAA's Board Chair serve on RNAI Board of Directors and the Revolving Loan Fund committee.

Discussion followed regarding the bylaws of both entities and RNDC's role.

The Board decided to have staff review the bylaws and present the findings at the next Board of Directors meeting.

E. Madelia Fire Update

Griensewic Mickelson reported that on February 3rd, 2016 a fire in downtown Madelia destroyed eight businesses. The day of the fire, Griensewic Mickelson contacted all of RNDC's key partners, including the Governor's office and area legislatures, informing them of the situation. As a result of the fire, RNDC's role has been to connect the City of Madelia, Madelia Chamber, and the business owners to resource to help in the recovery process. In this role, RNDC has coordinated with DEED's Rapid Response Team to come to Madelia and talk to the affected employees about their unemployment aid options. Blandin Foundation has granted RNDC \$30,000 to continue to provide technical assistance to the community, as well as to develop a comprehensive plan for Madelia. RNDC has been asked to take the lead on all media requests including interviews and press releases.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that the community of Madelia has formed a group, Madelia Strong Inc., to collect and distribute donations to aid in the recovery. Madelia Strong Inc. is working with RNAI to be their fiscal sponsor.

RNDC will continue to send out weekly updates on the Madelia fire recovery.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was brought forward.

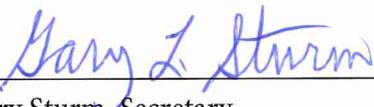
XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.



Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman



Gary Sturm, Secretary