REGION NINE
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2015

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, LuAnn Vanderwerf, Linda Giersdorf, Brent Pearson, and Ashley Aukes

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rohlfing moved to approve the September 9, 2015 minutes as presented, Sturm seconded. Motion carried.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

Rohlfing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, Broich seconded. Motion carried.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. NADO Conference Recap

Chairman Ahrenstorff gave a review of the NADO Annual Training Conference which he and Nicole attended. Regional Renaissance was the conference theme with the focus on how New Orleans is rebuilding the city after Hurricane Katrina. Chairman Ahrenstorff shared an overview of the information that he took away from each of the conference sessions. Griensewic Mickelson gave a presentation during the conference about *Telling the Regional Government Story Differently*. The session was well received.

B. Blue Earth County Mayors & Clerks

Chairman Ahrenstorff stated that Scott Reiten presented on the regionalization of fire deparments at the Blue Earth County Majors and Clerks Organization meeting. Reiten's presentation was well received by those in attendance.

VII. PROGRAM REPORTS

A. IMCP Update

Brent Pearson, Resource Development Planner, presented on the Federal EDA grant that was received to provide technical assistance and business recruitment and retention planning to attract medical device manufacturers to the region and expand the network of medical device manufacturing services in the region (both direct and indirect). This project, at this time, is being referred to as R9-mTAP (Manufacturing Technical Assistance Program). Pearson reviewed the history leading up to the grant

award. RNDC was encouraged to focus on the federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program and collaborate with GreaterMSP's. The R9-mTAP three year work plan does not seek official designation for our region, but rather will provide technical assistance, gather support information, and help build the network. Conversations have begun with GreaterMSP to discuss was ways to partner including data gathering and outreach strategies.

Discussion followed.

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

Giersdorf reported that staff are working on the MNRAAA Board awarded 2016 grants and contracts for service providers. Hiller-Feldberg is conducting the project assessments and preparing projects for next year.

Giersdorf stated that Medicare Open Enrollment is in full swing. Five seasonal staff were hired to help with the Medicare Open Enrollment phone calls received to the Senior LinkAge Line. MNRAAA was contacted by a mental health center in Worthington to assist 30 patients with their Medicare Part D enrollment. MNRAAA was also contacted by VINE's diversity coordinator to help provide plan comparisons for Somalians.

a. Transition Update

Giersdorf stated that the transition is continuing to progress. MNRAAA's office furniture from the Region Nine office will be moved to the new location December 16-18. Giersdorf, Robin Thompson, Vanderwerf, and Griensewic Mickelson have reached an agreement in regards to central service costs owed to RNDC and it will be brought to the MNRAAA Board meeting on December 9th.

C. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

a. Revolving Loan Fund Update

Vanderwerf reported the semi-annual report has been submitted and stated there are still funds to loan out. RNDC has been contacted by several groups interested in funds.

b. Region Nine Area Inc. Update

Vanderwerf stated there are no new contracts at this time. The Friends of North Mankato project is at a standstill due to issues with the seller. Town Center has had their soft grand opening in Trimont. The official grand opening will follow in the spring.

c. Audit Update

Vanderwerf reported that the audit is still being written and should arrive this week.

D. Community Development

a. Staffing Update

Jost reported that Sam Parker has accepted the offer for the Community Development Planner with a Transportation Emphasis position. Parker has previously worked for a council of governments in Iowa which operates similarly to a development organization. Parker's first day will be November 30th.

b. Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline

Jost reviewed the Projects, Contracts and Staffing Timeline highlighting the Federal EDA grant and

projects that will be wrapping up soon such as Act on Alzheimer's and Safe Routes to School projects.

Jost stated that MnDOT TAP is currently soliciting applications for Safe Routes to School projects in communities. Applications are due by January 8th.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Commissioner Update

Griensewic Mickelson reported the new Sibley County Townships Commissioner, Paul Menne, will have his orientation tomorrow. Faribault County Cities under 10,000 Commissioner, Richard Shoultz, will have his orientation next Wednesday. Staff will begin working on filling the new youth commissioners positions soon.

Commissioner Strand stated he was defeated in the election for Mayor of St. Peter and will therefore no longer be a RNDC commissioner.

Griensewic Mickelson stated RNAI sent out a press release to fill the vacant board seat. To date, six people have reached out saying they are willing and interested in serving on the RNAI Board.

B. Staffing Update

Griensewic Mickelson reported that the Transportation Planner position title was changed to Community Development Planner with a Transportation Emphasis to better match the full list of duties in the department.

Griensewic Mickelson gave a staffing update stating that Ashley Aukes, Communication Specialist, will be starting maternity leave on November 25th and will be back on January 21st. Allison Bluhm will be working as an intern while she is getting her Master's in Public Administration. Intern Taylor Nelson will be returning for two weeks during her winter break.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that RNDC was contacted by the Wow Zone for RNDC staff to potentially do social media training in February.

C. NADO Conference

Griensewic Mickelson gave a review of the NADO Annual Training Conference she attended. During the conference, RNDC was presented with an Innovation Award and had a booth displaying RNDC's communications materials. Griensewic Mickelson led the young professionals meet up during the conference.

Griensewic Mickelson gave a review of the Greater Mankato Growth Intercity Leadership she attended. The focus of the visit was on economic development with discussions on racial and social inequities.

D. Transition Update

Griensewic Mickelson reported that the Budget and Personnel Committee approved for the MnRAAA staff to begin working out of their new location beginning December 21st with one person remaining in the RNDC office until December 31st. The tear down of office furniture has been planned and accommodations have been made.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Anderson stated that the coalition has put together their list of priorities for the legislative session including local government aid and relief on business regarding property tax.

Discussion followed.

Chairman Ahrenstorff stated he met with Representative Cornish and Senator Rosen about the Blue Earth County sales tax.

Discussion followed.

Griensewic Mickelson reminded the Board that the December Board meeting was changed to a Commission meeting to finalize transition items. Griensewic Mickelson recognized the MNRAAA staff and thanked them for their service and dedication to RNDC over the years.

Giersdorf stated that MNRAAA is setting up a new board and will be seeking new members. The application process is currently being worked on. A resolution has been passed to maintain the current MNRAAA Board members through the end of June.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman

Gary Sturm, Secretary