



I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ahrenstorff called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Intergovernmental Center in Mankato.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Ahrenstorff, Eric Anderson, Terry Anderson, James Berg, Elliot Belgard, Robert Broeder, James Broich, Drew Campbell, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Candace Fenske, Terry Genelin, Jim Grabowska, Brian Gramentz, Ray Gustafson, Frederick Juni, Gerri Lienke, Tom Loveall, Paul Menne, Pam Meyer, Doug Munsch, Blair Nelson, Richard Peterson, Mike Pfeil, Steve Rohlffing, Jeff Ross, Abdi Sabrie, Phil Schafer, Charles Schmitz, and Gary Sturm

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Daren Arndt, Darwin Olson, Tim Strand, and Jim Swanson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Norland and Bill Yock

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Byron Jost, Lu Vanderwerf, Linda Giersdorf, Ashley Aukes, Peggy Jorgenson, Robin Thompson, Gabriel Appiah, Robert Prahm, David Pitt, Karen Galles, and Marcus Grubbs

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Grabowska moved to approve the agenda as presented, Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Broich moved to approve the July 8th, 2015 minutes with the correction of listing Broeder as present, Grabowska seconded. Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Rohlffing moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Grabowska seconded. Motion carried.

VII. INTRODUCTIONS

A. New Staff, Peggy Jorgenson

Chair Ahrenstorff introduced the new part-time administrative assistant, Peggy Jorgenson. Jorgenson's hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. She previously worked with Lutheran Social Services and South Central College in administrative roles.

B. Appointment of New Sibley County Township Commissioner, Paul Menne

Chair Ahrenstorff introduced new commissioner Paul Menne for appointment to represent Sibley County Townships.

Broeder moved to approve the appointment of Menne to the Commission, Belgard seconded. Motion carried.

VIII. 7 MILE CREEK WATERSHED BIOECONOMY

Jost introduced the following presenters from the University of Minnesota David Pitt, Landscape Architecture Professor; Karen Galles, Watershed Coordinator; and Marcus Grubbs, Project Coordinator. The speakers presented on the *New Agricultural Bioeconomy Project: Increasing Farm Production, Resource Conservation, and Community Vitality*. The presentation discussed the changes in the agriculture bioeconomy, strategic biomass production, and the Seven Mile Creek Project.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A. Cities Under 10,000 Faribault County Representative

Ahrenstorff reported that the following elected officials has been nominated to serve as the Cities under 10,000 representative for Faribault County: Jean Anderson, City of Winnebago Council Member; Douglas Trytten, Mayor of Kiester; and Richard Scholtes, Mayor of Blue Earth. The cities under 10,000 in Faribault County have been sent a ballot to vote for their representative.

B. Youth Commissioners

Ahrenstorff reported Gustafson has been elected to serve as chair of the Budget and Personnel Committee and Juni has been elected as vice chair.

Gustafson stated the Budget and Personnel Committee met and discussed the Youth Commissioner(s) position and the parameters. Youth commissioners would be able to vote on the committee level (excluding items involving dollars) but not at the Commission level. Youth Commissioners would not be able to serve on the Budget and Personnel Committee or the Board of Directors.

Gustafson moved to approve the adding of one to two youth commissioners to serve on the Commission, Campbell seconded. Motion carried.

C. December Full Commission Meeting

Ahrenstorff stated a December Full Commission meeting may be necessary to finalize any transition items.

Juni moved to approve a December 9th, 2015 Full Commission meeting, Munsch seconded. Motion carried.

X. PROGRAM REPORTS

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

Giersdorf reported that two Pre-Admission Screening staff will be moving due to their husbands' job changes. Region Nine has agreed to retain the two employees, one will work out of the Slayton office and the other will be a remote employee.

i. MNRAAA Transition Update

Giersdorf reported that the transition is progressing. The MNRAAA Board has approved the salary structure and benefit package effective January 1st, 2016. Region Nine staff who do MNRAAA work have received their employment offer letter from MNRAAA and are aware of their salary effective January 1st. Affected staff who work in the Slayton and Mankato offices will both be relocating. Mankato staff will be moving to an office in the Union Square building.

Giersdorf stated that MNRAAA is in the process of having funds transferred from Region Nine to MNRAAA's bank account. There are still some funding that needs to be finalized. The next steps in

the transition are to finalize MNRAAA's bylaws and recruit members for the Board of Directors. The next MNRAAA Board meeting will be held on November 4th in Redwood Falls.

B. Finance / Revolving Loan Fund

Vanderwerf reported that there have been two new requests for significant loans in Nicollet and Brown County. RCEFs for new pharmacy students and to get pharmacies back in rural Minnesota is still in the foundation stage, there are no new updates at this time.

i. Resolution for 2016 Levy

Vanderwerf presented the Certification of Apportioned Levis Payable 2016.

Grabowska moved to approve the Certification of Apportioned Levis Payable 2016, Broeder seconded. Motion carried.

ii. RNAI Update

Vanderwerf stated that the Friends of North Mankato project is still active but reviewing their options before moving forward.

C. Community Development

i. Staffing Update

Jost reported that the transportation planner, Dave Wentzel, has resigned from his position.

Wentzel has accepted in opportunity to work as the Assistant Executive Director for the Disabled American Veterans in St. Paul. The opening has been posted to fill the position.

ii. Projects & Contracts Review

Jost gave an overview of the current project's and contracts for the department and highlighted the Safe Routes to School Projects that are coming to an end.

Jost gave an update on the Eagle Lake Emergency Services Study. Three communities are providing information for the study regarding their emergency services including equipment and staff will then analyze the data. The end result will be a recommendation on if the communities would benefit from sharing resources.

Jost reported that Region Nine has been awarded a grant from the EDA for the Local Technical Assistance/Medical Technology IMCP. The IMCP is a federal level initiative where the EDA is providing funding to regional collaboratives. The EDA contacted Region Nine to encourage Region Nine to apply for the grant. Region Nine's role will be to make connections with the Med Tech IMCP and companies who work with medical technology in southeastern Minnesota.

XI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Out of State Travel Request – CPC Training, Ashley Aukes

Griensewic Mickelson presented an out of state travel request for Ashley Aukes to attend the Certified Public Communicator Program in Fort Worth, TX. The program will be paid for over the course of two fiscal years as the course runs for one week the summer of 2016 and 2017.

Grabowska moved to approve the out of state travel Request for Aukes as presented, Gustafson seconded. Motion carried.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that Region Nine won NADO's photo contest in the category of *Strengthening the Built and Natural Environments*. Region Nine has also received NADO's Innovation

Award for *Telling the Regional Story Differently*. The award will be presented at the NADO Annual Training Conference. Griensewic Mickelson will also be serving on a communications panel discussion during the conference.

Griensewic Mickelson reported that a new intern, Allison Bluhm, will be starting with Region Nine. Bluhm is working on getting her MBA in Public Administration and has a degree in English. She will be working approximately 20 hours a week for the next semester and a half.

Griensewic Mickelson reminded the Commission that the next Board of Directors meeting has been moved to November 18th due to the November 11th date being Veterans Day.

XII. TRANSITION UPDATE

Griensewic Mickelson reported that MNRAAA will be vacating the Region Nine office location on or before December 31st. She is currently looking for tenants to fill the vacant space.

Griensewic Mickelson gave an update on the letter that was approved at the last Commission meeting regarding the intent of rolling over accrued vacation and sick time balances. At this time, legal has advised Region Nine to wait on distributing the letter to affected staff until after further negotiations have taken place.

Griensewic Mickelson stated that there was a Budget and Personnel meeting held prior to the Commission meeting to review information that was sent from MNRAAA's attorney to Region Nine on Friday, October 9th.

Chairman Ahrenstorff stated that the transition has taken a direction that was not foreseen and reiterated the importance of having a Commission meeting in December.

Gustafson reported on behalf of the Budget and Personnel Committee that MNRAAA has notified Region Nine of their intent to change their monthly payments to quarterly as per their Area Plan. This change causes a financial hardship for Region Nine as there are not enough funds available to cover the payroll expenses until the quarterly payments are made.

Gustafson moved that MNRAAA Board needs to notify Region Nine of their intent to pay the outstanding September invoice by Monday, October 19th and provide payment by Wednesday, October 21st and will move forward with monthly payments for the remaining of the transition; should payment not be received, layoffs of Region Nine staff who perform MNRAAA work will be laid off on Friday, October 23rd, Munsch seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion followed.

XIII. Other Business

a. Ideas, Issues, Information Sharing

Campbell stated that Sabrie is running to serve on the ISD 77 School Board.

Robert Prahm, husband of Region Nine employee Joyce Prahm, stated he attended the Commission meeting because his wife was suspended from Region Nine for doing work on behalf of MNRAAA's Board. Prahm requested an explanation for the suspension.

Chair Ahrenstorff stated that the matter has been turned over to Region Nine's attorney. The Budget and Personnel Committee has made the decision to follow the attorney's recommendation. It is a suspension at this time upon further investigation.

Campbell stated that there has been discussion at the Blue Earth County Board regarding transportation funding to support rebuilding and maintaining the road system. Blue Earth County will be holding public meetings regarding a possible sales tax increase in Blue Earth County to help with the transportation costs.

Discussion followed around the transportation issues and how RNDC can assist.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Brad Ahrenstorff, Chairman



Gary Sturm, Secretary

PHIL SCHAFER V.C.