Senators Vickerman, Solon, Kubly, Hottinger and Frederickson introduced— S. F. No. 482 Referred to the Committee on State & Local Government Operations

T	A DIII for an act
2 3 4 5	relating to governmental operations; providing for local planning assistance by certain regional organizations; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 462.39, by adding a subdivision.
6	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
7	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 462.39, is
8	amended by adding a subdivision to read:
9	Subd. 5. [LOCAL PLANNING ASSISTANCE.] (a) Regional
L 0	development commissions or, in regions not served by regional
1	development commissions, regional organizations selected by the
L2	commissioner of the Department of Administration, may develop
L 3	programs to support planning work on behalf of local units of
L 4	government.
L 5	(b) The local planning work must include work described in
L6	at least one of the clauses of this paragraph:
L 7	(1) development of local zoning ordinances;
. 8	(2) land use plans;
L9	(3) community or economic development plans;
20	(4) transportation and transit plans;
21	(5) solid waste management plans;
22	(6) wastewater management plans;
23	(7) workforce development plans;
24	(8) housing development plans and market analyses;
25	(9) rural health service and senior nutrition plans;

- 1 (10) natural resources management plans;
- 2 (11) development of a geographical information systems
- 3 database to serve a region's needs, including hardware and
- 4 software purchases and related labor costs; or
- 5 (12) plans and ordinances for siting of livestock
- 6 operations.
- 7 Sec. 2. [APPROPRIATION.]
- 8 (a) \$600,000 in fiscal year 2006 and \$600,000 in fiscal
- 9 year 2007 are appropriated from the general fund to the
- 10 commissioner of administration.
- 11 (b) The appropriation in paragraph (a) is for grants of
- 12 \$50,000 each year to regional development commissions or, in
- 13 regions not served by regional development commissions, to
- 14 regional organizations selected by the commissioner of the
- 15 Department of Administration, to support planning work on behalf
- 16 of local units of government under section 1.
- (c) State grants under paragraph (b) are not available
- 18 until matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonstate funds.

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S.F. No. 310 - Relating to Levying and Spending Authority of Townships

Author:

Senator David J. Tomassoni

Prepared by:

Daniel P. McGowan, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

Date:

January 31, 2005

S.F. No. 310 is identical to S.F. No. 2449 from the 2004 legislative session that passed out of the State and Local Government Committee on March 29, 2004. The bill was placed on the Senate Consent Calendar where it passed the full Senate 61-0 on April 5, 2004. The bill was sent over to the House where it died in the House Tax Committee.

Section 1 defines "total revenue" for town spending purposes as property taxes payable in that year, as well as other revenue from other sources and carryforward revenues from the previous year. Provides that a town must not spend more than its total revenue rather than taxes levied, without a vote by the electors at the annual town meeting.

Section 2 allows the town to impose a tax as authorized by other law in addition to those voted on at the annual town meeting.

DPM:vs

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S.F. No. 482 - Relating to Local Planning Assistance

Author:

Senator Jim Vickerman

Prepared by:

Daniel P. McGowan, Senate Counsel (651/296-4397)

Date:

January 31, 2005

Section 1 adds a subdivision to the powers and duties of a regional development commission to add the authority to develop programs to support planning work on behalf of local units of government in certain enumerated categories of programs.

Section 2 provides a \$600,000 appropriation in each of the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years, to be appropriated from the general fund to the Commissioner of Administration for grants of \$50,000 in each fiscal year to the regional development commissions, or in those areas of the state where there is no regional development commission, to a regional organization selected by the Commissioner of Administration to support the planning work under section 1. The state grants are not available until matched dollar-for-dollar from nonstate funds.

Currently there are 12 regional development commission districts, plus the Metropolitan Council serving in the metropolitan area, but region 7W in the St. Cloud area and region 10 in southeast Minnesota do not have a regional development commission, and in region 4, the West Central Initiative serves in place of a regional development commission.

DPM:vs

Senators Tomassoni, Bakk, Wergin, Kubly and Kierlin introduced-S.F. No. 310: Referred to the Committee on Taxes.

1	A bill for an act
2 3 4	relating to townships; clarifying levy and spending authority; defining total revenue; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 365.43, subdivision 1; 365.431.
5	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
6	Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 365.43,
7	subdivision 1, is amended to read:
8	Subdivision 1. [bevied-Amount-is-Spending-bimit TOTAL
9	REVENUE DEFINED.] A town must not contract-debts-or spend more
10	money in a year than the-taxes-levied-for-the-year its total
11	revenue without a favorable vote of a majority of the town's
12	electors. In this section, "total revenue" means property taxes
13	payable in that year as well as amounts received from all other
14	sources and amounts carried forward from the last year.
15	Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 365.431, is
16	amended to read:
17	365.431 [AMOUNT VOTED AT MEETING IS TAX LIMIT.]
18	Except as otherwise authorized by law, the tax for town
19	purposes must not be more than the amount voted to be raised at
20	the annual town meeting.

Regional Development Organizations

Working Together

Strengthening Links

Between Local Governments

Working together for results

Minnesota Regional Development Organizations (MRDO) is the only statewide association that works across jurisdictions to strengthen the links between local governments. MRDO is comprised of all Minnesota Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) and the West Central Initiative. Its purpose is to promote the effective delivery of services and programs to all parts of Minnesota through existing regional planning and development organizations.

Regional Development Commissions

More than 30 years ago, state legislators recognized that the challenges of growth and development transcend local government boundaries. They found that solutions to local problems could be realized by pooling resources through intergovernmental cooperation. To help local units of government work together, the Legislature enacted the Regional Development Act.

As a result, Regional Development Commissions were formed and now provide strong, regional leadership. Each region is governed primarily by a board of local elected officials. There is also board participation by area interests such as agriculture, business, environment and transportation. RDC leaders are committed to making their regions the best possible place to live and work.

RDCs are well equipped to help Greater Minnesota because they provide a critical mass of expertise at the local level.

"As the chair of the State and Local Government Operations Committee and former County Commissioner, I have worked with Regional Development Commissions for years," said



MRDO's Mission

The principle purpose of the Minnesota Regional Development Organizations is to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation and to insure the orderly and harmonious coordination of state, federal and local comprehensive planning and development programs for the solution of economic, social, physical, and governmental problems of the state and its citizens.

Senator Jim Vickerman of Senate District 22. "RDCs work for local units of government by providing a host of valuable services including development services, legislative advocacy and planning resources."

"Many of our rural communities – particularly smaller counties, cities and our townships – have limited resources and staff expertise to plan for any type of development," Vickerman continued. "The RDCs make it possible for many small rural communities to plan their development in ways they would not be able to afford on their own."

"My experience has been that one of the best tools for economic development is the excellent work done by RDCs. I have had the pleasure of working closely with RDCs since their inception, and I am very proud of the contributions those organizations have made to Minnesota."

U.S. Congressman James L. Oberstar 8th Congressional District

"We understand the importance of development efforts in Greater Minnesota and look forward to working closely with the regional development organizations to stimulate job growth and improve the transportation system."

Lt. Governor-elect Carol Molnau

Partnerships that strengthen organizations

MRDO is dedicated to addressing local needs and priorities in a timely and efficient manner. All Minnesotans benefit from MRDO's commitment to providing the highest quality service to local units of government, businesses and other organizations.



Focusing on regional needs

West Central Initiative

In 1985, a regional committee met to determine regional needs and to velop the first application for a grant from The McKnight
Foundation. As a result of this grassroots process, a two-year grant in the amount of \$2.1 million was awarded by The McKnight
Foundation to establish the West
Central Minnesota Initiative Fund.

Economic development for the region received major emphasis in the first two-year phase of the organization and has continued to be a high priority.

"The West Central Initiative and Regional Development Commissions are an extension of the Economic evelopment Administration," said ack Arnold of the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. "They are the first line of contact for us. Without their help, we could not do our jobs."

The McKnight Foundation has continued its strong financial support to WCI. Over the past 16 years, WCI has received over \$27.5 million in program, operational and endowment support from McKnight for the region.

WCI currently has three program initiatives: business, community and planning initiatives designed to carry it WCI's mission, goals and objectives. WCI reviews these program areas on an on-going basis via input from the public, staff, board and all WCI's partners.



For more information about MRDO, contact any of the Regional Development Commissions listed in this brochure or visit our web site at www.mrdo.org.



"I was proud to be the chief author of the Regional Planning Bill. I will continue to work hard to help rural Minnesota plan for economic growth. Regional planning is essential for that economic growth."

> Representative Tony Kielkucki District 18A

"As a legislator from a rural and semi-urban area of Minnesota, I recognize the importance of regional development commissions to the future of these areas. These commissions provide the economic development partnerships that will help to diversify and provide employment opportunities across the state."

Senator John C. Hottinger Senate District 23

Effective and efficient

Through working together, Minnesota Regional Development Organizations' members, the Regional Development Commissions and West Central Initiative, effectively and efficiently deliver services and programs to all parts of Minnesota.

Northwest

Programs / Services

- Agricultural Development
- Arts
- Area Agency on Aging
- Business Assistance
- Census Data Center
- Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Fiscal Agent
- Flood Recovery
- Geographic Information System Services
- Housing
- Land Use/Zoning Ordinances
- Local Issues
- Natural Resources
- Outdoor Recreation
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Technical Assistance
- Tourism Promotion
- Transportation



Mission

Supplement efforts by local units of government to maintain our economic strength and improve the quality of life in Northwest Minnesota, including Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake and Roseau counties.

Contact

Leon Heath, Executive Director (218) 745-6733 FAX: (218) 745-6438 115 S. Main St., #1

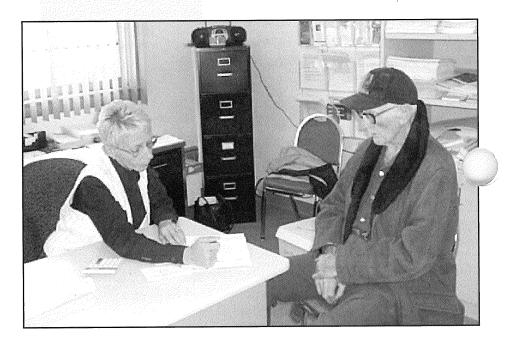
E-mail: nwrdc@nwrdc.org

Warren, MN 56762

Web: www.nwrdc.org

"As we prepare for the aging of our baby boomers, there is a need to develop and promote more informal community-based services. RDCs are well prepared to work with us on these efforts. Their expertise and our excellent working relationships are critical to the success of programs for the aging population and their families."

Jim Varpness, Executive Director Minnesota Board on Aging



Cory Jones, a Health Insurance Coordinator with the Northwest Area Agency on Aging, helps Elmer Mathiason with his health insurance bills.

Headwaters

Programs / Services

- Business Assistance Census Data Center
- Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Geographic Information System Services
- Headwaters Housing Development Corporation
- Headwaters Regional Finance Corporation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Organizational Development and Strategic Planning
- Outdoor Recreation
- Solid Waste

Transportation

Workforce Development



Region 2

Mission

Improving the quality of life for the citizens of the Headwaters Region through the provision of high quality planning and development services.



Contact

Cliff Tweedale, Executive Director (218) 444-4732 FAX: (218) 444-4722 403 Fourth St. NW, Suite 310 P.O. Box 906 Bemidji, MN 56619-0906

E-mail: hrdc@hrdc.org Web Site: www.hrdc.org



The purpose of the Headwaters Regional Finance Corporation, a subsidiary of the HRDC, is to create high skill, good paying jobs in the region.

Arrowhead

Programs / Services

- Access Management Planning
- America's Byways Resource Center
- Area Agency on Aging
- Business Development
- Census Data Center
- Economic Development Assistance
- ElderCare Development Partnership
- ElderSolutions Program for Employees
- ESRI GIS Training
- Evaluation Expertise
- Facilitation Services
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information Systems Services
- Grant Writing
- · Housing Studies and Assistance
- Land Use Planning
- Local Planning Assistance
- Long-range Infrastructure Planning
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Natural Resources Planning
- Needs Assessments
- Recreational Transportation Planning
- Regional GIS Data Clearinghouse
- Regulatory Ordinance Development
- Retirement Planning
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Small Cities Development Program
- Solid Waste Planning
- Technical Assistance
- Transportation Planning



Mission

ARDC's mission is to serve the people of the Arrowhead Region by providing local units of government and citizens' groups a means to work cooperatively in identifying needs, solving problems, and fostering local leadership.

Contact

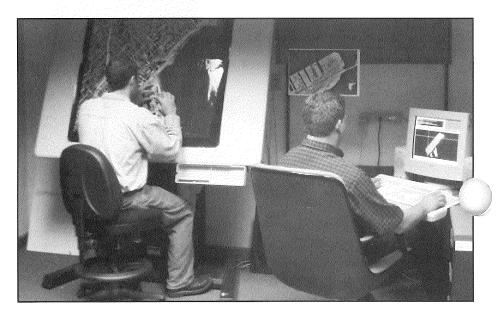
John Chell, Executive Director (218) 722-5545 (800) 232-0707 FAX: (218) 529-7592 221 West First St.

E-mail: info@ardc.org Web: www.ardc.org

Duluth, MN 55802

"Through the coordinated statewide efforts of MRDO, the legislature receives grassroots feedback on many issues, including human service focus points that are important to local units of government, communities and citizens. MRDO provides that critical link for many of us."

Representative Tom Huntley District 7A



(I-r) Kelly Armstrong and David Yapel, GIS Technicians, Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, are digitizing and editing parcel data for downtown Duluth.

West Central Initiative

Programs / Services

- Business Assistance
 Business Revolving Loan Funds
 Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Fiscal Agent
- · Grant Writing and Administration
- Regional Labor Force Committee
- Technical Assistance
- Transportation



Region 4

Mission

The mission of West Central Initiative is to bring people and resources together to maintain and enhance the viability of west central Minnesota. We serve in a leadership role as an advocate for west central Minnesota to improve and maintain the quality of life in the counties of Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens. Traverse and Wilkin.



Contact

Nancy Straw, President (218) 739-2239 (800) 735-2239 FAX: (218) 739-5381 1000 Western Ave. Fergus Falls, MN 56537

E-mail: info@wcif.org Web Site: www.wcif.org



WCI loan recipient, Portaco, Inc., of Moorhead, received funding to help expand the business.

Region 5

Programs / Services

- Area Agency on Aging
- Business Assistance
- Business Revolving Loan Funds
- Census Data Center
- Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System
- Grant Writing and Administration
- Housing Initiatives
- Land Use Planning
- Local Government Comprehensive Planning
- Natural Resources
- Outdoor Recreation
- Solid Waste Management
- Technical Assistance
- Technical Education Workshops
- Township Road Recording
- Transportation Initiatives



Mission

The mission of the Region 5 Development Commission is to assist the local communities in developing a sustainable and diversified economy, in developing the cultural resources which contribute to the quality of rural life, and in developing plans for the protection and use of our natural and human resources.

Contact

Bob Hutton, Executive Director (218) 894-3233 FAX: (218) 894-1328 611 Iowa Ave. NE Staples, MN 56479

E-mail: bhutton@regionfive.org Web: www.regionfive.org

"I really like the fact that the R5DC gets together with their legislators on a quarterly basis. This type of forum is to be commended. That is how I keep current on the issues. I am able to intermingle with department heads, county commissioners, etc. It is a great resource for me."

Representative Mary Ellen Otremba District 11B



Region 5 Executive Director, Bob Hutton, presents the keys to the new owner of a home built by a partnership to create affordable housing.

Mid-Minnesota

Programs / Services

- Area Agency on Aging
 Building Inspection Services
 Business Assistance
- Census Data Center
- Community Development
- Comprehensive Plans
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Financial Packaging
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System Services
- Grant Administration
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Housing
- Information and Assistance
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
 Ordinance Codification
 Outdoor Recreation
- Project Administration
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Technical Assistance
- Tax Increment Financing Districts
- Transportation



Region 6E

Mission

We will administer state and federal programs, coordinate multi-jurisdictional activities, and provide technical assistance to government, businesses and local organizations to maintain or enhance the quality of life in the counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker and Renville.



Contact

Donn Winckler, Executive Director (320) 235-8504 FAX: (320) 235-4329 333 W. Sixth St. Willmar, MN 56201

E-mail: midmndevcom@willmar.com

Web Site: www.mmrdc.org



(I-r) Certified State Building Officials, Butch Schulte and Daryl Pederson, conducting a plan review. The Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission was awarded a 2002 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations for providing State Building Code Inspection Services to a number of communities, along with a host of other inspection services within the region.

Upper Minnesota Valley

Programs / Services

- Area Agency on Aging
- Business Assistance
- Census Data and Statistics
- Community Development
- · Comprehensive Plans
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- ElderCare Development Partnerships (formerly SAIL)
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System Services
- Grants Writing and Administration
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Housing
- Land Use Planning
- Natural Resources
- Outdoor Recreation
- Project Administration
- Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Support Elders)
- Research Funding Sources
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Senior LinkAge Line® (I&A)
- Technical Assistance
- Tourism (Western MN Prairie Waters)
- Transportation



Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments.

Contact

Paul Michaelson, Executive Director (320) 289-1981 FAX: (320) 289-1983 323 W. Schlieman Ave.

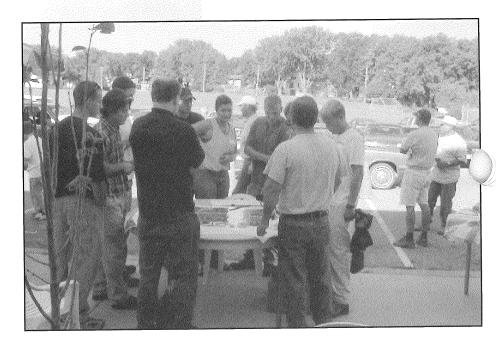
E-mail: umvrdc@umvrdc.org Web: www.umvrdc.org

Appleton, MN 56208

"The mapping regional development commissions do for counties is an invaluable tool. All RDCs cooperate with local governments and rural residents to do things they could not do on their own. I always appreciat the work of RDCs."

Senator Gary Kubly Senate District 20

UMVRDC staff volunteered after the tornado that ravaged Granite Falls in 2000. The parcel-based GIS maps played an integral part in determining placement of volunteer groups for the disaster clean-up effort. The UMVRDC continues to assist in disaster recovery with grant administration as well as city planning to help mitigate future flood and tornado disasters.



East Central

Programs / Services

- Aging Information and Referral BArea Agency on Aging Arts
- Business Assistance
- Census Data Center
- Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- County Transit Programs
- Economic Development
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System/ Mapping and Training
- Housing
- Land Use
- Regional Labor Force Committee
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Shared Prosperity Alliance
- Technical Assistance Transit Services/Technical Assistance
- Transportation



Mission

Our mission is to provide leadership and direction through creative problem solving. We do this by initiating projects and programs that lead to creative solutions to regional problems. providing technical assistance and identifying and developing available resources. We serve in a leadership role as an advocate for East Central Minnesota to bring about positive change.



Contact

Robert Voss, Executive Director (320) 679-4065 FAX: (320) 679-4120 100 S. Park St. P.O. Box 147 Mora, MN 55051

E-mail: ecrdc@ncis.com Web Site: www.region7erdc.org

"Regional development organizations provide a conduit for ideas from a variety of local units of government (cities, counties, townships, school districts) that will bring about positive change for the future."

> Representative Sondra Erickson District 16A



The East Central Regional Development Commission and the East Central Arts Council hosted the IMAGE Art Show at the Commission offices in Mora. The event displayed a fine selection of regional artwork and drew a large crowd. In this photo, Art Show judge John Salminen conducts a tour of the artwork explaining artistic principles.

Southwest

Programs / Services

- Area Agency on Aging
- Business Assistance
- Census Data Center
- Community-Based Planning
- Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- Emergency Medical Services
- Energy
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System Services
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Housing
- Land Use
- Natural Resources
- Outdoor Recreation
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Solid Waste
- Technical Assistance
- Transportation

"Regional Development
Commissions are the key to the
future of this region and the state.
Without RDCs we would not be able
to access grants, create new
businesses or work on different
projects. They have the knowledge
and skills that benefit local units of
government."

Senator Jim Vickerman Senate District 22

Attendees at the Third Annual Cultural Diversity Conference: *Understanding Somali Culture and Islamic Values*, discuss the roles of women in Somali culture. The conference was held at the Marshall Area High School. It was sponsored by Regional Resources for Rural Minnesota (RRRM), a group representing agencies and minorities in Southwest Minnesota, facilitated and staffed by the Southwest Area Agency on Aging, a program of the SWRDC.



Region 8

Contact

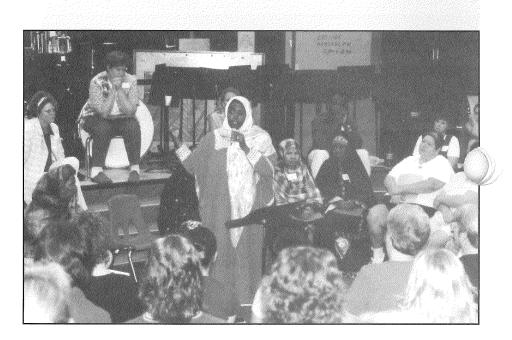
Jay Trusty, Executive Director (507) 836-8547, ext. 106 FAX: (507) 836-8866 2401 Broadway, Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172

E-mail: srdc@swrdc.org Web: www.swrdc.org

Mission

It is the mission of the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SWRDC) to address the economic, social, physical, and governmental needs and opportunities of Southwestern Minnesota; while transcending traditional jurisdictional configurations. Further, to apply a regional perspective to problems, allowing for a coordinated effort by local units of government to address the needs of the region's citizenry and the activities of area agencies resulting in the sharing of regional private and public resources while increasing the efficiency of government in general.

In addition, the Commission shall serve as the mechanism for initiating change in local, regional, state, and federal policy, programs and regulations translating the region's concerns into a blueprint of action.



Region Nine

Programs / Services

- Area Agency on Aging

 Eensus Data Center

 Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership

 Institute
 - Community Development
- Conferences/Workshops
- Economic Development
- ElderCare Development Partnership (formerly SAIL)
- Fiscal Agent
- Geographic Information System
- Grant Writing
- Health Insurance Counseling
- Housing
- Land Use
- Minnesota Rural Futures
- Outdoor Recreation
- Prevention and Healthy
 Communities Network
 Project ROSE (Reaching Out To Support Elders)
- Research and Program Development
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Saludando Salud
- Small Business Development Center
- Technical Assistance
- Transportation



Mission

The mission of the Region Nine Development Commission is to promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning and technical assistance.



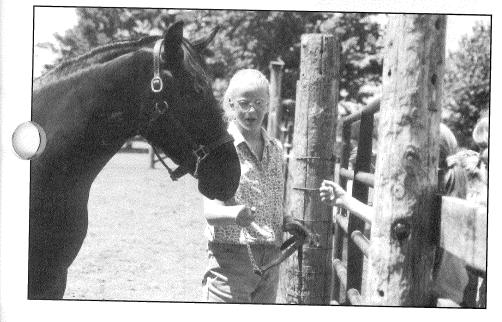
Contact

Reginald Edwards, Executive Director (507) 387-5643 (800) 450-5643 FAX: (507) 387-7105 410 E. Jackson St., P.O. Box 3367 Mankato, MN 56002

E-mail: reggie@rndc.mankato.mn.us Web Site: www.rndc.org

"RDC members are concerned citizens from local units of government who work with small and large communities on the issues affecting their region. They are a valuable resource for legislators. I received mapping information from Region Nine to help legislators make decisions on bike trails. RDCs are also the gatekeepers to grants. They write grants and find funding opportunities for local units of government who otherwise do not have the budget for a grant writer."

Representative Bob Gunther District 24A



"Don't Horse Around With Drugs" was the theme of the Maple River Community Network's Summer Arts Program. Jessica Anderson and Josie tell youth about horse care. The Maple River coalition is part of R9's nationallyrecognized Prevention and Healthy Communities Network.

Editor: Joyce Allard, Region Nine Development Commission Layout: Craig Shirk, Region Nine Development Commission Design and Printing: Paragon Printing & Mailing, Inc., Mankato, MN

2	Senator Higgins from the Committee on State and Local Government Operations, to which was referred
3 4 5 6	S.F. No. 482: A bill for an act relating to governmental operations; providing for local planning assistance by certain regional organizations; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 462.39, by adding a subdivision.
7 8 9	Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bild do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Finance. Report adopted.
10	
11	Am
12	·/···/································
13	(Committee Chair)
14	
15	January 31, 2005
16	(Date of Committee recommendation)

1 2	Senator Higgins from the Committee on State and Local Government Operations, to which was re-referred
3 4 5 6	S.F. No. 310: A bill for an act relating to townships; clarifying levy and spending authority; defining total revenue; amending Minnesota Statutes 2004, sections 365.43, subdivision 1; 365.431.
7 8 9	Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Taxes. Report adopted.
10	
11	
12	
13	(Committee Chair)
14	
15	January 31, 2005
16	(Date of Committee recommendation)