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STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FILED  
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*James H. Johnson*  
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 37

REGIONAL DELINEATION

General

The boundaries of existing multi-county regions or districts used by state agencies, federal agencies and locally formed regional organizations in Minnesota often overlap and conflict. This has led to confusion among public officials and citizens, as well as to the dilution of effective coordination and participation in public programs.

Executive Order No. 9 of November 13, 1967, established, on a trial basis, pilot planning areas and economic regions as a first step towards providing a common framework for statewide planning and program activity, for evaluating the merits of a regional approach to both state and local planning and development activities, and for coordination of multi-county programs of state, federal and local government. The State Planning Agency and state departments were instructed to review and analyze these regions during 1968 and to make recommendations for the establishment of definitive regions for statewide program planning purposes, for aggregation of statistical data, for local intergovernmental cooperation, and to the extent possible for state department administrative programs.

The regional development system embodied in this Order is the product of a year's study by the State Planning Agency, experience by state agencies, and broad citizen and local government consultation. The regions set forth represent a natural grouping of counties based on natural, social, economic factors indicating a community of interests and characteristics. In addition, the identification of "transitional counties", that is, counties that could reasonably be grouped in several alternative fashions -- and the accompanying procedure for final assignment of these counties -- insures a degree of flexibility in the utilization of the regional framework which recognizes individual county preferences.

The overall purpose of this regional delineation is to provide a uniform geographic framework for:

1. The collection and classification of data for state, local and regional planning.

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2. The coordination of state, regional and local planning activities.
3. The coordination of federally sponsored or operated programs at the regional level within Minnesota.
4. The coordination and unifying of local resources for resolving local problems and exploiting opportunities.
5. Providing a framework for the organization of local government for intergovernmental cooperation and planning.

#### Federal and State Planning Coordination

The existence of the regional structure embodied herein will stimulate greater state-federal coordination. A number of federal programs require or actively encourage the delineation and utilization of areawide regions or districts. Moreover, a number of federal programs require or actively encourage the establishment of boards, committees, commissions, or councils composed of public officials and private citizens for the purpose of planning, developing, and implementing programs on an areawide basis.

Overlapping and often conflicting areawide boundaries led the President to issue a memorandum on September 2, 1966, addressed to federal departments and agencies declaring that:

Boundaries for planning and development districts assisted by the Federal Government should be the same and should be consistent with established state planning districts and regions. Exceptions should be made only where there is clear justification.

United States Bureau of the Budget Circular A-80, "Coordination of development planning for programs based on multi-jurisdictional areas," was issued to implement the President's memorandum. The Circular recognized the primary role of the Governor in the development and designation of regions within the state and declared that:

Prior to the designation (or approval of the designation) of any planning and development district or region, federal agency procedure will provide a period of thirty days for the Governor(s) of the State(s) in which the district or region will be located to review the boundaries thereof and comment upon its relationship to planning and development districts or regions established by the State. Where the State has established such planning and development districts, the boundaries of designated areas will conform to them unless there is clear justification for not doing so.

The growing number and complexity of federal planning assistance programs to states and to regions and districts within states and the increasing impact of these programs on state and local governments requires that the state assure itself that these programs are fully coordinated at the state level and at the regional level within the state. The efficient accomplishment of joint federal-state or federal-local programs depends on effective coordination at the state level and at the regional or district level within the state.

Procedure

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor and as State Planning Officer, I hereby direct as follows:

1. The eleven planning and development regions designated in Appendix I are the official regional structure of the State of Minnesota.
2. Those counties designated as transitional in Appendix I will retain that designation until 12 months after the effective date of this Order. During the 12 month period following this Order, the State Planning Agency shall conduct a public meeting in each transitional county to assist in evaluating its natural association with a region. Upon completion of such meetings, a final regional assignment of each transitional county will be made by the Governor following local government and legislative consultation.
3. The State Planning Agency shall:
  - A. Conduct meetings of local officials and other interested parties in each of the regions (except the Twin Cities Metropolitan region) to discuss the regions and the benefits of a regional structure.
  - B. Engage in a continuing review and evaluation of the boundaries of the regions and shall make recommendations from time to time for changes where necessary.
4. All state departments and agencies shall:
  - A. Recognize the boundaries of the State Planning and Development Regions as delineated in Appendix I and as later modified by assignment of transitional counties.
  - B. Conduct planning in context with the established regions and evaluate current programs as to consistency with the regional structure.

- C. Initiate review of field services and operations to determine the extent to which they can be carried out on the basis of the regions.
- D. Review data collection and dissemination activities to determine the kinds of statistical data and information that can be collected and reported on the basis of the regions.
- E. Cooperate with the State Planning Agency in analyzing the effectiveness and suitability of the regions as designated and in making available information on the status of departmental regional activities.
- F. Upon final designation of transitional counties to appropriate regions, to utilize the regions for all planning purposes and to work toward conformance with the regions for administrative purposes. For these purposes, two or more entire regions may be combined where fewer than eleven regions are needed.
5. Before any new multi-county district or region assisted or to be assisted by the state and federal government may be formed in the State of Minnesota and before any existing district may be altered, the proposed district or district change shall be reviewed by the Governor. Approval will be granted only where the district or region is in conformance with the State Planning and Development Regions, except where, in judgment of the Governor, there is clear justification for failure to conform to the regional boundaries, or when the state legislation creating the region or district provides otherwise.

Copies of the Order shall be sent to all state department heads and the State Legislature. Copies will also be provided to the Executive Office of the President and to the United States Bureau of the Budget for the information of federal departments and agencies operating in the State of Minnesota.

This Executive Order shall supercede Executive Order Number 9.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 1969.

ATTEST:

Joseph L. Donovan  
Joseph L. Donovan  
Secretary of State

Harold LeVander  
Harold LeVander  
GOVERNOR

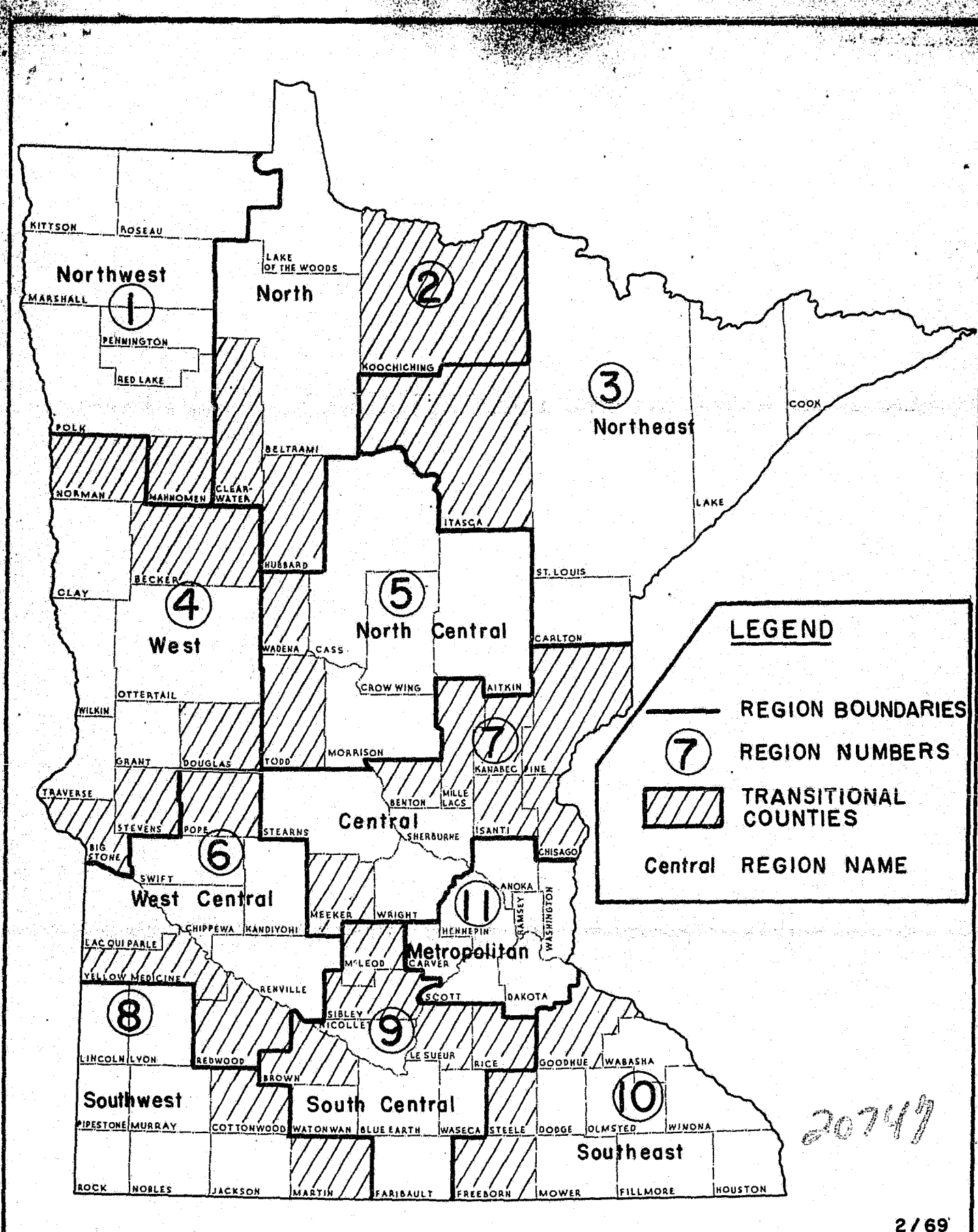
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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Joseph L. Donovan  
Secretary of State

APPENDIX I

The eleven Planning and Development Regions are as follows and are graphically presented on the attached map.

| <u>Region</u>     | <u>Core Counties</u>  | <u>Transitional Counties</u>   |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 01, Northwest     | Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake and Polk      | Norman, Mahnommen, and Clearwater  |
| 02, North         | Lake of the Woods and Beltrami                                | Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnommen, Becker, Itasca and Koochiching                                   |
| 03, Northeast     | St. Louis, Lake, Cook, and Carlton                            | Itasca, Koochiching, and Pine  |
| 04, West          | Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Grant, and Traverse                 | Norman, Mahnommen, Becker, Hubbard, Wadena, Todd, Pope, Stevens, Big Stone and Douglas           |
| 05, North Central | Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, and Morrison                         | Wadena, Todd, Hubbard, Douglas, Benton, Mille Lacs, and Kanabec                                  |
| 06, West Central  | Swift, Chippewa, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle and Renville        | Big Stone, Stevens, Pope, Meeker, McLeod, Sibley, Brown, Redwood, Yellow Medicine and Cottonwood |
| 07, Central       | Stearns, Sherburne, and Wright                                | Meeker, Benton, Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Todd, McLeod and Sibley              |
| 08, Southwest     | Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone, Murray, Rock, Nobles, and Jackson   | Yellow Medicine, Redwood, Brown, Cottonwood and Martin   |
| 09, South Central | Nicollet, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Waseca, and Faribault         | Brown, Cottonwood, Martin, McLeod, Sibley, LeSueur, Rice, Goodhue, Steele, and Freeborn          |
| 10, Southeast     | Wabasha, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Mower, Fillmore, and Houston | Steele, Freeborn, Rice, and Goodhue  |
| 11, Metropolitan  | Counties in jurisdiction of Metropolitan Council              |  |



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