

UMVRDC

UPPER
MINNESOTA
VALLEY
REGIONAL

Annual Report



DEVELOPMENT
MISSION

BIG STONE COUNTY

Dave Torgerson, Clinton
County Board

Shirley Finberg, Clinton
Municipalities

Johnny Larson, Ortonville
Townships

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Jim Dahlvang, Montevideo
County Board

Ron Anderson, Milan
Municipalities

Rudolph Larson, Montevideo
Townships

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

Merril Johnson, Dawson
County Board

Greg Thole, Madison
Municipalities

Marshall Herfindahl, Boyd
Townships

SWIFT COUNTY

Richard Hanson, Clontarf
County Board

Bill Fliflet, Appleton
Municipalities

Warren Rau, Appleton
Townships

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

Gary L. Johnson, Montevideo
County Board

Thornton Pronk, Porter
Municipalities

Erling Albin, Hanley Falls
Townships

SCHOOL BOARDS

Paul Pillatzki, Dawson
Dawson/Boyd

PUBLIC INTEREST

Jaunita Laurtisen, Milan
Workforce Council

Gary Hendrickx, Appleton
Prairie Five CAC



Ron Anderson, 2003 Chairperson

Like most other government bodies, the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) has had an interesting and tumultuous year due to the recession, state budget deficit, federal budgetary shortfalls and program requirement changes. Proper planning, scheduling, and administration of programs were adversely affected by the inability of the Minnesota State Legislature to expeditiously solve the budget deficit, establish priorities and set policies required for/by governmental agencies and local units of government. **PROBLEMS SOLVED, PEOPLES' NEEDS MET** are the reasons for the existence of regional development commissions. The staff and Commission of Region 6W pledge to continue offering quality service to OUR local units of government as expeditiously and professionally, as financial resources will allow.

Region 6W is proud of our dedicated, professional, well-trained staff. Some of the programs/services offered include Aging issues and services, Tourism, Economic Development, Transportation Planning, Revolving Loan Fund, Grants/Fiscal Administration, Zoning, Ordinance creation, Hazard Mitigation Planning, and Disaster Grants applications/administration. GIS services provide the digital data necessary to function in today's technological world. A new economic development tool identified as the JOBZ zones has involved staff time and fiscal resources. Local units of government requested that Region 6W be actively involved in the JOBZ program. Various meetings, memos, correspondence, and staff time have been expended to serve our clients on this issue as quickly, judiciously, and as correctly as possible. The Commission and staff felt JOBZ deserved and required this amount of commitment. Hopefully the region will economically benefit from this program.

Region 6W needs COMMITMENT by local units of government if we are to survive and maintain our fine staff and programs. If you have a need/question, look to US for the answer. Our staff are local citizens in/of our area. Their goal is to make your community better because they are part of your community. Five counties comprise Region 6W; each county has three representatives - county commissioner, municipal representative, and township official. Two school board members and three public service representatives are also on the Commission. Hopefully, any questions, complaints, etc. will be handled by someone you know and represents YOUR COMMUNITY'S best interest.

"TRY US, YOU'LL LIKE US!!"

Ron Anderson

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FINANCIAL REPORT

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UPPER MN VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE COMPARISON CURRENT FY 2003 AND PROPOSED FY 2004

	FY 2003 CURRENT BUDGET	FY 2004 PROPOSED BUDGET		FY 2003 CURRENT BUDGET	FY 2004 PROPOSED BUDGET
REVENUES:			EXPENDITURES:		
Agency Revenues			Salaries/Fringe	\$668,701	\$639,167
Interest/Levy/Misc.	230,000	249,000	Commissioners Expense	27,300	27,300
Aging	153,273	124,521	Audit	10,000	10,000
Grants Administration	128,833	57,000	Certificate of Indebtedness	20,000	20,000
EDA/Community Development	115,345	143,500	Certificate Interest on Loan	500	500
GIS Contracts	97,485	143,000	Copy Charge/Xerox Lease	8,500	8,500
Regional Tourism	93,464	93,275	Computer Technical Assistance	6,000	6,000
Transportation/Natural Resources	75,755	95,000	Data Acquisition	500	500
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 894,175	\$905,296	Dues	6,000	6,000
			Equipment	1,500	1,500
			Equipment Use Fee	10,000	10,000
			Insurance	2,500	2,500
			Lease/Service Agreement	3,100	3,000
			Legal Fees	2,000	2,000
			Miscellaneous/Employee Morale	6,000	6,000
			Office Rent	9,000	9,000
			Postage	12,500	12,500
			Printing/Advertising	5,000	5,000
			Registration	4,000	4,000
			Repairs/Maintenance	1,000	1,000
			Software/Software GIS	7,000	7,000
			Subscrip./Publications	1,500	1,500
			Supplies	9,000	9,000
			Telephone	9,000	9,000
			Tourism Trade Shows/Ads	32,000	32,000
			Training/Training GIS	3,000	3,000
			Travel (Staff)	27,000	27,000
			TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$892,601	\$862,967
			EXCESS REV.		
			OVER (UNDER) EXP.	\$ 1,574	\$ 9,829

The latest audit of finances performed November 2002 by the firm of Lee & Berner, LTD covered the Fiscal Year 2002 finances. No negative findings were reported in that audit.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The UMRDC's economic and community development programs are combined as many of the projects the UMRDC works on fulfill both community and economic development needs. The economic development program remains a source of technical assistance for local units of government, businesses and other organizations through its various economic initiatives, research and staffing assistance.

The UMRDC continues to receive U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding for its regional economic development efforts. Region 6W's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) was updated in 2002 and submitted to the EDA for approval. Completion of the CEDS allows the five-county region and its local units of government to remain eligible for

EDA funding. EDA funding includes economic development planning grants, revolving loan funding, infrastructure improvements and disaster recovery efforts. A complete revision to the Region 6W CEDS will be done in 2003 to reflect changing economic conditions and new Census information.

JOBZ Legislation Passes

Region 6W JOBZ Application Progresses

Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ) legislation was passed during the recently completed Minnesota Legislative session. The JOBZ legislation, which is closely modeled after similar programs in Pennsylvania and Michigan, will create tax-free zones for businesses in distressed areas of rural Minnesota as a way to help encourage economic development and job creation. The legislation allows for up to ten tax-free zones to be created in greater Minnesota. Each of the ten tax-free zones designated may contain up to 5,000 acres of tax-free property. Each zone may also have an unlimited number of subzones (i.e., several tax-free zones located within a county or region). The maximum duration of a designated tax-free zone is 12 years starting January 1, 2004.

The UMRDC held informational meetings on the JOBZ legislation on February 28 and April 10 for local units of government in Region 6W. At these meetings, nearly all attending voted in favor of having a JOBZ

application submitted from within Region 6W. Those in attendance also requested the UMRDC take a lead role in the application process.

The legislation states that one or more local units of government or regional development commissions may submit applications for zone designation (multi-jurisdictional applications are encouraged) to the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED). A list of social, economic and physical criteria along with other application requirements will be used to determine the location of zone designations. Applications will be available August 1 with a deadline for submittal to DTED of October 15. Designation of the tax-free zones will take place before the end of the year.

The UMRDC started collecting an inventory of potential JOBZ zone areas within Region 6W. A workshop will be held July 30 for all those entities wishing to participate in the JOBZ application. A JOBZ committee made up of individuals from the

participating entities will be established to work with the UMRDC on the application process.

If you have any questions or would like information on how to participate in the Region 6W JOBZ application, please contact Ryan Krosch.

Grants Administration & Fiscal Agent

The UMRDC is in the process of administering the following grants:

- ◆ Boyd - Construction of wastewater system using SCDP, RD and WIF funds
- ◆ Clinton - Housing, sewer treatment using SCDP, RD funds
- ◆ Granite Falls - Disaster recovery efforts using SCDP, EDA, HUD, legislative, DNR, FMA and FEMA funds
- ◆ Nassau - Install sanitary sewer collection lines using SCDP and RD funds

The UMRDC acts as fiscal agent for the following:

- ◆ Boyd - Rural Development Funds
- ◆ Clinton - Rural Development Funds
- ◆ MN River Headwaters Joint Powers Board
- ◆ MN River Valley Scenic Byway Alliance
- ◆ Western MN Revolving Loan Fund

City of Milan Economic Development Activities

Economic Development activities for the city of Milan were started in the spring of 2003. Activities included establishing an economic development authority and entering information into the city of Milan's website (www.milanmn.com) and

the MNPRO (DTED) website. The city of Milan's website is hosted by Govoffice.com and offers an economic tool for the city to both market itself and give information to new residents. A completion date for the website is set for August 2003.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development Services and Assistance

The Community and Economic Development Division of the UMRDC is able to provide local units of government with a wide variety of services in a cost-effective manner. The following is a list of community development services the UMRDC staff can provide:

- ◆ Community profile and website design to use for an informational resource, community marketing, economic development and other activities;
- ◆ Comprehensive plan creation or updates;
- ◆ Land use planning activities including establishing future land use plans, urban growth boundary identification and annexation procedures;
- ◆ Goal, objective and policy development for guiding local government decision-making processes;
- ◆ Ordinance creation or updates for any ordinance including zoning, subdivision, shoreland, floodplain, nuisances and others;
- ◆ Grant and loan applications and fiscal administration for projects including water, sewer, single-family and rental housing

rehabilitation, new housing development, commercial building rehabilitation, community facilities and others;

- ◆ Special studies/plans including housing, economic development, business retention/expansion, natural resources, downtown planning, community needs assessment, agriculture, technology, population, demographic analysis and other topics;
- ◆ Survey creation, distribution and analysis;
- ◆ Business loan funds available for new or expanding businesses;
- ◆ Business consulting services including information for new business start-ups and expansions, business assessments, business plans, financial analysis, loan packaging and marketing; and
- ◆ Mapping projects including maps identifying parcel information, land use, zoning, water/sewer infrastructure and addresses.

Please contact the UMRDC to find out more about the community development services we can provide.

Community Development Projects in Fiscal Year 2003

Some of the community development projects completed by UMRDC staff in Fiscal Year 2003 included:

- ◆ Prepared a successful application for the USDA Rural Development grant and loan program for the city of Clontarf to construct a wastewater collection and treatment system. Through this application, Clontarf was awarded over \$1.6 million in grant and loan dollars.
- ◆ Economic development activities for the city of Milan were started in the spring of

2003. A completion date is set for August 2003. The activities include:

- entered information into the website for the city of Milan (www.milanmn.com);
- completed Milan's community and property profiles on the MNPRO (DTED) website; and
- assisted Milan in establishing an economic development authority.
- ◆ Completed comprehensive plans for the cities of Granite Falls, Madison and Ortonville.

Now available at the UMRDC!

MINNESOTA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC)

One-on-One Business Consulting

Consultants are available to meet with you at the UMRDC office in Appleton.

Call the UMRDC at 1-800-752-1983 or the SBDC at 1-800-642-0684 Ext. 7386 to schedule an appointment!

Business Consulting Services are Free!

SBDC CONSULTING SERVICES INCLUDE:

Business Information

Information on regulatory requirements, market conditions, industry trends, technologies and more.

Business Assessment

Review your current business situation and make recommendations that will help capitalize on your strengths.

Business Plan

Review your business plan and suggest improvements to reach your business goals.

Financial Analysis & Loan Packaging

Analyze your financial situation, identify sources of financing, organize the necessary documentation, and assist you in preparing a loan application.

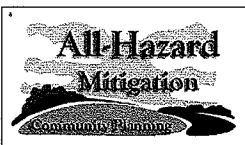
Marketing

Strategic market analysis to help you clearly understand the characteristics of your customers and develop a solid marketing plan.

- ◆ Completed an ordinance code for the cities of Porter and Appleton.
- ◆ Started work on the city of Madison's Zoning Ordinance.
- ◆ Started work on All-Hazard Mitigation Plans for the counties of Big Stone, Lac qui Parle, Chippewa and Yellow Medicine.
- ◆ Provided technical assistance to the city of Granite Falls on downtown planning and flood mitigation activities.

All-Hazard Mitigation Planning

Hazard mitigation planning for Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine Counties started on May 1, 2003. As a result of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, FEMA now requires that any township, city or county wanting access to future Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds must have in place or be in the process of completing an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan by November 2004. Grant funding from FEMA has been initially geared towards completing countywide all-hazard mitigation plans. All cities and townships are eligible to participate in the county plan instead of completing one on their own. The process to write,



review and adopt a final plan should take about 18 months.

Hazard mitigation planning is meant to break the cycle of disaster-repair-disaster in a community and prepares it for a more sustainable future. All-Hazard Mitigation Plans are required to include an extensive public participation process and hazard risk assessment of the county and all its communities. The first public meetings for all four counties were held in early June. Each county has assembled a task force made up of representatives from the county, cities and townships to assist in the planning process.

The UMRVDC will be preparing the plans and facilitating the planning process-

es for the counties mentioned above as well as completing a plan for the Upper Sioux Community beginning later this summer. In addition, an application for funds to complete an All-Hazard Mitigation Plan for Swift County has been submitted to FEMA and is waiting approval. For more information about the hazard mitigation requirements and planning process, please contact Kristi Fernholz.

The Western Minnesota Revolving Loan Fund

The Western Minnesota Revolving Loan Fund (WesMN RLF) is a nonprofit corporation staffed by the UMRVDC. The loan fund has been funded and recapitalized with U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration funds and matching monies from the five participating counties in the region. As loans are made and repayment occurs, the loan fund is recapitalized with the principal and interest payments made.

Revolving loan fund dollars are available through the WesMN RLF for new or expanding businesses in Region 6W. The loan fund is not intended to be a substitute for private financing. The fund will lend to applicants who can demonstrate a financing gap and can meet the fund's lending policies.

Local bank financial participation is required. The maximum RLF participation rate is 33 percent on manufacturing projects and 20 percent on all other types of loans.

Statement of Impact

Loans to date:	58
WesMN RLF Dollars	\$2,494,464
Private Dollars Leveraged	\$20,539,015
Number of jobs created/retained	1,720.5
Types of Industry:	
Commercial	8
Industrial	33
Service	17
Types of Loan:	
Start-ups	19
Expansions	25
Retentions	14

The emphasis of the loan fund is on business start-ups and expansions with a priority given to industrial/manufacturing businesses. Commercial/retail business projects, while eligible for RLF financing, must fulfill a local need for essential

goods and services. Job creation is the first priority of RLF dollars while job retention is the second priority. There should be one job created or saved for every \$10,000 of RLF dollars loaned.

In Fiscal Year 2003, the WesMN RLF made \$295,000 in loans to new and expand-

USDA Funds Clontarf Wastewater Project for Earth Day 2003

The city of Clontarf received technical assistance from the UMRVDC to complete a grant application for the USDA Rural Development grant and loan program to construct a sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. Through this application, Clontarf was awarded a \$550,000 loan and \$1,065,000 grant. The city of Clontarf is currently an unsewered municipality. This grant/loan combination offers the city an affordable opportunity to bring the city into compliance with wastewater regulations set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. This project also offers opportunities for residential growth, business growth, improved health and safety for residents and a positive impact to the environment.

ing businesses in Region 6W. These RLF loan dollars helped leverage an additional \$3.4 million in private lending and owner investments for projects that created new business and job growth. These loans will result in nearly 100 jobs being created and 30 jobs saved.

Loans are made by the WesMN RLF Loan Board with staff support coming from the UMRVDC. For more information on the RLF, please call Ryan Krosch.

UMVRDC COMMISSIONERS



Big Stone County (left to right)
 Shirley Finberg, *Municipalities*; Dave Torgerson, *County Board* (Not pictured: Johnny Larson, *Townships*)



Lac qui Parle County (left to right)
 Marshall Herfindahl, *Townships*; Greg Thole, *Municipalities*; Merrill Johnson, *County Board* (Not pictured: Paul Pillatzki, *School Board*)



Swift County (left to right)
 Warren Rau, *Townships*; Richard Hanson, *County Board*; Bill Fliflet, *Municipalities* (Not pictured: Gary Hendrickx, *Public Interest - Prairie Five CAC*)



Yellow Medicine County (left to right)
 Erling Albin, *Townships*; Gary L. Johnson, *County Board*; Thornton Pronk, *Municipalities*



Chippewa County (left to right)
 Rudolph Larson, *Townships*
 Jaunita Laurtisen, *Public Interest - Workforce Council*
 Jim Dahlvang, *County Board*
 Ron Anderson, *Municipalities*

UMVRDC STAFF

(As of June 30, 2003)



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TOURISM

REGIONAL TOURISM PROGRAM'S POSITIVE IMPACTS

Results of a marketing study conducted by the University of Minnesota and the UMRDC on the Regional Tourism Program's marketing efforts show that the program has been a success! The study, which surveyed people who requested information from the Regional Tourism Program in 2001, shows that for every dol-



lar the Regional Tourism Program spent on marketing, an average of \$30.50 was generated into the local economy by travelers!

Survey responses showed that the program generated approximately 1,352 trips to the region, with an average travel party size of 2.21 people. Top travel activities included scenic touring, park vis-

its, historical site visits, and shopping. Of the people who traveled to the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Region, 77.2 percent said that the information they received from the Regional Tourism Program influenced their decision to travel to the area and 65.6 percent said that it influenced the length of their stay!

Tourism & Byway Programs Receive NADO Innovation Award

The Regional Tourism Program, Western Minnesota Prairie Waters, has recently been awarded a 2003 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Innovation Award for development and success of regional tourism marketing efforts. The program has continued to pool and leverage resources to allow communities within the region an opportunity to promote together and reach further markets than what they may be able to do on their own. A recently completed marketing study proved the program to be successful, showing that the program had an estimated economic impact of approximately \$716,000 on the region in 2001.

The UMRDC will also receive an award for coordinating the MN River Valley Scenic Byway. The byway encourages economic development through the promotion, preservation and protection of the qualities of the Minnesota River Valley.

NADO's Innovation Awards are given to recognize organizations that have demonstrated innovative approaches to economic and community development. The award will be given this fall at the Innovation Award Roundtable Evening Reception being held at NADO's Annual Training Conference in Minneapolis, September 15.

Minnesota River Valley Receives Federal Funding



The Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway was awarded one of the 206 projects that were funded in 42 states sharing \$24 million in Federal Highway Scenic Byway Grants. Federal Highway Administrator Mary E. Peters, U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, Lt. Governor and Transportation Commissioner Carol Molnau delivered a check for \$696,456 to Minnesota byways at a May press conference in St. Paul.

"Minnesota's scenic byways connect literally millions of tourists and travelers to our state's beauty, history and culture."

Senator Coleman said. "With the recent celebration of Earth Day, I can't think of a better time to recommit to our stewardship of these byways and the jobs and tourism that depend on them statewide."

The Minnesota River Valley grant of \$31,250 will implement several recommended components of the byway's corridor management plan and current annual work plan.

- ◆ Develop the design and content for interpretive panels.
- ◆ Cost share additional byway directional signs.
- ◆ Develop byway media-marketing

proposal.

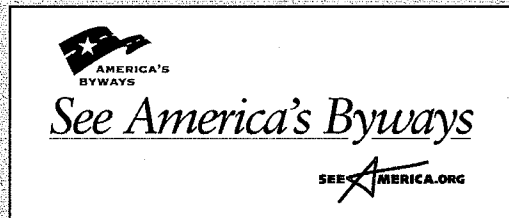
- ◆ Enhance the byway website.
- ◆ Attendance at America's Byways Conference.
- ◆ Develop and print a byway informational brochure.

The mission of the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway is "to encourage economic development through the promotion, preservation and protection

of the intrinsic qualities of the Minnesota River Valley". The byway is proud to be a part of a nationwide net-

work of byways that are working to promote, preserve and protect the natural, cultural, archaeological, scenic, recreational and historical qualities that can be found along America's roadways.

For information about this project or how to become involved with the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway contact Dawn Hegland, Byway Coordinator. For tourism information about the byway call 1-888-463-9856 or visit www.mnrivervalley.com. Additional information about America's Byway's program can be found at www.byways.org & www.seeamerica.org.



TRANSPORTATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

The UMRDC continues to provide local transportation planning assistance to the region through a contract with the MN Department of Transportation. The region's Transportation Advisory Committee meets quarterly to review, discuss and recommend transportation projects including the prioritization of millions of dollars worth of road, bridge, rail crossing, public transit and trail projects. Recommendations are given to the UMRDC and to Area Transportation Partnerships (ATPs). ATPs develop prioritized lists of transportation projects for a multi-county area. Region 6W participates in two ATPs, each of which encompass a dif-

ferent 12 county area.

Transportation issues continue to be critical issues for our rural, agrarian region. We rely heavily on the existing transportation system to get to work, school, medical appointments, vacation, and to get commodities into and out of the region. The UMRDC would like to assist the local units of government to ensure its people and businesses of this region are adequately served by all modes of transportation.

Some of the transportation projects that were included in FY 2003:

- ◆ Participated on ATP 4 and 8 as technical staff and as alternate voting members;

- ◆ Participated on the Enhancement Ranking Team for ATPs 4 and 8;

- ◆ Compiled the fourth annual Surveillance and Monitoring Report for transportation and demographic characteristics in the region;

- ◆ Assisted Yellow Medicine County, Appleton, Benson, Dawson and other cities as requested regarding trail planning; and

- ◆ Coordinated with other RDCs on transportation issues.

If you have a transportation related comment or concern, we would love to hear it!

Park and Trail Grants Update

The UMRDC continues to provide assistance to units of government seeking to improve their recreational facilities. The UMRDC provides technical advice, grantwriting, administration & project management and planning. In 2003, the UMRDC worked with the following projects.

- ◆ **Appleton Campground Park:**

Assistance was provided to include new RV campsites, primitive campsites, new bathroom facility, additional parking, landscaping and other upgrades through the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grants.

- ◆ **Appleton Pedestrian Bridge:**

Transportation Enhancement Grant Funds were allocated for Appleton to construct a new pedestrian bridge over the Pomme de Terre River connecting the city campground to the planned Appleton Trail. Currently the UMRDC is completing the environmental documentation for the bridge. The goal is to take out the old bridge and replace it with the new bridge in 2004. The money awarded for the project is for 2005.

- ◆ **Appleton Trail:**

The Appleton Trail was funded additional dollars this winter from MnDOT ATP 4 for additional construction funds. Construction on the trail will begin this summer.

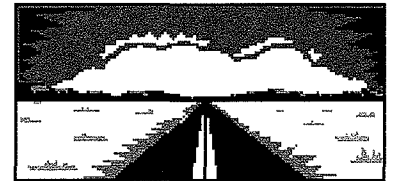
- ◆ **Granite Falls Memorial Park Trails:**

Yellow Medicine County and the city of Granite Falls will receive transportation enhancement funds in 2004 and 2005 for the first two phases of a trail. The UMRDC worked with these groups to plan and dis-

cuss options for funding and implementation.

- ◆ **Chippewa County Wegdahl Park:**

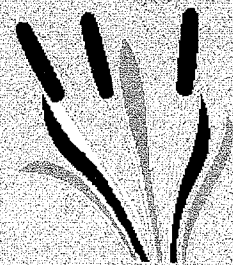
The UMRDC provided comments on a plan for developing a new park along the Minnesota River near Wegdahl. This project will receive transportation enhancement funds in 2006.



MN River Headwaters Joint Powers Board

The UMRDC continues to coordinate the activities of the Minnesota River Headwaters Joint Powers Board.

This multi-county board oversees the activities of multiple watersheds in the region. Currently, they are completing ten-year water plans for the five counties.



AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has experienced changes the past year. Connie Nygard resigned as director of the Area Agency on Aging in December 2002. At the same time, Regions 6E, 6W, 8 and 9 have been working together to develop a strategic plan on how to transition towards a structure that meets proposed Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) Aging Network Standards and Guidelines. Due to this collaborative effort, the position of director was not filled. Administrative functions have been accomplished by current staff of AAA and the UMRDC. Some oversight and assistance has been provided from Regions

6E, 8 and 9 AAA staff. The Upper MN Valley AAA's goal remains "expanding options and opportunities that support the independence and dignity of older persons as valued, full participants of society and one of Minnesota's greatest resources." Collaboration efforts will continue with Regions 6E, 8 and 9 to maximize the resources available to strategically be effective in shaping the evolving system of services for older adults.

The primary role of the AAA is the administration of federal and state dollars for elderly services through grants or contracts. An annual award round is conducted

by the AAA beginning July 1 and ending in November. In addition, the AAA provides people with information on aging services and issues through various venues – media, education presentations, literature and the Senior Linkage Line®.

Specific outcomes of the AAA are outlined in the AAA's Area Plan. The governing piece of legislation for the agency is the Older Americans Act of 1965. Funds are awarded by MBA through a grant to the UMRDC in the form of an Area Plan.

AAA Advisory Committee

This 13 member volunteer committee provides an essential service to the UMRDC. The members assure that Region 6W provides a continuum of care for elders by combining the Title III Older Americans Act dollars with other public or private aging service dollars. Primary functions of the committee include development of the AAA Area Plan, administra-

tion of the Area Plan, identifying regional needs of the elderly that the Area Plan should address and awarding the Title III Older Americans Act dollars to meet these needs. The Area Plan is the region's grant agreement with the MN Board on Aging.

AAA Advisory Committee members include: Bonnie Dybdahl, Jackie Ast, Rocco Cocco, Gilbert Bliss, Eva Stacey,

Barb Nelson, Herb Rotunda, Judy Dahl, Joan Van Lerberghe (Chair), Gloria Nelson, Gail Jerve, Sheri Hansen and Johnny Larson. The committee currently has an opening for a representative from Big Stone County and would greatly appreciate suggestions.

Project ROSE

Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Serve Elders) was a 20-agency collaboration of south central Minnesota led by Region 9 AAA. Funding for this project was available through June 2003 and has now come to a close. Project ROSE complimented the new Older Americans Act Title III-E caregiver funds, making it possible to create programs

and services with the caregiver in mind. The focus has been to develop support services for the caregiver, not the care receiver. Support groups have been developed, caregiver training curriculum has been presented in several communities, promotion of Senior LinkAge Line® and coordination with statewide caregiver supports focused on

public information and awareness. Caregiver support efforts will continue by coordinating funds of AAA and SAIL/EDP projects, promoting programs and services with the caregiver in mind.

SAIL/EDP Project

This past year (2002) marked five years of SAIL (Senior Agenda for Independent Living) in Region 6W. SAIL, a 13 county collaborative funded by a state grant through the MN Board on Aging (MBA), continues to make strides in program development and planning of community-based services, complimenting the work of the AAA. MBA changed the name of the project from SAIL to EDP (ElderCare Development Partnership) in the year 2002. The project now will be identified as SAIL/EDP until there is recognition of EDP by communities and providers. Funding for the previous grant period ended December 2002. A new SAIL/EDP contract was awarded by the Minnesota Department of Human Services to fulfill Mid Minnesota SAIL/EDP's mission with Region 9 AAA being the lead agency. Outcomes for the contract were identified as: expand availability of affordable home and community-based services using best practices models that promote efficiency and economies of scale; maximize use of available formal and informal personnel and address unique needs/resources of partnership communities; increase support service capacity in local communities to assist low income, at-risk persons to remain in their own homes and apartments; and develop "best practices" service delivery models unique to rural conditions and special populations.

Progress has been made in these outcomes and assistance made available to providers throughout the region.

During the recent legislative session, Governor Pawlenty had recommended elimination of all SAIL/EDP funds. Funding was restored to SAIL/EDP with a 15 percent reduction. Negotiations are currently underway with the Department of Human Services to amend the contract reflecting the 15 percent cut in funding. Outcomes will

need to be revised, possibly aligning SAIL/EDP and AAA PD & C outcomes.

SAIL/EDP will continue "to be a catalyst to motivate the community and maximize resources that promote individual choice, responsibility and dignity for older adults".

Title III Older Americans Act Grant Dollars

1/1/02 - 12/31/02

Title III-B

Prairie Five RIDES	\$ 29,000
Western MN Legal Services	\$ 21,999
Yellow Medicine East Chore	\$ 11,243
AAA - Information & Assistance	\$ 29,225
Prairie Five HOME	\$ 23,233
Mid-MN AAA	\$ 5,895
Monte Friendly Visiting/Chore	\$ 6,079
City of Danvers	\$ 1,522

Title III-C1

Prairie Five Congregate Dining	\$128,509
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Title III-C2

Prairie Five Home Delivered Meals	\$ 67,183
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Title III-D

Countryside Public Health	\$ 4,840
Prairie Five NAPIS	\$ 7,842

State Nutrition Award

Prairie Five Congregate Dining	\$ 60,897
Prairie Five Home Delivered	\$ 11,388

USDA

Prairie Five Nutrition	\$ 93,713
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GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Service Bureau has been busy working on numerous projects for the region. Over the past year, work has been done on a wide range of projects including the process of creating a digital version of the ditch maps for Yellow Medicine and Swift Counties. In this particular project, all of the paper maps are being digitized while adding all the information that pertains to each ditch. The end result of this process is that the county is able to use the information with other digital products that are provided, such as the parcel-based map.

Another project currently in progress is creating a digital zoning map for Big Stone County. This will allow the county to use this digital map as an overlay on their parcel map and give them quick and easy access as to what a particular parcel is zoned.

A parcel-based map for the city of Porter has been completed. Along with this, a zoning layer was created to overlay with the parcel boundaries. To date, the GIS Service

Governor's Council on Geographic Information Update

As my first year on the Governor's Council on Geographic Information, I feel a good amount was accomplished. In November 2002, the UMRDC GIS Service Bureau hosted an outstate meeting. In this meeting there were presentations from Clay County, Chippewa County and the UMRDC. In these presentations the UMRDC and Chippewa County expressed that they had a real need for updated aerial photography. As an end result, Farm Service Agency and the state of Minnesota reached an agreement to cost share the data collection. What does this mean for the rest of us? If things go as planned, we should hopefully

Bureau has mapped all five counties in the region as well as ten cities.

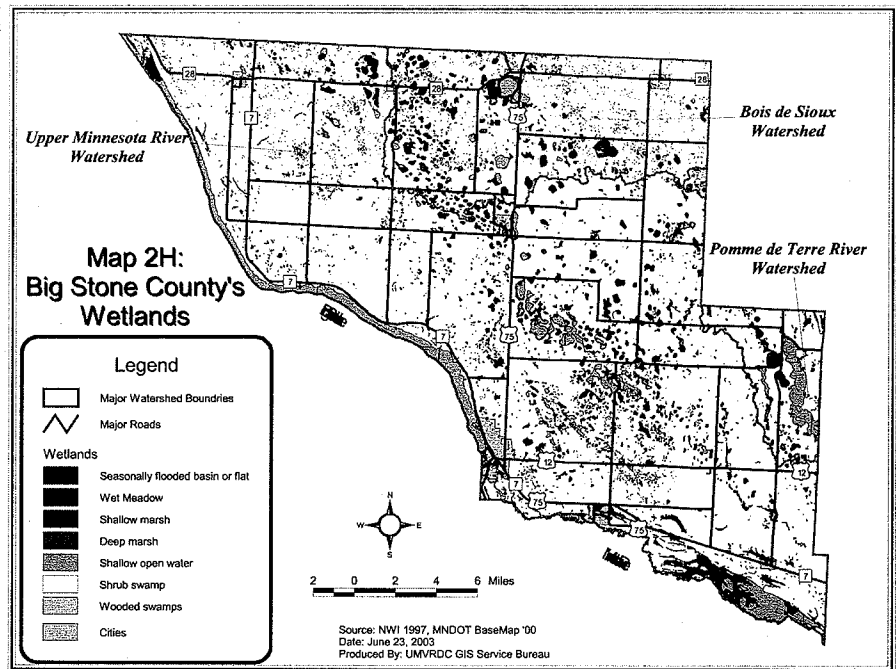
The GIS Service Bureau will also be providing mapping for the All-Hazard Mitigation Plans for Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine Counties and the Upper Sioux Community. Swift County Hazard Mitigation Plan mapping is pending on grant award. Along with the All-

Hazard Mitigation Plans, a contract has been signed to parcel-map Polk County and all of its cities except two.

To find out what GIS can do for you, contact the office to make arrangements for us to visit you with information or to stop by the office to view projects that have been or are in the process of being completed.

GIS Mapping for Area Water Plans

The mapping for the Area Water Plans is complete along with the Plan itself. Counties should see their updated water plan within the next month along with all of the maps required for the Plan. Each county will also be receiving all of the mapping data for their use.



see new 2003 photos sometime in October. The nice thing about these photos is that they will be true color. The only negative thing is that they will be very large in size, but the update is most welcome.

If you have any questions about the Governor's Council or anything else, please contact Scott Conn by email gisrdc@umvrdc.org, phone or just stop in at the office.

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