

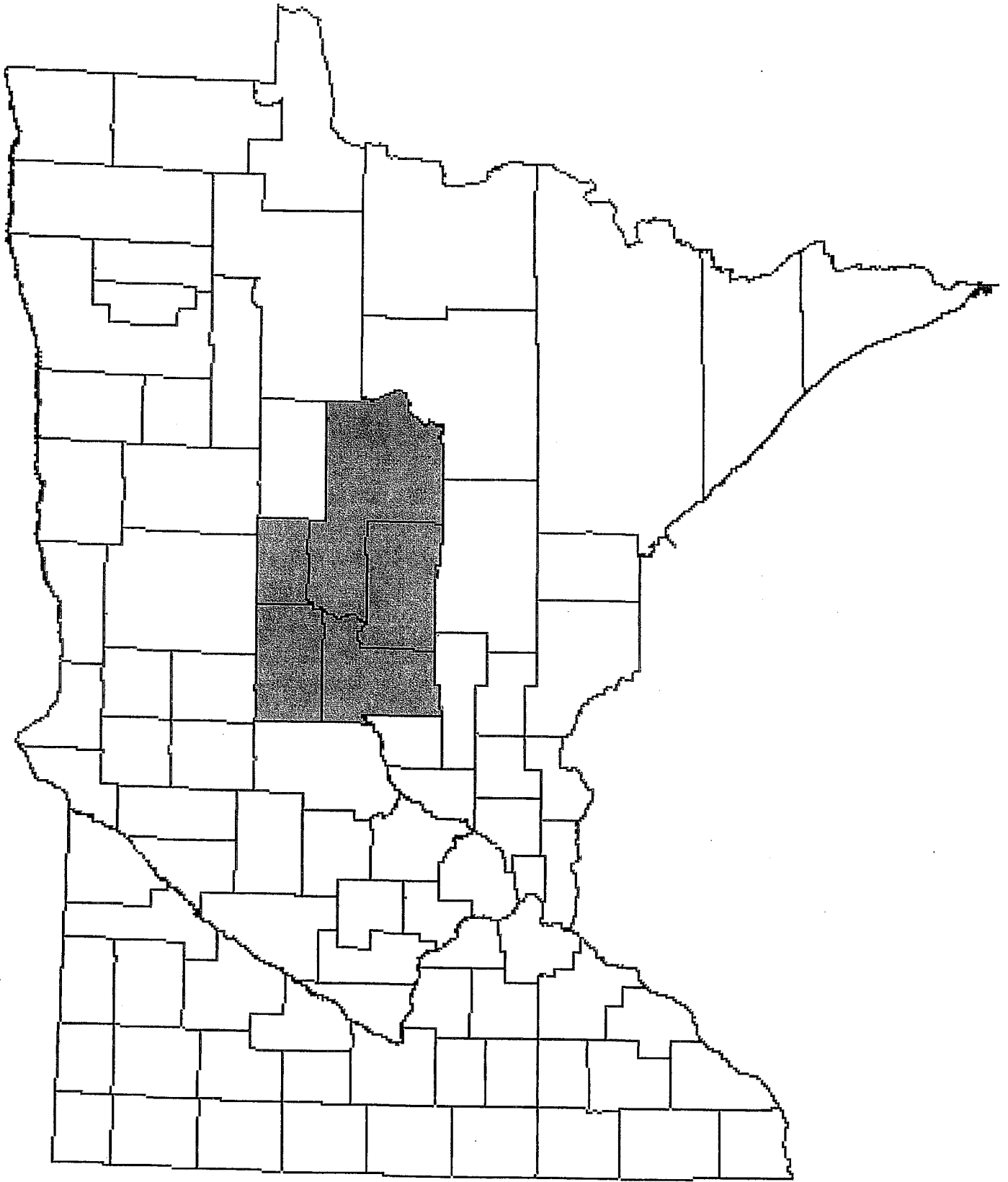
Region Five Development Commission

06 - 0672

Five Year Performance Assessment

December 2006

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Region 5 Cities and Counties

There are a total of 65 incorporated cities in the Region 5 Area.

Cass County:

Backus
Bena
Boy River
Cass Lake
Chickamaw Beach
East Gull Lake
Federal Dam
Hackensack
Lake Shore
Longville
Motley*
Pillager
Pine River
Remer
Walker

Morrison County:

Bowlus
Buckman
Elmdale
Flensburg
Genola
Harding
Hillman
Lastrup
Little Falls
Motley*
Pierz
Randall
Royalton* (Benton)
Sobieski
Swanville
Upsala

Crow Wing County:

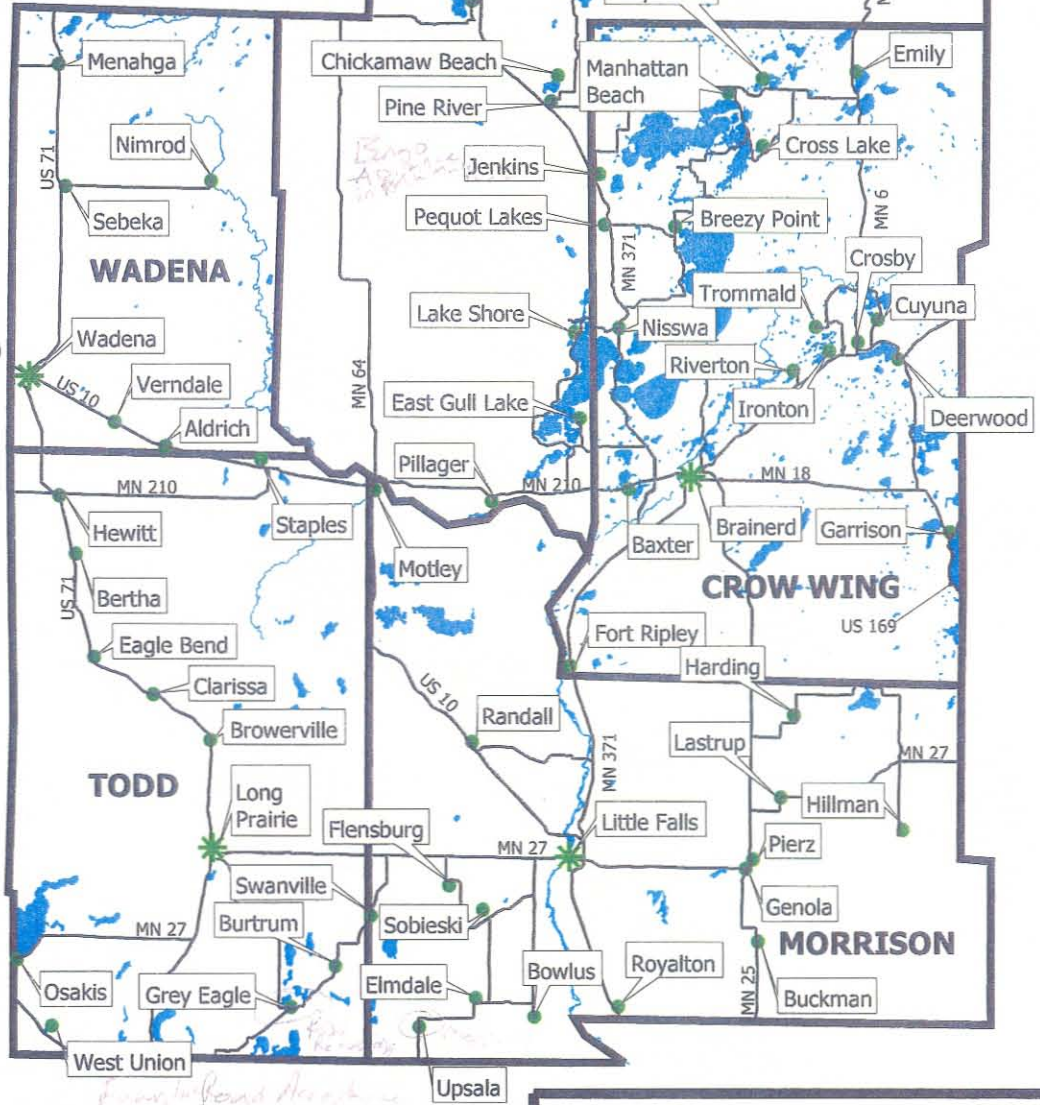
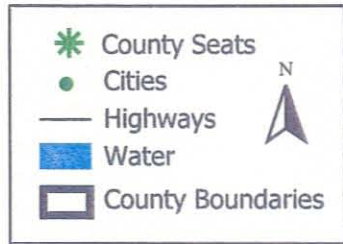
Baxter
Brainerd
Breezy Point
Crosby
Crosslake
Cuyuna
Deerwood
Emily
Fifty Lakes
Fort Ripley
Garrison
Ironton
Jenkins
Manhattan Beach
Nisswa
Pequot Lakes
Riverton
Trommald

Todd County:

Bertha
Browerville
Burtrum
Clarissa
Eagle Bend
Grey Eagle
Hewitt
Long Prairie
Osakis* (Douglas)
Staples*
West Union

Wadena County:

Aldrich
Menahga
Nimrod
Sebeka
Staples*
Verndale
Wadena



* indicates cities that lie in more than one County.



Projection: NAD 1983, UTM Zone 15

Sources: ESRI, Inc. Redlands, CA 908-793-2853

Census TIGER/line data, US Bureau of Census

<http://www.geographynetwork.com/data/tiger2000/>

Region 5 Liability: Although attention was paid to accuracy, these data are provide on an "AS IS" basis, without warranty of any type, expressed or implied, including but not limited to any warranty as to their performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.

5 Region Five
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Revised on:
07/02/2003

Introduction

During 2006, the Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) conducted a performance assessment to determine how well it had performed during the preceding 5 years. Because of certain past difficulties in Region Five the survey conducted was a blind survey that was seeking honest responses to questions about the programs currently offered. This assessment was performed as required by Minnesota Statute 462.393 Subd.2, which states "In 2001 and every five years thereafter the commission shall review its activities and issue a report assessing its performance in fulfilling the purposes of the Regional Development Act. The report shall address whether the existence of the commission is in the public welfare and interest."

This report will include information gathered by means of a survey, analysis of the survey results, reports on accomplishments in various program areas, setbacks and financial information for the past five years. At the conclusion of this report, we will discuss possible next steps as the Regional Five Development Commission positions itself for the future.

The Region Five Development Commission sent out a total of 218 Performance Assessment Surveys during April 2006. Of the 218 surveys mails, the Commission received 35 responses or a 16% return rate. This return rate in itself tells volumes about the state of the region. The result of the survey seems to demonstrate that the "existence of the commission is in the public welfare and interest," as required by the Regional Development Act. A copy of the Performance Assessment Survey and its results are located at the conclusion of this document.

SATISFACTION

The Commission asked its various elected officials to rate their satisfaction with the quality and quantity of assistance provided. Overall, the local units of government rated the R5DC as needing to improve on the amount and quality of the assistance provided. Of the respondents, 100% of the municipalities and 80% of the townships were familiar with Region Five and the programs they currently offer, however; only 50% of the municipalities and 32% of the townships had actually used our services.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE

Each year Region Five develops an overall work program that addresses specific objectives and strategies to accomplish during the upcoming fiscal year. Many of these goals vary little from year to year and reflect the ongoing operations of the R5DC. Respondents were asked to evaluate the importance of the Commission's major work areas and rate the performance.

Economic Development

The Region Five Development Commission represents Region Five as a federally designated Economic Development District (EDD). The Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce provides planning funds to the R5DC to work with local units of government to address economic distress. Listed below are some of the activities that the Commission has engaged in during the past 5 years relating to economic development:

Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) Program: Working closely with area economic developers, Region Five submitted an application to the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the JOBZ program. JOBZ is a State of Minnesota initiative that provides substantial tax benefits to companies expanding, relocating or starting up in rural Minnesota. The program began on January 1, 2004 and will continue until December 31, 2015. By the end of reporting year 2005 over 30 JOBZ projects had been approved by DEED, creating 231 new jobs and retaining 362.

Region Five is the Zone Administrator and coordinates the state mandated reporting for the region. JOBZ information is available on a website maintain by Region Five and can be accessed at <http://www.regionfivejobz.com> or specific JOBZ parcels information can be viewed at the MNPro website at <http://www.mnpro.com>. Signage was developed to advertise the program at each JOBZ parcel site and at the entrances to participating cities.

Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

The Region Five revolving loan fund was established in 1986 with grant from the Federal EDA and is governed by the North Central Economic Development Association (NCEDA). This 15 member corporation manages the fund and reports to the commission but is a separate entity. NCEDA offers gap financing for fixed asset and working capital and can be accessed by businesses that are new or expanding in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd or Wadena Counties. The NCEDA board meets monthly to review loan applications and conduct other business of the NCEDA Full Corporation. Loan guidelines call for 1 job created/retained for each \$10K in funding, an owner's equity injection of at least 10% of the total project, proof of repayment ability and bank participation is preferred. NCEDA loans offer competitive rates, generally the approved loans are more risky or non-traditional than other financial institutions consider and NCEDA is willing to partner with others to diversify the risk.

Since 1986 NCEDA has funded 196 loans totaling over \$5.9 million. These loans leveraged other public and private funds and grants for a total regional investment of \$67.2 million. Over 875 jobs have been created and 1,316 retained with a total economic impact to the region of almost 2,200 jobs. Surprisingly, there have been only 17 (approximately 5%) of the loans written off due to default during this twenty year period.

Potlatch Grant

In March of 2002 the Potlatch Plant announced that they were closing their facility in Brainerd, MN. An EDA application for \$50,000 to assist Crow Wing County in replacing the 616 jobs lost by the plant closure was written and administered by Region Five. An area response team formed a task force and matching grant funds were provided by:

City of Brainerd
City of Baxter
Potlatch
Initiative Foundation
Minnesota Power
BLADC
Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce

Sponsoring Organizations

Brainerd Lakes Area Development Corporation
Brainerd Lakes Area Chambers of Commerce
City of Brainerd
City of Baxter
Crow Wing County
Independent School District #181
Initiative Foundation
Minnesota Power & Light
Potlatch Corporation
Region Five Development Commission

Region Five and Crow Wing County suffered sudden and severe economic distress with the closing of the Brainerd Potlatch facility. The effects of this plant closure were felt region-wide by vendors and suppliers, banks and financial institutions, each county's tax base, and the service/retail sector.

Consultants were engaged to provide a plan to aide the terminated employees in retraining efforts and to give direction to future economic development plans.

Two documents were produced that summarize the work of the Task Force:

- Assessment of the Brainerd Lakes Area Economy
- Economic Vision and Three-Year Action Plan (2004-2007)

Infrastructure Grants

Grant writing, information about grant opportunities and infrastructure grants appeared to be a major concern or need from both units of local government that completed the survey above. Region Five will strive to address these needs by developing a grant opportunity strategy.

Region Five assisted the communities below with applications for infrastructure funding:

- Brainerd-industrial park
- Little Falls-industrial park
- Staples-utility extension for new hospital
- Long Prairie-industrial park
- Walker-industrial park
- Wadena-business expansion
- Motley-industrial park

Network 5

Network 5 is an organization unique to Region Five and is comprised of employees from area economic developers, DEED, WorkForce Center, Region Five legislators, area utility companies and many more. The group meets every other month to network to share ideas and program information; a timely speaker rounds out the meeting.

E-Commerce for Small Business

Region Five coordinated an e-commerce class presented by DEED employee, Jerry Wenner. City clerks were invited to participate and to share the concept with their respective communities. The course was designed for small business owners interested in learning more about how to use the internet to enhance their business success. Participants learned how to develop and implement an internet business plan for their business, incorporating all components of the course.

Enterprise Network Systems Analysis (ENSA)

A new economic development tool sponsored by DEED and funded by the Initiative Foundation and MN Power. This process is used to enhance existing businesses in the region and identify potential opportunities that will benefit local companies.

Tourism, Recreation, Arts & Crafts (TRAC)

Region Five actively participates and is a member of two newly formed tourism initiatives that are promoting efforts within our region, Todd-Wadena Tourism and Mille Lacs TRAC.

Community Development

The R5DC has provided community planning assistance to local units of government throughout Region Five for many years. The State of Minnesota, through its planning agency, made available planning assistance funding to the region. This helped provide full-time community development staffing at Region Five and had a great impact on encouraging local units of government to develop comprehensive land use plans for their communities by making the process affordable. The local planning assistance program was discontinued in the late 1990s due to budget constraints at the State level. In 2003, the State abolished MN Planning which eliminated another valuable technical resource to the Region Five's community planning function. Despite these setbacks, a number of projects moved forward as time and resources permitted. Since 2001, Region Five has facilitated many community development projects, listed below are some of the major projects completed over the past 5 years:

Comprehensive Planning: Region Five assisted a number of local units of government in preparing and/or updating their comprehensive land use plans. Numerous outreach presentations were made to communities in Region Five.

- Community Development developed comprehensive plans for the following municipalities, townships and county:
- Morrison County
- Bungo Township
- Center Township
- Daggett Brook Township
- Garrison Township
- Ideal Township
- Ripley Township
- Sibley Township
- City of Chickamaw Beach
- City of Jenkins
- City of Lakeshore
- City of Randall
- City of Royalton

Zoning Ordinance Updates: Reviewed and updated zoning ordinances for the cities of Cass Lake, Pierz, Royalton, Swanville and Upsala.

Hazard Mitigation Planning: With funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region Five assisted Morrison, Cass, Todd and Wadena Counties in developing county-wide all hazard mitigation plans.

Surveys

Surveys were conducted, results compiled and presentations made for;

- City of Garrison
- City of Lakeshore
- Jenkins Township
- Watab Township-Benton County

A Ditch Plan was completed for Todd County.

Transportation

The Region Five Transportation Initiative Program works with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, individual counties, and local units of government on a variety of transportation related issues and projects. The program provides planning services to local units of government, updates and maintains the Regional Transportation Plan, and performs tasks as necessary to fulfill transportation planning needs of the Region. Since 2001, Region Five has facilitated many transportation related projects, listed below are some of the projects completed and committees participated in over the past 5 years:

PROJECTS

Administration

- Transportation Advisory Committee

Purpose:

The Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) is charged with reviewing transportation projects and issues, and provides input to the Minnesota Department of Transportation in planning, transportation project rankings, policy, project development, and special transportation studies. The TAC serves as a liaison between the State, Regional and local units of government regarding transportation concerns and issues.

Duties:

1. Review transportation programs and proposals, making recommendations concerning programs, and legislative and rule making process.
2. Assist with data collection and completion of transportation studies. Maintain the Regional transportation Plan with current goals and policies.
3. Fulfill requirements of SAFETEA-LU, including Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) activities. Provide transportation information to local units of government.

Road Recording

Road recording projects were finished for:

- Scandia Valley Township
- Grey Eagle Township
- Bruce Township
- Pike Creek Township

Studies/Plans

- Railway Corridor Road Crossing Safety Improvement Project
- Todd County Transit Needs Assessment
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Public Transit / Human Services Coordination Plan

Committees

- RDO Transportation Planners
 - Functional Classification Update Advisory Committee
 - TH 10/Wadena Technical Committee
 - City of Staples New TH 10 Committee
 - Brainerd/Baxter Origin Destination Study Committee
 - Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership
 - Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce – Regional Business Council
 - 5310 Transit Review Committee
 - TH 210 Motley/Baxter Corridor Committee
-

GIS

The Region Five Development Commission acquired grants from the Economic Development Administration and the Initiative Foundation to begin a regional geographic information system. The purpose of the program was to assist those local units of government who did not have GIS capabilities readily available and to compliment those systems that already existed with the local units. Start-up of the program began in June 2002. The program was discontinued early in 2006 after local counties acquired GIS equipment for their own use. GIS Day was celebrated each year the program was active to increase the awareness of area high school students in GIS related job opportunities.

Mapping was provided for a number of projects, including:

- The "Impact of Region Five on its Communities"
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs)
- JOBZ proposal
- Central MN Counsel on Aging
- Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) promotional material
- North Central Economic Development Association (NCEDA) revolving loan fund promotional materials
- City and township comprehensive plans and road recordings
 - Zoning maps
 - Land use maps

Senior Services

The Region Five Area Agency on Aging (AAA) serves as an advocate, service developer and facilitator, educator and information and funding source. AAA provide information and assistance to older persons and their families through the Senior LinkAge Line, technical assistance to agencies and units of government in the development of services for older persons, coordination of aging services and demographics and needs data. AAA is guided by a fifteen member Council on Aging. Senior Outreach Specialists provide one-on-one assistance in the areas of housing, in-home services, caregiver resources, MediCare, Social Security, prescription cost assistance and other information and assistance as needed.

FY 2000 1077 individuals assisted, highest topic areas were prescription drugs, health insurance, transportation, nutrition, legal issues, housing, chore, respite, adult day care, caregiver support, home care, etc. The program aims at supplying services and assistance to help seniors remain independent.

6516 calls were taken in FY 2004-2005, 65-70% of the callers each month are previous users of the Senior LinkAge Line. A wonderful network of volunteers has been developed.

6818 calls were taken in FY 2005-2006, many of these calls concerned the new MediCare part D. Key information on the new coverage has been an ongoing process as everyone in MediCare will be affected and need to make a decision about the coverage. Staff hosted a large number of successful events designed to reach the maximum amount of seniors at each event.

Other services include presentations on:

- Senior Surf classes to help detect MediCare Fraud and Abuse
- Medication Management
- Clinic Pilot Projects to assist low-income seniors obtain medications directly pharmaceutical manufacturers
- MediCare Discount Cards
- RXConnect
- Health Fairs
- Info sessions at Senior Dining Sites

Although Region Five Development Commission continues to support Senior Aging issues in our region, the files and financial parts of the program have been transferred to Central MN Council on Aging (CMCOA) as they begin to coordinate and administer the program.

Housing

Over the past 5 years the housing related initiatives for Region Five Development Commission have been extensive:

Housing

Financing was obtained by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Greater Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Corrections to build 29 affordable homes in the five county area we serve: Todd, Morrison, Crow Wing, Cass and Wadena.

2002 1; Little Falls, 2; Pillager 2; Staples	2003- 2004 3; Brainerd 2; Randall. 2; Clarissa 1; Verndale	2005 1; Pine River 1; Milaca 1; Randall 1; Pequot Lakes 1; Verndale 1; Little Falls 2; Clarissa 3; Brainerd	2006 1; Clarissa 1; Brainerd 1; Pequot Lakes 2; Pillager
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Grant gap funding was secured by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in the amount of 140,000. to provide assistance to low and moderate income households with closing and down-payment assistance. The program placed special emphasis on providing assistance to households with children.

Homes were constructed utilizing the labor contracted from the Department of Corrections.

Self-Help

Region Five received a \$251K grant from the USDA to administer the building 12 new homes in Brainerd. Families provide 65% of the labor on these homes which lowers the cost of the home and the associated mortgage. Four of the homes have been completed in 2005, with efforts to construct an additional 8 homes. The program was approved and funded by USDA – Rural Development in September 2004, and offers below market interest rates for up to 40 year loan terms.

Bootstraps Homeownership Mentoring Program

The Bootstraps Program assisted families in Crow Wing County who wished to become successful homeowners. Lutheran Social Services provided debt counseling, month by month planning and mentoring to families in search of attaining the “American Dream”. This program was funded by the Initiative Foundation, Bremer Bank and the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation. The goal was to assist 12 families in becoming homeowners. Over 26 families were assisted with a strategy to achieve homeownership; some of the choices involved were not easily made. By adhering to their individual plan 5 families achieved homeownership and many more had an action plan in place for future use.

Fix-Up-Fund

In October of 2005, Region Five began to promote the Fix-Up Fund offered by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Since that time, over 20 homeowners have applied for over \$300,000 in funding. The Fix-Up Fund offers competitively priced loans to encourage property owners to make home improvements. Area banks also offer this program, however; Region Five can offer these loans to applicants with poor credit.

CASA Funding

Funding was secured and utilized by Region Five from MHFA to assist low to moderate income families to purchase a home constructed by Region Five.

Individual Sewage Treatment Program (ISTS)

The Region Five Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) program began in Wadena County in 2001 with funds provided by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Crow Wing (2002) and Cass (2003) counties elected to participate shortly after that. Funds were made available for landowners to upgrade existing septic systems. Since that time, over 105 property owners have applied for funds totaling just under \$500,000. There have been minor changes to the program each year. Originally, the program was available only to low income residents. Since then, it has expanded to include anyone that can show repayment ability with preference given to year-round residents. 20 loan applications were received in FY2006; eighteen were approved, two were denied. To date 73 residents have accessed over \$365,000 through this program in the past five years; none of the loans have gone into default.

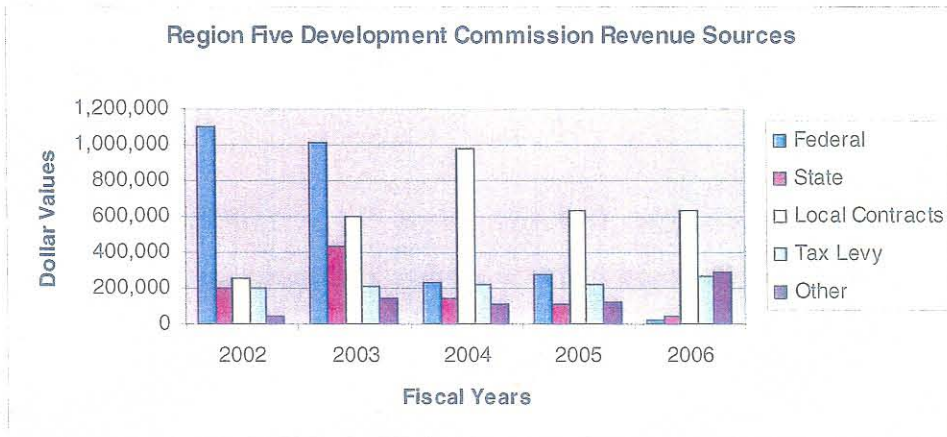
Housing Study

Also the Housing Department, along with the assistance of the Housing Advisory Committee, completed a thorough evaluation and update of the Cooperatively Developed Plan to ensure that all programming is in line with the goals and mission of the group. The Department was also able to realize its goal of a region-wide housing study through a partnership with St. Cloud State University that provided a group of three students to assist with the data collection and analysis necessary for a qualitative study of the existing housing and projected need for housing in the five counties.

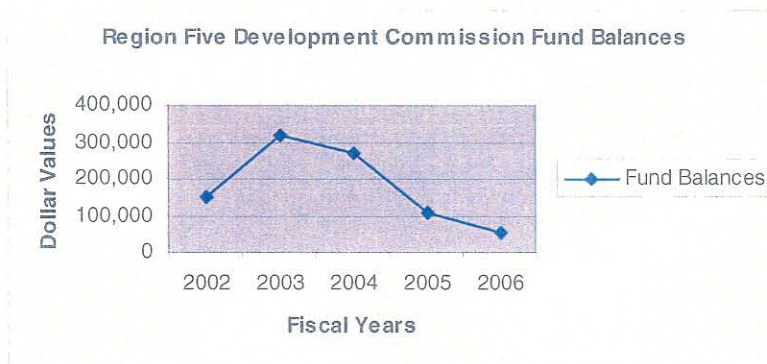
Other Efforts

Created new marketing materials, providing information and program presentations to the communities, recruiting for program participants, applying for grants to supplement existing programs, and completing necessary reports and data collection for all its housing programs.

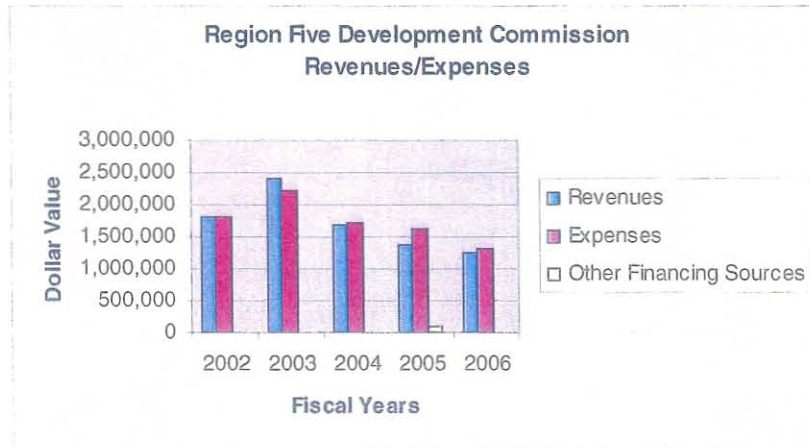
Region Five Financial Information



Revenue Sources					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Federal	1,097,025	1,005,985	228,080	282,853	20,762
State	197,889	436,831	148,580	107,834	50,000
Local Contracts	259,497	595,214	973,257	638,339	630,057
Tax Levy	200,582	211,439	216,689	219,366	263,453
Other	48,424	146,691	107,592	120,946	291,977
Total	1,803,417	2,396,160	1,674,198	1,369,338	1,256,250

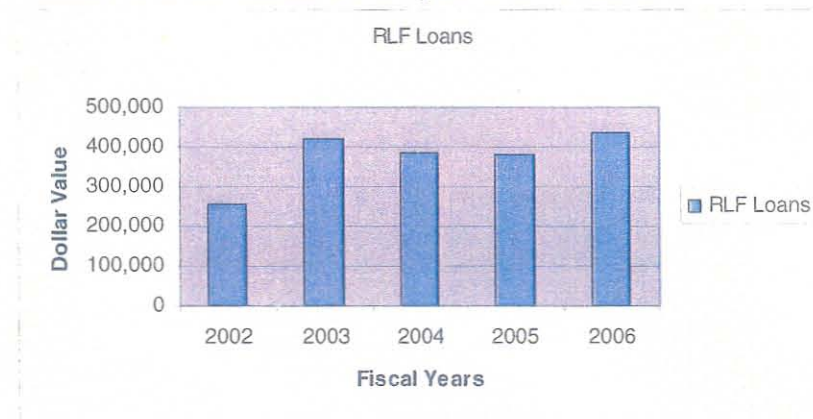


Fund Balances					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fund Balance	150,540	318,074	271,404	108,677	53,944

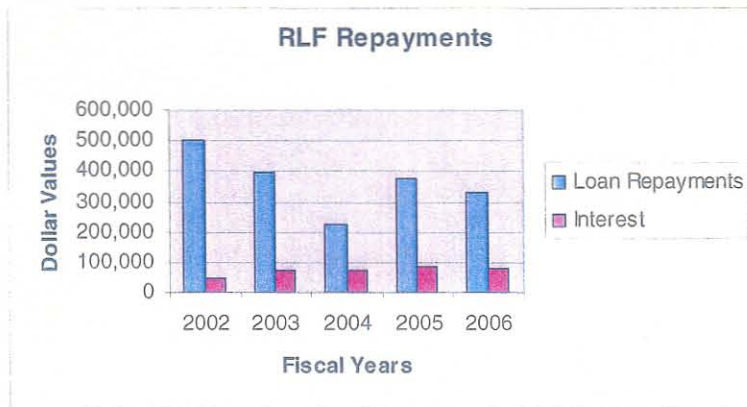


Revenues/Expenses					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Revenues	1,803,417	2,396,160	1,674,198	1,369,338	1,256,250
Expenses	1,816,534	2,228,626	1,720,868	1,612,035	1,310,983
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	79,970	

Revolving Loan Fund North Central Economic Development Association



Funds Loaned Out					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
RLF Loans	256,500	420,574	386,190	377,708	434,933



Fund Sources					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Loan Repayments	502,508	398,595	226,591	378,550	332,568
Interest	48,060	75,607	74,325	84,228	78,535

Conclusion

A series of ongoing "Strategy Sessions" are scheduled to plan the direction the region should focus on. As a result of the performance assessment, there are a number of areas the Region Five will be looking at in the future. Generally survey respondents agree that Region Five needs more visibility, communication and awareness.

Strategies to accomplish this include:

- Presentations and/or training for new commission members
- Commissioners as spokespersons
- Presentations to local units of government
- Presentations to service organizations
- Ongoing discussion at staff meetings
- Partnering with others
- Radio interviews
- Press or public service announcements
- E-Quickie –email newsletter
- Pursuit of new opportunities

Improving the financial strength of Region Five will be an ongoing task. Exploring new program areas while minimizing financial risk will be a priority. Region Five is moving into new offices in January 2007. This move will be one of many positive changes in the upcoming year, as the commission continues with an open mind, to seek a new vision and new approach to regional planning. A new Economic Development Director will join the RDC in January; we anticipate that his education, expertise and enthusiasm will be a welcome addition to the region's staff. Many of the suggestions proposed by respondents to the 2006 survey will be explored and expanded. Future assistance to municipalities and townships will include more information on grant writing, grant opportunities and assistance in obtaining infrastructure funding for local units of government. Region Five

will continue partnering and collaborative efforts with other regional commissions, local organizations and local units of government to strengthen relationships to work more efficiently, effectively and to fulfill our mission of enhancing the quality of life for residents of our region.

As required by Minnesota Statute 462.393, Region Five Development Commission has conducted a Performance Assessment. The information included in this assessment contains the results of a survey of local constituencies, review of programs by Region Five staff and discussion of possible future plans and direction. During the past five years, Region Five has worked to fulfill the purpose of the Regional Development Act by developing plans to address economic development, social, physical and governmental concerns in Region Five and to assist with developing and implementing plans and programs for individual local units of government.

REGION FIVE MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Region Five Development Commission is to provide high quality, professional planning and development services through collaboration, assistance, and coordination with local units of government, organizations, and citizens. Our principal objective is to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties.

2006 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT SURVEY
 (Sent To All Municipalities and Townships In Region Five)

The Region Five Region Development Commission is conducting a performance and guidance assessment and is seeking your assistance. The performance assessment is a useful tool designed to provide the Commission with valuable information on both its strengths and weaknesses. The guidance assessment will help focus on the future of the region. It is also a part of our responsibility to prepare a report of our program activities to various agencies with which we work.

This Survey is designed to provide the commission with answers to a variety of questions relating to the agency's performance. Further, it will be used as a tool to consider future changes necessary to improve its performance.

Region Five Mission Statement

The mission of Region Five Development Commission is to provide high quality, professional planning and development services through collaboration, assistance, and coordination with local units of government, organizations, and citizens. Our principal objective is to enhance the vitality and quality of life in Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd, and Wadena Counties.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. **Please return it by April 30, 2006. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please indicate with an X the choice that applies.

1. Do you represent a municipality _____ or township _____?

Townships: 25

Municipalities: 10

2. What county is your city or township in?

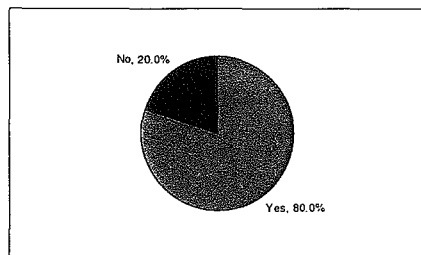
Cass _____ Crow Wing _____ Morrison _____ Todd _____ Wadena _____

Townships: Cass 20% Crow Wing 20% Morrison 20% Todd 28% Wadena 12%

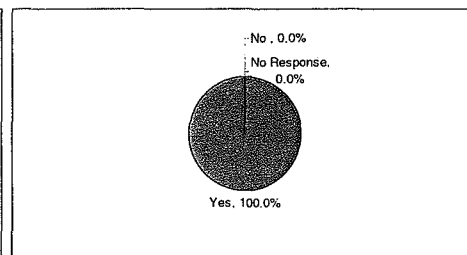
Municipalities: Cass 10% Crow Wing 10% Morrison 40% Todd 30% Wadena 10%

3. Are you familiar with Region Five and the programs they currently offer?

_____ Yes _____ No (Our website can be reviewed at www.regionfive.org)



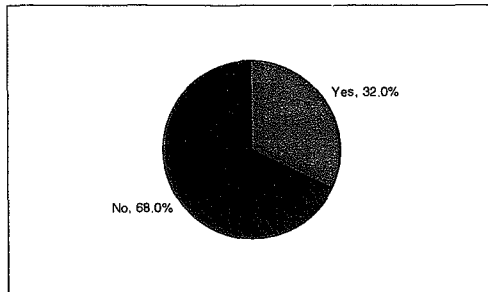
Townships



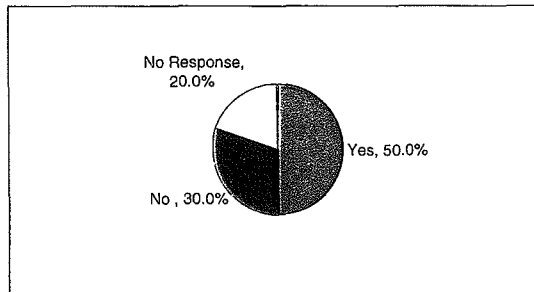
Municipalities

4. Has your community or township ever used the services of Region Five?

 Yes No



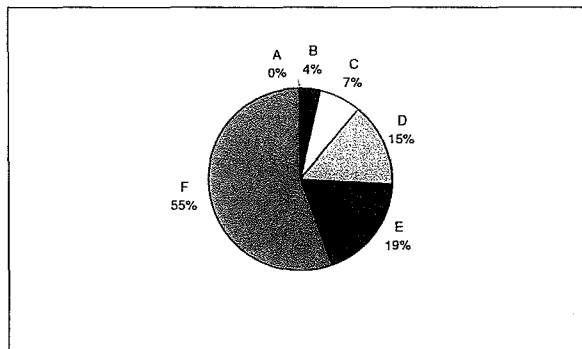
Townships



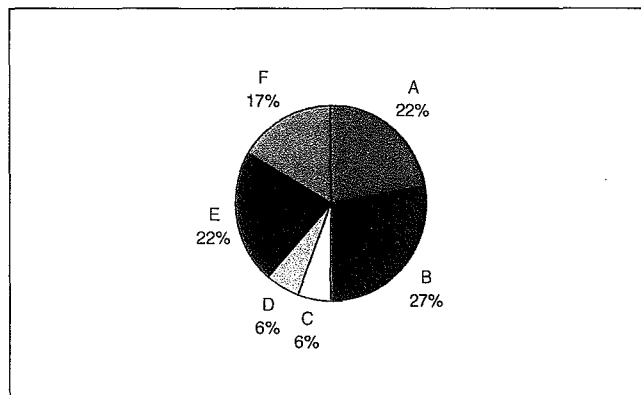
Municipalities

5. If yes, which program(s) *check all that apply*:

- A Economic Development
- B Community Development/Planning
- C Transportation
- D Housing
- E General Information
- F No Response



Townships



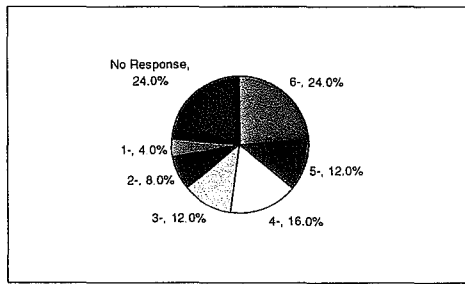
Municipalities

SATISFACTION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

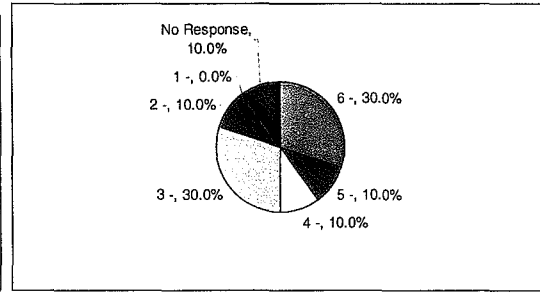
Please indicate on a scale 1-6 (1 being very satisfied, 5 being not satisfied and 6 I don't know) your level of satisfaction. Please circle your choice.

6. In your opinion, how satisfied are most of the local governments and organizations with the **amount** of assistance the Commission has provided:

1—2—3—4—5—6



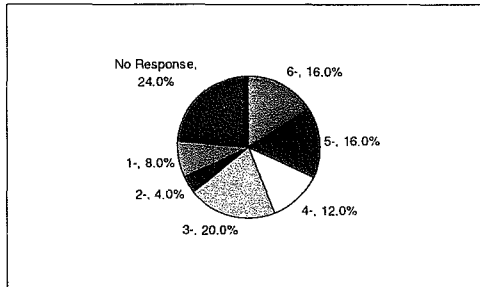
Townships



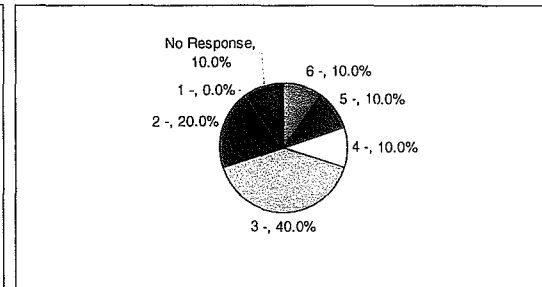
Municipalities

7. In your opinion, how satisfied are most of the local governments and organizations with the **quality** of assistance which the Commission has provided:

1—2—3—4—5—6



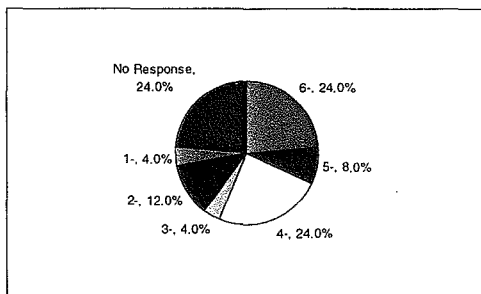
Townships



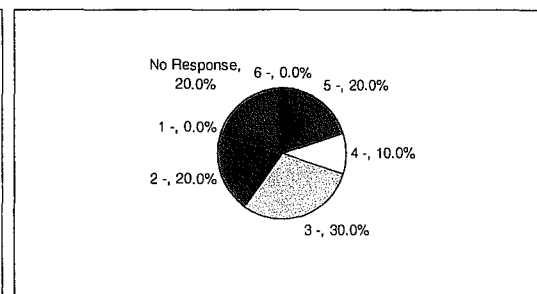
Municipalities

8. In your opinion, how useful has the Commission been to local units of government in helping the units carry out their functions and responsibilities:

1—2—3—4—5—6



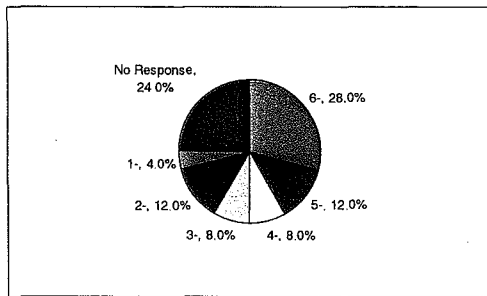
Townships



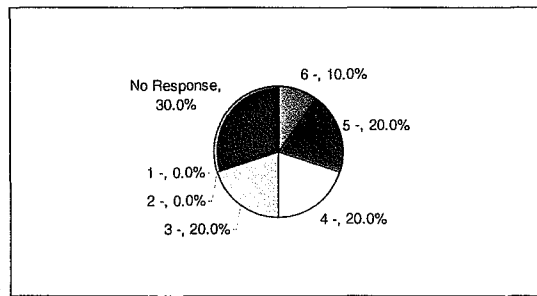
Municipalities

9. In your opinion, how useful has the Commission been in communicating local concerns to state and federal agencies:

1—2—3—4—5—6



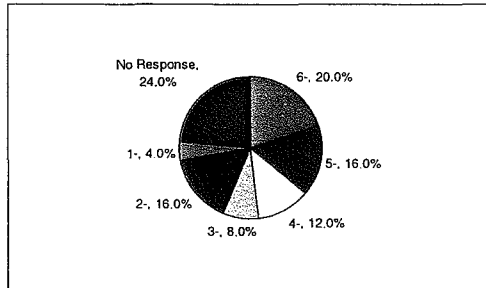
Townships



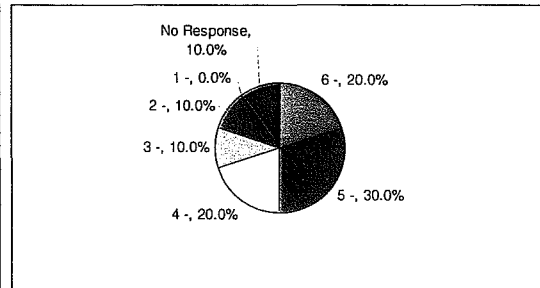
Municipalities

10. How knowledgeable, in your opinion, is the Commission concerning your local government's challenges and needs:

1—2—3—4—5—6



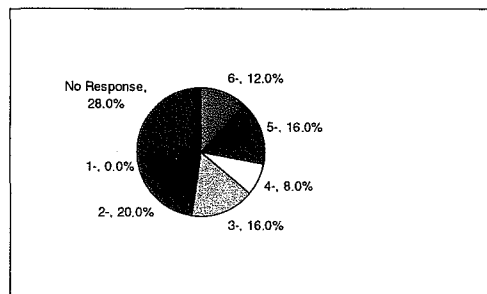
Townships



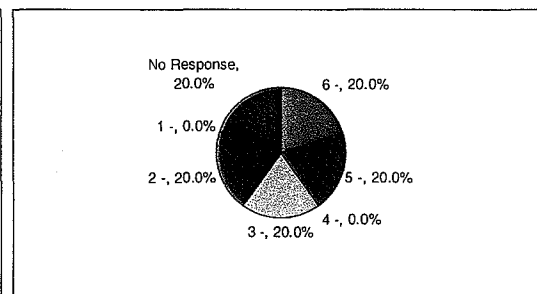
Municipalities

11. Do you feel that overall the Commission is currently fulfilling its role?

1—2—3—4—5—6

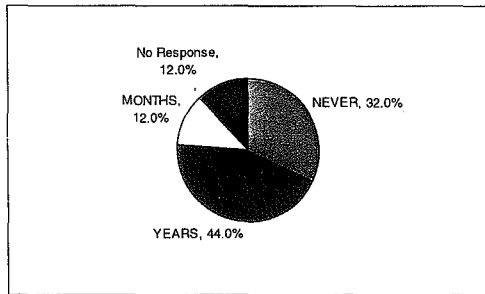


Townships

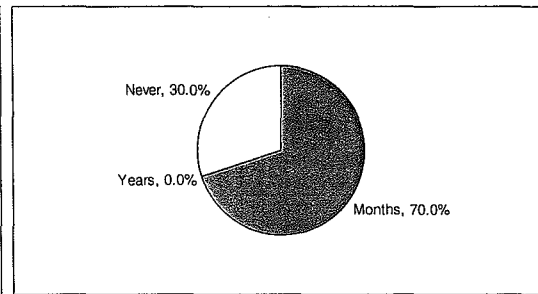


Municipalities

12. When was the last time you called Region Five for assistance?
 ___ Months ago ___ Years ago ___ Never



Townships



Municipalities

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

With the exception of ISTS all programs below are presently offered to all five counties. For the following section, on a scale of 1 to 5, please rank the importance of having a quality program in place to serve the needs of the citizens and local units of government in the region.

- 1-Program is very important to the region as a whole,
- 2- Program is very important to particular jurisdictions,
- 3-Program is beneficial,
- 4- Program is not essential to the region,
- 5-Regional Commission should not be attempting to perform this service or conduct this program.

13. Economic Development Program:

Job Opportunity Building Zones Program (JOBZ) 1—2—3—4—5

1. 36% 2. 18% 3. 8% 4. 11% 5. 4% No Response 23%

Revolving Loan Fund 1—2—3—4—5

1. 26% 2. 23% 3. 17% 4. 10% 5. 6% No Response 18%

Small Business Assistance 1—2—3—4—5

1. 38% 2. 11% 3. 17% 4. 10% 5. 6% No Response 18%

Workforce Development 1—2—3—4—5

1. 35% 2. 6% 3. 20% 4. 11% 5. 8% No Response 20%

Grant Writing Assistance 1—2—3—4—5

1. 33% 2. 27% 3. 8% 4. 6% 5. 4% No Response 22%

Enterprise Network System Analysis (ENSA) 1—2—3—4—5

1. 9% 2. 4% 3. 14% 4. 11% 5. 19% No Response 43%

Federal EDA Infrastructure Assistance 1—2—3—4—5

1. 18% 2. 14% 3. 19% 4. 9% 5. 12% No Response 28%

Community Development & Planning:

Comprehensive Planning 1—2—3—4—5
1. 18% 2. 16% 3. 29% 4. 9% 5. 6% No Response 22%

Local Zoning Ordinances 1—2—3—4—5
1. 28% 2. 9% 3. 24% 4. 9% 5. 8% No Response 22%

Housing Development (PUD) 1—2—3—4—5
1. 30% 2. 11% 3. 22% 4. 9% 5. 4% No Response 24%

Hazard Mitigation Planning 1—2—3—4—5
1. 25% 2. 6% 3. 21% 4. 14% 5. 8% No Response 26%

Transportation Planning:

Regional Transportation Planning 1—2—3—4—5
1. 26% 2. 19% 3. 4% 4. 18% 5. 13% No Response 20%

Transportation Funding Process 1—2—3—4—5
1. 24% 2. 9% 3. 9% 4. 23% 5. 4% No Response 23%

Highway Safety Initiatives 1—2—3—4—5
1. 16% 2. 15% 3. 15% 4. 21% 5. 11% No Response 22%

Transit Planning/Coordination 1—2—3—4—5
1. 17% 2. 5% 3. 5% 4. 16% 5. 5% No Response 52%

Recreational/Trail Planning 1—2—3—4—5
1. 19% 2. 10% 3. 22% 4. 19% 5. 8% No Response 22%

Housing:

Affordable Housing 1—2—3—4—5
1. 39% 2. 12% 3. 15% 4. 4% 5. 8% No Response 22%

Housing Rehabilitation 1—2—3—4—5
1. 28% 2. 16% 3. 22% 4. 4% 5. 8% No Response 22%

Fix-Up Fund 1—2—3—4—5
1. 34% 2. 19% 3. 13% 4. 4% 5. 8% No Response 22%

Individual Sewage Treatment System Program (ISTS) 1—2—3—4—5
1. 8% 2. 14% 3. 11% 4. 2% 5. 17% No Response 46%

(ISTS is offered in Cass, Crow Wing & Wadena Counties, Morrison and Todd have the program through a different lender.)

General Information and Referral:

Census/Demographic Data Center 1—2—3—4—5
 1. 19% 2. 14% 3. 27% 4. 8% 5. 8% No Response 24%

Grant/loan Writing 1—2—3—4—5
 1. 44% 2. 10% 3. 14% 4. 2% 5. 6% No Response 24%

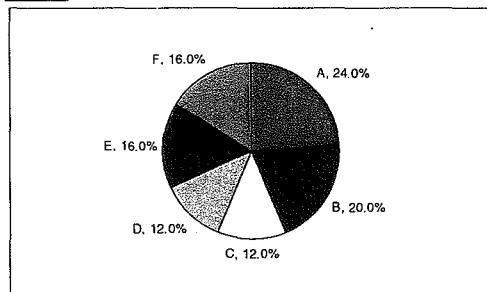
Grant Opportunities 1—2—3—4—5
 1. 40% 2. 16% 3. 12% 4. 2% 5. 6% No Response 24%

GIS Mapping 1—2—3—4—5
 1. 27% 2. 9% 3. 28% 4. 6% 5. 8% No Response 22%

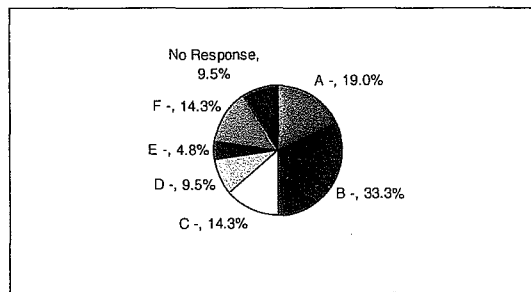
NEW INITIATIVES/PROGRAMS

In your opinion, does your community or township have an interest/need for any of the following, **check all that apply:**

- A Legislative Issues/Alerts
- B Planning Senior Friendly Communities
- C Environmental "Green" Planning/building
- D Regional Jail
- E Regional Coroner
- F Meth Education



Townships



Municipalities

Can you suggest a program(s) that Region Five might need to add?

- Survey township roads.
- Small communities need the services of a closer to full time clerk/administrator but can't afford to pay wages & benefits to get a capable person; counselors in small communities that don't have time to get up to speed with government issues (city); getting qualified counselors.
- Leg. Issues/alts LMNC already does this.
- Transportation for elderly such as doctor visits, shopping etc.
- Promo of tourism.
- Small cities.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT COMMENTS RECEIVED

At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were invited to provide comments regarding possible changes to make the Commission more efficient and effective. Listed below are the comments received from the survey:

- I think that when you assist one business you put someone else at a disadvantage.
- We feel the Region 5 should scrap the programs that are already offered by other organizations.
- The current board has not used your services in more than 7 years.
- We need to have more knowledge of how Region 5 can assist township.
- Stabilize the group. 2. Establish mission & vision for moving forward. 3. Keep township etc. informed. 4. Set up a checks & balances system to keep on track.
- I think Region 5 does a great job and I hope funding for the services continues for the betterment of our region. Thank you to all the staff.
- We need the Region. I hope we can improve it w/the new changes.
- Meet with governing boards to start relationship.

If you have questions regarding this survey contact Ann at 218-894-3233x25

**If you have general questions or concerns regarding Region Five Development
Commission contact: Cheryal Lee Hills, Executive Director
218-894-3233x17**