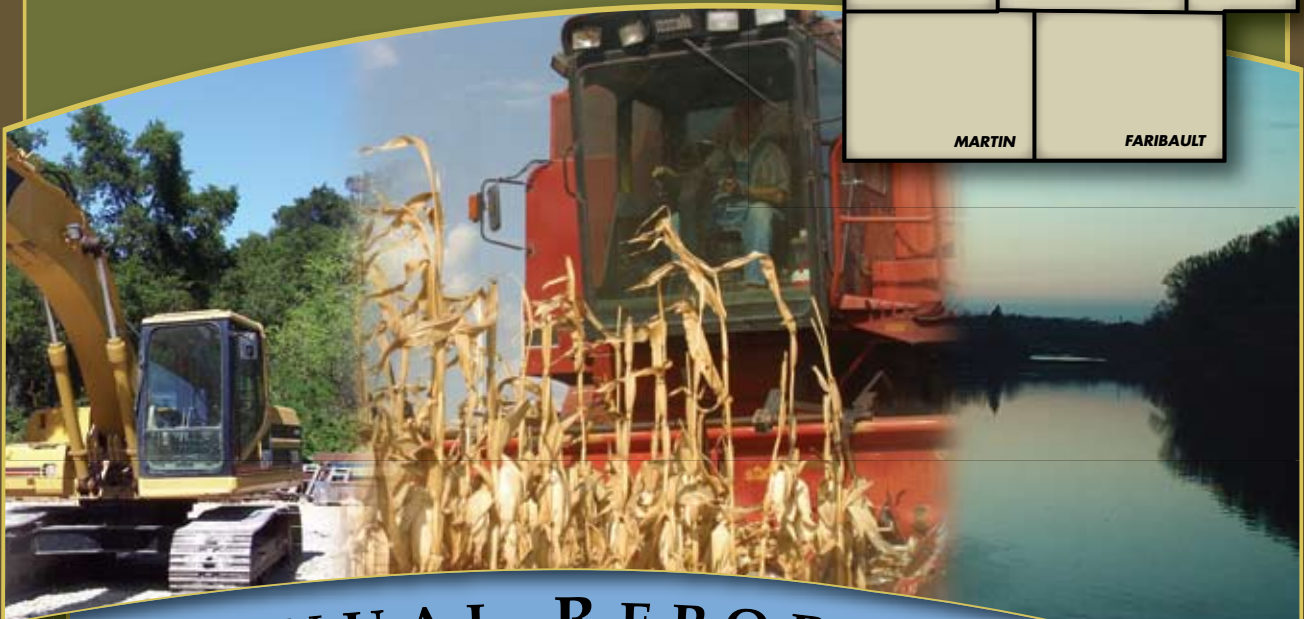


# REGION NINE

## DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

[www.rndc.org](http://www.rndc.org)

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**YOUR REGIONAL PARTNER FOR PROGRESS**

# Letter from the Executive Director

On behalf of the Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC), we respectfully submit this 2007 Annual Report. This annual report will take on a new strategic direction in its reporting. It not only will show program efforts, fiscal accountability and results achieved over the past year, it will also point to the critical issue of the Baby Boomer Generation, which will significantly impact RNDC, citizens, policy makers, and beneficiaries of RNDC services.

Many people typically view the issue of aging in the light of providing meals-on-wheels or raking the lawn for the frail. And indeed, services to seniors such as home delivered meals are critical to the sustaining the quality of life and helping to keep seniors in their homes longer than in past years. Beyond the need to provide services, the age boom for many communities throughout the region means having a population make-up that is quickly approaching that of its citizens' age 65 years of age or older accounting for 40% (a sort of tipping point) of its total population.

However, the influence of an aging society will have a far greater reach and impact on communities than those mentioned above. The age boom will have an unprecedented impact on:

1. local tax capacity
2. civic engagement and culture
3. workforce
4. transit
5. housing
6. business development
7. child rearing

For example, one highlight of the significant influence of the age boom is in economic development. In the area of labor, the age boom will influence the state and region in three distinct ways including: 1) retiree/new workers count, 2) labor force net growth, and 3) entry workforce levels.

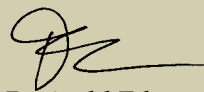
1. Retiree/new workers - By the year 2020 the number of retirees will be almost twice that of new employees in the labor force and by 2030 retirees will be triple the number of new workers.

2. Labor force net growth – By the year 2010, Minnesota will have less than half the labor force growth than what occurred in the years 1970-1980. By the year 2020, it will shrink to less than a third of the growth in 1970-1980. In fact, it will make up less than a third of the growth of employment of the past five years, if you can imagine that there was any significant growth over the past five years!

3. Entry workforce levels – In the years 2000-2005 Minnesota increased the number of entry level work force by 13%, which outpaced the nation at 6.2%. By the year 2010, the Minnesota work force growth will have dropped to 0.7% and be outpaced by the nation at 4.43%. By the years 2015-2020, the Minnesota's entry level workforce will be in the negative <-3%>.

Over the past twelve months, the issue of age boom has become a focus for RNDC programs. Not only has the issue thematically influenced programs, but has served as a means of integrating efforts across every department; which enhances RNDC's ability to aid jurisdictions, businesses, and organizations in the region.

The age boom, coupled with that of fiscal challenges both in the State and Nation, creates a number of alarming challenges. Such challenges will create a fundamental shift in how services are provided at the local level and the type of services that will be available. However, there too will be a plethora of expertise and knowledge possessed by a large population (baby boomers) which will warrant creating innovative ways to tap into the assets of the "baby boomers." The age boom change and its massive influence on the region are inevitable. The question is what we (the entire region) will do to face this great challenge or grand opportunity. This is not a government issue, but a public issue. It will require the public to have an answer. The answer to the call will demand creativity and innovation particularly in rural areas.



Reginald Edwards  
Executive Director



# Area Agency on Aging



## Boomer's impact on services/communities

Over the next decade, communities and organizations throughout the region will have an unprecedented opportunity to tap into the time, energy, skills and experience of the "Boomer" generation. Boomers are prepared to give of their time, but only if their time is not wasted. Any organization that aims to recruit Boomers as volunteers now and into the future should consider structuring their recruitment campaign around a more youthful message, and to advertise a range of challenging and creative volunteer opportunities. The challenge is to position volunteer opportunities as positive choices,

as something Boomers want to do for themselves, not just for the community. For men in particular, the right volunteer opportunity can provide a renewed sense of purpose and structure in their "winding down" years; a way to

## Aging Services for Communities Mission Statement:

**Assist older persons in remaining in their own home environment for as long as possible by providing caregiver support & respite and transportation.**

continue to feel useful, productive and part of mainstream society. Women, on the other hand, may be looking for volunteer roles that provide them with the opportunity for new experiences, new challenges and stimulation. The single most powerful message that organizations can transmit to potential Boomer volunteers is that they will make a difference.

## COMMUNITIES NEED TO BECOME "LIFETIME FRIENDLY"

Start planning now:

1. Look at housing, transportation, etc...
2. Look at social connections/sense of community
3. Engage younger generations in civic life
4. Increasing immigrant population
5. Transit issues, easy-to-read signage, benches in public spaces, sidewalks, ramps, additional lighting, and more parking
6. Zoning changes – "mother-in-law" apartments (caring for elderly parents)
7. Public safety demands – ambulance services, fraud protection, etc...
8. Access to health care services (nursing homes, assisted living facilities, etc.)



# Community Development

## City of Pemberton, USDA

### Grant Application

Region Nine is still working with the City of Pemberton with a no-interest loan through the USDA. It is hopeful that Steele-Waseca Rural Electric Coop will agree to be an administrative fiscal agent for this grant application. Rep. Cornish has agreed to help the community with this effort.

## City of Truman

### Comprehensive Guide Plan-

The public hearings to discuss issues in developing this Plan have been completed. A final draft of the Plan will be submitted to the City Council, Planning Commission and residents for review by the end of this month.

### Miscellaneous: Hazard Mitigation Plans

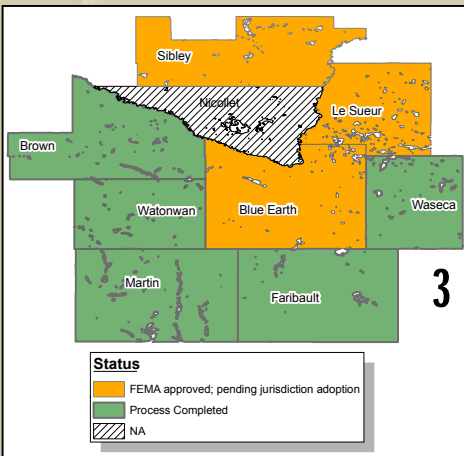
Two county plans (Brown & Waseca) have been already been approved by the state and FEMA. The six remaining plans (Watonwan, Martin, Faribault, Blue Earth, Sibley, and LeSueur) have been submitted to the state for approval. Brown and Waseca County's local jurisdictions are expected to have approved their Plans for final acceptance, soon. The Martin and Faribault County Plans are expected to be approved by March 20, 2008.

State officials would like to meet with Blue Earth, Sibley and LeSueur counties to discuss minor corrections with their county goals relating to flooding conditions. Region Nine will be facilitating this meeting and assist the counties in making any amendments to their Plans.

### BABY BOOMERS IN 2030:

- 57.8 million = number of boomers living in 2030
- 54.9 percent would be female
- Boomers would be between the ages of 66 and 84
- 2.1 = number of workers for each social security beneficiary in 2031, when all boomers will be over age 65 (currently there are 3.3 workers for each social security beneficiary)
- 4,041 = number of continuing care retirement facilities in 2003. Many boomers could have parents in need of such facilities or may have to move into such a facility themselves in the future.

# Hazard Mitigation



Region Nine Development Commission's Hazard Mitigation planning processes for jurisdictions within south central Minnesota have begun to wrap up. The purpose of the plans are to assist local communities throughout the region to identify risks and the

vulnerabilities of communities to disasters whether they be natural (i.e. tornado) or man-made (i.e. terrorism). By developing these plans communities will be better equipped to reduce damages to property, business enterprise and human life caused by devastating disasters. In addition, communities will be eligible for financial aid from the federal government to assist with implementation of hazard mitigation measures. The final stages involve review by the Minnesota Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and then by FEMA once HSEM deems them ready for final review. Approval of the plans is issued by FEMA but is contingent on each of the participating

jurisdictions passing a resolution of adoption.

Region Nine has submitted all of the plans to HSEM. Five of the plans have completed the process previously listed: Waseca, Brown, Faribault, Watonwan, and Martin. These 5 plans will be reviewed in 5 years for any needed update and repeat a review process similar to the one done with the original drafting of the plan. Three counties have approval status pending adoption by FEMA: Blue Earth, Sibley, and Le Sueur. Once participating local jurisdictions pass a resolution of adoption for these plans the planning process will be complete until the review process starts in 5 years.

# Economic Development

## Revolving Loan Funds

Loan Review Committee met on March 13 to consider loan requests from the cities of North Mankato, Montgomery and St. Clair. One loan request would be utilizing the Micro Loan Fund and two are Nine County Fund applications.

The Board has also been reviewing drafts of an updated Strategic Plan for the RLF program. A final draft is expected to be submitted and approved by the Board on March 13. The last RLF Strategic Plan was approved in 1994.

## Establishment of Main Street program in Gaylord -

Staff assisted the City with a Minnesota Design Team grant application and establishing the Main Street program in Gaylord. Last November, Region Nine conducted a "Visioning Session" as part of the Minnesota Design Team grant application process. The City has recently received official word that they are one out of three cities that will be considered for a fall visit by the Design Team.

Luke Fischer, recently-hired as Region Nine's Downtown Coordinator, visited Amboy and met with city staff regarding services R9 can provide for them (see below). Most of Mr. Fischer's work will focus on revitalizing downtowns and help them become vi-

## BABY BOOMERS IMPACT ON THE ECONOMY:

- In 2008, the economy IS the boomers
- Represents the vast majority of the work force.
- Most do not view retirement as a time to suddenly withdraw from working life. Retirement is seen as a chance to redefine work on their terms
- 70 is the average age most plan to stop working
- 31% of retirees will be 100% dependent on social security (no other retirement fund)
- In Minnesota, 37% of city employees are over age 50
- Most expect to live at least two decades after turning 60
- 49 percent will work to earn money
- 60% ages 51 – 70 have taken steps toward a new line of work in retirement

brant again.

## City of Amboy

The Amboy City Council approved a contract for six months to provide economic development services 24 hours a month for the City. After six months, the contract can be extended on a monthly basis.

## City of Sleepy Eye-

Region Nine met with the City of Sleepy Eye EDA on March 14 to finalize a contract to provide staff assistance for economic development services approximately 10 hours a week. Similar to work being completed in the cities of Amboy and Gaylord, R9's Downtown Coordinator will work in the community at least one day a week.

## Brown County EDA

Region Nine is working with Brown County Economic Development Partners with assistance in pursuing a regional economic

development plan for the County. R9 met with county officials on March 6 to further discuss writing this Plan for the County. This Plan would require business and residential surveys, public hearings and plan implementation.

## Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Economic Development Department Internships

A intern was hired by the SBDC in January for community-outreach programs in the Region's Somali population. Region Nine was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship grant from Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM) to begin outreach efforts with the Somali immigrant population. Together, these two interns are conducting a business outreach program in the greater Mankato area to encourage entrepreneurship with those populations.

# South Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The SBDC assists small and developing businesses in Region Nine. We provide business consulting services in the areas of business plans, marketing, accounting systems, feasibility analysis, ecommerce/website development, succession and strategic planning, financial analysis and loan packaging. Our purpose is to assist small businesses in meeting their goals and grow and be successful.

SBDC results for 2007

285 clients with 2,570 hours of business consultation; 24 seminars with 358 attendees and \$6.9 million in completed loans

and equity invested in Region 9

The center is now working with a bilingual consultant in the immigrant population in the St. James area and has assisted 2 Hispanic business owners and has identified and is building a relationship with 7 business owners.

We also have a bilingual intern that is assisting us in working with the African immigrant population in the Mankato area. We have assisted 2 business owners and are in the process of conducting ques-

tionnaires identifying the needs of the immigrant business owners.

We have met with the Latino Economic Development Center and the African Development Center to assist us in our efforts in working with the immigrant populations.

Counties	Clients	Hours	% of
Blue Earth	107	948.75	38
Brown	37	300.50	13
Faribault	20	89.00	7
LeSueur	20	223.00	7
Martin	17	177.25	6
Nicollet	39	365.25	14
Sibley	10	73.25	3
Waseca	11	100.50	4
Watonwan	10	60.25	3
Other	14	131.75	5

SBDC SUMMARY FOR 2003-2007	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Total
Clients	353	303	274	290	285	1505
Consultation Hours	280	2553	2308	2758	2570	12994
Seminars	11	8	7	18	24	68
Approved loans and equity invested in R-9(millions)	\$8.6	\$11.1	\$3.7	\$2.7	\$6.9	\$33

## Client Spotlight: Bumper to Bumper of Blue Earth



Scott and Kay Nemanic have owned the Bumper To Bumper Auto Parts Store in Blue Earth for a number of years and they

wanted to take their business to the next level by purchasing an additional store and expanding into Wells, Mn.

They came to the SBDC for assistance in developing a business plan including a feasibility analysis and a financial assessment of the purchase of an additional location. We assisted them in the development of the plan and it showed that the projected business purchase would work from a cash flow basis on paper. They made the decision to purchase the store and applied for financing from the First National Bank of Blue Earth. The SBDC assisted in the loan application process and they were successful with their loan

application.

The Nemanics continue to demonstrate their entrepreneurial potential by maintaining the direction of their company and since the purchase of the business have increased their number of employees to seven. Through their hard work and additional services they have increased sales over 50% in the new store. This was much more than they had projected and they look forward to continuing their growth into the future.

The Nemanics are enthusiastic clients of the SBDC and they encourage other business owners to take advantage of the expert guidance and wealth of information available there.



## CORE PROGRAM AREAS

We are also in the process of establishing an entrepreneur's network group.

We have met with the Economic Development Directors for MSU-M and SCC to establish joint projects, worked in partnership with SMIF and MSU-M on the Core-4 Training, held the SEED listening

session and the Business Issues Forum, manned a booth at the Mayor's meeting, partnered with SCC and Greater Mankato Growth in presenting the Going into Business training and the Alphabet Soup-Leaves of Absence seminar.

Type of Business: 67 Service / 33 Retail

Business Ownership Gender:

161 Female & Female/Male

Veteran: 18

Disabled Veteran: 5

Ethnic Background:

American Indian-3

Asian- 6

African- 6

Hispanic- 11

### Impact of the Baby Boomers on the SBDC

The baby boomers are nearing retirement, they are living longer and there are over 78 million of them!. Only 20% of them plan on a traditional retirement and many of them plan on working longer.

The main reasons for this is:

- Higher education levels
- Personal satisfaction
- Staying active
- Adding value
- Bored with leisure
- Need income-corporate layoffs

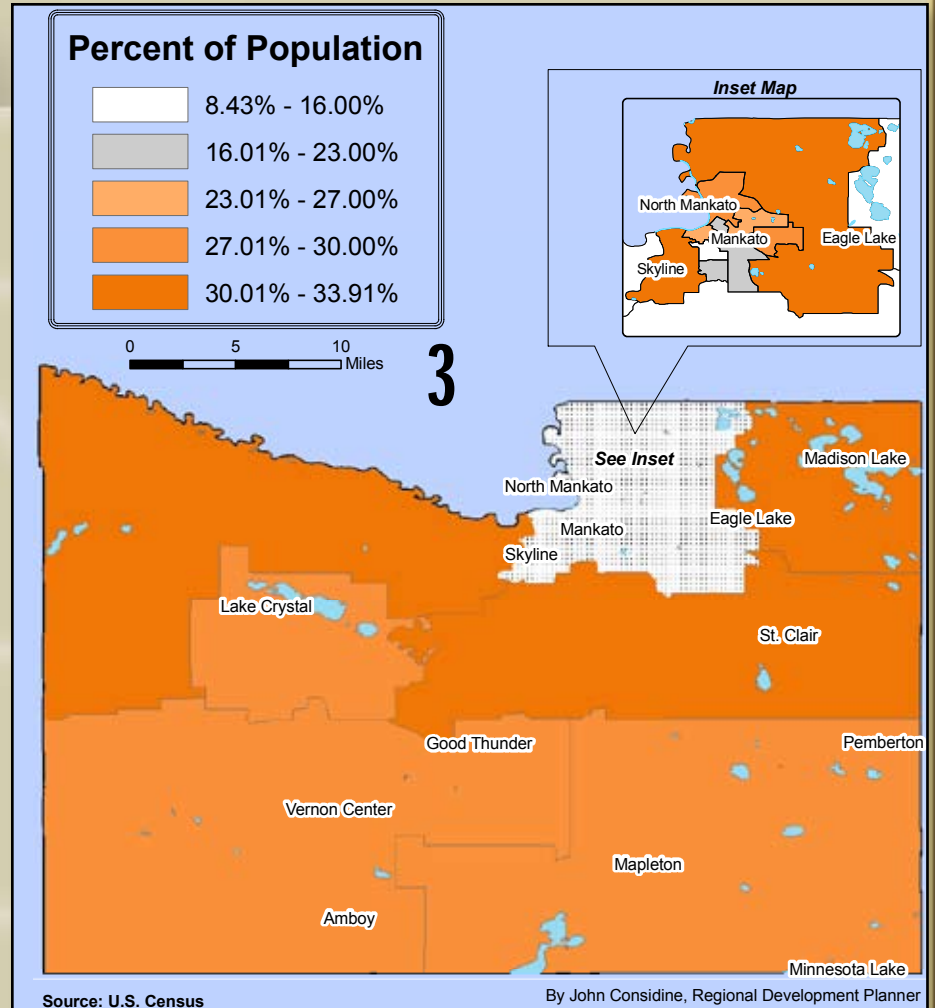
They make up over 50% of the self employed and about 13 % of the new businesses started every year. They don't need to work and they love what they do.

Some of the challenges that they will face are:

- Lack of business knowledge
- Work conflicts with lifestyle priorities
- They won't risk everything
- Businesses are different-online

Our challenges are:

- Provide training and access To resources
- Adopt culture of entrepreneurship
- Help resolve lifestyle conflicts
- Minimize financial risks



### BABY BOOMERS WORKPLACE SUPPLY AND DEMAND TRENDS:

- In the 1990's the number of younger workers declined by 14%
- The growth rate of the U.S. labor force declined from 2.5% per year in 1965 to 0% in the late 1990's
- In the U.S. today, someone turns 50 every 8 seconds (11,000 per day)
- By 2006, 80 million aging baby boomers totaled 1/3 of the national population
- From 2010 to 2030, the portion of the U.S. population over age 65 will grow 4 times as much as it did in the last 80 years
- There will be a 30% shortfall of younger workers – a shortfall that will persist for 40 years

# 10-ton Road System



In 2007 the transportation policy bill had a rollercoaster ride. The bill did not make it to the Governor's desk in 2007 because the legislature ran out of time. It did pass both bodies in 2008 after numerous amendments and was sent to the Governor where he vetoed the bill because it included language that he did not approve of. This language was removed from the bill, repassed by both bodies and finally signed by the Governor.

One of the provisions of the transportation policy bill was the declaration of all county state aid highways as 10-ton roads, unless posted down by the local jurisdictions.

Creating a universal 10-ton policy for roads within the State of Minnesota is a sound decision for the following reasons:

1. Vehicles using roads today are much heavier than generations ago. This creates

a need for a network of roads that can meet the demands of heavier traffic.

2. Many roads have different weight restrictions, and those can vary depending upon the season. This creates confusion over the actual limits of a particular road and makes trip planning difficult.

3. It would lead to the upgrading of roads that currently have deficient segments.

4. Roads would be built to 10-ton standards and have a longer life than current 7- or 9-ton roads.

Creating a universal 10-ton road network has several benefits. All roads in the state would be uniform, eliminating confusion as to the maximum load that could be driven down a particular road. Allowing haulers to transport more product with one vehicle has economic benefits.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Long Awaited Funding Becomes a Reality!

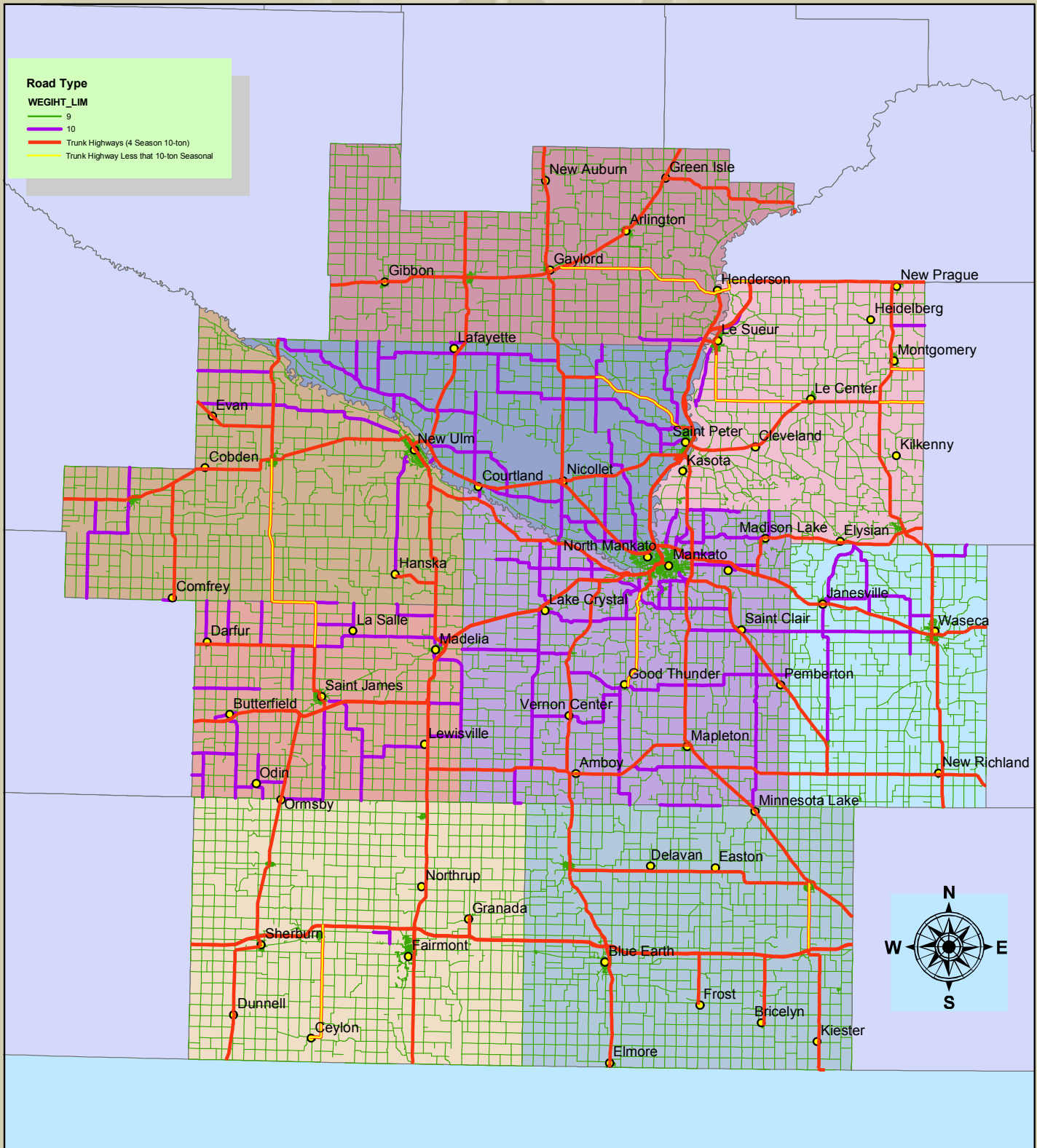
After working with several organizations across the state and R9 Legislators the long awaited funding increase for roads, bridges and transit in Minnesota became reality on February 25, 2008. The new legislation will provide approximately \$6.6 billion over 10 years.

The following are key funding provisions that will go into effect:

- A 5-cent increase in the gas tax (2 cents beginning April 1, 2008, and another 3-cents beginning October 1, 2008)
- Authorization for up to 3.5 cents in a surcharge on the gas tax to pay for trunk highway bond debt
- \$1.8 billion in trunk highway bonds over 10 years
- Elimination of caps on license tab fees and changes to the depreciation schedule
- Dedication of the sales tax on leased vehicles to Greater Minnesota transit and local roads starting in fiscal year (FY) 2010
- A \$25 tax credit for low-income residents
- Authorization for metropolitan area counties to impose a 0.25 percent sales tax for transit
- Authorization for counties in Greater Minnesota to levy a sales tax of up to 0.5 percent for transportation purposes
- Increased authorization for the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to spend trunk highway funds in FY08 and FY09 to reflect federal emergency funding related to the I-35W bridge project
- \$60M in general obligation bonds for local roads and local bridges

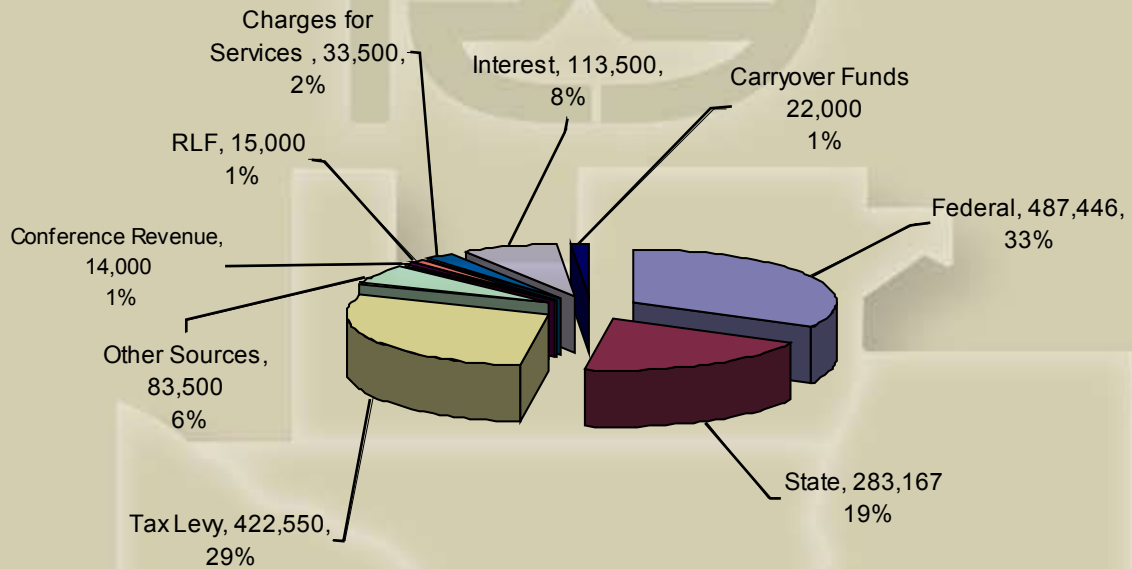


# Region Nine 10 Ton Highway Routes

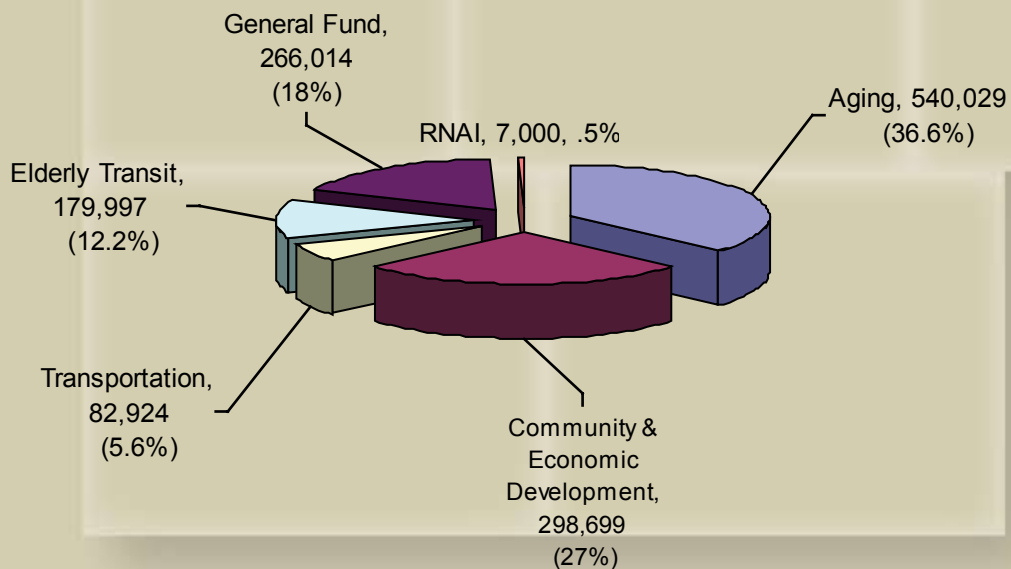


# Revenues & Expenditures

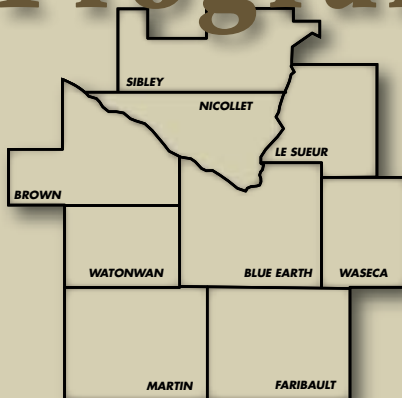
## Region Nine Development Commission FY 07 Revenues by Source



## Region Nine Development Commission FY 07 Expenditure by Department



# FY07 Budget by Programs



## REVENUES:

FEDERAL	487,446
STATE	283,167
TAX LEVY	422,550
OTHER SOURCES	83,500
CONFERENCE REVENUE	14,000
RFL	15,000
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	33,500
INTEREST	113,500
PROGRAM CARRYOVER	22,000

**TOTAL REVENUES 1,474,663**

## EXPENDITURES:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING	540,029
COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	398,699
TRANSPORTATION	82,924
TRANSIT	179,997
GENERAL FUND	266,014
RNAI	7,000

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,474,663**



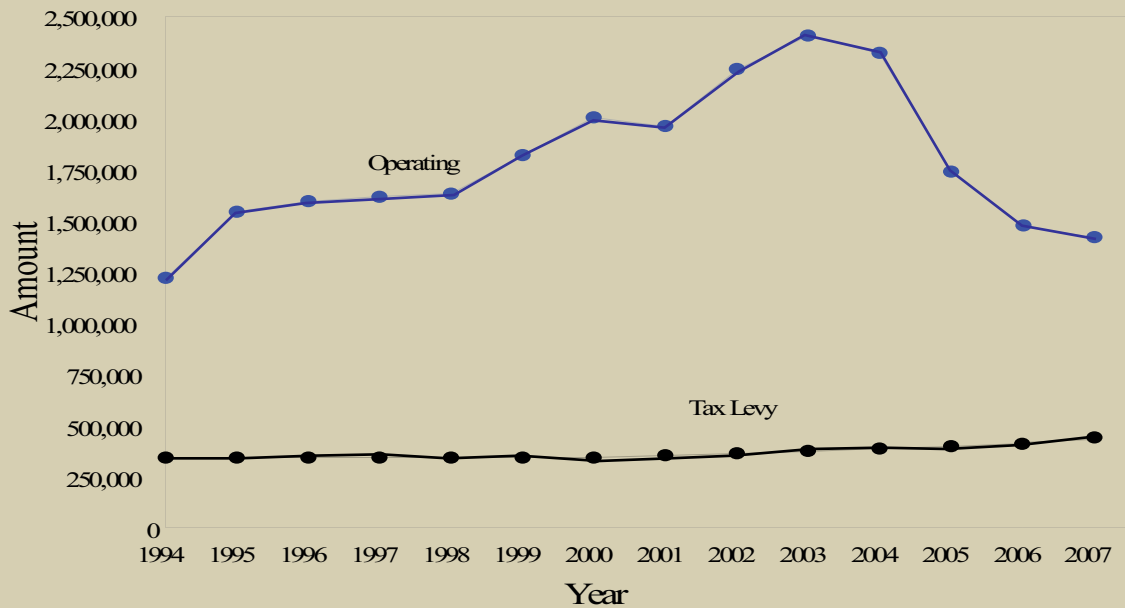
# FY07 Budget by Line Item

<b>REVENUES:</b>		
FEDERAL		487,446
STATE		283,167
TAX LEVY		422,550
OTHER SOURCES		98,500
CONFERENCE REVENUE		14,000
CHARGES FOR SERVICES		33,500
INTEREST		113,500
CARRYOVER RESERVE		22,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>1,474,663</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
PERSONNEL		645,322
FRINGE		215,853
COPYING / PRINTING		29,637
PUBLIC NOTICE		4,150
POSTAGE		14,766
TELEPHONE		9,402
TRAVEL - STAFF		49,500
TRAVEL - OTHER		23,091
REGISTRATION		9,384
SUPPLIES		18,435
MEMBERSHIP / DUES		11,582
MISCELLANEOUS		75
CONSULTANT		105,966
INSURANCE		4,200
ERRORS & OMISSIONS INSURANCE		6,500
MAINTENANCE		4,186
LEGAL / AUDIT		9,975
CAPITAL OUTLAY		6,000
STAFF DEVELOPMENT		13,402
MARKETING		9,400
INDIRECT COSTS		213,392
OFFICE SPACE		58,945
FUND BALANCE RECOVERY		11,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,474,663</b>
<b>INDIRECT RATE</b>		<b>22.37%</b>
<b>PASS THRU</b>		<b>1,216,427</b>

# Region Nine Development Commission Levy History

Year Payable	Base	Increase Allowed	Levy Amount	Percent Increase
2007	410,243	3.00%	422,550	3.00%
2006	398,294	3.00%	410,243	3.00%
2005	386,693	3.00%	398,294	3.00%
2004	375,430	3.00%	386,693	3.00%
2003	364,495	3.00%	375,430	3.00%
2002	353,879	3.00%	364,495	3.00%
2001	343,572	3.00%	343,572	3.00%
2000	343,572	3.00%	343,572	0.00%
1999	343,572	3.00%	343,572	0.00%
1998			343,572	0.00%
1997			343,572	0.00%

**Total Operating Revenue vs Tax Levy**  
Actual FY 1994-2004, Budget FY 2005-06



# Region Nine Development Commission Members

## Blue Earth County

Purvis, Will\* County Commissioner  
 Hurd, Charlie City of Mankato  
 Ahrenstorff, Brad\* Cities under 10,000  
 More, Alvis Agriculture  
 Schaller, Doug\* Township Board

## Brown County

Albrecht, Joel\* Mayor, City of New Ulm  
 Berg, Jim County Commissioner  
 Broich, James Cities under 10,000  
 Juni, Frederick Township Board

## Faribault County

Loveall, Tom County Commissioner  
 Young, Greg Township Board  
 Oldfather, Roger Cities under 10,000

## LeSueur County

Dietz, Alvin Environmental Quality  
 Holicky, Janet MN Valley Council of Governments  
 McGuire, Mick Cities under 10,000  
 Rohfling, Mary Jean School Board  
 Stangler, Bill County Commissioner  
 Stangler, James (R9 Vice Chair) Township Board

## Martin County

Boler, Jerry County Commissioner  
 Gorath, Harlan Fairmont City Council  
 Hanson, Kenneth Township Board  
 Roesler, Bob Cities under 10,000

## Nicollet County

Flores, Janie Minority Populations  
 Genelin, Terry Township Board  
 Strand, Tim (R9 Chair) Mayor, City of St. Peter  
 Norland, Diane City of North Mankato  
 Stenson, James County Commissioner  
 Schabert, Bob Cities Under 10,000

## Sibley County

Bauer, Leo County Commissioner  
 Kaufmann, Norbert Township Board  
 Pautsch, Brenda Cities Under 10,000  
 Steckman, Patricia Tourism & Recreation

## Waseca County

Coy, Cindy\* Cities Under 10,000  
 Kuhns, Dan County Commissioner  
 Owens, Gary\* Township Board  
 Fitzsimmons, Jack Transportation

## Watonwan County

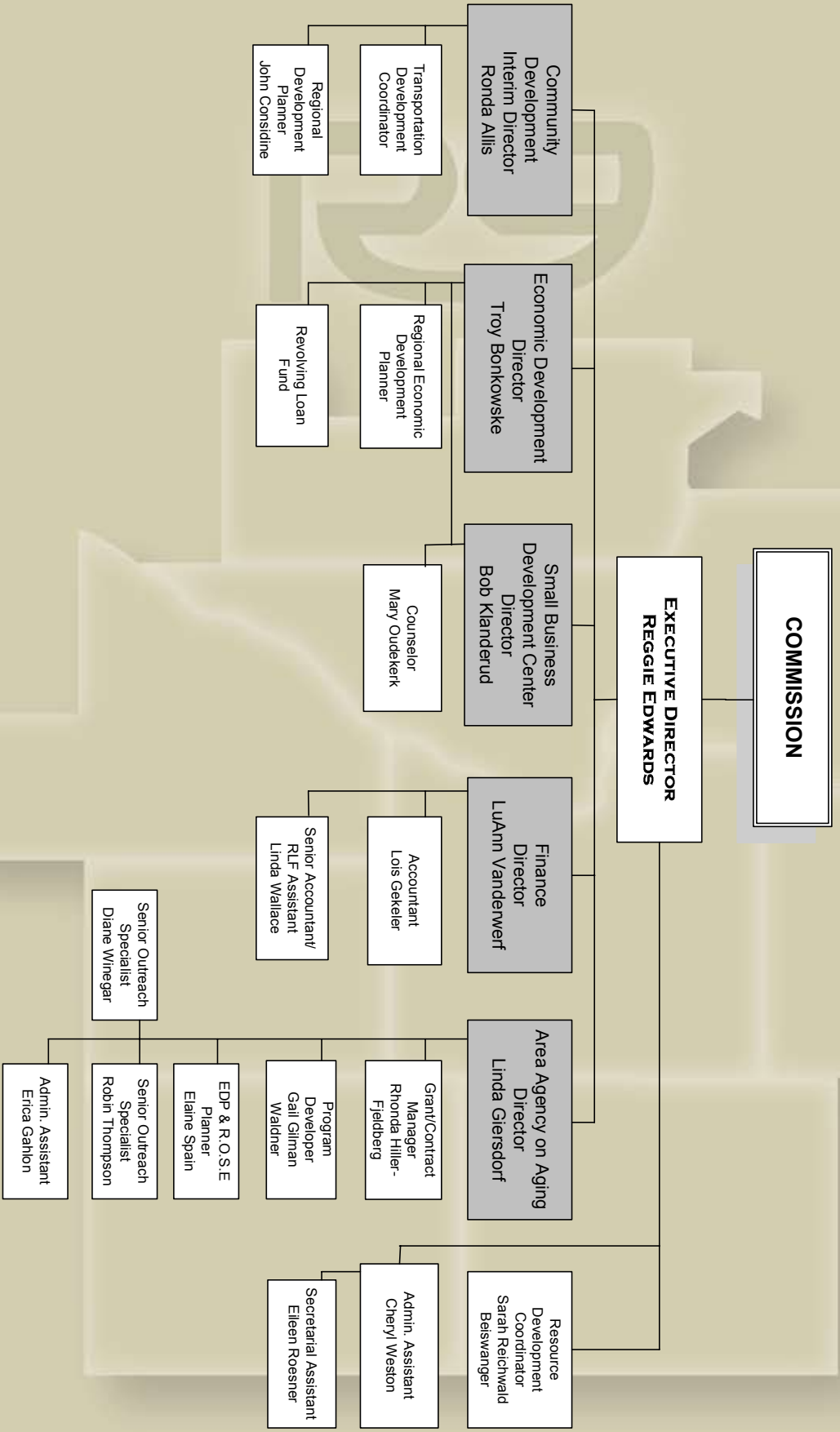
Fenske, Candace Health & Human Welfare  
 Krenz, Dwayne County Commissioner  
 Mikkelson, Lance Township Board  
 Jahnz, Denny Cities Under 10,000

\*New Members

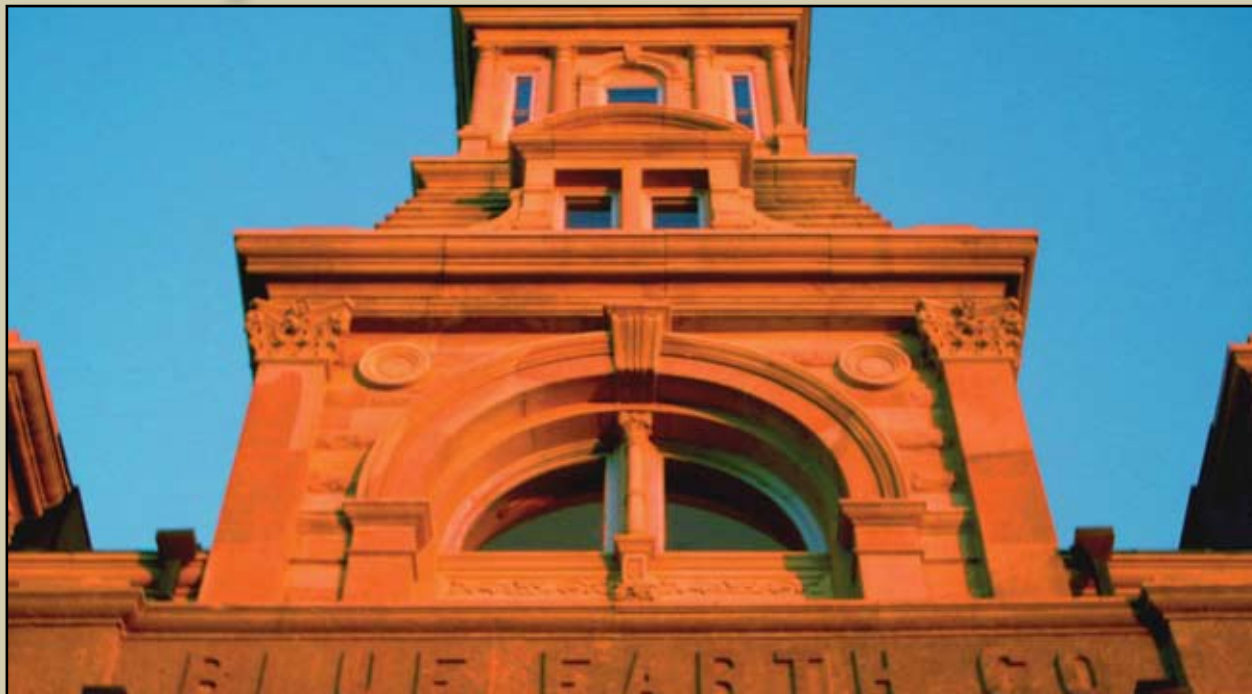


# Region Nine Development Commission

Organization Chart



# History



## Who are we?

- Forty-three leaders from across the region serve on the Commission; including:

- Thirty-four elected officials representing nine counties, 72 cities, 147 townships, school districts and soil and water conservation districts.

- Eight representatives of special interest groups include: agriculture, commerce, crime prevention, environmental quality, health and human welfare, minority populations, tourism and recreation and transportation. The Minnesota Valley Council of Governments is also represented.

## Where do we serve?

- Region Nine is comprised of nine south central Minnesota county areas including:

Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan. Their combined population is 222,790 of the state's 4,919,479 people according to the 2000 Census. Fairmont, North Mankato, New Ulm and Mankato are the four largest cities.

## A history in progress

The Region Nine Development Commission was authorized by the Regional Development Act of 1969, and was organized by local officials in 1972. The purpose of regional development commissions "is to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical and govern-

mental concerns of each region of the state."

## According to state statutes,

"The legislature finds that problems of growth and development transcend the boundary lines of local government units and not a single unit can plan for their solution without affecting other units in the region; and assistance is needed to make the most effective use of local, state, federal and private programs in serving the citizens of urban and rural regions."

# Mission



Because of the strategic and collaborative approach to planning over the years, Region Nine Development Commission is well positioned to be a valuable resource for small business growth. RNDC's vision and leadership will work to ensure the economic vitality of this region well into the future.

## **Our Mission**

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

## **Vision/Goals**

We will maintain a future-oriented perspective that helps to facilitate decisions which re-

sult in healthier and more prosperous communities that are better equipped to move forward into the future.

## **Accountability**

We are accountable to the public, our funding agencies and to each other for the quality of our work, promoting development of the region and being fiscally responsible.

## **Professionalism**

We promote, encourage and provide opportunities for development, leadership and mentoring at all levels of participation within the organization. We expect professionalism to be demonstrated by our behavior, conduct and loyalty.

## **Communications**

We value timely, open and honest communication to enhance organization effectiveness.

## **Adaptability**

We embrace change and celebrate new challenges, are able to identify problems, look at the options and evaluate the consequences with a sense of purpose and future.

## **Diversity**

We value and respect the diversity of the region and of our organization.

## **Teamwork**

We support teamwork across the organization, lending knowledge and skill as needed to be successful and efficient.



# Staff

## **Area Agency on Aging**

Linda Giersdorf, Director  
Erica Gahlon, Administrative Assistant  
Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Grant/Contract Manager  
Elaine Spain, Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Support Elders) & EDP  
(ElderCare Development Partnership) Planner/Transit Coordinator  
Gail Gilman Waldner, Program Developer  
Robin Thompson, Senior Outreach Specialist  
Diane Winegar, Senior Outreach Specialist

## **Community & Economic Development**

Troy Bonkowske, Director  
Jon Noerenberg, Regional Development Planner  
John Considine, Regional Development Planner

## **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**

Bob Klanderud, Director  
Mary Oudekerk, Counselor

## **Transportation Development**

Ronda Allis, Regional Transportation Planner

## **Administration**

Reggie Edwards, Executive Director  
Eileen Roesner, Secretarial Assistant  
Cheryl Weston, Administrative Assistant  
Sarah Reichwald Beiswanger, Resource Development Coordinator

## **Office of Finance**

LuAnn Vanderwerf, Finance Director  
Linda Wallace, Senior Accountant / RLF Assistant  
Lois Gekeler, Accountant

# Thank you

## Region Nine Advisory Council on Aging

Ahmed, Lul	At Large, Any Age
Berg, Jim	RNDC Liason
Engstrom, Jerry	60+
Fenske, Candace	RNDC Liason
Fox, Janice	60+
Leary, Robert	60+
Morgan, Scott	Public/Private Agency
Peterson, Richard "Dick"	60+
Sandmann, Cathy	County Social Service
Savick, Carl	60+
Schmiesing, Wally	60+
Solomon-Wise, Renee	Nursing Home Representative
Struck, Sylvan	60+
Stangler, Bill	RNDC Liason
Wagner, Charles	60+
Witt, Fauniece	60+

Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
 Brown Co., New Ulm  
 Watonwan Co. St. James  
 Watonwan Co., Madelia  
 Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
 Le Sueur County, Le Center  
 Blue Earth Co., Eagle Lake  
 Sibley Co., Belle Plaine  
 Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
 Faribault Co., Kiester  
 Brown Co., Hanska  
 Nicollet Co., North Mankato  
 Martin Co., Sherburn  
 LeSueur Co., St. Peter  
 Nicollet Co., North Mankato  
 Waseca Co., Janesville

## Region Nine Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Broich, James	Sleepy Eye
Bruender, Kip	Eagle Lake
Dietz, Alvin	New Prague
Fitzsimmons, Jack	Waseca
Forsberg, Alan	Mankato
Genelin, Terrance	LeSueur
Haeder, Doug	Mn/DOT
Hanson, Ken	Sherburn
Kaufmann, Norbert	Belle Plaine
Kuhns, Daniel	Waseca County
Krenz, Dwayne	Madelia
Loveall, Tom	Winnebago
McDonald, John	Blue Earth
Saffert, Ken	Mankato
Stevens, Wayne	New Ulm
Wagner, Mike	St. Peter

## Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee

Broich, Jim	Mayor, City of Sleepy Eye
Hayden, Don	Economic Development Director, Le Center
Hansen, Jay	Nicollet County Bank
More, Jim	Easton State Bank
Pederson, Dean	City of Winthrop Community Dev. Director
Paulson, Jim	Pioneer Bank, St. James
Roesler, Bob	Sherburn City Council
Rollings, Jerry	MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal
Thompson, Larry	Roundbank Waseca

## Region Nine Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF)

Baerg, John	Watonwan County Commissioner
Boler, Gerald	Martin County Commissioner
Lemke, Dan	AURI Waseca
Marg, Gregg	MSU Biology Professor
Schabert, Bob	Mayor of Courtland
Schwartzkopf, Lou	MSU Physics Professor
Sunderman, Dave	BENCO Electric
Wortel, Katy	Blue Earth County Commissioner
Wyatt, Gary	U of M Extension Office
MSU Students for Sustainability	
Three Rivers RC&D	

## Minnesota Department of Transportation District 7 Area Transportation Partnership

Apitz, Bob	Transit
Bigham, Lisa	Mn/DOT
Broich, Jim	Region 9
Gregg, Ron	Counties
Guggisberg, Charles	Counties
Haeder, Douglas	Mn/DOT
Koehler, Steve	Cities
McDonald, John	Counties
Ous, Greg	Mn/DOT
Rubis, Craig	Counties
Swanson, Connie	Transit
Swanson, Jim	Mn/DOT
Tenttaken, Lyle	Region 8
Zellmer, Gary	Cities

## South Central Small Business Development Center Board of Directors

Bishop, Pam	Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Johnson, Scott	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Edwards, Reggie	Region Nine Development Commission
Otto, Dean	South Central College
Zierdt, Jonathan	Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation
Boler, Jerry	Martin County
Gramentz, Brian	City of New Ulm
Kruse, David	Pioneer Bank, St. James
Morris, Rick	Waseca County
Schultz, Denny	City of Arlington

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[www.rndc.org](http://www.rndc.org)