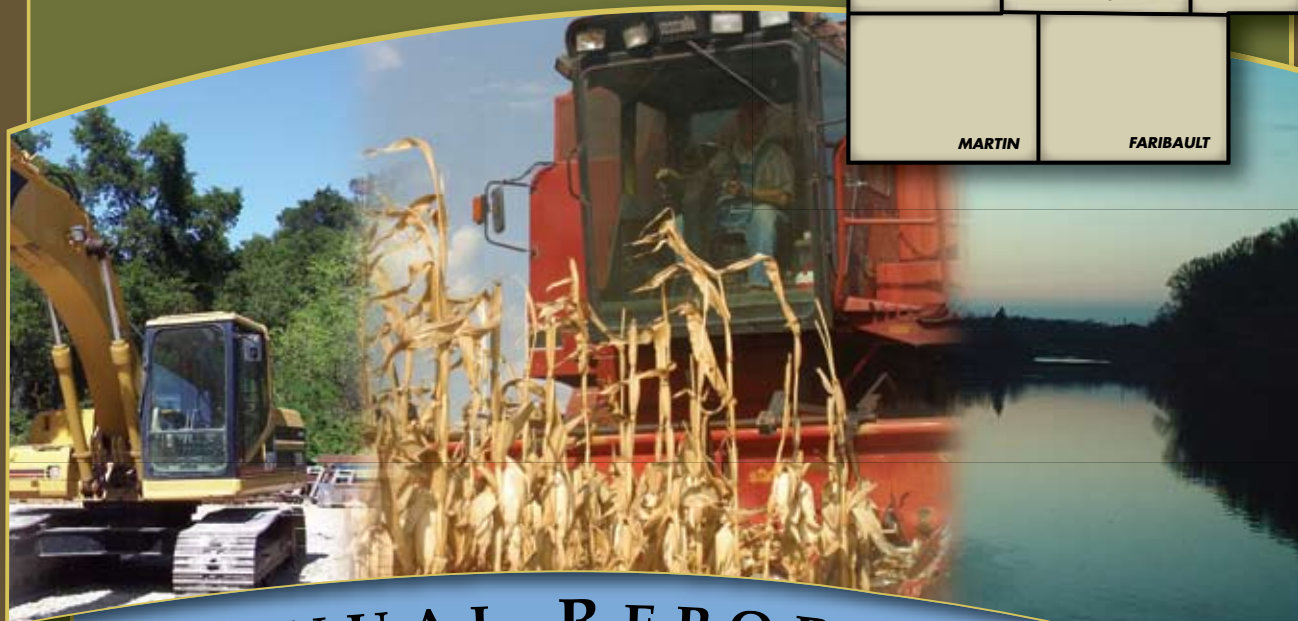


REGION NINE

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

www.rndc.org

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YOUR REGIONAL PARTNER FOR PROGRESS

Letter from the Commission Chair and Executive Director

Dear Citizens, Communities, and Partner Agencies;

On behalf of the Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC), we respectfully submit this 2008 Annual Report. Through the year 2008, Region Nine Development Commission is proud that it posted another year of fiscal stability, provided valued service to its citizens and offered trusted partnership with partners throughout the region.

Over the past year Region Nine staff and programs:

- Helped businesses grow
- Assured seniors access to food and health insurance assistance
- Worked with communities as they amended the future land-use plans
- Assisted entrepreneurs to take their plans to opening businesses
- Worked with communities to access funding for roads, bridges, trails and buses
- Carried the voice of the smallest of communities to the largest to the halls of Washington D.C.
- Brought local leaders together to shape ways of addressing fiscal hardship

The local leaders who serve on the Commission of Region Nine are irreplaceable instruments allowing Region Nine Development Commission to make a difference in the lives of citizens by hosted programs such as:

- Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging
- Small Business Development Center
- Federal Economic Development Authority District Planning and Revolving Loan
- Community Development and Transportation

The Region continues to face major forces of change economically, culturally, demographically, and environmentally. In the 2007 annual report, Region Nine focused on the impact and influences of the "baby boomers" on all aspects of the region. The issue of aging continues to be a focus for Region Nine. The theme of this 2008 annual report highlights the influences of "baby boomers" on the region and Region Nine Development Commission's programs.

In many of the communities across Region Nine, citizens age 65 years or older will account for 40% (a sort of tipping point) of its total population. This tipping point will have an unprecedented impact on areas of local tax capacity, civic engagement and culture, workforce, transit, housing, business development, and child rearing.

The imminent aging population shift is one of the most powerful forces of change in American history and will require every citizen, community group, organization, institution and community to work together in order to take advantage of this aging opportunity. As Region Nine, along with partners, looks past 2008 toward a future of garnering years of wisdom, technical skills, an breathe of experiences, and examples of hard work ethic from "baby boomers" to renew the region.

Enjoy your reading of this 2008 Annual Report and together we shall begin writing the story of a brighter year in 2009.

Respectfully yours,

Timothy Strand,
Commission Chair

Reginald M. Edwards,
Executive Director



Area Agency on Aging

Waseca Medical Center Caregiver Coach Project

The Age Wave, ready or not, here it comes!

As many of you already know, in 2011 the large Boomer Generation will begin turning 65. By 2030, the number of Minnesotans over age 65 will double rising to 1.3 million, and by 2050, the number of persons 85+ will triple, rising to 324,000. This age wave will usher in a permanent shift in the age of our state's population and, for the first time, we will age not just as individuals but as a society.

Need for healthcare

The vast majority of care (92 percent) for older people in Minnesota, is provided by family caregivers, especially spouses, daughters and daughter-in-laws.

There is an estimated 500,000 Minnesotans, age 18 and over, who provide unpaid help for older adults and adults with disabilities. Unfortunately family care giving is likely to decline in the future due to such trends as reduced number of children, longer life expectancy and the high labor force participation rates for women in Minnesota.

Costs - more than dollars and cents

Research shows that for every 1 percent decline in family care giving in Minnesota, it costs the public sector an additional \$30 million per year. Nearly 60 percent of Minnesota's caregivers are working, and they are seeking eldercare services in order to be productive at work and continue their care giving.

Of special concern is the increasing number of older Minnesotans with Alzheimer's disease. Currently 12 % of Minnesota's 60+ population (90,000) is living with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, by 2030 that number will nearly double. Caregivers of persons with dementia do not typically access community support services until very late in their

caregiver experience. According to research one quarter of all family caregivers of Alzheimer's disease patients succumb to the stress of providing care to a loved one and become hospital patients themselves.

Working together

The aging service provider network has been working at federal, state and local levels to establish a more integrated community based service delivery system. This delivery system is intended to be locally driven, community based, and responsive to the individual needs of the aging consumer population.

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.

Project ROSE, (Reaching Out to Support Elders) is the Caregiver Support and Respite project of the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging. Project ROSE is a collaborative of non-profit community based organizations providing caregiver support and respite in 10 counties in south central Minnesota. As part of the aging service provider network ROSE partners have been responsible for creating unique and flexible services that meet

caregiver needs. The Community Services Program of the Waseca Medical Center has been part of the Project ROSE collaborative since 1991.

Caregiver Coach project

In 2004 Erna Krueger, Program Coordinator for the Community Services Program submitted a grant proposal through Project ROSE to develop the position and services of a Caregiver Coach within the medical center. The Caregiver Coach would provide care planning, mentoring and on-going support throughout a family's care giving journey and would be centered on the needs of the primary caregiver. The project development that began in 2004 continues today as part of the Minnesota Family

Waseca Medical Center Caregiver Coach Project

Memory Care Initiative supported in part by funding from the Administration on Aging Alzheimer's Demonstration Grants to States.

The integration of the Caregiver Coach position within the Waseca Medical Center has had a "systems change" effect on the way the medical center provides services to care giving families.

The network of care between the caregiver and care receiver, Physician, Caregiver Coach, community

agencies and families has helped reduce stress, locate supportive services for families and strengthened the resiliency of the caregiver's support network.

The Waseca Medical Center's Community Services Program is the link between a need for help and an offer to help.



Coaching the Caregivers... Kristin's story

Kristin has worked in her position as Caregiver Coach at the Waseca Medical Center for three years. "It is an honor to be invited into the life of the caregiver, to listen to their concerns and struggles in this consuming task, offer them a place of emotional safety, watch them work hard to learn new ways of looking at their situation, and see the results in action.

Many people are unaware of the support that is available to caregivers, until the need arises. Waseca area residents are fortunate to have access to a Caregiver Coach, Caregiver Support groups, and Caregiver Education. There is also another distinct advantage. Because the program is offered through the Medical Center, it helps greatly with the "circle of care" for the patient.

Coaching in action

A family contacted me to help with their parent, who has dementia, to transition from living alone at home to assisted living. They had heard that coaching was available at a community presentation on Alzheimer's. Their parent was becoming more and more anxious, and would see or hear things and then act upon their perception of what was going on. The final incident involved calling the fire department because the parent thought that the CO2 detector was going off and actually it was a bedside alarm.

The family worked with the coach to determine the course to take and set a plan. Five siblings and their spouses were all involved in the meetings or in carrying out the steps of the plan. Meetings included working with the Medical Center Psychologist to assess the parent and their level of cognitive functioning, disease education, communication and dementia strategies, and making a plan to move to assisted living including individual assignments to family members to carry it out. The other critical piece was the realization by the family that the parent could not be alone any more. They scheduled family members to stay with the parent, or take them out. The transition went smoothly, and the family now knows that their parent is healthier, happier and safe.

Circle of Care

A caregiver of a spouse with Alzheimer's was referred to the program by their pharmacist, and also by a family friend. They called in to

talk to the coach, and set up a time to meet. They participated in several assessments, a family meeting to set up a plan, attend caregiver support group regularly, and seek out the coach by phone and in person as needed. They have identified and more strongly utilized their support group, including setting up regular respite with friends so the caregiver can get out several times a week, began Meals on Wheels, hired a housekeeper, and started having a home health aide in several times a week.

How Coaching works

A caregiver was referred by their physician to meet with me. Their spouse had developed dementia. We met to discuss options for out-of-home care, in-home care, reduction of caregiver stress, and other support strategies. A family meeting was held. The caregiver then researched many ideas, and avenues of help, however the couple just seemed to fall through the cracks of offered services. The situation seemed stagnant, to all involved, with not much hope on the horizon. In a later meeting, I spoke of how it can help people if they are able to reframe their situation.

For example, "I choose to live with this person. I choose to do "blank" to care for them. I will not do "blank" to enable them to treat me or themselves badly. And, if I am feeling too much stress, I can choose to leave the room, or go for a walk. Although the person that I am caring for cannot be convinced or argued into logical thought consistently because they have a disease of the brain. I choose to be in control of me, and not be a victim of them or circumstances".

Boundaries and limits were also discussed. About six weeks later, I called to check in and found the caregiver's voice was noticeably less stressed. When asked how it was going, the reply was "I decided to do what we talked about at my last visit. I took control and things are going much better, and I feel much better too."

Award-winning service in our Region

In August Erna Krueger, Volunteer Services Coordinator at Waseca Medical Center, was named the 2008 Age and Disabilities Odyssey Innovation Award winner. The award recognizes an organization or individual that has championed innovations in direct services, coordination of services, community-based partnerships and increases the resilience, interdependence and quality of life for elders, the people with disabilities and their communities.

In October the Minnesota Family Memory Care Initiative was awarded the 2008 Rosalynn Carter Leadership in Care giving Award, the highest award given in the care giving field. This award recognizes innovative partnerships between community agencies and care giving researchers that bridge the gap between science and practice.

Community Development

Aging population affecting workforce

We have been reminded lately of how many things are changing around us. The Economy. Energy Resources. The Environment. Solutions to these problems vary from extreme to extreme. An over arching influencer of these issues and many other dynamic ones is the aging population. As our population balance tips toward more people drawing from social security than ever before we need to decide on how to balance the scale again.

The loss of experienced and talented members of our workforce leaving for retirement is creating gaps in our productivity. A city engineer who has held a position for over 20 years is not easily replaced. The knowledge they have on the specific subtleties which shaped past development decisions is almost impossible to pass on to their replacement.

Senior level talents of organizations or firms are completing the work that would take the time of 2-3 graduate level replacements. The following statistics shows how public sector labor is following the trend:

- Almost 37% of city employees are over age 50 (excluding police and firefighters).
- Nearly half of Minnesota's cities have a workforce where at least 25% of their employees are over age 50.
- In 150 cities, at least half of the employees are over age 50.
- In some cities the number of employees nearing retirement is small but still represents a key part of the city's workforce. (Source: League of Minnesota Cities)

Economic Development

Regional Main Street Program Meets Minnesota Design

In 2008, Region Nine Development Commission helped connect a regional approach of Main Street Program with the Minnesota Design concept in the City of Gaylord. The City of Gaylord was not just interested in revitalizing the downtown, but revitalizing the economic and entrepreneurial spirit of its citizens.

The community took on principles of the Main Street Program which included comprehensive, incremental, self-help, partnership, leveraging existing assets, quality, change, and implementation in when it came to working on organizing, promoting, designing and restructuring the way business is done in downtown Gaylord.

Region Nine assisted the City of Gaylord in applying for and receiving assistance from the Minnesota Design Team. The Minnesota Design Team has worked with over 80 small towns in Minnesota since

1983 to promote a more sustainable future for all their citizens. Design Team communities emphasize strengthening their sense of place, preserving their existing natural, human and cultural resources, and using new development to strengthen the environmental and social capital of the community.

Citizens and community leaders prepared to receive Minnesota Design Team members for three days. The first day provided a chance for the team to get to know the community members. Presentations included local leaders covering issues of parks, real estate, economic development, downtown business development, transportation, financial assets and other aspects of the City. The second day information was presented to the community, tours taken around town and the process of creating a shared vision began. A walking tour of the community peek in on the first public school house, the United Church of Christ, Sibley County Courthouse, the Mueller

Building – Kirsch Interiors and Hair Creations, and the old Henke Building established by a German immigrant in 1899. By the third day a final presentation of concepts and ideas of the team were presented based upon the input, visual tour, and shared vision of the community of Gaylord.

Citizens engaged because they had a shared hope of creating a brighter future for the City. Flyers written in English and Spanish appeal to citizens across the community. The local media stated that A Minnesota Design Team visit is a:



- **Mixing Bowl:** the community’s knowledge of itself and professional expertise of Design Team members are stirred together in an intense, fast-paced work session.
- **Flood:** Information and a sense of community pride flow throughout the visit as Design Team members open the gates of their imagination and expertise.
- **Generator:** People are energized as design concepts crystallize before their eyes.
- **Weaver:** Design Team members show how issues and ideas relate to each other and to the entire community.
- **Mirror:** The Design Team produces a series of drawings and explanatory notes representing the community’s shared vision.

The City of Gaylord now moves toward implementation of its economic goals of addressing downtown revitalization, business development, housing, marketing, and quality of life.

Annual Investment “Putting Resources in the hands of Businesses”

Annual Report FY08 (7/01/07 - 6/30/08)

County	City	Amount
Faribault	Wells	\$100,000
Nicollet	St. Peter	\$10,000
Faribault	Minnesota Lake	\$25,000
Sibley	Gaylord	\$65,000
Blue Earth	Madison Lake	\$65,000
Sibley	Gaylord	\$100,000
Nicollet	North Mankato	\$63,750
Blue Earth	Mankato	\$25,000
Blue Earth	Lake Crystal	\$25,000
Nicollet	North Mankato	\$10,000
Le Sueur	Le Center	\$84,750
Blue Earth	Mankato	\$35,000
Sibley	Winthrop	\$7,250
Faribault	Blue Earth	\$35,000
Blue Earth	Mankato	\$35,000
Total Investment		\$520,750

South Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

What we provide to regional businesses.

The Small Business Development Centers provide the professional expertise and guidance that every small business owner needs to flourish in today's competitive and ever-changing business world. Financial support from funding partners allows us to provide our professional services at no cost or a nominal fee.

Who do we assist?

There are several phases of business development where the services of the SBDC staff are called upon.

- Pre-venture businesses can get a "business assessment" to help move them to the next step.
- Start-up business - we offer a range of services including counsel/guidance, critical assessments of business strategies and seminars that are value focused.
- Established business looking to expand or in need of evaluation of their current operations. They may need access to resources such as updated demographics or a financial plan review.

What is considered a small business?

Any business with 500 employees or less.

What services do we offer?

- Business planning
- Marketing
- Loan packaging
- Training seminars

Looking at the year ahead

Our expansion plan for the next year includes the opening of an office in the city of Gaylord, to better serve communities in that part of our service area. It is also part of our plan to expand our presence in other communities within Region Nine and focus on the relationships that are so important to building good business and a stronger economy.

Client Spotlight: The Store in Elysian



Mary Jo and Brad Gohla have owned "The Store" in Elysian since 2005 and they wanted to expand their business by purchasing additional outlets.

They came to the SBDC for assistance in developing a business plan so they could apply for financing to purchase stores in Kiester and Truman. We were able to assist them in developing their plan which included the feasibility analysis and a pro forma projection that showed the purchase and the financing would work from a cash flow basis. We then worked with them on loan applications and they were able to acquire financing from the First State Bank of Kiester, the city of Kiester, Region Nine, The Truman Development Corporation and the Truman EDA.

They closed on the purchases last July and since opening they have added fresh meat departments and volume discounts to be competitive in the market place. This has allowed them to be on track to meet the projected revenues of the three locations.

Brad says one of his challenges has been "trying to beat the current economic conditions" and one of the most rewarding is making the decisions that meet his customer's needs.

They continue to demonstrate the entrepreneurial spirit by growing their businesses and they have increased the number of employees to 20, which includes both of them as they both work full time in the business. They hope to continue this growth and are always looking for other opportunities to expand or add more locations.

One of the special things that they do in their Elysian store is—They make their own sausage and a large number of the lake residents that leave the area in the winter take a supply of the sausage with them and many make a special trip to restock before the summer season begins. This is a great example of customer loyalty.

Region Nine Area Incorporated (RNAI)

RNAI continues to grow at a steady pace. The board is in the process of reviewing the Articles of Incorporation to make sure they reflect the direction of RNAI. The board also continued to explore ways to support rural communities through offering grant-writing assistance and providing fiscal host support for non-profits. Non profits, especially those starting in smaller communities, are facing incredible obstacles. RNAI is developing resources based on those needs: grant writing tips, a website that is easy to navigate and information about grant opportunities.

A very special thank you to all past and current Board members who give so generously of their time and talents! Without their dedication, RNAI would not be able to provide the resources it does.

Region Nine Development Commission Resource Development Coordinator

Communities are requesting RNAI information in increasing numbers. In response to this a Grant Opportunities Forum was held in August, 2008. The response was overwhelmingly positive. As a result, another forum was held April 23, 2009. Cities, counties, government officials, non-profits and community people benefit from these forums.

Grants were secured this year from several agencies and foundations:

- Blandin Foundation (2 grants)- Main Street Grant for Gaylord, Broadband Technical Assistance for the region
- Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council – grant for community of Amboy for a community production
- USDA – grant for Amboy for the Fire Department
- Small Business Development Center – grant to provide expanded entrepreneur services

- MN Dept. of Transportation – Safe Routes to School grant

The number of communities requesting assistance with grant writing continues to increase, some of these communities include:

- Pemberton - reviewing options for completion with the Community Center
- Minnesota Lake - reviewing options for City Hall – repair or build new and expanding options (Senior Center, police department, etc.)
- Kiester - working with the community to explore options for their empty school building
- Gaylord and Arlington - working with a coalition to explore grant opportunities for senior health care
- Courtland and Hanska – working with these communities to obtain funding for tornado sirens
- Amboy – a variety of projects

Thank you to the RNAI board members:

Janie Flores, Clarence Mager - *Chair*, Alvis More, Belva Peterson, Roger Oldfather - *Secretary/Treasurer* Brenda Pautsch, Bob Schabert, Susan Taylor

Transportation

The impact of the Aging Population on the Transportation system

Aging is a very dominant trend in Minnesota, and across the United States. In 2006, the “Baby Boom” generation (those individuals born between 1946 and 1964) have started turning 60. The number of Minnesotans over the age of 65 will more than double over the next 25 years. Statewide, by the year 2020, there will be more individuals over the age of 65 than school age children combined. This increase in the aging population will have a significant effect on the kinds of services that residents look to local governments to provide.

Impact of Aging Population

Baby boomers drive change. Baby Boomers will greatly affect programs such as Social Security and Medicare, but less well-known is the impact that they will have on the transportation system.

Older residents will require additional services areas such as transit, easy-to-read signage, sidewalks, and additional parking.

- **Need for transit:**

Boomers want to remain active. They have a desire to get around however, national studies have shown that the elderly drive less. Therefore, if they want to get around, they will need other options.

- **Easy to read signage:**

With an increasing share of the population over age 60, considerations might need to be given to increasing the size of road signs, making them more visible.

- **Sidewalks:**

Increasing risk of injury will create the need for fall prevention services, such as properly maintained sidewalks.

- **Additional parking:**



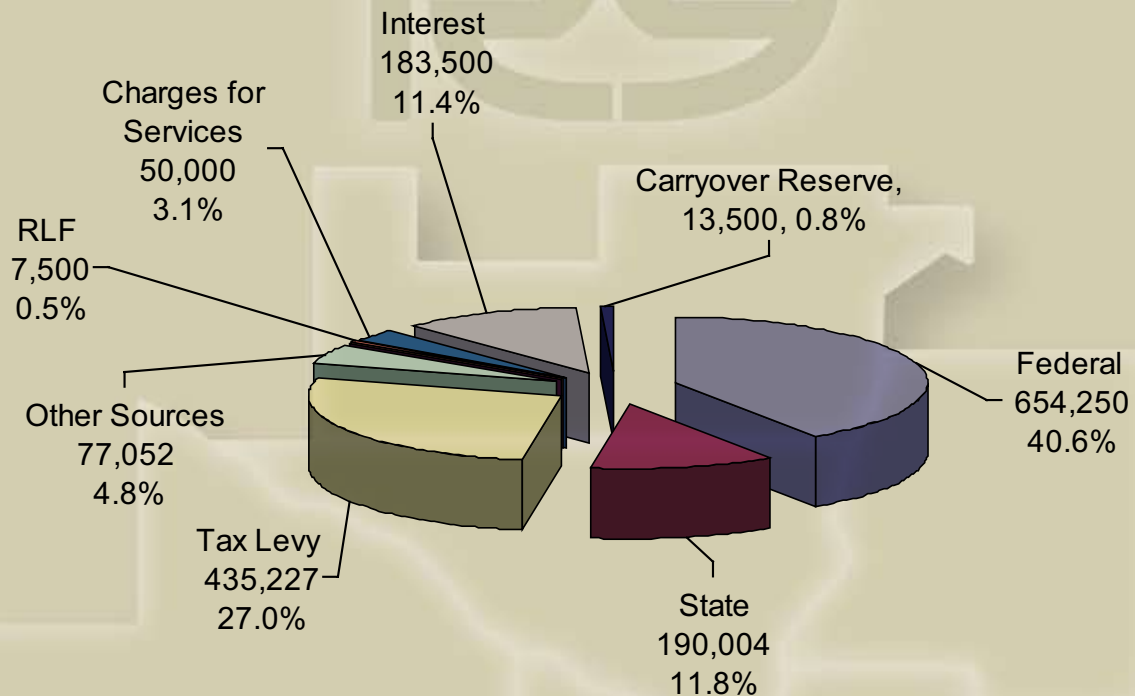
It is important to consider the proximity of parking to destinations as an aging population is less likely to walk great distances.

Ironically enough, as there is a growing demand for additional services, cities are witnessing an increasing resistance to the property tax as more and more people have to live on fixed incomes.

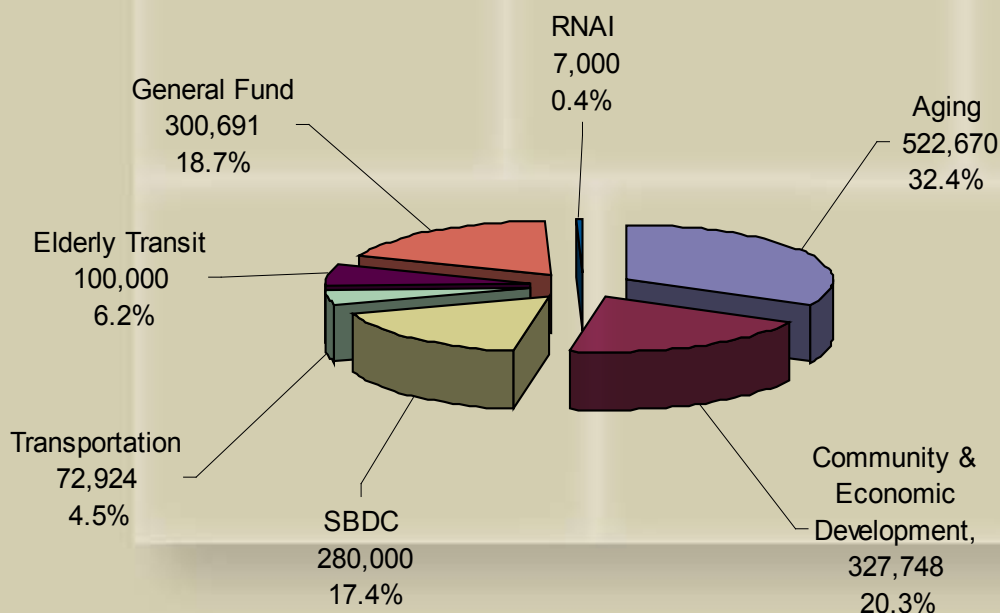
How can communities cater to the needs of their aging population while working with fewer resources? It is important for communities to start planning now so that they are better able to support the needs of the growing aging population. Resources at Region Nine Development Commission can be accessed to assist communities with various planning-related activities.

Revenues & Expenditures

Region Nine Development Commission FY 08 Revenue Sources



Region Nine Development Commission FY 08 Expenditure by Department



FY08 Budget by Programs



REVENUES:

FEDERAL	654,250
STATE	190,004
TAX LEVY	435,227
OTHER SOURCES	84,552
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	50,000
INTEREST	183,500
PROGRAM CARRYOVER	13,500

TOTAL REVENUES 1,611,003

EXPENDITURES:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING	522,670
COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	327,748
TRANSPORTATION	72,924
TRANSIT	100,000
SBDC	280,000
GENERAL FUND	300,691
RNAI	7,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,611,033

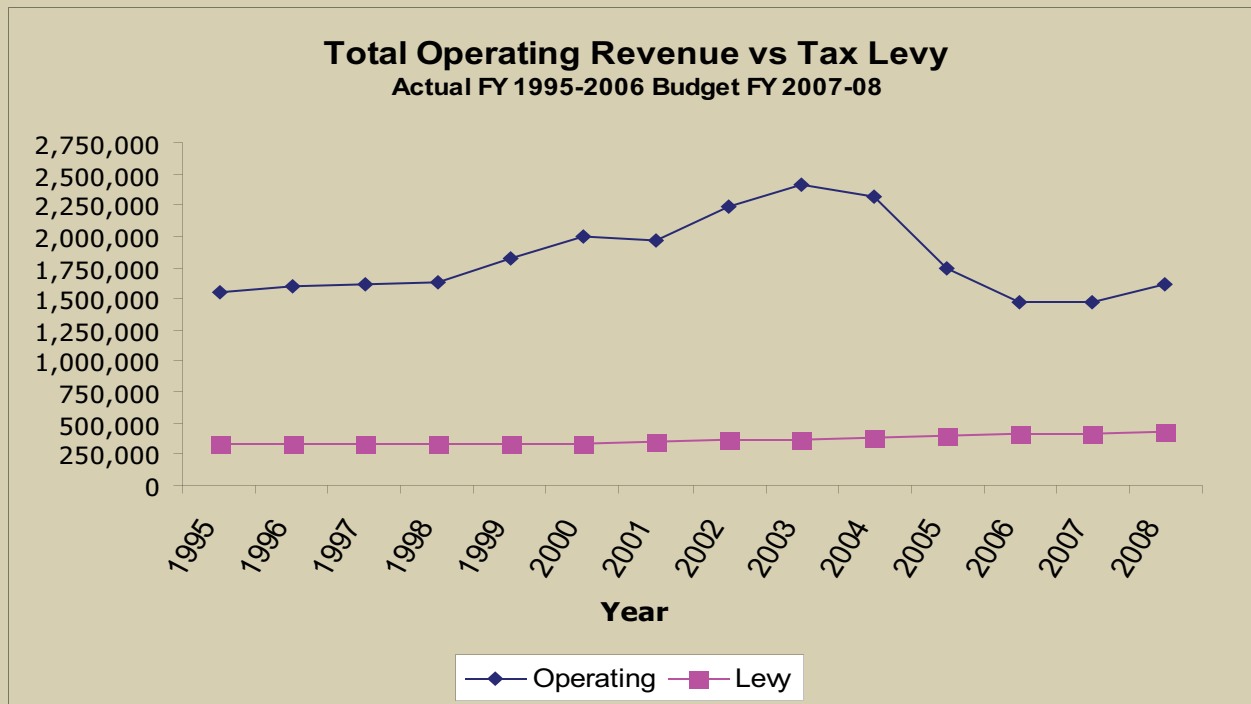
FY08 Budget by Line Item

REVENUES:		
FEDERAL		654,250
STATE		190,004
TAX LEVY		435,227
OTHER SOURCES		84,552
CHARGES FOR SERVICES		50,000
INTEREST		183,500
CARRYOVER RESERVE		13,500
TOTAL REVENUES		1,611,033
EXPENDITURES:		
PERSONNEL		799,727
FRINGE		270,034
COPYING / PRINTING		33,362
PUBLIC NOTICE		2,300
POSTAGE		15,850
TELEPHONE		16,895
TRAVEL - STAFF		50,875
TRAVEL - OTHER		19,300
REGISTRATION		8,100
SUPPLIES		16,537
MEMBERSHIP / DUES		15,960
MISCELLANEOUS		200
CONSULTANT		124,318
INSURANCE		7,200
ERRORS & OMISSIONS INSURANCE		14,300
MAINTENANCE		14,211
LEGAL / AUDIT		28,500
CAPITAL OUTLAY		18,600
STAFF DEVELOPMENT		7,445
MARKETING		15,500
INDIRECT COSTS RECOVERY		8,400
OFFICE SPACE		63,702
FUND BALANCE RECOVERY		59,717
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		1,611,033
PASS THRU		1,157,427

***INDIRECT RATE OF 23.76%**

Region Nine Development Commission Levy History

Year Payable	Base	Increase Allowed	Levy Amount	Percent Increase
2008	422,550	3.00%	435,227	3.00%
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%



Region Nine Development Commission Members

Blue Earth County

Ahrenstorff, Brad Cities under 10,000
 Hurd, Charlie City of Mankato
 More, Alvis Agriculture
 Purvis, Will County Commissioner
 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
 Oldfather, Roger Cities under 10,000
 Young, Greg Township Board

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
 Norland, Diane City of North Mankato
 Schabert, Bob Cities Under 10,000
 Stenson, James County Commissioner
 Strand, Tim (R9 Chair) Mayor, City of St. Peter

Sibley County

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

Waseca County

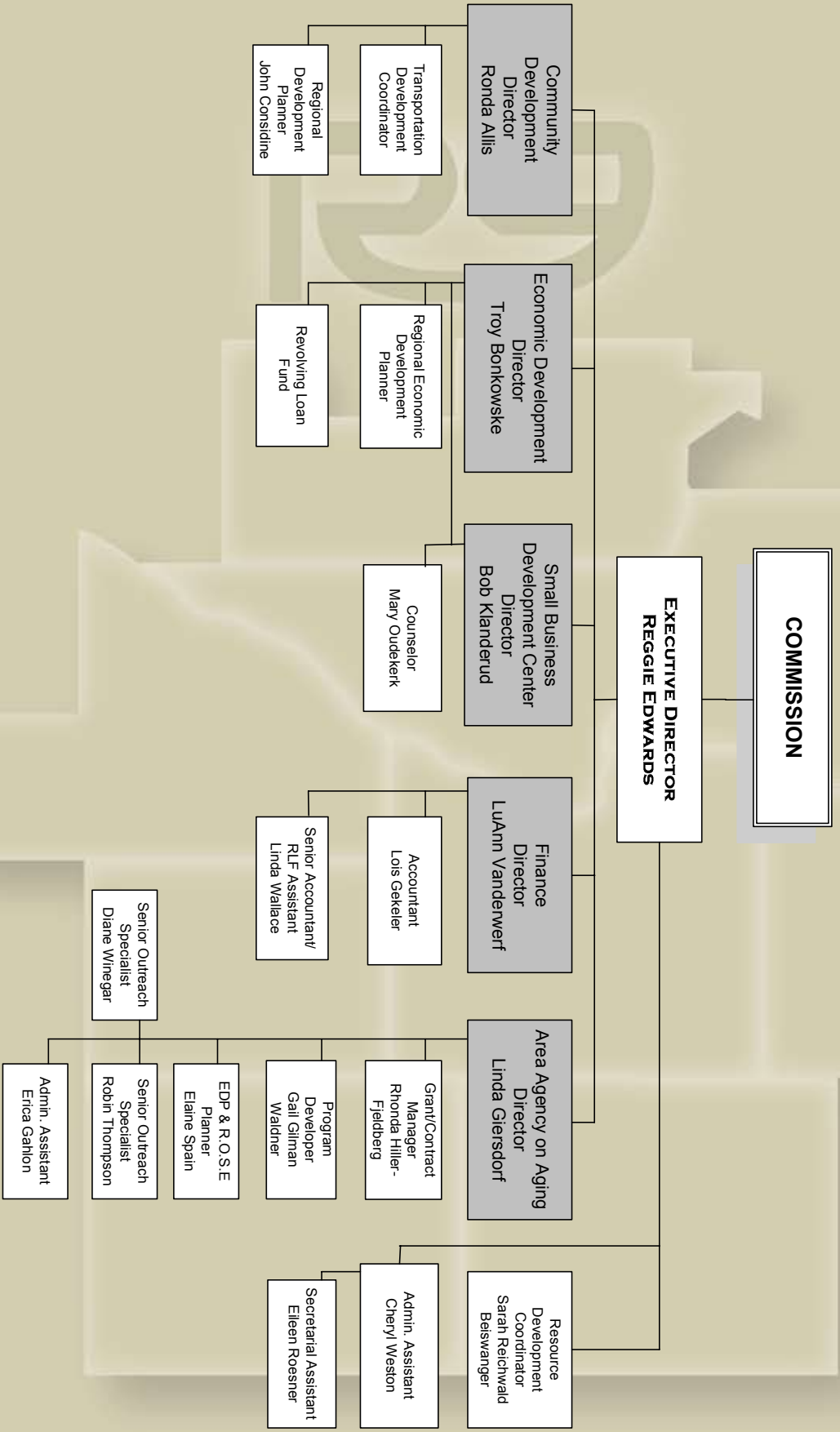
Coy, Cindy Cities Under 10,000
 Fitzsimmons, Jack Transportation
 Kuhns, Dan County Commissioner
 Owens, Gary Township Board

Watonwan County

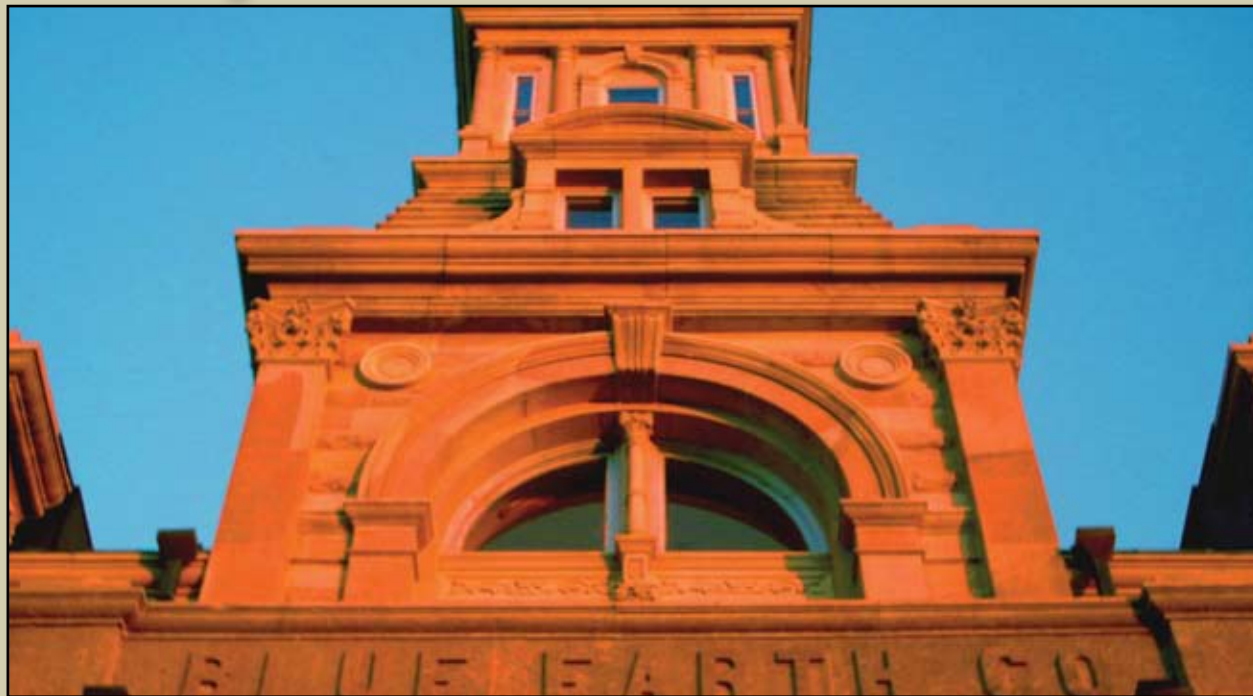
Fenske, Candace Health & Human Welfare
 Jahnz, Denny Cities Under 10,000
 Krenz, Dwayne County Commissioner
 Mikkelson, Lance Township Board

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 governmental 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

result 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 Development & Transportation

Ronda Allis, Director
John Considine, Regional Development Planner

Economic Development

Troy Bonkowske, Director

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

Berg, Jim	RNDC Liason
Cattrysse, Jo	60+
Engstrom, Jerry	60+
Fenske, Candace	RNDC Liason
Larson, Marjorie	60+
Leary, Robert	60+
Morgan, Scott	Public/Private Agency
Peterson, Richard "Dick"	60+
Pinney, Sharon	At Large, Any Age
Sandmann, Cathy	County Social Service
Savick, Carl	60+
Schmiesing, Wally	60+
Solomon-Wise, Reneé	Nursing Home Representative
Struck, Sylvan	60+
Stangler, Bill	RNDC Liason
Witt, Fauniece	60+

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

Region Nine Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Broich, James	Sleepy Eye
Dietz, Alvin	New Prague
Fitzsimmons, Jack	Waseca
Forsberg, Alan	Mankato
Genelin, Terrance	LeSueur
Hanson, Ken	Sherburn
Kaufmann, Norbert	Belle Plaine
Koehler, Steve	New Ulm
Kuhns, Daniel	Waseca
Krenz, Dwayne	Madelia
Loveall, Tom	Winnebago
McDonald, John	Blue Earth
Norland, Diane	North Mankato
Purvia, Will	Vernon Center
Saffert, Ken	Mankato
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
Paulson, Jim	Pioneer Bank, St. James
Regner, Tim	Banker, Sibley County
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

Anderson, Mark	Transit
Apitz, Bob	Transit
Benson, David	Counties
Bigham, Lisa	Mn/DOT
Broich, Jim	Region 9
Gregg, Ron	Counties
Haeder, Douglas	Mn/DOT
Holmberg, Darrell	Region 8
Koehler, Steve	Cities
McDonald, John	Counties
Ous, Greg	Mn/DOT
Swanson, Jim	Mn/DOT
Zellmer, Gary	Cities

South Central Small Business Development Center Board of Directors

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

P.O. Box 3367 • Mankato, MN • 56002-3367
507-387-5643 • 1-800-450-5643
www.rndc.org