



Northwest Regional Development Commission

Annual Report Calendar Year 2009

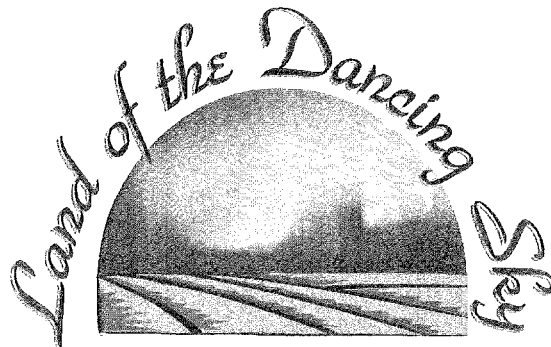


Table of Contents

General Highlights

Letter from the Chairman	3
Introduction and NWRDC Staff List	4
Commission Membership List	5
Budget	6
Audit Letter	7

Program Highlights 8

Aging	9-12
Arts	13-15
Community Development	16-17
Economic Development	18-19
Enterprise Loan Fund	20
Emergency Operations	21
Special Projects	22
Transportation	23-24
Publications	25
Committee Lists	26

2009 Highlights Letter 27

Working for Local Units of Government in Kittson, Marshall, Norman,
Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties

NWRDC • 115 South Main, Suite 1 •

Warren, MN 56762 • 218-745-6733

Agency Web Site Address: www.nwrdc.org

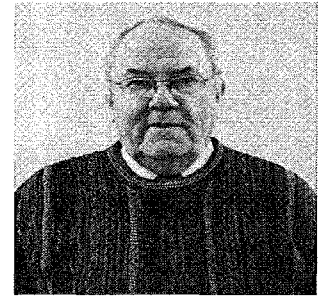
Land of the Dancing Sky Web Site: www.VisitNWMinnesota.com

Letter from the Chairman

Dr. Joe Bouvette

"Working Together"

The national recession, on-going local concerns about our population levels, and an emerging focus the job opportunities, which will keep the next generation closer to home, are an incentive to sharpen our ability to work together on a wide range of development fronts. Kittson County and the NWRDC recently entered into a partnership in a project called "Jobs 2010" which focuses on private sector investment and leadership to create more primary sector jobs; but the Kittson County Economic Development Authority is also working on promoting other aspects of the County including: the Lake Bronson State Park, participation in the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail, enhancing main street services, and



maintaining high quality housing. Efforts in the County have even broadened to incorporate regional, statewide, and international opportunities such as: regional trail planning, homeland security, and increasing international traffic linkages on Highway 59 into Canada.

The NWRDC intends to continue sharpening our development pencil and looking at places where we can tap into every set of resources to support a broad range of private and public sector led initiatives. This will include accessing new resources such as those provided by the Legacy Amendment, and doing more with less in those cases where public resources are being stressed by national and state economic trends.

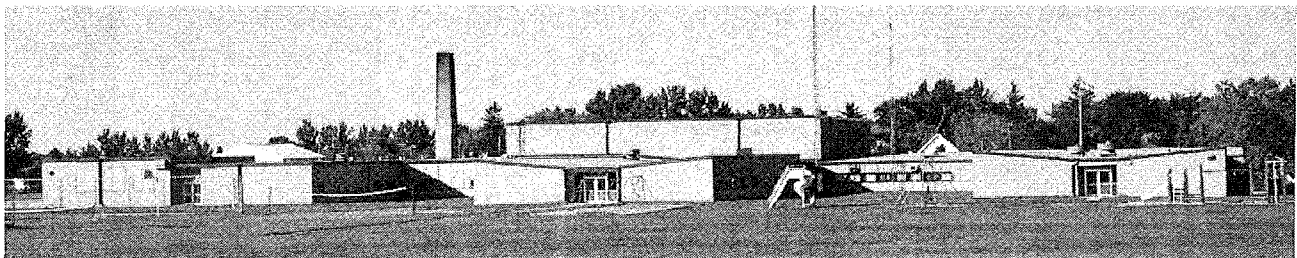
Kennedy "GO GREEN" Business Center

NWRDC played an important role in assisting the City of Kennedy with a \$184,000 federal EDA grant application that would provide funding for the conversion of the high school building from fossil fuel use to a combination of green energy sources: geothermal, wind, and solar.

The recently vacated school building was closed due to consolidation, and the City was looking for new and unique ways to make use of the building. 2008-09 fossil fuel costs were almost \$50,000 - a cost that the City could not afford. Juhl Wind, a nationally recognized wind energy leader, proposed a wind farm project for the Kittson County area that would produce up to 100 megawatts of wind powered electricity, and would also make use of the school building as a base for its wind maintenance facility. To make the project even more environmentally friendly, the proposal included the construction of a wind tower near the school and rooftop solar panels to provide electricity, and geothermal ground source heating and cooling of the building. Total cost of building operation would be reduced to \$1,200 per year.

The City will use the building as a "green" business incubator that will foster business growth and the use of alternative energy. It will initially house the wind maintenance facility, a "Next Generation" power systems sales company, self-storage units, a local electrician, and a community wellness center. The Center also has facilities for meetings and food preparation within the building. The City will partner with NWRDC, Kittson County EDA, area universities, Northwest Minnesota Foundation, UND EERC and Center for Innovation, and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to provide training, education, networking, marketing and development of the incubator. The Center will be a hub for educating communities and citizens on alternative energy uses and business development.

Initial first-year job creation is expected to be 6-8 people. State and local funds, and private monies from Juhl Wind will also be provided as match dollars for the \$368,000 project. Kittson County is the center of a tremendous wind, solar and biomass resource and this project will serve as a model for other areas, statewide and nationally.





What The NWRDC is All About . . .

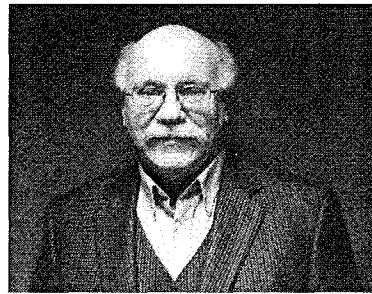
Regional Development Commissions were created by the State Legislature through the Regional Development Act of 1969. The intent of the Act was to create an option for rural units of government to supplement existing public services and coordinate specific activities of mutual concern. Although created by the State, Regional Development Commissions were left in the hands of local representatives to insure that the final design would reflect area needs and preferences.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission was created on February 2, 1973 by the joint actions of local units of government. Programs were set up to reflect priority work items of the time; and relationships were established with the state and federal agencies that could provide assistance with local projects. Programs and work priorities have changed in response to

economic and social trends; but the central mission of supporting efforts by cities, counties, townships, businesses and individuals to improve living, working and natural resource conditions in Northwest Minnesota has remained the same.

The Commission has worked to establish a manner of operation which reflects and compliments the independent, progressive style of Northwest Minnesota. Technical assistance, specialized program delivery, public participation, direct funding, access to information and formalized planning services are the basic materials which we can contribute to the construction of your project.

Please look over our Annual Report and stop by or call if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.



Above: Leon Heath, Executive Director/Economic Development

*Right: Carol Sorensen,
Financial Officer*



*Left: Brenda Solberg,
Front Office Manager/
Financial Assistant/
Loan Fund Contract Manager*



*Right: Betty Safranski,
Front Office*



Staff Listing

NWRDC Staff

Darla Bergquist, Aging Program Development Specialist
 Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge Specialist
 Cameron Fanfulik, Loan Fund Manager/Economic Dev.
 Leon Heath, Executive Director/Economic Dev.
 Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director
 Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations/Comm. Dev.
 Lois Pagnac, Senior LinkAge/Outreach Specialist
 Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist
 Betty Safranski, Front Office
 Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner
 Brenda Solberg, Front Office/Financial/Loan Fund
 Carol Sorensen, Financial Officer
 Mara Wittman, Arts Council Director

Northwest Regional Development Commission



Above: NWRDC Board of Directors (front row; left to right) Velma Oakland, Elvera Cullen and Gary Kiesow. (back row; left to right) Joe Bouvette, Warren Strandell, Kimberley Johnson and Warren Olson.

Pennington County

*Elvera Cullen	TRF	Municipalities
Oliver Swanson	TRF	County
Tom Wold	TRF	Townships

Polk County

Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Labor
Keith Mykleseth	Crookston	Municipalities
Bill Montague	Crookston	Financial Institute
Suzanne Reitmeier	Crookston	Townships
*Warren Strandell	EGF	County
Tracey Sundeen	Crookston	Seniors
Kathleen Twite	EGF	Business

Red Lake County

Genevieve Knott	RLF	Townships
Robert Melby	Oklee	Low Income
*Velma Oakland	RLF	County
Vaughn Thorfinnson	RLF	Vocational Schools
Ronald Weiss	RLF	Watershed Dist.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

**Dr. Joe Bouvette	Hallock	County
*Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy	Townships
Pete Kautzman III	Karlstad	Municipalities
Gregory Peterson	Lancaster	Municipalities
Betty Younggren	Hallock	SWCD

Marshall County

*Gary Kiesow	Goodridge	County
Bob Kliner	Warren	Municipalities
Loran Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Gail Yutrzenka	Argyle	School Board

Norman County

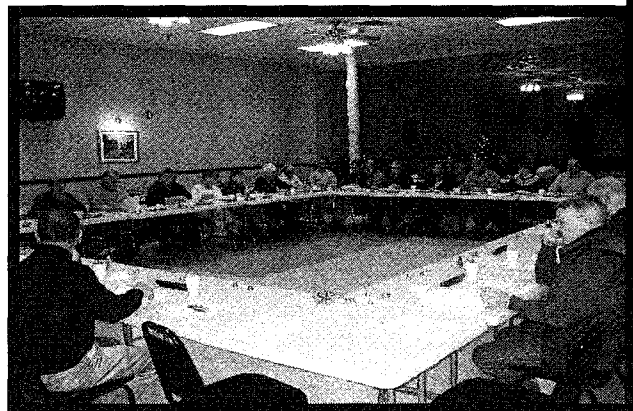
Penny Aanden	Fertile	Townships
Glen Brookshire	Halstad	Municipalities
*Warren Olson	Halstad	County

Roseau County

Jim Christianson	Badger	School Boards
Selvin Erickson	Badger	Townships
*Orris Rasmussen	Roseau	County
Gerry Schiltz	Roseau	Municipalities

*Board Members

**Chairperson



Above: Annual Commission Meeting in East Grand Forks.



Above: (top) Marshall County commission members. (bottom) RDC Staff and guests who attended the annual commission meeting.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

REVENUES	ACTUAL	PROJECTED
	REVENUES CY '2009	CY '2010
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$62,817	\$51,628
		\$0
	\$62,817	\$51,628
STATE		
MN/DOT	\$51,025	\$60,000
STATE ARTS BOARD	\$107,586	\$358,692
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$2,893,509	\$2,958,272
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$50,290	\$51,564
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$300,220	\$752,425
	\$3,402,630	\$4,180,953
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS		
MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION - ARTS	\$40,194	\$42,500
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$11,262	\$27,500
BLANDIN FOUNDATION	\$24,785	\$0
SW MN FOUNDATION	\$14,881	\$0
	\$91,122	\$70,000
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL		
LOCAL LEVY	\$210,820	\$221,792
KITTSOON COUNTY EDA	\$3,926	\$10,000
WILKIN COUNTY	\$6,653	\$0
LOCAL PROJECTS	\$19,734	
	\$241,133	\$231,792
MISCELLANEOUS		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$278,557	\$669,113
INTEREST	\$13,183	\$10,340
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$9,035	\$6,200
	\$300,775	\$685,653
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$4,098,477</u>	<u>\$5,220,026</u>

EXPENDITURES	ACTUAL	PROJECTED
	EXPENDITURES CY '2009	CY '2010
SALARY/FRINGE	\$785,890	\$842,755
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$58,977	\$89,435
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$34,272	\$45,994
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$22,873	\$22,000
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$120,780	\$149,289
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,022,792	\$1,149,473
REGRANTED-ARTS	\$57,245	\$287,164
REGRANTED-AGING	\$1,076,676	\$1,073,966
REGION 4 AGING PROGRAM	\$1,455,125	\$1,451,352
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$232,116	\$658,071
BUSINESS LOANS	\$222,600	\$600,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$4,066,554</u>	<u>\$5,220,026</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	<u>\$31,923</u>	<u>\$0</u>

3

Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.

Certified Public Accountants
117 South Broadway
Crookston, Minnesota 56716
Telephone (218) 281-3789
FAX (218) 281-5245

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors
Northwest Regional Development Commission
Warren, Minnesota 56762

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and general fund of the Northwest Regional Development Commission as of and for the year ended December 31, 2008, which collectively comprise the Commission's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Northwest Regional Development Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the general fund of the Northwest Regional Development Commission as of December 31, 2008 and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued reports dated June 12, 2009 on our consideration of Northwest Regional Development Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of those reports is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. These reports are an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

The management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 5 through 10 and page 26, respectively, are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Northwest Regional Development Commission's basic financial statements. The other supplementary information presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements of the Northwest Regional Development Commission. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

June 12, 2009
Crookston, Minnesota

DREES, RISKEY & VALLAGER, LTD.

Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.
Certified Public Accountants

*Members of Minnesota and North Dakota Society of CPA's
Members of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants*

Program Highlights



Program Highlights Calendar Year 2009

Serving
*Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington
Polk, Red Lake, Roseau*

Aging

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Purpose: Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging is committed to supporting the dignity and independence of older persons of Northwest and West Central Minnesota. Our services include: providing advocacy and leadership in the development and support of community based services to reduce isolation, improving access to services and to help Seniors remain independent and safe in their homes for as long as possible.

Program Funding Sources: Older Americans Act through the Minnesota Board on Aging - \$412,009; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$50,290; RDC Tax Levy - \$60,970; Miscellaneous - \$2,215.

Regrant Funding Sources: Older Americans Act - \$777,225; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$173,093; State Nutrition Program - \$95,858; Region 4 AAA Pass Through - \$1,435,323.

Service Priorities: Regrant priorities are: nutrition, congregate and home delivered meals, legal services, housekeeping, chore, home modification, transportation, Disease Prevention/Health Promotion, early memory care, medication management, fall prevention, bone builders, Matter of Balance, chronic disease prevention, respite care and caregiver supports.

Aging Highlights

Communities for a Lifetime • • •

Throughout the year we have provided 19 Communities for a Lifetime presentations to city councils, Rotary clubs, chamber of commerce's and other groups along our PSA. We are involved in Communities For a Lifetime/Community Stewardship planning efforts in six communities: Bemidji, Park Rapids, Blackduck, Oklee, Fergus Falls and Mahanomen.

Larger Planning and Service Area • • •

In our larger Planning and Service Area (PSA) we continue to work closely with West Central and Region Two (2) to plan for the entire region of the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging. This year we conducted a single request for proposal process for the entire PSA for the nutrition contracts for 2010. We completed a single process for all the regrant and contract renewals for the entire PSA for awarding grants and contracts to service providers. We provided a RE-AIM sustainability training for the entire region that was very well received. We planned an additional sustainability curriculum training for 2010. We began the work for the new "Return to Community" initiative set forth in legislation by the state.



Above: Seated (left to right) Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist and Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director.
Standing (left to right) Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist, Darla Bergquist, Region 2 Aging Program Developer (Not Pictured) Lois Pagnac, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator.

This project provides a staff person to assist private pay individual's assistance to return home from a nursing home, and assist them with setting up the services they need to remain safely in their homes. We also applied with the state for two other grants. One is the Early Memory Care Grant, which gives people in the early stages of memory loss optimal control over their lives to help sustain cognitive function and reduce premature decline and reduce the negative impacts on caregivers. The other grant is the Live Well at Home Program which implements a rapid screen that can determine nursing home diversion planning for the person needing assistance.

ElderCare Development Partnership • • •

Work with the ElderCare Development Partnership continues into the 6th year of our project. The primary focus of ElderCare Development Partnerships is to increase the availability of community based options for seniors, and to reduce the impact of chronic disease within our communities. Our efforts continue to focus around increasing the availability of Parish Nurse Programs and Health Ministries, and to increase the availability of residential options including: adult foster care, assisted living, and other less restrictive options for seniors. We have coordinated a Polk County Senior provider coalition which will collaborate efforts to provide services to seniors in a more efficient delivery system.

Aging continued

Eldercare in the Workplace • • •

Throughout our PSA we have provided information and assistance to 40 local businesses on the development of Eldercare in the workplace strategies that will assist businesses with worker retention, and flexible options for employees that are taking care of Elderly parents while continuing to be employed.

Parish Nurse Partnership Development • • •

This program continues to see growth and expansion throughout our PSA. We provided scholarships to 5 nurses that attended the Parish Nurse training offered at Concordia College. We continue to provide technical assistance to approximately 87 Parish Nurses in a multi-county region. We have developed 3 Parish nurse Coalitions. During this year, we have provided technical assistance to 3 hospital-based Parish nurse programs. In addition, we have partnered with Villa St. Vincent in Crookston to develop a Community-based Parish nurse program within Polk County.



(Above): Darla Bergquist, Aging Program Development Specialist, leads a Matter of Balance coach training for Polk County Senior Providers. (Right): Matter of Balance Flexibility and strength exercises.

Community Based Parish Nursing • • •

We continue to provide technical assistance to Community Based Parish Nurse Programs in Clearbrook and Osage. In this model of service, a Parish Nurse is shared by a number of churches, or groups within a community. The program in Osage has identified their focus as a healing mission to help support people in crisis or with day-to-day struggles in the Osage and Ponsford area of the White Earth Reservation. In addition, we have developed 23 Health Ministry programs in faith communities to improve the informal service to seniors.

Community Service Development Grantees • • •

22 agencies received technical assistance to help with development of grant proposals to the Department of Human Services. Many of these applications were for the renovation of facilities, or new construction of Assisted Living facilities and services in our planning and service area. Our PSA was awarded 5 CSSD grants this year.



Falls Prevention Initiative • • •

During 2009, we became heavily involved in the development of evidenced-based program development in a multi-county region. We continue to provide technical assistance to six Fall's Prevention coalitions. We sent two members from our region to become Master Trainers for the evidenced-based, falls prevention program, Matter of Balance. In addition, we have provided two Matter of Balance coach trainings in Polk and Becker counties. These efforts resulted in recruiting 18 Matter of Balance Coaches with our PSA. We have developed a partnership with the MeritCare physical therapy department in Bemidji to develop Fall Prevention Programs. Furthermore, we have continued our partnership with Mahube Community Action Council to develop Bone Builders programs within Becker, Hubbard and Mahnomen counties. This partnership has resulted in 3 new Bone Builders programs and a higher utilization rate at all of our Bone Builders sites.

Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights



Senior LinkAge® Calls Received • • •

The Minnesota Board on Aging began routing all calls related to Medicare issues to all the call centers in the state in early October to alleviate the backlog of calls to

everyone during the busy open enrollment time for Medicare Part D. Additional contacts were made on behalf of callers to provide assistance with their issues by calling prescription plans, contacting other agencies for services, resolving issues with insurance companies and getting them connected to services that they needed.

Presentations • • •

Over 381 presentations, outreach and other events were provided in the 21 county service area this year to seniors, family members, service providers and caregivers. The Senior LinkAge Line® staff also worked with senior centers, and other agencies around the region to facilitate the setting up of Medication Management Sessions for one-on-one consultations with a pharmacist to review prescriptions seniors were taking. Staff and volunteers participated in various health fairs providing information on the extra help available for Medicare beneficiaries for their Medicare Part D premiums.

Long Term Care Partnership • • •

We were given the task of going out into the communities and providing information on the Long Term Care Partnership policies that are available in Minnesota. MN Long Term Care Partnership allows a person to receive long term care insurance benefits, have Medicaid coverage and keep more assets than Medicaid normally allows. We made contacts and presented to Rotary Clubs, medical facilities and local boards to get the word out about this new Long Term Care policy option.

New To Medicare • • •

Medicare is becoming more and more complicated each year and we have held New to Medicare sessions to help prepare seniors for Medicare. The sessions help to educate them on how and when to sign up for Medicare, the costs involved with the program as well as all the different choices of health and drug coverage that work with or administer the Medicare benefits for them. We have collaborated with surrounding area employers as a nice benefit for their employees that are soon approaching Medicare.

Outreach Sites at Merit Care Clinic in Thief River Falls and Bemidji • • •

Worked with the administration at Merit Care to establish two outreach sites to provide assistance to serve seniors in the surrounding areas of Thief River Falls and Bemidji, and have office hours set up one day a month at each of these facilities. We are able to assist seniors on a one-to-one basis in any area that they may need help with – Medicare, Advantage plans, Medicare Part D, Medicare Savings Programs, Extra Help Assistance, forms assistance, billing issues, etc.

Medicare Part D LIS Outreach and Enrollment Assistance with OPTIONS • • •

In the fall of 2009 we met with OPTIONS: Resource Center for Independent Living to discuss providing several one to one outreach sessions to assist individuals with Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Advantage and Part D enrollment. Events were planned and held in Crookston, East Grand Forks, Roseau and Naytahwaush. Staff from both agencies were available at these sites for individual meetings with Medicare beneficiaries. We appreciated the opportunity to work with OPTIONS and look forward to future collaborations.



Above: Senior LinkAge Line® Staff providing assistance at LIS Outreach in Naytahwaush.

Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers • • •

Our SHIP Volunteers continue to be a vital part of our mission to assist seniors. 2009 was a big year for Senior Surf, our hands on computer education program. We have three volunteers who do an outstanding job of organizing and conducting the classes. Over 100 students participated in these events this year.

Our volunteers are also involved in a wide variety of other activities including assisting with the Medicare Part D prescription drug program, individual counseling, assisting at health fairs and presentations, and helping with numerous office projects. In 2010 these dedicated individuals contributed over 650 hours of their time.

Additionally, the volunteers continued their SHIP education by attending many training sessions provided by the Area Agency on Aging throughout the year.

Our sincere thank you to these valuable volunteers.

2009 Aging Grantees

Kittson County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 556 one-way trips to 43 persons.

Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 1,338 hours of chore service to 129 persons.

Roseau County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 848 one-way trips to 94 persons.

Roseau County Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 1,700 hours of chore services to 43 persons.

Tri-County Community Corrections Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 3,914 hours of chore service to 209 persons.

Valley Housekeeping Program - Provided 5,412.75 hours of homemaker services to 133 persons.

LSS Caregiver/Respite Program - Provided 1,989 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 237 persons and 6,007.75 hours of Respite services to 57 persons.

Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program - Provided 378 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 65 persons and 4,002 hours of Caregiver Respite to 23 persons.

Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program - Provided 184 hours of Caregiver Coaching services to 23 persons, 294 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 58 persons and 1,261 hours of Caregiver Respite services to 32 persons.

Medication Management - Provided 108 in-depth medication management sessions to 123 persons in Regions 1, 2 & 4.

LifeCare Chronic Illness Workshops - Provided 6 workshop session on managing chronic illness to 18 participants.

Mahube Bone Builders - Provided 415 strength building sessions to 204 participants.

Tri Community LAH Falls Prevention - Provided 154.5 hours preparing falls prevention packets, providing information and follow-up sessions to 700 seniors.

Legal Services - Provided 1,196 hours of legal services to 317 persons, and provided 21 educational sessions to 463 persons in Region 1, 2 & 4.

Lakewood Home Health Aide Program - Provided 360.75 hours of home health aide services to 7 persons.

Clearwater Senior Transportation - Provided 306 one-way trips to 90 persons.

Beltrami County Frail/Elderly Home Modification - Provided 25 hours of home modification services to 9 persons.

LSS Senior Nutrition Program - Provided 362,810 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 10,406 persons.



Above: Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge Line® Specialist, providing one to one counseling services.

Arts

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL

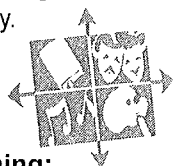
Purpose: To promote, develop and encourage artistic growth and excellence of arts organizations and individual artists in northwestern Minnesota by conducting programs, awarding grants, and providing services.

Program Funding Sources: Minnesota Legislature - \$73,171 and Interest - \$451; McKnight Foundation - \$17,364; RDC Tax Levy - \$8,697; Miscellaneous - \$4,073.

Re-Grant Funding Sources: MN State Arts Board - \$34,415; McKnight Foundation - \$22,830.

Re-Grant Programs: *State Funds:* Arts Project; Artist in the Schools. *McKnight Funds:* Adult Fellowship; Student Artist Grants; Small Capital; Hispanic Arts Initiative.

Service Priorities: Direction setting, Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit, information including website, newsletter, training/workshops, directory.



Arts Highlights

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Planning:

Legacy Amendment • • •

In May 2009, the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund was established through funding from the Clean water, land and Legacy Amendment. This was due in part, to educating the public on the impact that the amendment would have on increased arts activity in our region. Arts Advocacy efforts with legislators to inform them of the importance of these funds to our region included a group of constituents attending Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol in February 2009.

Joint Retreat Sessions • • •

Extensive planning occurred during several facilitated planning retreats between the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Regional Arts Council Directors in 2009. Results were a 25 year vision, strategies, and goals for the arts in the state of Minnesota. Fundamental items related to use of the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund were also identified and defined to give guidance during planning. Public input meetings were held to gain feedback on the planning documents and direction for use of the funds.

Library and Prairie Public Planning Meetings • • •

Arts Council staff attended and actively participated in planning meetings and meetings aimed at future collaboration between the Regional Libraries and Prairie Public Broadcasting. These Public Broadcastings and the Regional Library system will both receive a good

Right: Mara Wittman,
Arts Council Director



amount of new funding through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund of the Legacy Amendment.

Minnesota's Historic Northwest • • •

In 2009 our office assisted this group of eleven county historical societies with a few regional projects. They are compiling a traveling exhibit on churches for next year, and have secured their non-profit status in 2009. Arts Council staff attended several meetings related to new projects that will occur in our region with Arts and Cultural Heritage funds that are now available through the Minnesota Historical Society. Joint planning efforts and collaborative projects are being considered.

Grant Program Summaries

Arts Project Grant Program • • •

From January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2009, we re-granted \$23,600 to 5 different productions and 8 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Four of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 8,000 adults and over 3,000 youth were impacted by the grant activity.

Artists in the Schools Grant Program • • •

In 2009, \$10,815 was re-granted to area schools. Eight projects were awarded serving 2,500 students. Several artists from the Compas Roster came into our schools for writing and photography residencies. Other schools supported our area's Safari touring childrens' theatre week-long workshop and productions.

Small Capital Grants • • •

\$3,730 was granted to arts organizations to purchase various artistic equipment including: lighting equipment and safety/accessibility repair to a stairway area. Two organizations received awards. Six school districts received \$1,000 each to purchase artistic equipment. Items purchased included: piano, camcorder, kilns, and musical instruments.

McKnight Artist Grants • • •

Four adult artists and eleven student artists received awards this calendar year. In the Individual Artist Fellowship category \$7,600 was granted. In the Student Artist Training Mentorship category \$5,500 was granted. Most awards were for technical training.

Arts continued

Arts Council Planning:

Tax Exempt Status •••

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council applied for and received non-profit status with the IRS in July of 2009.

Working Group Meetings •••

A new working group of members from the Arts Council and the Regional Development Commission are meeting to make recommendations on how the partnership between the Arts Council and the NWRDC needs to grow, or change to reflect new program directions related to Arts Legacy Funding and the evolving vision in Northwest Minnesota for Art and Culture development.

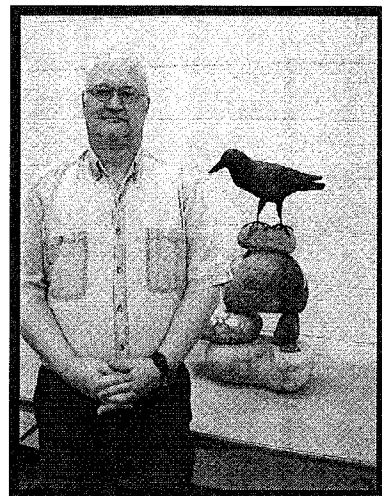
Services and Technical Assistance

Promotion and Increasing Visibility •••

In 2009 the general public was continually informed through our 65+ page web site and our Northwest Arts newsletter (3 editions) reaching 850+ arts constituents. Staff conducted four grant writing and informational workshops in 2009. Several hundred Artists of Minnesota booklets were distributed. Our 150 Years of Statehood Cubed art exhibit was on display in a couple locations in 2009 and the catalog was sent to over 100 people.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••

Coordinated 2009 exhibit in Fertile at their community center from April 20 - 26, 2009. This included the jury process, registration, hanging, and artist reception. 121 pieces were on display for almost a week. \$1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Sandy Kaul of Bemidji, Minnesota. Award winning pieces by students and adults are pictured below.



Robin Foster of Red Lake Falls won first place for his large all clay sculpture.

Below: Volunteers from Fertile who helped with the very successful exhibit reception.



Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

Adult Award Winners

1st Place \$500 Sculpture by Robin Foster of RLF
2nd Place \$250 Watercolor by Deb Aune of Gatzke
3rd Place \$100 Painting by Nick Reitzel of Karlstad
Merit \$50 Painting by Jean Ranstrom of Alvarado
Merit \$50 Drawing by Frank Kahoombaush of TRF
Merit \$50 Photograph by Bruce Flaig of Fertile
Merit \$50 Sculpture by Jean Reek of Thief River Falls
Merit \$50 Painting by Margaret Ehling of Red Lake Falls
People's Choice: \$100 Rock Bakken, Hallock

High School Student Award Winners

1st Place \$150 Pottery by Kirsten Kleven of Alvarado
2nd Place \$75 Mixed by Aryanna Ostgaard of Crookston
3rd Place \$50 Mixed by Ashley Woolever of Crookston
Merit \$25 Painting by Harlen Lundeen of Trail
Merit \$25 Jewelry by Tena Patterson of Alvarado
Merit \$25 Drawing by Sara Mercil of Mentor
Merit \$25 Ink Drawing by Hannah Waswick of TRF
Merit \$25 Photograph by Brandon Lien of EGF
People's Choice: \$50 Erika Knutson of Salol

Arts Grants Listing for Calendar Year 2009. . .

Arts Project Grants

Northland Community Technical College	\$ 600.00
Fosston Library Arts Center	\$2,160.00
Oakcrest Senior Housing, Roseau	\$ 880.00
City of Oklee	\$2,000.00
Fertile Area Arts Council	\$1,050.00
Association of the French of the North	\$2,000.00
Roseau Area Friends of the Library	\$2,160.00
Crookston Library	\$1,000.00
East Grand Forks Campbell Library	\$1,080.00
Middle River Community Theatre	\$3,000.00
Crookston Community Theatre	\$2,620.00
City of Karlstad	\$2,050.00
Thief River Falls Community Arts Council	\$3,000.00

Artists in the Schools Grants

Crookston School District	\$1,770.00
Tri-County School District	\$1,275.00
Roseau School District	\$1,200.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$1,500.00
Lancaster School District	\$1,150.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$1,500.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$ 935.00
Kittson Central School District	\$1,485.00

Small Capital Grants

Crookston Community Theatre	\$1,930.00
Stephen Arts Council	\$1,800.00
Warroad School District	\$1,000.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$1,000.00
Greenbush-Middle River School District	\$1,000.00
Marshall County Central School District	\$1,000.00
Norman County West School District	\$1,000.00
Win-E-Mac School District	\$1,000.00

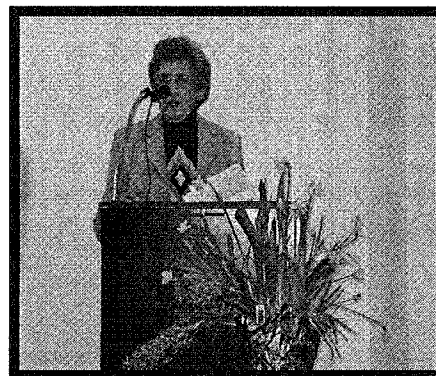
Student Artist Training Mentor Grants

Shannon Balstad, Fosston	\$500.00
Anna Christenson, Kennedy	\$500.00
Brita Christenson, Kennedy	\$500.00
Abbey Kindall, Winger	\$500.00
Jessica Sïstad, Fosston	\$500.00
Ciera Goldsmith, Lengby	\$500.00
Haylee Pearce, Argyle	\$500.00
Travis Miller, Stephen	\$500.00
Kayla Jeffrey, Warroad	\$500.00
Larissa Krantz, Karlstad	\$500.00
Sara Beaudry, Alvarado	\$500.00

Award

Honey Olson of Ada accepts her Arts Advocate of the Year award.

Honey was recognized for her dedicated service to the arts in the Ada area.



Gary Stegman of Crookston accepts the Artist of the Year award from Arts Council Chairperson Cindy Tsukichi and Arts Council Director Mara Wittman, for his outstanding visual art contributions to his community.



Northwest Artist of the Year Award for 2009

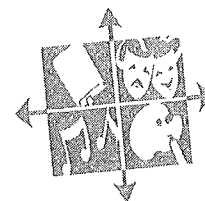
Gary Stegman, Crookston (visual art) \$500.00

Northwest Arts Advocate Award for 2009

Honey Olson, Ada \$500.00

Individual Artist Fellowship

	Award
Karen Engevik, Roseau	\$1,200.00
Nancy Vraa, Red Lake Falls	\$1,200.00
Nancy Kasprovicz, Roseau	\$1,200.00
Catherine Erickson, Middle River	\$4,000.00



Community Development

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Purpose: To assist communities in maintaining the services and infrastructure needed to support a robust economy and an attractive quality of life.

Funding Source: Local Tax Levy - \$22,421; and interest \$12,889; Misc. - \$860. Some projects also involve U.S. EDA Funding.

Service Priorities: Community planning and zoning, tourism development and promotions, recreational development, GIS Mapping.



Community and Economic Development Staff

(left to right): Cameron Fanfulik, Jennifer Olson,
Troy Schroeder and Leon Heath.

Community Development Highlights

Land of the Dancing Sky . . .

Continued updates and publication of the Northwest Minnesota Visitors Guide and the Visit Northwest Minnesota Web Site, and efforts to promote the positive aspects of our area. The Guide and Web site provide free listing for local attractions and events. 880 copies of the Guide were distributed to communities and visitors centers. The web site had 37,769 visits during 2009.

Virtual Brochure Rack . . .

Started a new section in the web site which will contain a "Virtual Brochure Rack" to provide increased exposure for local promotional materials.

Local Tourism Groups . . .

Continued working with local tourism promotion groups including Riverland, Waters of the Dancing Sky, and Highway 75 King of Trails to examine the need for a multi-group or regional advertising campaign and/or a series of local hospitality training sessions.

Newfolden Planning and Zoning . . .

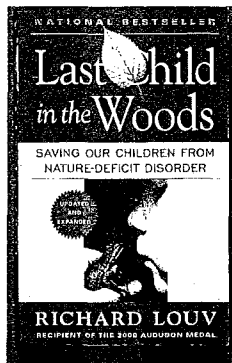
Completed final work on a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance intended to make the Community more attractive to potential residents and identify sites for new housing development.

Rocksbury Township Planning and Zoning . . .

Finished the last stage of a rewrite of zoning ordinances to address housing and commercial growth. The Plan now includes a cooperative long-term growth approach with the City of Thief River Falls.

Recreation Development . . .

Examined several options for improving and better organizing local efforts to provide more natural resource based recreation options. Initiated a project to complete a Trail Development Plan for the seven county region, and identified the expansion of this plan to include potential park development related to Legacy Amendment funding.



Last Child in the Woods . . .

Assisted in the completion of a funding application and planning sessions related to the second stage of a regional effort to develop programming which encourages youth to become involved in more outdoor activities. This effort was integrated with wider issues defined in Recreational Planning.

Rail Road Right-of-Ways . . .

Worked with local government, Mn/DOT, and local recreational clubs to keep rail abandonments in public ownership, and put into the best use for the public.

Community Development Continued

Flooding • • •

Participated in strategy development related to completing flood protection projects in Oslo, St. Vincent and Crookston; including the potential for impoundments to address rural/ag land flooding.

Roseau Warroad Trail • • •

RDC is assisting in keeping rail in state ownership from Roseau/Warroad. This section will be open to multi-use trail operating on the north side of the right of way providing a recreational trail between the two cities.

Shelly/Perley Trail • • •

Another rail abandonment that local clubs would like to purchase is the Shelly/Perley section. Both of these abandonments are operated by Minnesota Northern Railroad Inc.

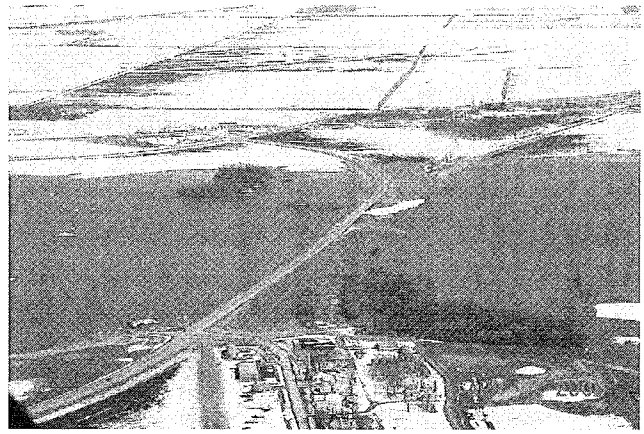
Housing Development • • •

Continued participation in the Regional Housing Advisory Group including the promotion of a re-focus from new housing construction to local use of Federal Stimulus funding for housing rehabilitation.

Township Road Maps • • •

Completed six additional Township mapping projects which provide GIS based maps and the ability for townships to record roads.

Deerwood Township Kittson County, MN



(Above): The new MNTH 171 bridge east of St. Vincent kept the highway from closure during the 2009 flood. This corridor is a critical connection to Pembina, ND and Interstate 29 both for commodity shipments, and residents that live in North Dakota and work in Minnesota. Without the MNTH 171 bridge that was completed in 2006 Kittson, Marshall, and Northern Polk County traffic flow was directed to Grand Forks, crossing on the USTH 2 bridge. The \$3.5 Million dollar investment in the MNTH 171 bridge is paying high dividends for the residents and shipping industries of NW Minnesota. The closest Red River bridge crossings remained closed for up to six weeks.

Minnesota/North Dakota Partnership • • •

Participated in a working group with Minnesota and North Dakota post-secondary schools and Workforce Centers to identify common issues and interests related to the workforce needs of local employers. The groups developed the framework for a funding application for specialized training and career education.

Marshall County Park • • •

Assisted the Marshall County Board in examining options for the use of land owned by the County for a public recreation. Ideas included an ATV/Off-Road vehicle park or trails, other trails such as horse or hiking, public hunting, wildlife viewing.

Minnesota Legacy Amendment • • •

Reviewed provisions of the Legacy Constitutional Amendment which provides funding for Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and Art and Culture. The review resulted in an allocation of staff resources to obtaining local funding for Parks and Trails and Art and Culture.

(Left): The RDC created a township map with the state legislatures requirements to use for recording township roads. Having the township roads recorded brings additional money to the county, and ultimately the township for maintenance purposes. Having the roads recorded also alleviates land owner disputes as to a public or private roadway. Deerwood Township is located east of Karlstad in Kittson County.

Economic Development

Purpose: Maintain and increase the population level and job base in the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota.

Program Funding Sources: United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) - \$62,817; RDC Tax Levy - \$65,358.

Service Priorities: Business Development, Labor Force Development, Renewable Energy, Promotion, Planning.

Economic Development Highlights

Business Assistance . . .

Provided approximately 1,700 hours of technical assistance to businesses and communities on a wide variety of issues including: business finance, project funding sources, marketing, development strategies, grant applications, local economic trends, and business incentives. Key projects for 2009 are described below which resulted in the creation of ninety one new jobs, \$2,720,750 in public investment, and \$3,274,250 in private investment.

Development Strategies . . .

Updated the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the seven county region including a review of statistical trends, a revision of development strategies, the identification of priority projects, and review of individual county development strategies. Key revision for 2010 is an emphasis on renewable energy development.

Federal Stimulus Act . . .

Surveyed local units of government and compiled a list of possible projects for Federal Stimulus funding. Provided the information to the Federal Economic Development Administration and other Federal representatives for use in the development of the legislation. Provided information to local units of government on funding opportunities from the Act. Several Communities in the Region are taking advantage of funding to complete infrastructure projects.

Kittson County EDA . . .

Assisted the County in a successful application for funding from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation for a project titled "Jobs 2010". Continued assistance with implementation of the project which focuses on local job creation and private sector investment.

Norman County and Flom . . .

Assisted Norman County and the community of Flom to identify funding sources, complete applications to address water quality issues in Flom, and to create a housing rehabilitation program in selected communities.

County Renewable Energy . . .

Worked with the AURI and Marshall County to develop an energy development audit template for counties which can be used to identify renewable energy project potential. Funding was secured to complete the audits for all seven counties, and present information and recommendations to local development groups.

Labor Force Development . . .

Worked with local communities, schools, workforce organizations, and businesses to create strategies to address local shortages of skilled and professional workers. Identified strategies will focus on increased career education and training at local high schools, and post secondary schools which focuses on local career opportunities.

Supervisory Training . . .

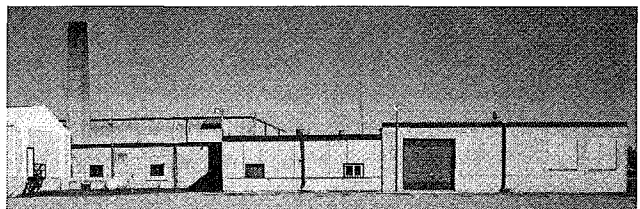
Worked with local post-secondary schools to develop a program to provide training for the next generation of first line supervisors. This was the number one training priority for local employers.

Local Career Education . . .

Helped develop the outline for a partnership between Northland Community and Technical College, and local high schools which would provide increased local career education about local career opportunities.

Kennedy Go-Green Business Incubator . . .

Worked with the City of Kennedy to plan the renovation of the recently vacated school into a business incubator, which would focus on renewable energy development including: wind, solar, and geo-thermal. The Incubator was funded as part of the EDA Stimulus Act program and has secured a local wind developer as a key tenant.



Economic Development Continued

Fosston Industrial Park . . .

NWRDC assisted the City of Fosston with a successful grant application to the federal EDA for \$886,000 for a 56 acre expansion of their industrial park. The funds will be matched by state and local dollars for a total project of \$1,772,000. The expansion will entail sewer, water, streets, curb and gutter, and other infrastructure needs; and prospective business tenants may provide more than 40 new jobs.

PoDCO . . .

Assisted the business, located in Lancaster, to plan and secure funding for an expansion which created six additional jobs and the base for future expansion. The business will also benefit for JOBZ tax incentives.

St. Hilaire Seed . . .

Assisted in the development of a financial package to assist with an expansion which created eight additional jobs.

Main Street Business . . .

Worked with a variety of main street businesses and the Small Business Development Center to maintain retail and commercial services. Projects included: Scholl's Family Grocery, Kerri B. And Co., and Carver Performance.

Scholl Family Grocery, Inc., Halstad, MN . . .

NWRDC partnered with Red River Bank and other private sources to provide loan funds for the purchase of a longtime community grocery store in downtown Halstad. The grocery will be owned and operated by Donna Scholl, maintain five jobs, and continue an essential service to the community.

Statewide Renewable Energy . . .

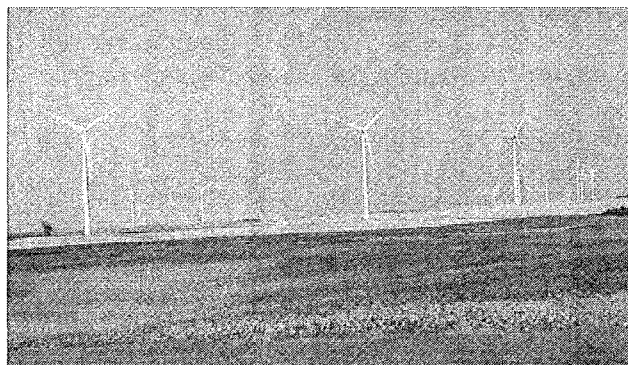
Completed agreement with the Southwest Initiative Fund, Headwaters RDC, and Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund for the Northwest Minnesota implementation of a statewide community based development project; which continues promoting wind energy and focuses more on bio-mass and other renewable energy sources.

Crookston Alternative Energy Committee . . .

The Committee was formed to examine and explore potential avenues for renewable/alternative energy projects in the Crookston area. Committee members include civic and community leaders, University and Extension personnel, The Nature Conservancy, Otter Tail Power Company, Northwest Minnesota Foundation and NWRDC. The group is studying a variety of possibilities including: windpower, solar, biomass, energy conservation methods and nanotechnology to promote sustainable energy use and potential business and job creation.

Wind Energy . . .

Worked with three major wind development projects identified in the region and two smaller community based projects. Two potential large scale projects are moving towards possible construction in 2010 or 2011.

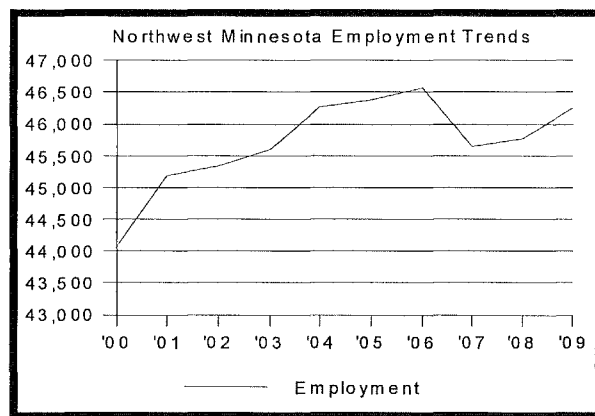


Regional Economic Alliance . . .

Participated in the Regional Economic Alliance process which focused on bringing regional leaders together to identify economic development priorities. The group identified High Speed Internet, Work Force and Skill Shortages, and Increased High School Graduation Rates.

Employment Growth . . .

Continued to examine underlying causes for on-going population loss including: identification of more focused strategies to address the loss, such as county specific approaches and increasing local private investment capital.



(Above): Employment in the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota increased during the last two years of the national and international recession.

Enterprise Loan Fund

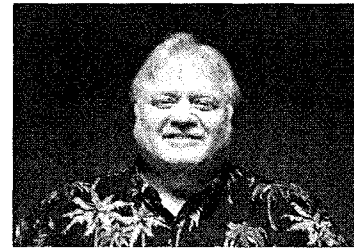
Purpose: To strengthen and diversify the economy by providing a source of low interest financing to businesses, when credit is not otherwise available from other sources, to ensure the successful completion of activities to be financed.

Program Funding Sources: Loan Interest and Loan Fees - \$55,957.

Loan Funding Sources: Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$222,600.

Service Priorities: Financing for-profit businesses which create or retain jobs, especially for the long term underemployed or unemployed.

Right: Cam Fanulik,
Loan Fund Manager/
Economic Dev.



2009 Loan Activity

2009 loan activity in northwest Minnesota was slowed somewhat, mostly due to the difficulties exhibited in the state and national economies. Several businesses with planned expansions or major equipment purchases put those projects on hold until the industry and economic climates improved. Loan fund activity was busy with requests for business assistance including: loan restructures, changes in payment terms, and loan workouts. As the economy began to show improvement in the last quarter of 2009, NWRDC experienced an increase in requests for applications and assistance.

The Enterprise Fund Loan Committee approved funding for new start-ups and business expansions in several sectors:

- Manufacturing
- Processing
- Grocery
- Construction
- Parts Assembly/Repair

Loans totaling \$455,600 were approved to:

H & S Construction, Inc. - Thief River Falls
Scholl Family Grocery, Inc. - Halstad
St. Hilaire Seed Co. - St. Hilaire
Carver Performance, Inc. - St. Hilaire

Loan activity assisted in the creation of 20 full-time equivalent jobs. The base level of full-time equivalent jobs at the above businesses that were retained and/or expanded upon was 49.

Historical Loan Activity (period ending 12/31/09)

The following is a brief summary of total Loan Fund Activity:

Total Loans Made:	164
Active Loans:	44
Total Amount of Loans:	\$10,862,922
Other Financing Leveraged:	\$53,564,845
Jobs Created/Retained	1,427

Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 12/31/09)

<u>County</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kittson	18	\$1,024,621
Marshall	34	\$2,153,705
Norman	16	\$733,533
Pennington	12	\$1,009,850
Polk	49	\$3,513,225
Red Lake	10	\$583,115
Roseau	25	\$1,844,876



Emergency Operations

Emergency Operations Planning Highlights

Purpose: To aid HSEM Region 3 in the preparation, planning & implementation of activities related to regional mitigation, response & recovery.

Program Funding Sources: MN Dept. of Public Safety - \$68,103; Regrant - \$232,116.

Service Priorities: Utilize a specifically geared, annually evolving work program to support existing Emergency Management capabilities throughout Northwest Minnesota, as approved by Regional Emergency Management, Regional Program Coordinator & HSEM staff.

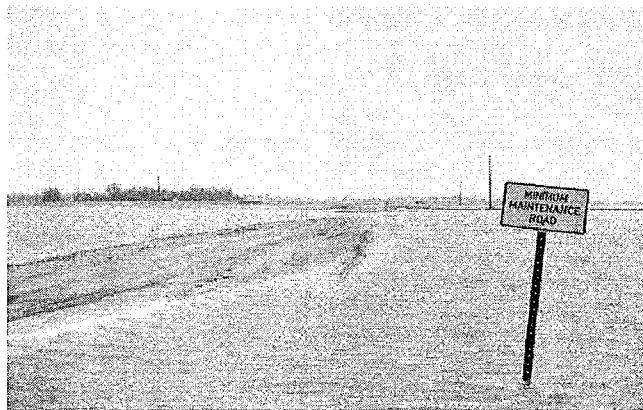


Above: Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations Planner

The Northwest Regional Development Commission has continued in partnership with HSEM Region 3 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management) in Northwest Minnesota; performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management & mitigation strategies, projects & capabilities. HSEM Region 3 is composed of the following counties: Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Becker, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake & Roseau.

Specific work duties related to this program are focused on an annual basis, based in part off of annual investment strategies put forward by Northwest Minnesota Emergency Management, Region 3 Regional Program Coordinator, Minnesota Homeland Security & Emergency Management and the United States Federal Government. Duties performed in 2009 include the following:

- Fiscal agent responsibilities for received grants
- Quarterly progress reports
- Yearly grant writing based on specific outlined investment objectives
- Planner position responsibilities for duties assigned by the Region 3 Joint Powers Board
- Composition of a study detailing critical infrastructure in the region
- Attendance at regional quarterly meetings & conference calls
- Attendance at the AMEM (Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers) Conference
- Attendance at the Governor's Conference



2009 Priorities:

- Enhancement of regional, interoperable communications system capacities within multiple response disciplines through planning & equipment purchases for Marshall, Hubbard & Red Lake Counties.
- Identification of critical infrastructure within Region 3
- Support of existing, regional Special Response/SWAT teams through equipment purchases in order to sustain & enhance CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive) capabilities.
- Planning & support for multi-county projects
- Grant applications for hazard mitigation plan 5-year update funding for Clay, Norman & Marshall Counties. Future county applications will occur in 2010.
- Support for County Emergency Management, Regional Program Coordinator & HSEM staff

Special Projects

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Funding Sources: Local Communities - \$2,784.31; Blandin Foundation - \$24,785; Tax Levy - \$663.

Staff: Leon Heath and Jennifer Olson

The Communities of Grygla, Middle River, Newfolden, Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Thief River Falls, and Warren continued to work on housing and work force development issues, with an emphasis on local work force issues. Highlights for the year included the start of new programs for local career education, private sector supervisory training, and a Minnesota/North Dakota Labor Force Development Partnership.

WILKIN COUNTY ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Funding Sources: Wilkin County - \$6,653; Tax Levy - \$224.

Staff: Jennifer Olson

Wilkin County Emergency Management, the NW Regional Development Commission and participants have composed a draft hazard mitigation plan for Wilkin County, which is currently awaiting approval status.

UMC BROADBAND STUDY

Funding Sources: UMC - \$2,250; Tax Levy - \$233.

Staff: Jennifer Olson and Cam Fanfulik

Participated in a statewide study conducted by the University of Minnesota Crookston, Economic Development Agency University Center to determine rural highspeed internet service needs.

NWMIF TRAILS

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$11,262; Tax Levy - \$6,757.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

The RDC received funding from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the MN DNR to conduct a trail planning document that incorporates all the different modes of recreational travel from boating to motorized snowmobile and ATV. Workshops were held for all the counties in the region to discuss goals and strategies for the development of a trails plan that connect communities.

AURI RENEWABLE ENERGY TEMPLATE

Funding Sources: University of MN - \$14,700; Tax Levy - \$990.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC, Agricultural Utilization & Research Institute (AURI) and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) partnered to provide beta-testing and data-gathering for a renewable energy template. The template provides a "how to" manual for inventorying county-wide biomass resources and determining local and/or regional markets for renewable energy. The information can also be used to identify potential renewable energy opportunities. The project in Marshall County and northwest Minnesota served as the model for statewide template research.

RURAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI)

Funding Sources: SW Initiative Foundation - \$14,801; Tax Levy - \$620.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC served as the regional contact and staffing partner for REDI, a statewide wind energy project administered by the SW Initiative Foundation, and sponsored by the State of Minnesota and Center for Rural Policy and Development. The goal of REDI is to maximize rural economic development and stabilize rural economies by building renewable energy capacity, expertise, and leadership. Outreach and education, organizing and technical assistance, and low-interest loans for feasibility analysis were provided to rural entities with the goal of developing projects that would sell energy commercially, and raise awareness of local economic, community and environmental benefits of renewable energy.

REGION TRANSIT CONTRACT

Funding Sources: State - \$2,100; Tax Levy - \$250.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

The RDC Transportation Department was contracted by the Region 9 Development Commission to gather information from the county human service departments and transit providers on the type of transit services provided in each community and county. The data will be used to create a uniform data collection for all the transit providers.

Transportation

Purpose: To insure safe efficient movement of people and commodities in the region. Provide an ongoing forum for important transportation issues in the region. Assist Mn/DOT and provide input with it's planning efforts and programs.

Funding Sources: MN Department of Transportation \$48,925; RDC Tax Levy - \$11,674.

Service Priorities: Direction setting, comprehensive regional planning, legislative advocacy, MN/DOT project coordination.



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

Transportation Highlights

Western MN Freight Plan

The NWRDC Transportation Department participated in three Mn/DOT Freight Plans this past calendar year. Staff served on the Statewide Freight and Passenger Rail Plan, the Northern MN and NW Wisconsin Freight Plan, and the Western MN Freight Plan.

The Western Minnesota Freight Plan is a multi-modal transportation planning effort that includes highway (commercial vehicle operations), rail, air cargo, and intermodal transportation. The study is sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). The plan identified key freight movement concerns that affect the movement of goods throughout NW Minnesota. Local workgroups and meetings with several industries in the region identified the Lancaster border crossing, bypasses of Thief River Falls and Red Lake Falls, the intersection of Polk County 21 and USTH 75, a connection to the Dilworth intermodal rail hub via MNTH 32, and a Western MN Shipping Corridor as major concerns for RDC Region One. The complete freight plan is available at this site: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/planning/freightplan/>.

This freight planning effort builds upon prior planning activities by Mn/DOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations (OFCVO) with assistance from Mn/DOT Districts 2, 4 and 8, Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Planning Organization, Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Metropolitan Council of Governments, Northwest RDC, Headwaters RDC, West Central Initiative, Mid-Minnesota Development Commission, and the Southwest RDC. The purpose of the study is to provide a better understanding of the demands from freight being placed on the regional transportation infrastructure and provide a framework that addresses the following goals:

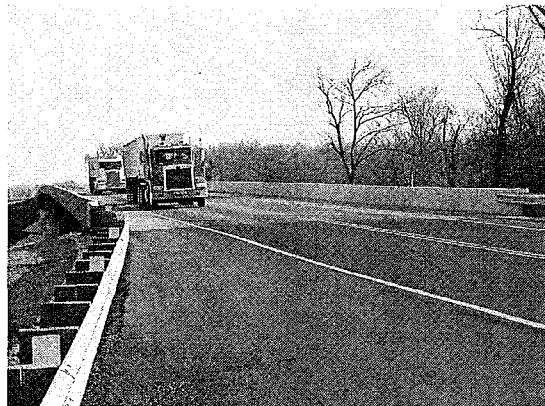
- Examine regional and local issues not captured in previous freight transportation study/planning attempts, including freight issues specific to the region. The primary focus will include, but is not limited to; agriculture, energy, bulk commodities, minerals, timber, manufacturing, global gateways including intermodal and oversize/overweight cargo movements (e.g., super routes), interregional truck routes and last mile connections.

- Document the existing freight transportation system in Northern Minnesota & Wisconsin, and Western Minnesota including: facilities; service levels and current and projected commodity flows. Identify significant existing and projected needs, bottlenecks, infrastructure and regulatory issues, and other constraints in the region's freight transportation and their implications;

- Identify industry and region-specific issues and trends as they relate to freight transportation and their solutions;

- Plan for improvements to freight movements specific to the regions through a combination of operating and program efficiencies, infrastructure upgrades and investments, public/private initiatives and innovative funding, regulatory initiatives, and communications; and

- Strengthen freight considerations in public project planning and investment decision making.

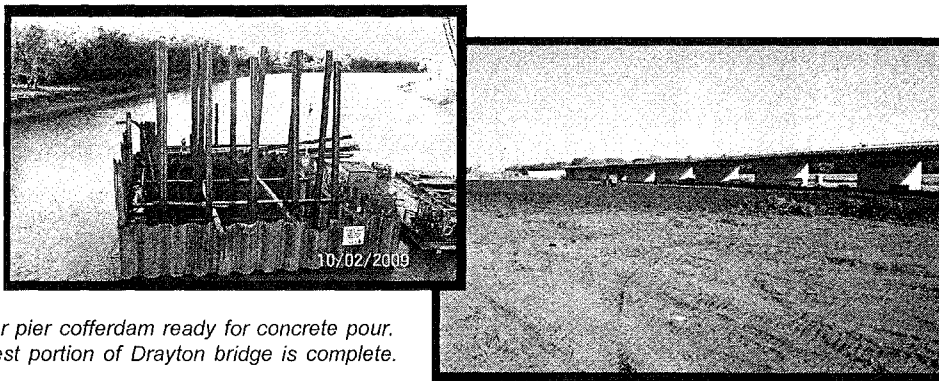


Transportation Continued

Region Will Have Two New Red River Bridges Open Next Fall

The Thompson Bridge located on Polk County road 9 is located 100 feet north of the existing bridge. The bridge will have a new 55 MPH road alignment and 40 foot inside width design to aid in the safety of the bridge. The 1,209 foot long bridge is being constructed three feet higher than the 1997 flood height. The Thompson bridge project is being constructed by Schroeder Contracting from Glenwood, MN at a cost of \$7.4 million, and should be open for travel before the start of the sugar beet campaign in October. There is a construction camera you can view pictures from at <http://oxblue.com/pro/open/polkandgrandforks/thompsonbridge>.

The Drayton/Robin Bridge is also scheduled for completion in the fall of 2010. The Drayton bridge will be the longest bridge on the Red River System with a total length of 4,100 feet. The bridge is expected to open for public travel around November 5th, 2010. As of early winter, work completed to date includes: approximately 1,000 feet of deck has been placed, approximately 3,000 feet of beams placed, and 30 of 36 piers in place. The center river pier has been completed, the river pier on the ND side is under construction. It is the contractor's intent to place the river pier cofferdam on the MN side prior to spring flooding. Total cost of the project is \$27.6 million.



(Above): Center pier cofferdam ready for concrete pour.
(Right): West portion of Drayton bridge is complete.

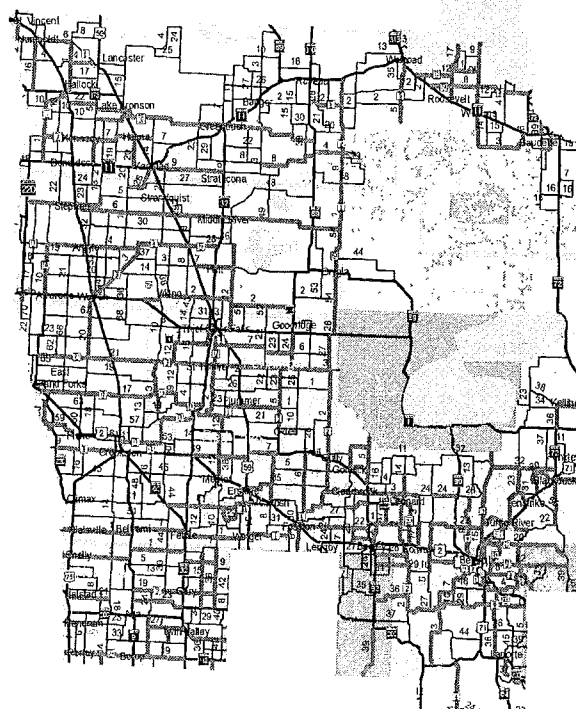
Road Painting

The RDC created a Mn/DOT District 2 centerline/edge map of county state aid highways for Mn/DOT's Toward Zero Death initiative, and the FHWA's focus on safety projects. The FHWA is requiring a certain portion of the federal funds to be used on projects that will improve the safety of the roadway. Mn/DOT district 2 will receive funding to paint approximately 1,800 miles of roadway.

Mn/DOT allocates a portion of funds to each ATP for safety projects.

Mn/DOT's traffic safety office also has some federal funding available through the Department of Public Safety to assist in these safety projects. The incorporation of these funds provided a significant amount of funding for the edgeline striping project. It is believed that the six inch wide edgeline will reduce the number of run off the road accidents. The funding came from the FHWA's Highway Safety Program and the County Highway Safety Plan through the Department of Public Safety.

Mn/DOT District Two 2010 High Build Latex Paint S.P. 088-070-003



Right: MNDOT district 2 received additional safety money to paint county road edge lines.

Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

Plans

2009 Area Plan on Aging - The Area Plan on Aging examines senior input and demographic data to establish priorities for the use of Title III Older Americans Act funds. Includes information on the unique characteristics of our region, demographics, accomplishments, program outcomes and budget information.

CY 2009 NWRDC Work Program - Details the goals and objectives of each of the program areas of the Commission including changes made to address emerging needs in the region, changes in funding levels, and changes in program priorities.

2009 CEDS - The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the seven county region includes a review of statistical trends, a revision of development strategies, the identification of priority projects, and review of individual county development strategies. Key revisions for 2009 included an increased concern about population loss and an emphasis on renewable energy development.

FY 2010-11 Regional Arts Plans - Goals, strategies and work activities for State Arts Funds and McKnight Arts Funds are included in these plans.

Revolving Loan Fund Plan - Describes the program elements and guidelines for the loan fund.

Northern and Western MN Freight Plans - The RDC is participating in freight plans for Northern & Western MN. The purpose of these multi-modal freight plans is to build on prior planning activities by providing a better understanding of the demands of freight on the regional transportation infrastructure and to identify policies, programs, and projects that can accommodate those demands.

Newfolden Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance - The comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances are intended to make the Community more attractive to potential residents, and identify sites for new housing development.

Rocksbury Township Plan and Zoning Ordinance - The township finalized their comprehensive plan and completed work on a revised zoning ordinance. The new ordinance focuses on planning for Thief River Falls growth needs, supporting rural lifestyles, encouraging higher density housing in existing areas with similar characteristics, and reducing the need for zoning permits when there is no change in usage. NWRDC provided staff assistance for writing the plan and ordinance.

Wilkin County All Hazard Mitigation Plan - The Wilkin County All Hazard Mitigation Plan has been substantially completed and is awaiting approval status.

Publications

Directory of Artists and Arts Organizations - The directory contains listings of regional artists, arts organizations, school district offices and public libraries. Published online at www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm.

Artists of Northwest Minnesota - Booklet to market 34 artists in the region. 3,000 printed in 2008.



Directory of Government Units of Service Agencies -

The directory contains listings of service agencies and governmental offices from the township level through the legislative level.

CY 2009 Annual Report - Information on the funding and work activities of the Commission over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

Northwest Arts - Newsletter developed for the artists, arts organizations and schools in northwest Minnesota.

Senior News - Newsletter developed for the Senior Citizens and service providers of Region One, Two and Four.

www.dancingskyaaa.org - Program information for the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging.

www.nwrdc.org - Published updates of program information changes to our agency website.

www.visitnwmnnesota.com - Web site devoted to the services, resources and recreational opportunities of our seven counties. Includes an on-line version of the Northwest Minnesota Visitor & Recreation Guide. Shopping, Land of the Dancing Sky Info.

Northwest Minnesota Visitor and Recreation Guide - A comprehensive listing of attractions and facilities which offer opportunities and services to local and outside visitors to area communities.

www.housingnwmnnesota.org - Housing related information that is documented for the following communities: Grygla, Middle River, Newfolden, Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Thief River Falls and Warren.

Committee Membership List

Region 1 Aging Advisory Committee

Terence Blacklance	Thief River Falls
Bob Carlson	Thief River Falls
Allen Ducharme	Red Lake Falls
* Matthew Edman	Alvarado
Jamie Hennen	Ada
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Keith Mykleseth	Crookston
Warren Olson	Halstad
Julie Pahlen	Roseau
Orris Rasmussen	Roseau
LeRoy Vonasek	Warren
Ronald Weiss	Red Lake Falls
Betty Younggren	Hallock

Region 2 Aging Advisory Committee

Karen Ahmann	Mahnomen
Elveda Bliss	Park Rapids
Ann Daley	Bemidji
* Dick Devine	Park Rapids
Raymer Hoyum	Kelliher
W. Patrick Johnson	Clearbrook
Kathy Judkins	Bemidji
Ken Moorman	Baudette
John Nelson	Clearbrook
John Oren	Baudette
Joe Vene	Bemidji
Nancy Wendler	Baudette

Regional Arts Council

Kiki Anderson	Thief River Falls
Barbara Geer	Middle River
Carol Gregerson	Badger
Alice Hofstad	Plummer
Patricia Jacklitch	East Grand Forks
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
Dale Knotek	Crookston
Ken Kylmanen	Twin Valley
Gen Knott	Red Lake Falls
Bill Montague	Crookston
Aliza Olson	Roseau
Betty Pikop	Stephen
Kay Rosengren	Hallock
* Cindy Tsukichi	Thief River Falls

Transportation Advisory Committee

Milton Alm	Norman County
John Anderson	Kittson County
Lon Aune	Marshall County
Kelly Bengtson	Kittson County
Sharon Bring	Marshall County
Mike Flaagan	Pennington County
Marvin Gunderson	Norman County
* Donald Jensen	Pennington County
Alan Johnston	Roseau County
Brian Ketring	Roseau County
Courtney Kleven	Red Lake County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Brent Strand	Red Lake County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

Bridge Subcommittee

Milton Alm	Norman County
Kelly Bengtson	Kittson County
Sharon Bring	Marshall County
Curtis Carlson	Marshall County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

Enterprise Fund

Loan Fund Committee

* Randall Aarestad	Halstad
Reed Engelstad	Red Lake Falls
James Herdliska	Erskine
Shannon Mortenson	Kennedy
Todd Peterson	Roseau
Doug Safar	Warren
James Snyder	Thief River Falls

Job & Career Committee

Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Al Leiran	Ada
* Duane Lyberg	Hallock
Bill Montague	Crookston
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Velma Oakland	Red Lake Falls
Jim Richter	East Grand Forks

Promotions Committee

Delores Adkins	Ada
Pam Heeten	Roseau
Keith Mykleseth	Crookston
Jim Thomasson	Mentor
Ethel Thorlacious	Stephen

*Chair

2009 Highlights

Arts

Legacy Amendment - In November 2008, Minnesotans overwhelmingly passed the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution. The amendment will provide dedicated funding for arts and cultural heritage in our state for 25 years. This fiscal year, the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council will have approximately \$250,000 from this new fund to invest as widely as possible so that our region will have more opportunities to participate in and benefit from the arts. New funding will be invested in three broad categories of Arts and Arts Access, Arts Learning, and Art and Cultural Heritage. This is long awaited funding, and the Arts Council is excited for the new grant programs and services that will start in 2010.

Emergency Management

Critical Infrastructure Study - A web-based study detailing critical infrastructure identification is nearing completion for a 14-county region in Northwest Minnesota. Supported by Minnesota Homeland Security & Emergency Management, this study is part of a phased, multi-year approach towards the protection of key critical infrastructure facilities within the state of Minnesota in the event of a hazardous scenario.

Aging

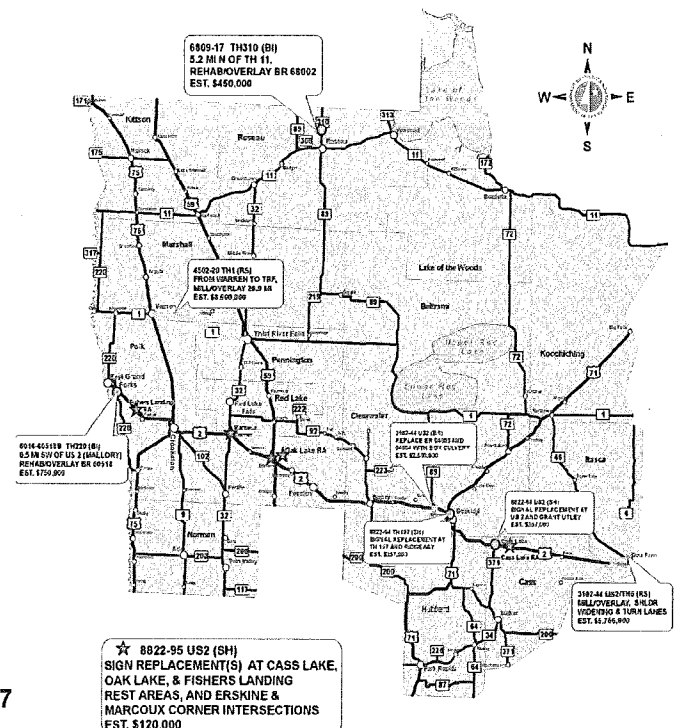
New Staff - In 2009 the legislature passed an initiative that will facilitate community discharge from nursing homes when a resident indicates a preference and/or has support to return to the community. This initiative achieves federal and state



rebalancing objectives by providing intervention through a formal transition program targeted to nursing home residents who have expressed a desire to return to the community, and have a supportive person who can assist them living in the community. The intervention would involve assessment, care planning, service coordination, placement, and ongoing monitoring of care in the community. Nancy Sandahl is our new Community Living Specialist staff person performing this work for our agency.

Transportation

Region Completes 2009 Stimulus Projects and Plans for an Additional 18-million for the 2010 Construction Season - Congress is working on another stimulus package for the new construction season. Last years stimulus package provided \$18 million in additional construction money for Mn/DOT District 2. The counties in the region are putting together projects that are ready for construction in 2010. The map illustrates the funded projects from the 2009 funding. Marshall County replaced two bridges with stimulus funding. The Spalding Road bridge west of Warren was replaced along with a bridge on county road 7 in the Agassiz Refuge. Mn/DOT resurfaced TH 1 between Warren and Thief River Falls, the Mallory Bridge on 220 and the 310 bridge in Roseau County. Kittson County replaced the bridge on county road one north of Hallock.



Right: The Mn/DOT District two map highlights the 2009 stimulus fund projects on the state highway system.

Northwest Regional Development Commission
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