

# SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

*Providing professional expertise and leadership to enhance regional opportunities*

## FY 2010 Annual Report



September 1, 2010

### SRDC Completes New CEDS

As an Economic Development District designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, (EDA) the SRDC is required to prepare a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEDS.

Beginning in early 2009 the SRDC began meeting with its CEDS Strategy Committee to review the current economic conditions of the region and develop future strategies. The CEDS Strategy Committee is made up of representatives of the private and public sectors representing a wide variety of economic interests within the region ranging from renewable energy to tourism and entrepreneurship.

The areas identified by the Committee as areas of concern for the region were:

Affordable Housing; Reliable Transportation Systems; Community Preparedness for Minority Influx; Daycare Shortages; Negative Regional Perspective/Perception; Infrastructure; Knowledge of Opportunities and; Lack of Knowledge of Training that Businesses can take Advantage of.

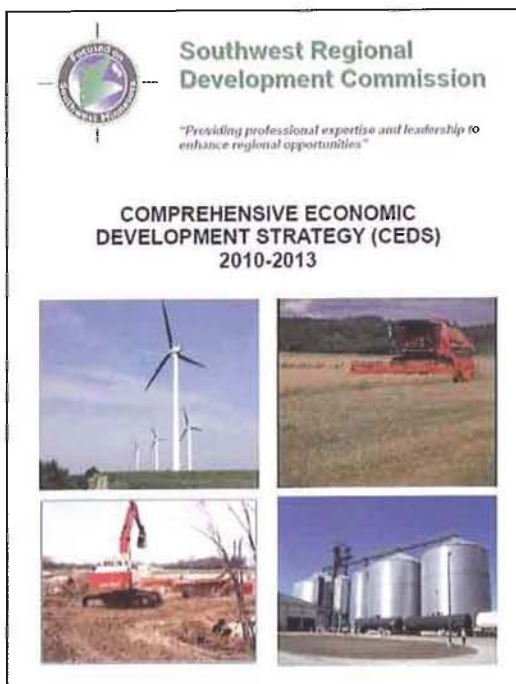
The Committee also identified areas for opportunities within the region: Arts and Culture; ARRA Funding; Housing; Quality of Life; Educational System; Work Ethic and; Minority Culture.

The SRDC will continue to work with its regional partners throughout the coming years to address the needs and areas of opportunities identified in the CEDS. Such partners as the SW Economic Development Professionals, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and others, bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the area and will be vital to the success of the CEDS.

For more information on the CEDS, contact Jay Trusty or Nan Larson. The full CEDS is available at [www.swrdc.org](http://www.swrdc.org).

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*"Communities without broadband infrastructure are at a fundamental disadvantage for economic development."*

### SRDC Partners on Rural Broadband Initiative

John Shepard, AICP

Just five years ago, most Americans accessed the internet on dial-up modems. Today, about 2/3 of the nation uses broadband service—high speed internet that lets you download and upload photos and video and use specialized applications as well as surfing the web.

As rural electric and telephone cooperatives lit up the countryside in the last century, new broadband infrastructure efforts are lighting up the future of rural America. Broadband infrastructure is being used to level the playing field in applications like Telemedicine, online education, eCommerce, Social Media and "Lone Eagles"—professionals who can conduct business from anywhere and choose to live in Rural America.

Communities without

broadband infrastructure are at a fundamental disadvantage for economic development. It's not just in town, but also a real need on the farm. The 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture found that about 2/3 of farms in the region were accessing the internet, a figure higher than the state-wide average for farms.

Southwest Regional Development Commission is participating in the Blandin Foundation's Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) coalition, a project that brings a network of resources to rural Minnesota. Blandin's Broadband Initiative provides financial and technical support to rural communities across the state. University of Minnesota Extension is also reaching out to rural businesses to help them use the internet to create new jobs.

For agricultural producers, this project may not directly affect broadband access at your farm. However, it is intended to benefit the region in two direct ways.

First, providing opportunities to create new jobs may help your kids, or even yourselves, stay in Rural Minnesota. More and more farm families have to have off-farm employment to survive, not to mention providing options for spouses.

Second, creating additional demand for broadband will help providers offer the latest and greatest telecommunications services that you do directly need—from video cattle auctions to simple social media.

When we help each other out in rural Minnesota, everybody wins.

### Call Center CY 2009 Statistics

Gail Radke



**1-800-333-2433**

[www.MinnesotaHelp.info](http://www.MinnesotaHelp.info)

The Slayton office of the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. provides services to seniors and their caregivers via the Senior LinkAge Line®. The statistics for CY 2009 were:  
Contacts In 11,559  
Contacts Out 18,134  
Unduplicated Clients 7,234

In-Person Assistance provided

to 299 individuals.

RxConnect™ Packets- 2668 packets were sent out

General Characteristics: Most seniors/beneficiaries calling are living in their own home and are married or living with a partner. Most caregivers are adult children, are not living with their care receiver and

have a power of attorney. Their care receivers are not identified as having memory loss.

For more information contact Aging Program Staff; Robin Weis, Gail Radke, Linda Tobias, Julie Stewart, Nicole Brandt and Katie Gillette.



## Wind Development & Roads Planning

Annette Bair

In 2008 The SRDC and SW CERT sponsored and facilitated a workshop in Windom – Wind Development, Roads, Bridges and Land Use. The workshop was focused on broadening the awareness of wind development sharing experiences county staff experience with wind farm development – both the good and not so good. As a result of the workshop, the county engineers identified the desire to work toward a uniform approach to development and a subcommittee of County Engineers in Southern Minnesota, MnDOT District permitting staff and SRDC Staff gathered to research and identify best practices. The

project was larger than first anticipated and a problem statement was submitted to the Local Road and Research Board (LRRB) to develop a guidance matrix, and tools such as a method to calculate the road life consumed on paved roads by large traffic generators, sample permits, and development agreements.

Some of the issues that were occurring included: Application of road and access permits days before equipment came to deliver. Problems arose regarding spacing of driveways to turbines, drainage, road widening, dust, bridges capable of handling the equipment, traffic control, signage, no one individual in

charge of the development project if there were problems, documentation of the condition of the roads before construction to address repair needs post construction, and others.

While we await the finalization of the matrix and tools – soon to be posted on the web, we have seen more wind developers come to county staff earlier in the development process, which increases communication and planning for the project. We see this as a win-win project, the county staff will know what to expect when a development comes to their county and the developers will be able to plan for transportation needs.



*"the county engineers identified the desire to work toward a uniform approach to development"*

## Worthington EDA Grant Awarded

Nan Larson

Economic Development Staff Nan Larson worked with the City of Worthington and Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation to prepare a U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) application over the past year. The application was for partial funding for the development of a bioscience testing and training center with a business incubator. Resources for the businesses will also be co-located at the facility, or have a visiting presence. Area businesses will be able to utilize the testing and training

facility for workforce development as well as testing of their products. The hope is that businesses incubated in the facility will graduate to having a full-fledged business in the adjacent bioscience business park.

In June 2010, EDA announced the approval of the grant for approximately \$770,000. The total project cost is estimated at over \$3,000,000. The State of Minnesota also contributed to the project.

Please contact Nan Larson for further information.



## FY 2010 Annual Report

### SRDC Staff Honored



SRDC staff were acknowledged for their contributions to the Commission at the Commissions Annual Meeting held Thursday, July 8, 2010 at the Worthington Campus of Minnesota West Community and Technical College. Pictured are Development Planner John Shepard and Information and Assistance Specialist Julie Stewart receiving certificates from SRDC Chair Gary Sorenson for five years of dedicated service to the Commission.



Below, Deputy Director Nan Larson receives from Chair Gary Sorenson and Executive Director Jay Trusty one of three awards for the SRDC Project of the Year. This year's Project of the Year was awarded to the Worthington Bio-science Testing/Training Center and Incubator Project. Co-winners of the award were the City of Worthington and the Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation.



Pictured above from left, Call Center staff Nicole Brandt, Katie Gillette, Julie Stewart and Linda Tobias were presented with Certificates for completion of the Boston University Aging Certificate Program. Program participants complete coursework in; A Guide to the Aging Network, Geriatric Assessment, Mental Health and Aging Issues, Substance Abuse among Older Adults, Legal Issues in Aging, A Team Approach: Working Across Disciplines, Medications and Aging, and Nutrition and Older Adults. The coursework is completed online and is a requirement for staff that work with the elderly via MinnesotaHelp.info



	<b>FY10 Final Budget</b>	<b>Year End Projections</b>
Taxes	281,000.00	292,227
Contract for Services	191,297.00	182,725
MN/DOT	50,000.00	50,000
Transit Office	10,934.00	10,505
Economic Development Adm	64,817.00	64,817
MNRAAA-Federal-Adm/Pdc	56,749.00	66,950
MNRAAA-Match	0.00	3,784
MNRAAA-Federal-I&A	153,456.00	177,713
MNRAAA-State-I&A	156,095.00	128,837
Eldercare Dev. Partnership	38,024.00	38,024
CERTS Funds	83,336.00	66,446
Dept.Public Safety-Hazard	65,106.00	48,432
Interest & Miscellaneous	13,490.00	17,649
Reserves-Equipment/Building	26,025.00	31,742
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,190,329.00</b>	<b>1,179,851</b>
Committee Expenses	41,600.00	35,901
Salaries & Fringe	885,721.00	895,301
Travel	60,505.00	49,755
Office Space Costs/Bldg Updates	47,145.00	48,064
Postage	11,460.00	8,972
Communications	8,960.00	5,547
Printing/Publication	14,530.00	3,803
Supplies	15,700.00	12,597
Insurance	3,600.00	3,586
Depreciation-Equipment	16,805.00	17,069
Computer Expenses	10,230.00	9,246
Professional Services	57,866.00	40,557
Program Match	8,146.00	22,338
Other	8,854.00	8,523
CERTS seed grants	20,000.00	15,150
Equipment	23,000.00	27,595
Debt Service-Prin&Int	11,800.00	11,800
Building Lease Payment	10,167.00	10,167
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1,256,089.00</b>	<b>1,225,971</b>
<b>Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>(65,760.00)</b>	<b>(46,120)</b>

**Southwest Regional  
Development  
Commission  
FY 2011 Budget**  
July 1, 2010—June 30, 2011

Revenues	FY2011 BUDGET
Tax Levy	290000
MNRAAA-Adm/Pdc/CDSMP Funds	77120
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-Federal	163662
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-State	240150
MNRAAA-Eldercare Development Partnership-EDP	34476
Economic Development Administration	64628
MN Department of Transportation	50000
MN Department of Transportation-Transit Office	2316
Dept. Public Safety-Hazard Mitigation	18636
CERTS Funds-U of MN-Xcel RDF	83336
ARRA-Blandin-MIRC Broadband	12500
Current Contracts	205580
MNRAAA Consortium Match	10877
Interest Earned & Miscellaneous	10100
Reserves used for Equipment/Building Purchases	36780
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1300161</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Committee Expense	40200
Salaries & Fringe	985231
Staff Travel	60970
Office Space	44182
Postage	11100
Communications	8160
Print/Publication	6060
Supplies-Mtg/Wkshp Expenses	14700
Insurance	3624
Depreciation (Non-building)	20846
Audits	5400
Computer	11332
Equipment	36780
Other	8975
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	46476
MNRAAA, Inc. match	36529
Certs seed grants	20000
Debt Service-Principal & Interest	11800
Office Building Principal Payment	10737
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>1383102</b>
<b>Overall Balance</b>	<b>-82941</b>
<b>Anticipated Reserve Changes by Category</b>	
Incr/(Decr) in Equipment Reserve	-15934
Incr/(Decr) in Building Reserve	12600
Incr/(Decr) in Human Service Project Dedicated Funds	-90
Incr/(Decr) in Commission Enhancement Dedicated Funds	-140
<b>Incr/(Decr) in Unrestricted Reserve</b>	<b>-79377</b>
Reserve for FY10/FY11 bond payments 6/30 estimates	210765
Tax Revenue (Bond) - 1 year	232080
Allowance for delinquencies (2.5%)(4%)	-9283
Bond Payment -August, 2009/August, 2010	-7990
Bond Payment-February, 2010/February, 2011	-212990
Reserve for Future Bond Payments 6/30/10	212582



# FY 2010 Annual Report

## FY2010 PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 2010 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 22 projects from within the Region to avoid duplication and insure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a complete listing of the project reviews for FY10, please contact the SRDC office.

## Audited Governmental Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2009

### Revenues

Program Revenues	
Charges for Services & Other	263,757
Operating Grants	667,794
General Revenues	
Property Taxes—General	283,297
Property Taxes—Debt Service	233,966
Interest Revenues	106,105
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,554,919</b>

### Expenses

Government Activities	1,327,293
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,327,293</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>227,626</b>
<b>Beginning Net Assets</b>	<b>1,778,222</b>
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b>2,005,848</b>

The FY 2009 Audit was conducted by Richard W. Holmberg, LTD, Certified Public Accountant, Marshall, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Southwest Regional Development Commission.

## FISCAL YEAR 2010 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERS

Rocky Kolar*	Cottonwood County Municipalities
Darrell Holmberg	Cottonwood County Town Boards
Gary Sorenson**	Cottonwood Co Commissioners
Darrel Hage*	Jackson County Municipalities
Richard Peterson	Jackson County Town Boards
Dave Henkels	Jackson County Commissioners
Darrel Denny	Lincoln County Municipalities
Eloise Hauschild	Lincoln County Town Boards
Larry Hansen**	Lincoln County Commissioners
Cynde Livingston	Lyon County Municipalities
Lori Grant	Lyon County Town Boards
Bob Fenske*	Lyon Co Commissioners
Miron Carney	Murray County Municipalities
Charles V. Swan	Murray County Town Boards
Bill Sauer*	Murray County Commissioners
Vacant	Nobles County Municipalities
Paul Langseth	Nobles County Town Boards
David Benson**	Nobles County Commissioners
Les Nath	Pipestone County Municipalities
Wally Bucher	Pipestone County Town Boards
Marv Tinklenberg*	Pipestone County Commissioners
Vacant	Redwood County Municipalities
Werner Fischer*	Redwood County Town Boards
Gary Dahms	Redwood Co Commissioners
Fabian Deutsch	Rock County Municipalities
Steve Top	Rock County Town Boards
Robert Jarchow*	Rock County Commissioners
Bob Byrnes**	City of Marshall
Lyle TenHaken**	City of Worthington
Dan Zimansky*	Region Eight School Boards
Vacant	Region Eight School Boards
Adolfo Avila	Region Eight Cultural Diversity
Linda Halbur	SW Center for Independent Living
Sandy Demuth	SW MN Private Industry Council
Richard Shrubbs	Southwest MN Higher Education
Craig Myers	Health & Human Services

\*\* Indicates Current & FY2010 Executive Comm. Members

\*Indicates Current SRDC Board Members

Thank You to the following SRDC Commissioners whose terms expired in FY2010: Mary Meneely, Chad Cummings, Marlo Sander, Dan Snobl and Harry L. Hansen.



# Southwest Regional Development Commission

2401 Broadway Avenue  
Slayton, MN 56172

Phone: 507-836-8547  
Fax: 507-836-8866  
E-mail: [srdc@swrdc.org](mailto:srdc@swrdc.org)



Rear two rows from left;  
Helen Brinks, Linda Tobias,  
Gail Radke, Katie  
Gillette, Rhonda Wynia,  
Nan Larson, Doreen  
Veenhuis, Jay Trusty, Julie  
Stewart. Front row from  
left; Robin Weis, Annette  
Bair, Nicole Brandt, Dianne  
Crowley. Not Pictured;  
John Shepard, Kathy  
Schreiber.



## CURRENT SRDC STAFF MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Jay Trusty -----	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:execdir@swrdc.org">execdir@swrdc.org</a>	836-1636
Nan Larson -----	Deputy Director	<a href="mailto:nanlarson@swrdc.org">nanlarson@swrdc.org</a>	836-1638
Annette Bair -----	Physical Development Director	<a href="mailto:phydev@swrdc.org">phydev@swrdc.org</a>	836-1631
Dianne Crowley -----	Finance Director	<a href="mailto:dcrowley@swrdc.org">dcrowley@swrdc.org</a>	836-1634
John Shepard, AICP -----	Development Planner	<a href="mailto:jshepard@swrdc.org">jshepard@swrdc.org</a>	836-1633
Rhonda Wynia -----	Administrative Specialist	<a href="mailto:rwynia@swrdc.org">rwynia@swrdc.org</a>	836-1644
Helen Brinks -----	Account Specialist	<a href="mailto:hbrinks@swrdc.org">hbrinks@swrdc.org</a>	836-1646
Kathy Schreiber -----	Administrative Assistant II	<a href="mailto:srdc@swrdc.org">srdc@swrdc.org</a>	836-1640
Doreen Veenhuis -----	Administrative Assistant I	<a href="mailto:doreenv@swrdc.org">doreenv@swrdc.org</a>	836-1645

## CURRENT MNRAAA STAFF MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Robin Weis -----	Aging Program Director	<a href="mailto:srlinkage@swrdc.org">srlinkage@swrdc.org</a>	836-1642
Gail Radke -----	Senior Outreach Specialist	<a href="mailto:gailr@swrdc.org">gailr@swrdc.org</a>	836-1632
Nicole Brandt -----	Development Planner I	<a href="mailto:nicole@swrdc.org">nicole@swrdc.org</a>	Ext. 82020**
Linda Tobias -----	Information & Referral Specialist III	<a href="mailto:lindat@swrdc.org">lindat@swrdc.org</a>	Ext. 82012**
Julie Stewart -----	Information & Referral Specialist II	<a href="mailto:julies@swrdc.org">julies@swrdc.org</a>	Ext. 82008**
Katie Gillette -----	Information & Referral Specialist II	<a href="mailto:katrina@swrdc.org">katrina@swrdc.org</a>	Ext. 82022**

\*\*In order to contact these staff members please dial 1-800-333-2433  
and then when prompted type in their extension number.