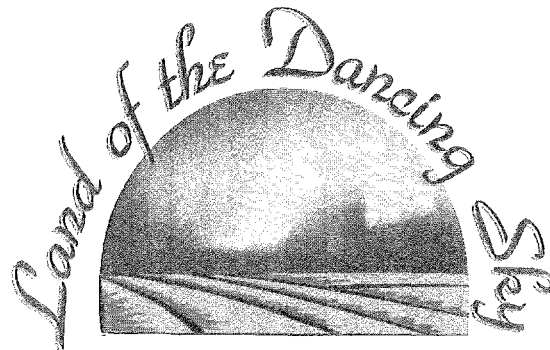


Northwest Regional Development Commission

(www.nwrdc.org)

Annual Report Calendar Year 2010



(www.visitnwminnesota.com)

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

NWRDC • 115 South Main, Suite 1 •

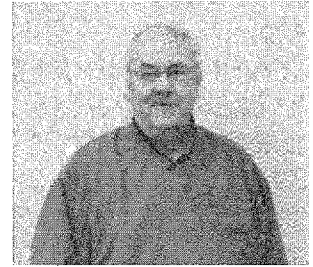
Warren, MN 56762 • 218-745-6733

Agency Web Site Address: www.nwrdc.org

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

Letter from the Chairman

Dr. Joe Bouvette



Getting It Done

The recent groundbreaking ceremonies for the Northstar Agri Industries canola processing plant in Hallock provided an opportunity for federal, state and local dignitaries to comment on the importance of economic development. Senator Al Frankin, Governor Mark Dayton, Representative Collin Peterson's staff, Senator Leroy Stumpf, Representative Dan Fabin, Representative Dave Olin, County Board Chair Dr. Joe Bouvette, Mayor Paul Clay, Hallock, Mayor Todd Truedson, Kennedy and Northstar President, Neil Juhnke all praised the efforts of the local investors who maintained their commitment to the project; a project that will bring critical jobs to our area.

Todd Johnson, Northstar Board of Directors, offered an opening prayer and during the ceremonies pointed out the other individuals and organizations who were also a part of this success, including: local officials,

the NWRDC, investors from the Red River Valley, Minnesota and the United States and the various state agencies and federal office who contributed or approved needed permits. All these individuals, agencies and organizations worked together to overcome expected and unexpected barriers that might have derailed this business start-up.

I commented that we have made investments in many approaches to economic development (some that worked and some that did not), but that this new plant represents our determination to create the employment opportunities that will keep the next generation at home and bring back those who would want to return. This is a common theme in Northwest Minnesota: the ability to get the job done by sticking to the task, working together at every level, and the understanding that these new jobs will keep our hometowns thriving and prosperous.

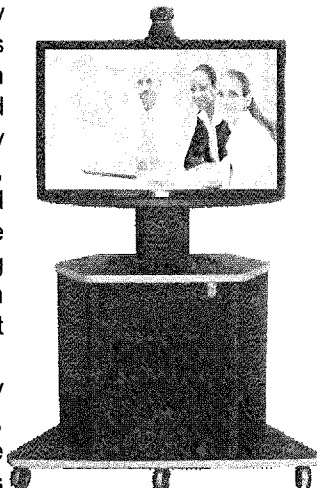


Emergency Services

Videoconferencing in Northwest Minnesota

The Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board, together with Minnesota Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM), were partners toward acquiring funds to provide videoconferencing capabilities to all fourteen counties in Northwest Minnesota.

The State Technology Standards Workgroup, composed of several state departments as well as regional representatives from across Minnesota, provided guidance and input throughout this process. Region 3's representative was Beryl Wernberg, Emergency Management Director and 911 Communications Supervisor of Beltrami County. Beryl also served as the chair of the workgroup subcommittee. A state-wide report featuring a



videoconferencing-related county by county needs assessment of all emergency management facilities was compiled by the above group, in coordination with individuals throughout every region in Minnesota.

Videoconferencing systems heavily involved county Emergency Management & Information Technology (IT) staff. The set-ups were placed in or near Emergency Operations Centers, as during emergency situations, individuals do not have the time to travel to another location. Emergency situations have usage priority. Other departments are encouraged to direct usage inquiries to their local Emergency Management Director.

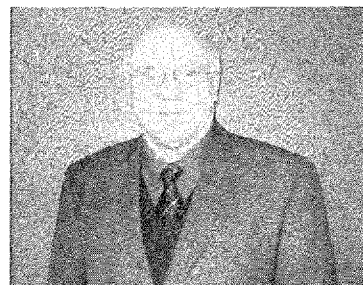
Benefits provided by this system include a reduction in travel costs, lessening of travel/overtime hours and an improvement of overall productivity when the technology use is maximized. This new capability is currently being built into current county and regional operations, and is quickly becoming a commonly used technology for both emergency events and scheduled non-emergency meetings.



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



Above: Leon Heath, Executive Director/Economic Development

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. Our services include grants, business loans, technical assistance, grant writing, planning, direct client services, new program development, fiscal agent support, information and referral, creating partnerships and filling the gaps.

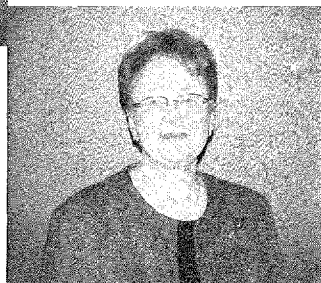
Please look over our Annual Report and stop by or call if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

*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 Outreach Specialist
 Amanda Caillier, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator
 Cameron Fanfulik, Loan Fund Manager/Economic Dev.
 Leon Heath, Executive Director/Economic Dev.
 Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director
 Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations
 Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Technical Support
 Betty Safranski, Front Office
 Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist
 Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner/Comm. Dev.
 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) Gary Kiesow, Velma Oakland, Warren Strandell and Elvera Cullen (back row; left to right) Joe Bouvette, Warren Olson and Kimberley Johnson.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

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

Marshall County

Sheila Hoerner	Warren	Municipalities
*Gary Kiesow	Goodridge	County
Garth Kruger	Warren	Community Group
Loran Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Gail Yutrzenka	Argyle	School Board

Norman County

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



Above: Annual Commission Meeting in East Grand Forks.

Pennington County

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

Polk County

Bruce Haaven	McIntosh	Municipalities
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Labor
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.

Roseau County

Jim Christianson	Badger	School Boards
Selvin Erickson	Badger	Townships
*Alan Johnston	Warroad	County
Gerry Schiltz	Roseau	Municipalities

*Board Members

**Chairperson

***The Commission lost a dedicated leader & strong supporter with the death of Glen Brookshire.



Above: (top) Polk County commission members. (bottom) Velma Oakland and Warren Olson honored for their dedicated service. Both retired at the end of 2010.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	ACTUAL REVENUES <u>CY '2010</u>	PROJECTED <u>CY '2011</u>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$62,628	\$62,628
		\$0
	\$62,628	\$62,628
STATE		
MN/DOT	\$64,905	\$50,000
STATE ARTS BOARD	\$314,041	\$349,074
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$3,165,542	\$2,474,652
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$45,430	\$43,526
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$729,115	\$722,456
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE	\$10,769	
	\$4,329,802	\$3,639,708
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS		
MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION - ARTS	\$42,009	\$55,000
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$31,066	\$15,194
BLANDIN FOUNDATION	\$0	\$25,000
	\$73,075	\$95,194
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL		
LOCAL LEVY	\$200,422	\$228,446
KITSON COUNTY EDA	\$13,960	\$0
CITY OF KENNEDY	\$13,500	\$0
LOCAL PROJECTS	\$0	\$3,178
	\$227,882	\$231,624
MISCELLANEOUS		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$100,359	\$668,605
INTEREST	\$10,180	\$8,850
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$7,339	\$2,400
	\$117,878	\$679,855
TOTAL REVENUES	<u><u>\$4,811,264</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,709,009</u></u>

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES <u>CY '2010</u>	PROJECTED <u>CY '2010</u>
SALARY/FRINGE	\$870,005	\$866,211
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$72,949	\$88,037
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$36,416	\$47,944
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$53,010	\$44,520
OFFICE EXPENSES	\$109,787	\$138,222
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,142,167	\$1,184,934
REGRANTED-ARTS	\$244,538	\$283,674
REGRANTED-AGING	\$1,277,924	\$2,015,646
REGION 4 AGING PROGRAM	\$1,451,212	
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$630,715	\$624,755
BUSINESS LOANS	\$42,000	\$600,000
OTHER REGRANT	\$14,695	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u><u>\$4,803,251</u></u>	<u><u>\$4,709,009</u></u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$8,013</u></u>	<u><u>\$0</u></u>

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, 2009, 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, 2009 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 18, 2010, 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 18, 2010
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 2010

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

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 - \$474,079; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$45,430; RDC Tax Levy - \$62,684; Miscellaneous - \$1,032.

Regrant Funding Sources: Older Americans Act - \$976,370; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$167,822; State Nutrition Program - \$118,732; Region 4 AAA Pass Through - \$1,451,212.

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

Year in Review • • •

This year we conducted a request for proposal for Title III B, D, and E funds for the Planning and Service Area (PSA). With movement toward providing options for seniors to remain in their homes, our efforts have focused on sustaining and developing lower cost home and community based services in our PSA. Extensive work was done to complete an Essential Community Supports Inventory. Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (LDSAAA) has collaborated with many service providers and the state of Minnesota to implement evidenced based programs in 2010 such as Matter of Balance (MOB) and Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSMP). We have also expanded some research based caregiver support interventions that include: T-Care, Powerful Tools for Caregivers, and Early Memory Care. We are in the early stages of implementing the evidence informed "Live Well at Home" program. We received additional federal funds for early stage memory care and have worked towards advancing memory care. The "Return to Community" initiative has gone well in our region. This fall MDS 3.0 was introduced where Senior Linkage Line® staff assists individuals



Above: Seated (left to right) Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist and Amanda Caillier, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator.

Standing (left to right) Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge Outreach Specialist, Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director and Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Technical Support.

over the phone to create a plan exploring long term options and the possibility of returning to their home from a nursing home setting. We continue to maintain the Senior Linkage Line® phone based assistance to older adults throughout the state of Minnesota regarding Medicare, Health Insurance Counseling and Long Term Care Options Counseling. Through our outreach activity we provide information and education to local communities regarding concerns and issues related to seniors and disabled individuals.

Communities for a Lifetime • • •

EDP Coordinator and staff continued to present to organizations on Minnesota Transform 2010, which educates communities on the upcoming, baby boomer Age Wave and encourages communities to prepare for the increase in the older adult populations. A major emphasis was placed on 'Communities for a Lifetime' and 'Caregiver in the Workplace'. Thirty-seven (37) presentations have been made to county commissioners, community education and professional organizations and various service clubs which include: the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs and the Beltrami Non-profit Coalition.

ElderCare Development Partnership • • •

We are entering our 7th year with the Eldercare Development Partnership within our 21 county PSA. The partnership serves the economic development boundaries of Northwest and West Central Minnesota.

Aging continued . . .

This collaborative work agreement provides leadership and technical assistance to local providers; to develop and implement service models that are in line with the priorities and outcomes established by the Minnesota Long-Term Care task force and strategies identified in the 2010 Blueprint. The LDSAAA has already begun work identified in the Themes for Action within the 2010 blueprint. Leadership and technical assistance was provided to communities and agencies to expand and strengthen home and community-based services, promote evidenced-based and research-based programs, strengthen care transitions and promote sustainability to a wide variety of service providers.



Above: Matter of Balance Flexibility and Strength Exercises.

Matter of Balance . . .

One LDSAAA staff is a Master Trainer for "Matter of Balance". We facilitated three leader training sessions of MOB which resulted in thirty-two (32) volunteer lay leaders certified in MOB in 2010. Participants include: Assisted Living providers, Nursing Homes, LAH/BNP, Faith in Action, Senior Coordinators, Parish Nurses and Senior Center staff. In 2010, seven (7) MOB classes were held.

Chronic Disease Self Management . . .

A strong partnership with Minnesota Extension Service, Otter Tail, Becker, Clay and Wilkin County Public Health Departments and OAKS LAH/BNP in Pelican Rapids has expanded Chronic Disease Self-Management in 2010. We also collaborated with Life Care Center in Roseau, Merit Care clinics and Marshall County LAH/BNP's to develop chronic disease management programs throughout the PSA. We coordinated CDSMP training in December, which resulted in 7 newly trained CDSMP coaches.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers . . .

We expanded some research-based caregiver support interventions that include: Caregiver Consultant, T-Care assessments and Powerful Tools for Caregivers. We coordinated a Powerful Tools leader training workshop, resulting in 13 new leaders, and have expanded caregiver services within our region with the addition of two Powerful Tools for Caregiver classes. They are located at the Middle River-Thief Lake LAH/BNP and Northwood's Interfaith Caregivers.

*Right: Darla Bergquist,
Aging Program
Dev. Specialist*



Early Identification Alzheimer's . . .

Early stage memory care grants have worked towards advancing memory care in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, Lake Region Healthcare Clinic in Fergus Falls, Alexandria Clinic, Park Rapids LAH/BNP, St. Josephs Hospital and Innovis Clinic of Park Rapids and Life Care Medical Center in Roseau. The main focus of the project is to identify older adults with memory loss and encourage diagnosis and early intervention. This intervention provides a coach who completes an assesment, and then identifies goals that will empower the caregiver to take action steps toward achieving those goals. Using the tools learned will reduce the day to day stress of caring for a loved one with memory loss.

Sustainability of Non-Profits . . .

Due to the economic challenges within our current economy, many non-profit organizations and Title III grantees struggle to keep their doors open due to cuts in their funding base. Therefore, it became crucial to assist these providers with developing a business plan model in order to sustain their programs. Utilizing the DHS on-line Sustainability Curriculum, LDSAAA facilitated training with 39 providers which included: Title III grantees, CSSD grantees and Non-Profit organizations. In addition, the EDP Coordinator provided 1:1 technical assistance to multiple senior provider organizations in the development of basic business planning, managing multiple funding streams, sliding fee for service scales, third party payer's sources and public private subsidies. Further education on utilizing social network marketing as a key strategy to engage the baby boom generation, will be offered to providers in our region.

Community Service Development Grantees . . .

EDP Coordinator provided 8 agencies with technical assistance to help with development of grant proposals to the Department of Human Services. Many of these applications were for expansion and development of Homemaker and Chore services, which was identified as a gap in service in the Essential Community Services Inventory and the Gaps Analysis. Our PSA was awarded 3 out of the 10 CSSD grants this year.

Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights



Senior LinkAge Line® Calls Received . . .

In 2010, the Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists from both the Warren and Fergus Falls offices provided assistance to over 15,700 contacts for assistance with issues such as Medicare Part D plans, problems with accessing services, housing options, etc. Over 18,999 additional contacts were made on the client's behalf by calling prescription plans, resolving issues with insurance companies and getting them connected to the services they needed.

Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers . . .

The new Health Care Reform came with changes for many beneficiaries and an increased need for our volunteers to assist seniors in our regions. With 42,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Minnesota losing their advantage plans this fall, our SHIP volunteers have been busy. They attended training sessions to learn about the new Affordable Health Care Act and how to assist seniors in choosing a new advantage plan. We are very grateful for their continued assistance during these enrollment periods and times of change.

Senior Surf, our computer education program, has also continued to be very popular with seniors in our area. We have two regular Senior Surf sites in Bemidji and Park Rapids, and have held classes in Crookston, East Grand Forks and Warren. We offer a sincere thank you to our volunteers for their time and dedication throughout the year!

Presentations . . .

Two hundred ninety-three (293) presentations, outreach and other events were provided in the 21-county PSA this year to seniors, family members, service providers and caregivers. Topic areas for the presentations included Falls Prevention, "The File" (Summary of records for Estate Management), Medicare A-D, and Long Term Care Partnership. Staff and volunteers also participated in various health fairs providing information on the extra help available for Medicare beneficiaries for their Medicare Part D premiums. Call the Senior LinkAge Line® if you would like a presentation in your community.

Medicare Changes . . .

Due to the Affordable Health Care Act, changes have been made to Medicare effective January 1, 2011. Presentations have been provided at many of our Senior and Community Centers. In a time of much anxiety, it was good to clarify the changes to let the seniors know that we can help them.

New to Medicare . . .

We have held "New to Medicare" sessions to help prepare seniors as they become Medicare eligible. The sessions help to educate on how and when to sign up for Medicare, different choices of healthcare plans and drug coverage. We have collaborated with surrounding area employers as a nice benefit for employees that are soon approaching Medicare age.



Above: Senior LinkAge Line® Staff person, Carol Bye, presenting information on the Medicare Savings Programs and the Extra Help for Prescription Drugs available.

Outreach Sites at Sanford Clinic . . .

SLL staff collaborate with Sanford Clinic at two outreach sites located in Thief River Falls and Bemidji by providing 1:1 assistance to older adults. Office hours are set up one day a month at each facility. You can make an appointment by calling the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433. We assist seniors with any issues they have regarding Medicare.

Medicare Part D LIS Outreach & Enrollment Assistance with OPTIONS . . .

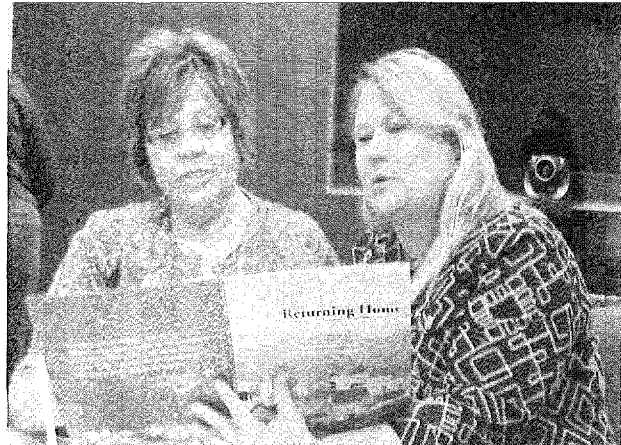
In November and December of 2010, we again collaborated with OPTIONS Resource Center for Independent Living, to provide 1:1 outreach sessions that assist individuals with Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Advantage and Part D enrollment. Events were held in Crookston, Ada, Fosston, Roseau, Karlstad and Mahanomen. Staffs from both agencies were available for individual meetings with Medicare beneficiaries.

Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights

Return to Community Initiative (RTC) . . .

This project provides a staff person to assist private pay individuals with the ability to return home from a nursing home setting. They create a plan that will provide the services they need to remain safely in their home. Target criteria includes the older person expressing a desire to return to the community and/or having a support person. Residents are early in their nursing home stay and still have community ties that fit a community discharge profile.

Community Living Support Plans were completed for 22 consumers that were returned to the community and 1,333 contacts were made to consumers for assistance in their efforts to return to community.



Above: Nancy Sandahl, Return to Community Living Specialist, providing assistance.

2010 Aging Grantees

Kittson County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 562 one-way trips to 46 persons.

Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 1,338 hours of chore service to 121 persons.

Roseau County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 805 one-way trips to 78 persons.

Roseau County Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 1,700 hours of chore services to 29 persons.

Tri-County Community Corrections Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 3,914 hours of chore service to 166 persons.

Valley Housekeeping Program - Provided 5,964.75 hours of homemaker services to 130 persons.

LSS Caregiver/Respite Program - Provided 1,390 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 233 persons and 5,185 hours of Respite services to 59 persons.

Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program - Provided 255 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 59 persons, and 3,143.5 hours of Caregiver Respite to 23 persons.

Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program - Provided 231 hours of Caregiver Coaching services to 38 persons, 269 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 47 persons and 1,132.5 hours of Caregiver Respite services to 23 persons.

Medication Management - Provided 170 in-depth medication management sessions to 199 persons in Regions 1, 2 & 4.

LifeCare Chronic Illness Workshops - Provided 12 workshop sessions on managing chronic illness to 25 participants.

Mahube Bone Builders - Provided 1,124 strength building sessions to 284 participants.

Legal Services - Provided 1,145 hours of legal services to 289 persons, and provided 21 educational sessions to 642 persons in Region 1, 2 & 4.

Lakewood Home Health Aide Program - Provided 335.25 hours of home health aide services to 5 persons.

Clearwater Senior Transportation - Provided 204 one-way trips to 48 persons.

Beltrami County Frail/Elderly Home Modification - Provided 30 hours of home modification services to 2 persons.

LSS Senior Nutrition Program - Provided 248,522 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 9,767 persons.

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 - \$95,448; McKnight Foundation - \$16,064; RDC Tax Levy - \$2,464; Other Income - \$4,730; Interest - \$1,041.

Re-Grant Funding Sources: MN Legislature - \$218,593; McKnight Foundation - \$25,945.

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 Council Planning:

Arts Partnership Agreement • • •

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council, as a non-profit, and the Regional Development Commission formed a legal Arts Partnership in August, 2010. They will work together to provide staffing and service to serve the needs of artists and arts organizations in our region.

Promotion and Increasing Visibility • • •

In 2010, the Arts Council added an e-newsletter with a distribution of 750 people. People can sign up for the newsletter easily by clicking the link on our website home page www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm. The general public was continually informed through our 65+ page web site and our Northwest Arts newsletter (3 editions) reaching 850+ arts constituents.

Grant Writing and Informational Workshops • • •

Staff conducted eight grant writing and informational workshops in 2010.

Artists of Northwest Minnesota Booklets • • •

Several hundred Artists of Minnesota booklets were distributed. The call for entries for the 2nd Edition of the Artists of Northwest Minnesota booklet occurred in the Fall of 2010. Other booklets related to performing arts and literary arts are being organized.

Right: Mara Wittman,
Arts Council Director



Arts Project Grant Program • • •

From January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010, we re-granted \$29,590 to 6 different productions and 5 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Three of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 10,600 adults and over 2,000 youth were impacted by the grant activity. Grants increased by 20% from 2009.

Artists in the Schools Grant Program • • •

In 2010, \$16,210 was re-granted to area schools. Ten projects were awarded serving 2,500 students. Schools supported our area's Safari touring childrens' theatre week-long workshop and productions, as well as residencies with other local artists including Trey Everett, Jean Ranstrom and Bruce Flaig. Our granting levels increased by 60% in this category.

State: General Allocation Funds

Arts Project Grants

	Award
Ada Summer Children's Theater	\$3,000.00
Stephen Arts Council	\$3,000.00
Association of the French of the North	\$3,000.00
Polk County Fair Board	\$3,000.00
LifeCare Medical Center, Roseau	\$2,190.00
Marshall County Fair Board	\$3,000.00
Fertile Area Arts Association	\$1,275.00
Roseau Friends of the Library	\$2,960.00
Fosston Library Arts Center	\$3,000.00
TRF Community Arts Council	\$3,000.00
Ada Summer Children's Theater	\$2,165.00

Artists in the Schools Grants

Roseau School District	\$1,530.00
Lancaster School District	\$1,575.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$1,225.00
Stephen-Argyle School District	\$2,475.00
Kittson Central School District	\$2,000.00
Tri-County School District	\$1,275.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$1,075.00
Crookston School District	\$1,800.00
Red Lake County School District	\$1,955.00
Fosston School District	\$1,300.00

Arts continued . . .

State: Arts Legacy Funds

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grants

University of MN Crookston	\$4,420.00
City of Roseau	\$1,950.00
Kittson Central School District	\$6,000.00
Roseau Area Arts Association	\$2,100.00
Clayworks, Red Lake Falls	\$6,000.00
Fosston Library Arts Association	\$5,500.00
Middle River Community Theater	\$6,000.00
Steps Dance Academy, Warren	\$3,460.00
Thief River Falls Community Arts Council	\$6,000.00
Artists on Main: Julie Elick, Roseau	\$6,000.00
Summer Arts Stages, East Grand Forks	\$6,000.00
Pennington County	\$4,470.00
East Grand Forks Campbell Library	\$6,000.00
Palmville Press, Wannaska	\$6,000.00
Roseau School District	\$5,520.00
Ada Chamber of Commerce	\$600.00
Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District	\$2,700.00
Agassiz Environmental Learning Center	\$2,330.00
Lion's Club in Twin Valley	\$6,000.00
Warroad Summer Theater	\$4,000.00
Roseau Friends of the Library	\$10,000.00
Fosston Library Arts Association	\$9,360.00
University of MN Crookston	\$10,000.00
Roseau Area Friends of the Library	\$1,650.00
Agassiz Environmental Learning Center	\$4,900.00
Thief River Falls Arts Council	\$6,000.00
Warroad Summer Theater	\$6,200.00
Roseau County Historical Society	\$1,240.00

State: Arts Legacy Funds

Artists in Schools Legacy Grants

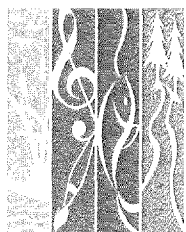
Stephen/Argyle School District	\$4,410.00
Roseau School District	\$4,200.00
Plummer School District	\$2,100.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$5,000.00
Tri-County School District	\$4,600.00
Greenbush-Middle River School	\$2,500.00
Warroad School District	\$2,500.00
Fosston School District	\$4,600.00
Fertile/Beltrami School District	\$4,600.00
Oklee School District	\$2,100.00
Crookston School District	\$4,600.00
Kittson Central School District	\$4,200.00

State: Arts Legacy Funds

Student Artist Training Mentor Grants

Shannel Dahlgren, Warroad	\$500.00
Michael Thompson, Karlstad	\$500.00
Ashley Lorenson, Wannaska	\$500.00
Kiah Burke, Fertile	\$500.00
Sarah Ingle, Strathcona	\$500.00
Kaitlyn Emery, Badger	\$500.00
Michelle Soto, McIntosh	\$500.00
Anna Christenson, Kennedy	\$500.00
Brita Christenson, Kennedy	\$500.00

State: Arts Legacy Funds:



Advocacy and Informing the Public on the Amendment . . .

The Arts Council provided the 49 grantees (awarded \$190,310 in CY 2010) and the public with detailed information about how Legacy Amendment funds to our regional arts council have increased the programming in the arts in our region. Curtain speeches, letters to the editor and newsletter articles are encouraged of all grantees. 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 March 2010. Staff from our arts council actively participated as a board member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

Outcome Evaluation . . .

In 2010, new outcomes were established for all our arts grant programs and services as well as our grantees. Strategic planning included new SMART goals for the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council.

Public Art 101 . . .

Forecast Public Art lead a training and information session in East Grand Forks in the Fall of 2010 on artists and communities working together on public art projects. Attendees were encouraged to apply for grants.

Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists Series . . .

Springboard for the Arts lead a series of 10 workshops for artists in Northwest Minnesota on business skills in the summer of 2010.

Minnesota's Historic Northwest . . .

In 2010, our office promoted the activities of this group of eleven county historical societies.

Arts continued . . .

McKnight Foundation Funds

Ten awards were made to adult individual artists in calendar year 2010. A record \$18,800.00 was re-granted! Our student program had nine high school artists funded. We completed our last year of funding schools for arts equipment and our Hispanic arts programs. As of September 2010, our McKnight Foundation funding will only be used for artist programs and services.

McKnight Foundation and Legacy Funds

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••

Coordinated 2010 exhibit in Climax at their community center and library from April 19 - 25, 2010. This included the jury process, registration, hanging and artist reception. 114 pieces were on display for almost a week. \$1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Frank Kelley of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Award winning pieces are pictured below.



Irene Bertils of Crookston won first place for her pastel drawing.



Rock Bakken of Hallock won people's choice for his painting.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

Adult Winners

- 1st Place \$500 Drawing by Irene Bertils of Crookston
- 2nd Place \$250 Painting by Beau Bakken of Hallock
- 3rd Place \$100 Painting by Phyllis Kalliokoski of EGF
- Merit \$50 Painting by Ross Hier of Crookston
- Merit \$50 Photo by Kathleen Shulstad of Halstad
- Merit \$50 Photo by Bruce Flaig of Fertile
- Merit \$50 Sculpture by Corissa Kruse of TRF
- Merit \$50 Painting by Margaret Ehling of RLF
- People's Choice \$100 to Rock Bakken of Hallock

Student Winners

- 1st Place \$150 Sculpture by Shannon Kaiser of Crookston
- 2nd Place \$75 Painting by Kayla Anderson of Plummer
- 3rd Place \$50 Jewelry by Ashley Pruneda of Shelly
- Merit \$25 Drawing by Robyn Aune of Gatzke
- Merit \$25 Computer Art by Cassie Deitz of Warren
- Merit \$25 Sculpture by Louis Figueroa of Crookston
- Merit \$25 Drawing by Summit Kuehn of Warroad
- Merit \$25 Photograph by Krista Jo Kappes of Ada
- People's Choice \$50 to Miranda Martine of Shelly

McKnight Foundation Funds Granted in CY 2010

Individual Artist Fellowship	Award
Becky Ylitalo, Badger	\$1,200.00
Philip McKenzie, Thief River Falls	\$1,200.00
Christine Foster, Thief River Falls	\$1,200.00
Lance Thorn, Fertile	\$1,200.00
Kristin Eggerling, Hallock	\$1,500.00
Patricia Dunning, Thief River Falls	\$1,500.00
Linda Short, Warren	\$1,500.00
Kim Hrubá, Warroad	\$1,500.00
Sherri Kruger, Badger	\$4,000.00
Ron Woolever, Roseau	\$4,000.00

Hispanic Arts Initiative Grants

University of MN Crookston	\$1,200.00
East Grand Forks Campbell Library	\$945.00

Small Capital Grants

Red Lake County School District	\$1,000.00
Goodridge School District	\$1,000.00
Norman County East School District	\$1,000.00
Stephen-Argyle School District	\$1,000.00

Student Artist Training Mentor Grants

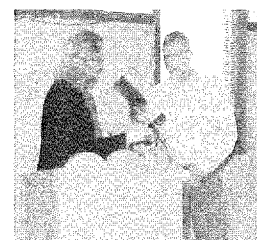
Kailey Mykleseth, Crookston	\$500.00
Sarah Rhen, Badger	\$500.00
MarJenna McWilliam, Winger	\$500.00
Rachel Bukowski, Middle River	\$500.00
Dylan Bergeron, Argyle	\$500.00
Kelsey Hanson, Hallock	\$500.00
Alex Pederson, Warroad	\$500.00
Kim Boisse, McIntosh	\$500.00
Jade Liebl, Ada	\$500.00

Northwest Artist of the Year Award for 2010

Jean Ranstrom, Alvarado	\$500.00
Frances Karlsson, Roseau	\$500.00



Jean Ranstrom receives her award from Mara Wittman, Arts Council Director and Cindy Tsukichi, Chair of the Northwest MN Arts Council



Award being accepted on behalf of the late Frances Karlsson by her son.

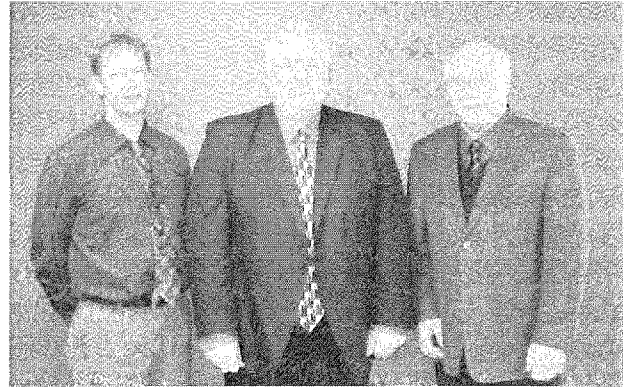
Community Development

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 - \$45,936; and interest \$9,139; Misc. - \$1,197. 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): Troy Schroeder, Cameron Fanfulik and Leon Heath.

Community Development Highlights

Winger Development Plan • • •

Provided assistance to the city with a Development Plan update related to promotion and improvement of business along Highway 59.

Grygla Community Housing • • •

Worked with the Grygla Community Housing Authority to create and implement a new management plan for the administration of four community owned apartment buildings.

Erskine Asset Analysis • • •

Assisted the City of Erskine in the completion of an economic development asset analysis and strategy identification process. This document identified the need for an expansion of the City Industrial Park, housing improvements, and improved contacts with local businesses and industry.

Newfolden RLF • • •

Assisted Newfolden with an application for USDA funding for a city revolving loan fund. The USDA RLF application was approved; and they used the funding for a financial package to re-open the only café in the town, the Little Cubs Café.

Ada Advances • • •

Continued to support an effort designed to identify and recruit new businesses for the community. One new business identified and preliminary review completed.

Community Partnership • • •

Continued work with the nine communities in the Community Partnership to support workforce and housing development in the Thief River Falls area. Focused on providing information about available housing in 2010 in response to hiring efforts at Digi-Key.

Township Road Recording • • •

Assisted Spruce, New Maine and Lake townships in GIS digital mapping and recording of township roads. This establishes legal authority and provides high quality maps.

Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway • • •

Assisting with a promotional campaign to attract motorcycle riders locally, nationally and internationally. This Byway starts in Kittson County, goes through Roseau and ends at International Falls.



(Above): A Golden Eagle nest located a few miles east of Karlstad on Highway 11. The birding community provides a big economic impact to the regions businesses.

Community Development Continued . . .

Blandin Broadband . . .

Participated in the start-up and marketing of the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities project operated by the Blandin Foundation in partnership with Minnesota Extension, MN Work Force Centers, Minnesota Colleges and Universities, PCs for People and other partners. The project is intended to promote expansion and increased use of broadband internet services in rural areas, and grow our technology workforce. Provided staff support to the Thief River Falls Demonstration Community in developing new broadband strategies.

Regional Housing Advisory Group . . .

Participated in quarterly meetings of the Regional Housing Advisory Group to assist in the identification of resources and strategies for housing development. Identified the shortage of workforce housing as a new priority for 2011.

Rail Abandonments . . .

Assisted the Roseau County Trailblazers and the Red River Snow Runners in developing a plan and financing for the purchase of rail road properties in the abandonment process for use as multi-purpose trails.

Red River Bridges . . .

Continued work with local units of government and MnDOT to maintain the bridge system across the Red River. Two new bridges were opened this year at Thompson (south of East Grand Forks) and Drayton (south of Hallock). Total cost of the two bridges was 35 million.

Land of the Dancing Sky . . .

Updated the "visitnwminnesota.org" website, published the Northwest Minnesota Tourism Directory or Redbook, added a virtual brochure rack to the Visit site to support the promotion efforts of local and regional tourism promotion groups and completed a advertising campaign in local newspapers and media.

Regional Promotion . . .

Participated in and supported regional tourism and promotion activities including: the Riverland Tourism Conference, Highway 75 King of Highways Scenic Byway, Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway and the Kittson County EDA.

Legacy Funding . . .

Identified local capacity to access Legacy Amendment funding as a new priority for the region and continued efforts to support potential legacy projects and better understand the funding processes.

Connecting Children and Nature . . .

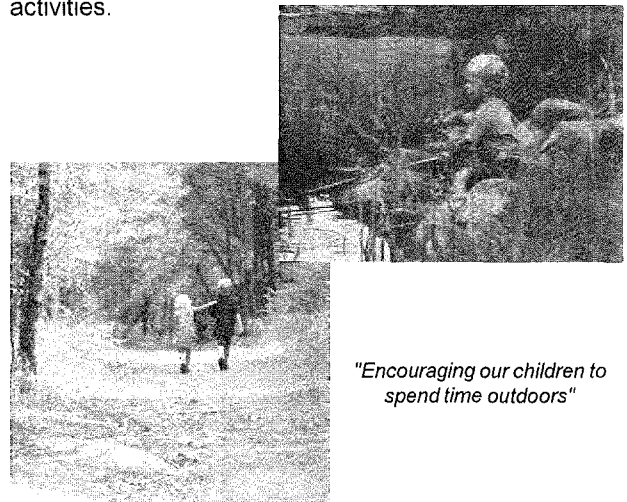
The RDC participated in a conference that addressed connecting children with nature. Dave Bennett, manager of Rydell and Glacial Ridge national wildlife refuges, received a federal grant focusing on children and nature. Partnership funds were provided through the NWRDC, Northwest Sustainable Development Partnership, State Health Improvement Program, River Watch, The University of Minnesota Extension and several other non-profit entities to educate the directors of youth about the importance of nature in the development of children.

The featured speaker at the September workshop was Cheryl Charles, co-founder of the Children and Nature Network <http://www.childrenandnature.org/>, a New Mexico-based nonprofit she formed in 2006 with Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods." The RDC has distributed this book throughout the region.

Richard Louv's "Last Child in the Woods" tells a story of the growing disconnect between children and nature; a disconnect that research has shown can impede learning abilities. The goal of the workshop aimed to provide resources for educators, parents and others to reconnect children with nature in the era of iPods, text messaging and computers.

Dave Bennett mentioned the goal of the conference is to get the word out not only from a personal level, but by shedding light on studies that show why teaching children about nature is so important.

The children and nature grant will also provide a series of \$500 mini-grants that schools, clubs or other organizations can apply for to improve youth nature-learning opportunities. The RDC will continue to coordinate the financial aspects to this grant and will organize the distribution and organization of the selection process for the mini-grants in 2011. A teachers workshop will be held in February to present more tools for getting children involved in nature based activities.



"Encouraging our children to spend time outdoors"

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) - \$62,628; RDC Tax Levy - \$64,516.

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

Economic Development Highlights

Business Assistance • • •

Provided approximately 1,100 hours of staff assistance on job creation and retention related projects including: twenty businesses on business planning, referral, financial packaging and loan applications. This work generated over one million dollars in public and private sector investment and the creation of 105 new jobs. Tight credit and general economic pressures appears to slow some type of activity in the region.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy•••

Reviewed economic development strategies in the 2010 CEDS. Major strategies were retained with an increased emphasis on renewable bio-mass commercialization, workforce housing and the unmanned aerial vehicle industrial cluster. Targeted an update to the CEDS following release of 2010 Census data.

Thief River Falls Airport/UAF Cluster • • •

Assisted the City of Thief River Falls with funding applications for airport improvements (funding was approved). Planning for the transition from a city to a regional airport, and to develop an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) maintenance training center as part of the UAV industry cluster growing in the region.



(Above): Aerial photo of the Thief River Falls Airport.

Wind Energy • • •

Continued work with Juhl Wind, NextEra Energy, Sequoia Energy and local wind developers. Industry factors may slow projects, but a strong base exists for wind energy development.



(Above): Rail Wind Blade Shipment entering Alvarado, MN.

East Grand Forks • • •

Provided assistance to the City on the final completion of the EDA industrial park infrastructure grant (\$425,000 Grant approved) and in final resolution of the EDA security in the Riverwalk Mall. River Cinema proceeded with a \$500,000 expansion in the Mall following the resolution. The industrial park project will provide additional space, existing park in full and an estimated 100 jobs.

St. Hilaire Waste to Energy • • •

Assisted the city and a private developer on the initial stages in planning a waste to energy conversion plant. The plant would use waste products including: sewage sludge, garbage, bio-mass or other sources of carbon to produce electricity. Provided information on available carbon sources in the area from the County energy audits.

Crookston Alternate Energy • • •

Assisted the City of Crookston in examining renewable energy strategies including wind, energy efficiency, and other renewable sources.

"Understanding and respecting the need for the private sector to operate privately is a basic economic development tool."

Economic Development Continued ...

AURI Innovations Project • • •

Identified ways to increase coordination with the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute in relationship to local energy development and the use of local agricultural commodities in local processing/value added operations. This included the identification of specific projects related to bio-mass and potential projects related to the commercialization of advanced technologies.

Local Investors • • •

Assisted the Kittson Economic Development Authority in the creation of an informal network of local investors to help support local business development. This is part of a region wide effort to encourage private sector groups to become more active in supporting new business start-ups.

Renewable Energy • • •

Secured \$15,000 in grant funding for training and public information on renewable energy and energy efficiency. A seminar titled "Let's Do Energy" was held at the Kennedy Go Green Business Incubator with approximately 75 individuals, businesses, units of government and agencies in attendance. The seminar was used to identify short and long term strategies for energy related development. Key strategies will include development of local business capacity to do residential and commercial energy audits, creation of bio-mass harvesting and proven technology energy businesses (such as pellets for heating stoves), support for wind energy development, analysis of the commercial feasibility of new energy technologies (such as bio-mass gasification) and long term development of local ammonia fertilizer production capacity.



Above (left to right): Karl Rasmussen and Ross Hammond, R. D. Thomas & Associates, Inc., Cecil Massie, 6Solutions, Inc., Paul Aakre, Assist. Prof., UMC and Neil Doty, Neil C. Doty & Associates have a panel discussion at the "Let's Do Energy" Conference.



(Above): Part of the throng at Hallock City Hall to witness the groundbreaking of the Northstar Agri-Industries LLC Canola Plant.

Canola Plant • • •

Final planning and financing for the 170 million dollar canola crushing and oil processing plant in Kittson County was completed with a spring 2011 construction start. RDC staff helped organize some additional consultant assistance and started initial planning for possible issues related to the 250 estimated construction jobs for the project. The project will create 50 full time on-site jobs.

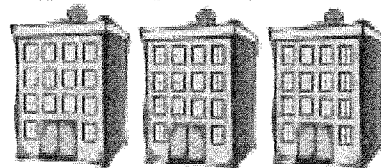
Workforce Housing • • •

Provided support to Digi-Key on strategies and projects to address labor force shortages related to the company's expansion. Assistance included gathering and providing information about available housing in the area, and continuing with labor force efforts described below.

Workforce Training • • •

Continued participation in Impact 20/20 in partnership with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and regional business, education and government partners. Focal point for 2010 was the identification of priority business training needs and design of local training programs to address. Mid level supervisory training was the highest business priority.

HOUSING



NWRDC staff are working to address housing shortages related to business expansions.

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, and to ensure the successful completion of activities to be financed.

Program Funding Sources: Loan Interest and Loan Fees - \$58,872.

Loan Funding Sources: Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$42,000.

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

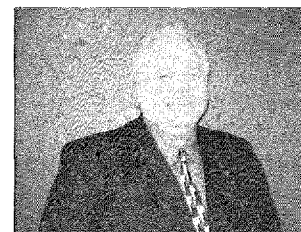
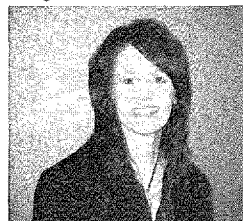
2010 Loan Highlights

Slowdown - 2010 was marked by a decided slowdown in business lending activity throughout Northwest Minnesota and the State. Difficulties exhibited in the state and national economies forced many private lenders to adhere to a tightened credit policy brought on by a more rigid regulatory atmosphere. The Enterprise Fund received requests for loan application information from a variety of clients and customers throughout the year, but projects were put on hold until the economic climate improved and credit eased. NWRDC saw many requests for business assistance, including loan restructures, payment term adjustments, loan workouts, and other technical assistance.

Turnaround - Encouraging signs of an economic turnaround included interest in loan funding from area manufacturers and processors, as well as some retail. Opportunities for expansion and new job creation, in the manufacturing and processing sectors appear much brighter for the coming year. As the economy continues to strengthen, the NWRDC anticipates increased requests for loan funding during 2011.

PoDCo, LLC - In 2010, funding was approved for PoDCo LLC, Lancaster, MN, to add to the size of their facility and purchase new equipment to ramp up production to meet the needs of their customers. PoDCo provides a unique dye sublimation process customizable to products and customers, including decorative finishes to a variety of agricultural, recreational, ornamental, and several other commercial product lines. The processes can be used on almost anything imaginable, as PoDCo's customer products include fishing lures, ceiling tile, window trim, paint guns, and office furniture.

Committee - The Enterprise Fund Loan Committee is made up of representatives from each of the Region One seven counties in Northwest Minnesota. The Committee's members include bankers, accountants, government and economic development professionals.



(Above): Cam Fanfulik,
Loan Fund Manager/Economic Dev. (Left):
Brenda Solberg, Loan Contract Manager

Management - Management duties of the Loan Fund are split between two staff: Cam Fanfulik and Brenda Solberg. Cam's duties include initial client contacts, guiding clients through the application process, shaping the loan packages, performing due diligence on applications, presenting the application package to loan committee and post-approval loan maintenance. Brenda handles the day to day maintenance of loan administration, including UCC searches, document/file updating, correspondence, contracts management and several other duties. Brenda also completed a review of the entire loan fund portfolio to determine collectability status of written off and inactive loans.

Historical Loan Activity (period ending 12/31/10)

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

Total Loans Made:	165
Active Loans:	38
Total Amount of Loans:	\$10,904,925
Other Financing Leveraged:	\$53,646,844
Jobs Created/Retained	1,471

Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 12/31/10)

<u>County</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kittson	19	\$1,066,621
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 - \$98,400; Regrant - \$630,715; Tax Levy - \$1,868.

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

Joint Powers Board Staff •••

Continued in partnership with HSEM Region 3 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management) in Northwest Minnesota in performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management & mitigation strategies, projects & capabilities via a staff planning position. The NWRDC also serves as fiscal agent for this group.

Project Request Sheet •••

Created a project request sheet for the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board that aids in quicker grant spending, group information dispersal and regional project submission. Aided in performing a presentation on this topic to the Regional Leadership Group.

2010 State Homeland Security Program Grant •••

Completed and applied for the 2010 State Homeland Security Program Grant on behalf of the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board.

Conference Attendance •••

Attended the Governor's Conference, the Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference.

Regional Logo •••

A regional logo was created by Cindy Olson, Deputy at the Clearwater County Sheriff's Office, which can be viewed on this page.

Videoconferencing •••

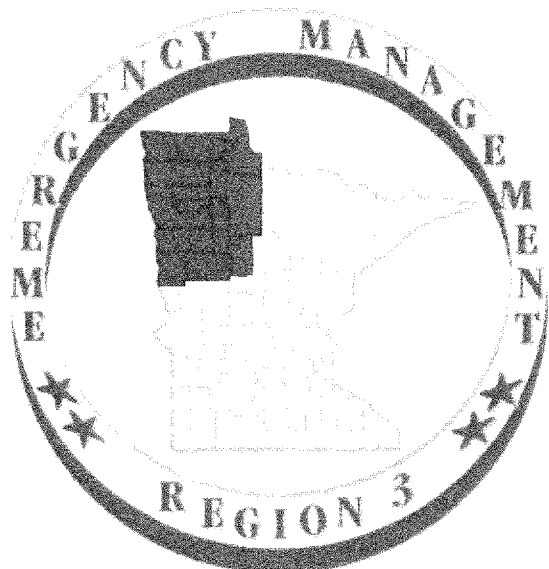
The Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board recently completed a project that adds videoconferencing capabilities to each of the 14 counties within Region 3.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Funding Approval •••

Hazard Mitigation funding was approved for Norman and Marshall Counties to update their Hazard Mitigation Plans. Clay County submitted an application for funding in the 2011 grant cycle. Future county applications will occur in 2011.

Regional Program Support •••

Aided in the acquisition and dispersal of grant dollars to aid local, county and regional entities. This includes enhancement of regional, interoperable communications system capacities, support of existing, regional Special Response/SWAT teams in order to sustain & enhance CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & Explosive) capabilities and building on and integrating the capabilities of local Emergency Operations Centers and response facilities.



Transportation

Purpose: To insure safe and 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 \$64,905; RDC Tax Levy - \$13,313.

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



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

Transportation Highlights

Greater MN Transit Plan

The RDC contracted with Mn/DOT to complete a Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan to identify specific priorities for future transit investment. The investment priorities connect the goals of the policy plan that the RDC assisted with in 2009. The Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan will help decision makers prepare for the growing transit demand in Minnesota and increase public understanding of Mn/DOT's priorities for future transit investment.

The state legislature passed Minnesota Statute 174.24 to provide direction for the Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan that required Mn/DOT to:

1. Conduct an analysis of total transit needs in Greater Minnesota
2. Calculate the level of service required to meet total transit service needs in Greater Minnesota
3. Prepare an analysis of costs and revenues
4. Develop a plan to reduce total transit service needs

In addition, the Legislature directed Mn/DOT to specifically identify the passenger levels, levels of service and costs necessary to address the following targets:

5. Meet 80 percent of total transit service needs in Greater Minnesota by 2015
6. Meet 90 percent of total transit service needs in Greater Minnesota by 2025
7. Identify costs of meeting 100 percent of total transit service needs every five years from 2010 to 2030

The public involvement process was a key component in the development of investment priorities. Mn/DOT employed several public involvement strategies to ensure all interested stakeholders had opportunity to comment. Additionally, the planning process focused more intensive involvement strategies on stakeholders known to have a high interest in transit investments. The Regional Development Commission assisted in the implementation of the public involvement strategies and were instrumental in gathering comments from their communities.

Kittson County has been a recipient of the number one goal of the investment plan which included providing service to the counties that currently lack service. All seven counties in the region now have transit service. This was a big topic of discussion with the stakeholder group.

Three objectives the stakeholders looked at included what to do with increased or decreased federal and state funding in transit services. The group analyzed expansion, preservation, and contraction of services.



Transportation Continued . . .

Thief River Falls Airport . . .

The RDC is assisting Pennington County and Thief River Falls with the organization of a regional airport authority. A meeting was organized with Jack Geller, from the University of Minnesota Crookston, to evaluate the benefits adjacent counties have from a regional airport in Thief River Falls. The University collected data on the numbers of people employed in Thief River that lived in Marshall and Red Lake Counties. The estimates state that there are 916 workers who reside in Marshall County who go to TRF each day to work. The total value of wages they bring back to Marshall County is estimated to be \$26,119,200 annually.

There are 399 workers who reside in Red Lake County who go to TRF each day to work. The total value of wages they bring back to Red Lake County is estimated to be \$11,456,400 annually. The City is also investigating the creation of a foreign trade zone at the airport. The creation of a regional airport authority will help make the region more economically competitive in the world wide global market, and serve as a huge boost to the industries in the region.

Drayton Bridge . . .

The Drayton Bridge is located between Drayton, ND on state highway 54 and Robbin, MN on state highway 11. Construction of the new Drayton Bridge began in January, 2008. The original steel truss bridge was built in 1954 and was replaced because of the frequent flooding that occurs at this point of the Red River. The new bridge is over 4,000 feet long with a width of 40 feet.

The flooding would often last from 3-6 weeks, creating economic stress for the residents living and working in the area. The Minnesota and North Dakota Departments of Transportation have invested large portions of their district funding to reconstruct new bridges on or adjacent to the Red River. These investments have built "high and dry" bridges that allow the people living along the Red River to have a productive livelihood in Northwestern Minnesota and Northeastern North Dakota. The picture to the right shows the ND Director of Transportation Francis Ziegler and MN District 2 Engineer Lynn Eaton taking part in the ribbon cutting.

(Right): Lynn Eaton, Mn/DOT District Engineer, and Francis Ziegler, with the ND/DOT, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the Drayton Bridge. A parade of classic vehicles took part in the celebration on October 22, 2010.

Formation of a Highway 59 Coalition . . .

The RDC is looking into the formation of a highway 59 corridor coalition to help address the needs of this corridor as a major shipping route for Northwestern Minnesota. Mn/DOT held a meeting to bring together state highway corridor coalitions and other transportation interests to explore how participants can work more effectively to address corridor issues and challenges.

Specifically, the objectives of the first forum were to: 1) develop a comprehensive summary of corridor issues and challenges, 2) provide attendees with a shared understanding of these issues and challenges, and 3) begin to identify strategies to address these issues and challenges. The next meeting has a preliminary date set in March. Contact the RDC if you have an interest in this regional corridor. A priority of the Transportation Advisory Committee is to have a 24 hour port of entry at Lancaster. The formation of a coalition should help to improve the highway 59 corridor.

Rail Abandonments . . .

There were two railroad abandonments in process this year within the region. Minnesota Northern has abandoned the Warroad to Roseau rail connection in Roseau County and the Perley to Shelly connection in Norman County.

The Roseau County Trailblazers are purchasing the 20-mile corridor between Roseau and Warroad and the Red River Snow Runners are seeking funds to purchase the nearly 20-mile abandonment between Perley and Shelly. Both trail clubs have plans to connect the new trail corridors to existing trail systems, and will be utilized as multi-purpose trails helping to bring economic stimulus to the communities along these corridors.



Special Projects

US FISH AND WILDLIFE CHILDREN AND NATURE

Funding Sources: US Fish and Wildlife Regrant - \$10,769.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

Assisted in the grant writing, grant administration and project organizations with US Fish and Wildlife, Northwest Sustainable Development Partnership, State Health Improvement Program, River Watch, University of Minnesota Extension and several other non-profit entities to educate the directors of youth about the importance of nature in the development of children. The project included a regional workshop presented by Cheryl Charles (co-founder of the Children and Nature Network), a New Mexico-based nonprofit she formed in 2006 with Richard Louv (author of "Last Child in the Woods"). A series of \$500 mini-grants are available to apply for by schools, clubs or other organizations to improve youth nature learning opportunities; and a teachers workshop to present more tools getting children involved in nature based activities.

KITTSOON COUNTY - JOBS 2010

Funding Sources: NWMIF - \$13,960; Tax Levy - \$449.

Staff: Leon Heath

Completed a County Development Plan and strategies which included recommendations on moving forward a variety of projects related to job creation. The plan included the identification of seven businesses with job creation potential and approaches for supporting them. High priority businesses were: a diesel repair facility, a homeland security facility, bio-mass energy production and manufacturing expansion. Kittson County Business Expansion - Continued support for business projects identified in the County Development Plan, including assistance in the implementation of a \$40,100 USDA business assistance grant.

NW MN FOUNDATION ENERGY

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$16,305.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC completed a seven-county study of energy usage and renewable energy resources. The information identifies the "low-hanging fruit"—projects that are the easiest to develop using locally available

sources of renewable energy including: geothermal, wind, solar and biomass. The data was shared with county commissions, businesses, economic developers and the general public through forums held at the GO GREEN Business Incubator in Kennedy. The final goal is to identify and assist individuals and groups that will form businesses for development, marketing and sales of renewable energy for profit.

ENERGY INITIATIVE CATALYST

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$10,000; Miscellaneous - \$380; Tax Levy - \$537.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

The REDI Catalyst Program achieved overall goals of expanding outreach and education about renewable energy of all types. At the "Let's Do Energy" Conference in Kennedy, MN, the public was informed about renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures. Several business and energy consultants participated in the conference to help identify and match the area's renewable energy sources with potential projects for development. This work will continue with the formation of a private investor's group in Kittson County. Energy Audits/Assessments were done on the GO GREEN building; the results and recommendations for improvements were shared with the public in subsequent meetings.

MN TRAIL PLAN

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$4,761; Tax Levy - \$8,144.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

This project will create a multi-use trail plan for Northwest Minnesota. Several maps will be created to illustrate both motorized and non-motorized recreational uses, and provide a planning guide for connecting existing trails with new proposals. A steering committee with representation throughout the region helped to develop the plan. Maps will contain facilities for camping, nature hiking, launching canoe, parks, wildlife viewing and staging areas. The mapping objectives will be accomplished with the assistance of local public input of trail clubs, MNDNR, Mn/DOT, counties, cities and other regional organizations that focus on trail development. Law enforcement has provided valuable information to structuring the use of motorized trails, particularly ATV's in Thief River Falls.

Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

Plans

2010 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 2010 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.

2010 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 2010 Annual Report - Information on the funding and work activities of the Commission over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

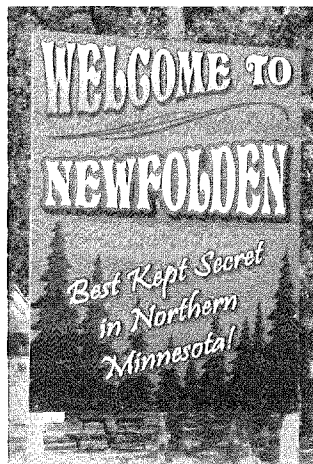
Northwest Arts - Newsletter developed for the artists, arts organizations and schools in northwest Minnesota.

Senior News - Newsletter developed for the Senior Citizens and service providers of Regions One, Two and Four in northwest Minnesota.

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

www.visitnwminnesota.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.

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.housingnwminnesota.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

Bonnie Blacklance	Warren
Craig Bunes	Crookston
Bob Carlson	Thief River Falls
Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls
Jamie Hennen	Ada
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Warren Olson	Halstad
Julie Pahlen	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
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
Alice Hofstad	Plummer
Patricia Jacklitch	East Grand Forks
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
Dale Knotek	Crookston
Ken Kylmanen	Twin Valley
Bill Montague	Crookston
Aliza Olson	Roseau
Betty Pikop	Stephen
Bruce Reeves	Red Lake Falls
Kay Rosengren	Hallock
Deanna Swendseid	Stephen
* Cindy Tsukichi	Thief River Falls

HSEM Region 3 Joint Powers Board

Holly Anderson	Kittson County
* Brad Athmann	Mahnomen County
Mitch Bernstein	Red Lake County
Gary Durand	Marshall County
Bryan Green	Clay County
Brian Halbasch	Hubbard County
Rusty Haskins	Becker County
Josh Holte	Norman County
Holly House	Lake of the Woods County
Ray Kuznia	Pennington County
Gracia Nelson	Roseau County
Larry Olson	Clearwater County
Nancy Shafer	Polk County
Beryl Wernberg	Beltrami County

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

Job & Career Committee

Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Dan Johanneck	Crookston
Loran Lusignan	Grygla
* Duane Lyberg	Hallock
Bill Montague	Crookston
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Velma Oakland	Red Lake Falls
Jim Richter	East Grand Forks

Promotions Committee

Jim Birkemeyer	Ada
Pam Heeten	Roseau
Garth Kruger	Warren
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Jim Thomasson	Mentor
Ethel Thorlacious	Stephen
Betty Younggren	Hallock

*Chair

2010 Highlights

Arts

Legacy Amendment - In our first full calendar year of granting, the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council funded 49 applicants with Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund dollars totalling \$190,310! In CY 2009 we granted a total of \$34,415 with state funding and in CY 2010 we granted \$236,110! A full list of grantees is in the arts portion of this report and on our website. Pictured here is the new logo that you will see on all future projects that use funds from the amendment. The logo was selected in Dec 2010.



Transportation

Bridge Ceremony - The Thompson Bridge is located about 15 miles southeast of East Grand Forks. The bridge connects Polk County State Aid Highway 9 in Minnesota with Grand Forks County Road 7 in North Dakota. The new bridge cost \$7.4 million; the bridge has a deck elevation that is 13 feet higher than the old structure. Its deck is three feet above the level at which the Red River peaked during the flood of the century in 1997. The bridge has a curb-to-curb width of 40 feet that will provide for much safer conditions, especially for farm equipment and truck traffic. The road realignment provides a straight crossing over the river at the 55 MPH posted speed limit. The old bridge will be removed over the winter months.

The new \$7.4 million "high and dry" bridge has a deck elevation that is 13 feet higher than the old structure. \$7.2 million was paid by the federal economic stimulus package, which was made possible by the hard work put forth by the Polk and Grand Forks County Highway Departments. The bridge wasn't scheduled for replacement until 2014.

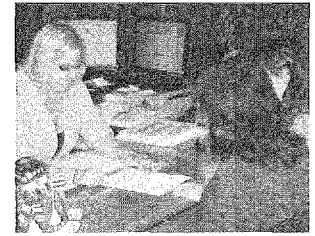


(Above): Demolition crews implode the Thompson bridge on Feb. 4th.

Aging

MDS and New Senior LinkAge Line® Staff -

Effective October 1, 2010, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) replaced the current federally prescribed health functional assessment used with nursing home residents, known as the Minimum Data Set (MDS).



(Above): New SLL staff person, Amanda Caillier, helping clients with Medicare Part D Enrollment.

The new version of the MDS contains changes to the Section Q (Attachment A) which requires the nursing home to ask each resident at admission, quarterly and annually "Do you want to talk to someone about the possibility of returning to the community?" If the answer is "Yes" the nursing home designated discharge planning staff is required to make a referral to the designated local contact agency, if appropriate. In Minnesota, the local contact agency is the Senior LinkAge Line®.

As the designated agency, the Senior LinkAge Line® staff utilizes long-term care options; counseling and service protocols to ensure the resident receives the assistance requested. This may include helping the nursing home resident develop a comprehensive person-centered discharge care plan in coordination and conjunction with the nursing home discharge planning staff.

Amanda Caillier is our new Senior LinkAge Line® staff and will be performing this counseling.

Economic Development

Northstar Agri-Industries, Inc.- Kittson County -

Northstar Agri-Industries, Inc. held a groundbreaking on January 6, 2011 for a fully integrated canola crushing and refining facility, located between Hallock and Kennedy, MN. The plant will process 365,000 tons of canola into 280 million pounds of food-grade canola oil and 195,000 tons of canola meal for the livestock. The project will inject more than \$160 million into the regional economy. It is likely to be the largest privately financed project in the State of Minnesota in 2011-2012. Up to 250 temporary construction jobs will be created and 50 new permanent operations jobs are anticipated with an annual estimated payroll of \$3.5 million.



(Right): Northstar's Board of Governors celebrate the groundbreaking with Governor Mark Dayton and Senator Al Franken.