

FY 2011 Annual Report

September 1, 2011

Southwest Regional Development Commission

"Providing professional expertise and leadership to enhance regional opportunities"

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Members of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board tour Woodford Equipment in Emmetsburg , Iowa to learn more about new biomass collection equipment.

Exploring new bio-mass opportunities.

On June 6, 2011 the Rural Minnesota Energy Board sponsored a trip to Emmetsburg, Iowa to tour two biomass facilities; Poet's Project Liberty and Easy Energy Systems. As an added bonus they also visited Woodford Equipment. Poet's Project Liberty is a 25 million gallon per year cellulosic ethanol facility to be co-located with their existing corn ethanol plant. Easy Energy Systems produces modular ethanol facilities for non-corn feed-stocks that can be installed wherever there is a steady source of input such as waste milk by-products, and can be disassembled and moved if the availability of the feedstock changes.

The Rural Minnesota Energy Board (RMEB) is a Joint Powers of 16 counties in southwest and south-central Minnesota formed to provide policy guidance surrounding energy development in rural Minnesota. The SRDC has provided staff support and organizational administration for the RMEB since its inception, including organizing trips like this one to showcase what's new in the renewable energy area.

this issue

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Management SOLUTIONS

The SRDC provides administrative services to a variety of organizations, including the Rural Minnesota Energy Board, The Southwest Solid Waste Commission, Lincoln County Enterprise Development and RSVP of Southwest Minnesota.

Whether you are a new group that is looking for assistance in getting organized, or an existing agency looking for an efficient and cost effective way to handle your financial and management needs, the SRDC can provide the professional expertise you need to succeed.

With almost 40 years of experience, the SRDC is your trusted local solution for management services that let you concentrate on your core business. Contact Executive Director Jay Trusty at 507.836.1636; execdir@swrdc.org

SRDC Can Assist With Your Professional Business Revolving Loan Fund Management

Many cities and counties have under their control local revolving loan fund pools that are designated to be used for business retention, relocation and/or expansion. These dollars may have come from MN Department of Employment and Economic Development grant/loan dollars, or be designated and reserved from the local budget. Often the loan pools only have a few new loan applications to process in a year, and have a handful more to service. There are frequently state or federal requirements on the loan dollars to wade through as well. Finding an employee to fill the need for these specialized and as-needed services can be difficult. SRDC staff provides loan management assistance on an annual need-only contract to local units of government.

SRDC staff currently assist in the management of Jackson and Cottonwood Counties loan funds; as well as the City of Heron Lake. In addition, the SRDC maintains approximately 43 active loans in its own portfolio.

Contact Deputy Director Nan Larson for further information at 507-836-1638 or nanlarson@swrdc.org

SRDC Staff are Leaders in the Region

Deputy Director Nan Larson has had the opportunity to serve as a board member for the Southwest MN Workforce Council for the past several years as an at-large community based representative. She also serves on the Business/Regional Competitiveness standing committee. The Council's vision is "to be the accountable champion for an effective workforce development system that is appropriately integrated with education, business and economic development". The mission includes "providing a diverse and quality workforce that best meets the needs and challenges of the SW MN Region."

As you can imagine, there is much crossover between the Council's functions and the SRDC's economic development activities. In particular, the Business committee members are working on multiple strategies that support regional businesses by working with them to identify and address current and changing workforce issues. The strategies involve creating awareness and building relationships and understanding with regional businesses; identifying key initiatives to address and meet the needs of business; providing input into the area business service plan; reviewing activities and recommendations of Job Service Employer Committees; continuing work with targeted industry sector identification; and updating regional related business reports.

The board member involvement has not only developed or continued positive networking circles with economic development professionals and workforce staff/agencies in the area, but has also enhanced SRDC relationships with businesses in the region.

Revolving Loan Fund Leverages Private Investment, Helps Create Jobs

Since its inception following the '93 floods, the SRDC's EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) has been used to fund a variety of business enterprises throughout the region. There are currently 43 loans active with 6 new loans approved during FY 2011.

Since the program began there have been 121 loans for a total of \$6.2 million. Private funds leveraged by the program total \$44.7 million. The average loan amount for the program is about \$52,000, and the average private dollars leveraged are about \$370,000. RLF funded projects have created or retained 1,473 jobs in the region.

RLF funds are used to provide gap financing for new and existing businesses. If you are thinking about starting a new business or expanding an existing business, give Nan Larson a call at 507.836.1638 or email her at nanlarson@swrdc.org



Active Living in Action: Making the Active Choice the Easy Choice

Walking the Trail in Jackson

As part of the SHIP project, community members were encouraged to get out and see existing facilities for themselves

One sunny day last July found SRDC Development Planner John Shepard out walking the streets of Jackson, Minnesota. While a beautiful day for a hike, this was not a pleasure trip, but a biking and walking assessment completed in partnership with consultants from Blue Cross Blue Shield for the Cottonwood-Jackson-Redwood-Renville State Health Improvement Project (SHIP).

SRDC was asked to be part of this project to help in two ways: to review community planning policy to highlight how civic leaders can make non-motorized transportation easier, and To connect with local community members in assessment workshops looking at walking and biking projects.



Over the course of the 18-month project, SRDC staff looked closely at land use and transportation plans; parks, recreation and open space; natural resources and economic development in the cities of Jackson and Redwood Falls. The resulting analysis highlighted several areas where city leaders can help make it easier for active living:

- Improve accessibility, e.g. build & maintain sidewalks
- Encourage mixed use development and support downtown
- Encourage alternatives to sprawl
- Consider Complete Streets policies
- Participate in Safe Routes to School efforts
- Conserve open space and floodplains
- Develop Active Living amenities to attract a new economy workforce
- Support local water management

“Accessibility does not equal bigger, wider and faster,” Shepard told the Jackson City Commission. “It does equal choices for walking, biking, transit, and driving.”

“We’ve got a model here that’s worth moving forward with,” CJRR’s Bonnie Frederickson told the Jackson County Pilot. “These things just don’t happen, though. It takes the City being an advocate.”

Copies of the full Active Living Assessment are available on request.

SRDC Provides Return to Community and other Aging Services

Return to Community is an initiative, passed in 2009 by the MN Legislature, that supports efforts to maintain the independence of older adults. The service began April 1, 2010.

Return to Community focuses on the nursing home resident and their family by beginning discharge planning at nursing home admission, equipping residents with self-care skills, supporting family caregivers, lining up community resources and providing follow-up after nursing home discharge.

Return to Community is targeted to nursing home residents who are early in their nursing home stay (90 days after admission), have the desire and resources to return to the community and/or supports to assist with the transition, are private pay and would otherwise become long stay residents.

Return to Community is a partnership between public agencies, nursing facilities, hospitals and other health care providers.

The Return to Community service is provided by Community Living Specialists, who will assist residents in person with the transition from the nursing facility to the community. Follow up assessments will be completed for a number of years with the individuals who are transitioned from the nursing home. The MNRAAA- Slayton office is handling follow-up assessments.

As of June 30, 2011, the Return to Community initiative has assisted 182 people back into the community. Currently, MNRAAA- Slayton Office- staff are providing regular follow-up calls to 79 people.

Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. Senior LinkAge Line® CY2010 Statistics

Contacts In/Total Sessions	16,823
Contacts Out	26,571
Total Clients	10037
Volunteer Hours	913.5

Top 3 Counties (In EDA 8) based on Calls per County

Murray

Lyon

Redwood

In-Person assistance provided to 640 individuals in EDA 8 (2,239 for 27 counties)

Top 3 Counties (In EDA8) based on In-person Assistance

Murray

Lyon

Nobles

Top 3 Counties (In EDA8) based on Unique Clients

Lyon

Murray

Nobles/Redwood



1-800-333-2433

www.MinnesotaHelp.info



Open Enrollment for Medicare Part D, October 15th to December 7th

Jackson Public Library – Tuesday October 18th
10:00-12:00, 1:30-3:00

Lakefield Public Library – Friday
October 21st 11:30-3:00

Windom Public Library – Monday October
24th 10:00-12:00 1:00-2:30

Westbrook Public Library – October 25th 9:00-
12:00, 1:30-2:30

Nobles Public Library – Wednesday October
19th 9:00-12:00, 1:30-3:00

Thursday October 27th 9:00- 12:00, 1:30 –
3:00

Redwood Falls Public Library –
November 18th - 10:00-12:00, 1:30- 3:00

November 29th - 10:00-12:00, 1:30- 3:00

Johnson Park Place - October 26th 9:30-3:00

Edgerton Public Library – November 1st 9:30-
12:00, 1:00-2:00

Pipestone Senior Center – October 20th 9:00-
3:00 November 17th 9:00-3:00

Hill Street Place – Marshall - November 10th
9:00-12:00, 1:30-2:30

Lyon County Public Library (New Building) -
October 28th 9:30–12:00 and 1:00–2:00

Tracy Public Library – Friday November 4th
11:30 – 3:00

Slayton – Monday's October 17th , October
31st , November 7th, November 14th,
November 21st, November 28th, December
5th.

Fulda Memorial Library— Tuesday November
15th 12:00 – 3:00

SRDC Completes Regional Trail Plan Including Prioritized Project List



The Friends of the Jackson County Trails and others gather to celebrate the opening of the Des Moines River Trail in Jackson County

The Southwest Minnesota Regional Trails Plan Update <http://swrdc.org/planning/transportation.aspx> confirmed the vision of the original 2000 Plan: to establish a network of trails in Southwest Minnesota for multiple users. This Plan examines alternative non-motorized transportation modes, primarily walking and bicycling, and recommends actions to improve access and mobility for bicyclists and pedestrians; and has developed a methodology for regional prioritization of projects requesting funding in various phases of trail planning through design and construction. This plan is an element of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan.

Developed through a grass roots process involving local officials and citizen input, this plan provides guidance for land-use decision-makers at the state, regional and local level. While primarily focusing on walking and bicycling, it is recognized that there is an established network of snowmobile trails throughout the region and considered when planning any other type of trail.

The Plan update identified a prioritized list of eligible trail projects, that will be periodically updated.

Top Ten Priority Trail Segments as Identified in the 2010 Regional Trail Plan

County, location	Priority points	Trail Name & Segment (begin & end)
Murray	200	Casey Jones Trail: West county line to Lake Shetek State Park
Pipestone	165	Casey Jones State Trail Pipestone to Woodstock / Murray County line
Jackson	155	Des Moines River Valley Trail
Lyon	100	Marshall to Camden State Park off of Hwy. 23, ROW to Co Road 25 to Camden State Park
Rock	95	Casey Jones State Trail- designated corridor in Rock Co. from Schoneman Park in Luverne connecting to Blue Mound Hiking/Biking Trail (northeast) connecting to Blue Mounds State Park and beyond Rock Co. to Split Rock Creek State Park
Pipestone	85	Casey Jones State trail – within Pipestone
Lincoln	75	Lake Benton Hole in the Mountain Trail extension, 1.5 mile linking the County Park with the City of Lake Benton
Cottonwood	60	Des Moines River Valley Trail Jackson /Cottonwood line to Cottonwood/Murray line
Nobles	50	Worthington - Complete Streets planning and Recreation trails
Redwood Falls	45	Phase I Trail extension, Northwood Drive going south along CSAH 101 to E/W frontage road along TH 19/71

SRDC Annual Meeting held July 21st in Balaton



Bob Shepard, Retired Chief Administrator for the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation addresses the audience at the SRDC's Annual Meeting. Mr. Shepard spoke on the need to remain relevant in today's global marketplace and how the SRDC can help the region to attain a competitive edge in the new economy.

Redwood County Township Representative Werner Fischer (center) receives a plaque from Executive Director Trusty and Chair Benson on his retirement. Werner has served on the SRDC since 1989.



2011 Project of the Year

Ralco Nutrition, Inc. was awarded the SRDC's 2011 Project of the Year Award for their efforts at turning the former Balaton Public School property into an agronomy and landscaping technology campus.

Ralco's current business operations are located on three different campuses in Marshall and they have shown a continuing support for the economic well being of the region by expanding both in Marshall and in Balaton.

Below, Ralco Nutrition Vice-President Brian Knochenmus accepts the award.



Newly Elected SRDC Officers, from right: David Benson, Chair; Marv Tinklenberg, Treasurer and Miron Carney, Vice-Chair. Not Pictured, Lyle Ten Haken, Secretary.

Area Legislators Attend Annual Meeting

Local Legislators from District 21 addressed the crowd at the SRDC'S Annual meeting, discussing the budget compromise that had recently been reached and the effects of the state government shut-down. Legislators also discussed how we can go forward as a region and how we can support agriculture and local businesses in the region.

Also in attendance at the meeting were representatives from Congressman Collin Peterson's office and from Senator Amy Klobuchar's office. Tom Meium and Chuck Ackman discussed the then ongoing debate about the debt ceiling, and ongoing efforts to re-authorize the Surface Transportation Act as well as the Farm Bill.



District 21A Representative Chris Swedzinski



District 21 Senator Gary Dahms



District 21B Representative Paul Torkelson



Tom Meium, Staff Assistant, U.S. Representative Collin Peterson



Charles Ackman, Regional Outreach Director, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar



Administrative Assistant Doreen Veenhuis receives a certificate from Executive Director Trusty and Chair Benson for five years of outstanding service to the SRDC

Revenues

FY 2011 Year End	FY2012 BUDGET
Tax Levy	300,167
MNRAAA-Adm/Pdc/CDSMP Funds	81,223
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-Federal	219,399
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds-State	185,117
MNRAAA-Eldercare Development Partnership-EDP	34,983
Economic Development Administration	64,628
MN Department of Transportation	50,000
MN Department of Transportation-Transit Office	18,669
Dept. Public Safety-Hazard Mitigation	23,509
CERTS Funds-U of MN-Xcel RDF	100,458
Current Contracts	223,457
Interest Earned & Miscellaneous	13,218
Reserves Used	18,978
Total Revenues	1,333,806

Expenditures

Committee Expense	31,969	36,391
Salaries & Fringe	978,176	999,441
Staff Travel	51,127	53,242
Office Space	42,900	44,000
Postage	14,728	14,050
Communications	6,164	7,934
Print/Publication	3,348	5,200
Supplies-Mtg/Wkshp Expenses	10,636	10,855
Insurance	2,748	4,000
Depreciation (Non-building)	17,760	18,000
Audits	6,200	6,200
Computer	10,903	11,750
Equipment	11,385	6,000
Other	7,575	8,540
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	59,535	7,700
CERTS SEED Grants	24,850	
MNRAAA, Inc. match	31,265	26,000
Debt Service-Principal & Interest	11,800	11,800
Office Building Principal Payment	10,737	11,339
Total Expenditures	1,333,806	1,282,442

Financials

FY 2011 Project Reviews

During Fiscal Year 2011, the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed eleven projects from within the region to avoid duplication and ensure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a complete listing of the project reviews for FY 2011 please contact Rhonda Wynia at the SRDC offices, 507-836-1644; rwynia@swrdc.org





FINANCE Services

The SRDC Finance Department provides financial services under contract to a number of different entities within the region including RSVP of Southwest Minnesota, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and Lincoln County Enterprise Development. These services are recorded separately as Private Purpose Trust funds on the SRDC's audit report.

Audited Governmental Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2010

Revenues

Program Revenues

Charges for Services & Other	128,165
Operating Grants	655,317

General Revenues

Property Taxes—General	292,227
Property Taxes—Debt Service	234,102
Other Revenues	91,927
General Interest Revenues	12,862
RLF Interest Revenues	76,478
Debt Service Interest Revenues	<u>3,785</u>

Total Revenues 1,494,863

Expenses

Government Activities 1,406,722

Total Expenses 1,406,722

Change in Net Assets 88,141

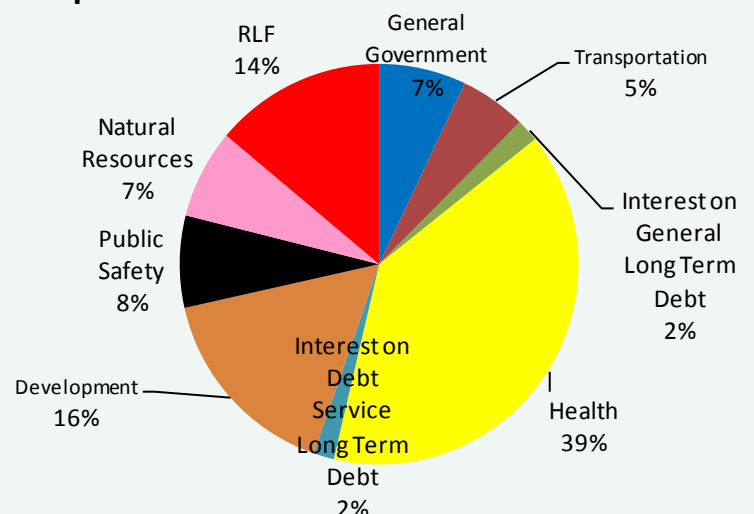
Beginning Net Assets 2,005,848

Ending Net Assets 2,093,989

2010 Audit

The FY 2010 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.

Expenses



FY 2011 Southwest Regional Development Commission Staff

Back row from left:

Doreen Veenhuis,
Dianne Crowley,
Annette Bair, Linda
Tobias, Nan Larson,
Katie Gillette, Julie
Stewart, Gail Radke,
Jay Trusty.

Front row from left:

John Shepard, Rhonda
Wynia, Helen Brinks,
Nicole Brandt, Kathy
Schreiber, Robin Weis



CURRENT SRDC STAFF MEMBERS

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

CURRENT MNRAAA STAFF MEMBERS

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

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

FY 2011 Southwest Regional Development Commission Members

Vacant ----- Cottonwood County Municipalities
 Darrell Holmberg ----- Cottonwood County Town Boards
 Tom White* ----- 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
 Russ Stobb ----- Lyon County Municipalities
 Lori Grant ----- Lyon County Town Boards
 Bob Fenske* ----- Lyon Co Commissioners
 Miron Carney** ----- Murray County Municipalities
 Erv Smith ----- 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
 Sharon Hollatz* ----- 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
 Linda McCorquodale ----- SW MN Private Industry Council
 Richard Shrubb ----- Southwest MN Higher Education
 Craig Myers ----- Health & Human Services

*Indicates Current & FY2011 Executive Comm. Members

*Indicates SRDC Board Members



Photo Courtesy of the Pipestone Star

In Memoriam

The SRDC remembers long time Commissioner Wally Bucher who passed away on December 18, 2010. Wally served as the Pipestone County Township Association Representative from March of 1998.

Thank You

The Board of Directors of the SRDC would like to extend a special thank you to all those members who graciously served as members during FY 2011 and have since moved on:

Sandy Demuth, Private Industry Council; Charles Swan, Murray County Townships, Gary Sorenson, Cottonwood County Commissioner and SRDC Chair for the first half of FY 2011; Cynde Livingston, Lyon County Municipalities; Rocky Kolar, Cottonwood County Municipalities; Dan Zimansky, Region 8 School Boards and former Redwood County Commissioner and current State Senator Gary Dahms.

Your service has been greatly appreciated and we wish you much luck for the future.



Upcoming Events

September 8, 2011, Commission Meeting, Danebod, Tyler

September 21 – Lower Sioux Health and Wellness Fair –
Jackpot Junction, Morton

September 28 , MIRC Presentation to MnAPA Annual
Conference, St. Cloud

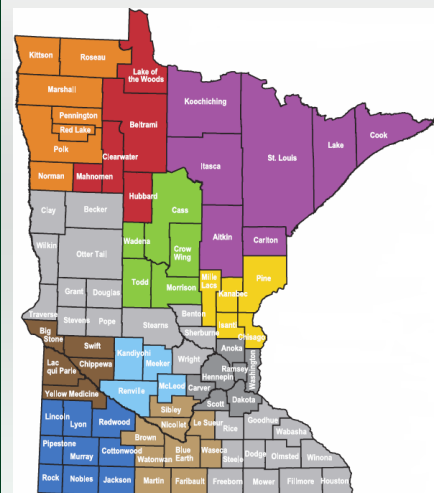
October 13, 2011, Board of Directors Meeting, Slayton

Medicare Open Enrollment Period October 15th -December 7th.
Medicare Part D sites by appointment in 2011. For an appoint-
ment call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 ext 82006,
82008 or 82022.

October 24-25 , DEED Conference, St. Paul

November 16-17 , Blandin Broadband Conference, Duluth

Minnesota Regional Development Commissions



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September 1, 2011

Southwest Regional Development Commission

2401 Broadway Avenue
Slayton, MN 56172

507.836.8547 ph
507.836.8866 fax

www.swrdc.org