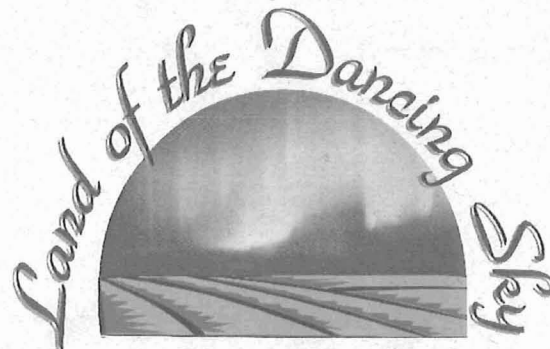


# *Northwest Regional Development Commission*

*([www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org))*

## *Annual Report Calendar Year 2011*



*([www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://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](http://www.nwrdc.org)  
Land of the Dancing Sky Web Site: [www.VisitNWMinnesota.com](http://www.VisitNWMinnesota.com)

# Letter from the Chairman

*Dr. Joe Bouvette*



## "The Times, They are a-Changing"

A philosopher once wrote that "the only constant in life is change"—an apt description of the age we live in today. Northwest Minnesota has weathered a storm of transforming events over the last several years including: national recession, natural disasters, loss of government aid, population loss and budget constraints, to name a few; and all of these changes have brought about opportunities to better meet the demands of stakeholders and constituents.

Change is also occurring at the NWRDC. 2011 saw the retirement of Executive Director Leon Heath, an energetic force in economic and community development in our region for more than thirty years. He will be sorely missed. We are also seeing changes and increasing demand for services in several agency departments: the Area Agency on Aging continues to do outstanding work across the region, and as a result, the State has provided additional program funding necessitating the addition of two new staff, and more outreach offerings; the Arts Program is also expanding, adding a staff person to assist with grants management and a variety of other assistance to area artists; Emergency Management planning continues with fourteen counties needing grant writing and technical assistance in our coverage area; Transportation planning is ongoing, with new requests for planning efforts in roads, parks and trails, land use and comprehensive plans; and added to this are increased applications for business loans from the Enterprise Fund, a sure sign that the economic situation in the region is becoming stronger. With all of these changes happening around us, one constant is that NWRDC will continue to provide valued core services to the public.

## Long Term Care Consultation Expansion to Housing with Services



Kristina DeFrang joined the Senior LinkAge Line® staff for the October 1st changes to the Long Term Care Consultation (LTCC) statutes made during the Legislative Special Session in July 2011. This initiative is an expansion of long-term care consultation and long-term care options counseling, and is

available to people of all ages who want to move into a Registered Housing with Services establishment.

Housing with services settings are a helpful option for some people. They can offer an opportunity to get care and help with daily living in a home-like environment to people who cannot live independently in their own homes, or who have no support to do so. For those who do careful planning and can afford this option, it is a viable alternative to remaining in one's home. The expanded LTCC service offers long-term care options counseling services to people who are considering a move to a Registered Housing with Services, which is estimated to be 30,000 Minnesotans per year. This initiative increases access to the existing phone-based long-term care options counseling services provided by

the Senior LinkAge Line®, and the face to face long-term care consultation services delivered by counties, tribes and health plans. Through this collaborative model, all Registered Housing with Services providers must inform all prospective residents to contact the Senior LinkAge Line® for options counseling, prior to signing a contract with that establishment. Callers are then offered a phone-based conversation that includes:

- **The Live Well At Home Risk Screen** - determines how well callers are managing activities of daily living, whether they have access to caregivers and other resources available to support daily living.
- **Review Independent Living Options** - includes a review of ways to remain in one's home, such as home modifications and consumer directed supports.
- **Caregiver Concerns and Options for Support** - includes referrals to caregiver consulting services that can assist with supporting the caregivers directly.
- **Review of Financing Options** - helping consumers understand what their benefits are, and other financing options that may be available to support long-term care needs with reduced risk to businesses.

The LTCC Expansion has been a great way for the Senior LinkAge Line® to expand its long term care options counseling services.



*What The NWRDC is All About . . .*

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

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

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

The Commission has worked to establish a manner of operation which reflects and compliments the independent, progressive style of Northwest Minnesota. 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.



*Above: Cam Fanfulik, Executive Director/Economic Development*

## *Staff Listing*

### **NWRDC Staff**

Darla Bergquist, Aging Program Development Specialist

Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge Outreach Specialist

Amanda Caillier, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator

Kristina DeFrang, Senior LinkAge Specialist

Cameron Fanfulik, Loan Fund Manager/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

**Leon Heath retired in June of 2011. Leon was the Executive Director and employed by the NWRDC since 1979.**

*Right: Carol Sorensen,  
Financial Officer*



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



*Right: Betty Safranski,  
Front Office*



# Northwest Regional Development Commission



Above: NWRDC Board of Directors (front row; left to right) Elvera Cullen and Kimberley Johnson. (back row; left to right) Gary Kiesow, Nathan Redland, John Lerohl, Warren Strandell and Dr. Joe Bouvette. Not pictured: Mark Foldesi.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

### Kittson County

**Dr. Joe Bouvette	Hallock	County
*Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy	Townships
Gregory Peterson	Lancaster	SWCD
Todd Truedson	Kennedy	Municipalities

### Marshall County

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

### Norman County

Penny Aanden	Fertile	Townships
Curt Johannsen	Hendrum	Municipalities
*Nathan Redland	Halstad	County



Above: Annual Commission Meeting in East Grand Forks.

### Pennington County

*Elvera Cullen	TRF	Municipalities
Dave Erickson	TRF	Townships
Karan Lincoln	TRF	Minorities
Dante Steele	TRF	Minorities
Oliver Swanson	TRF	County

### Polk County

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

### Red Lake County

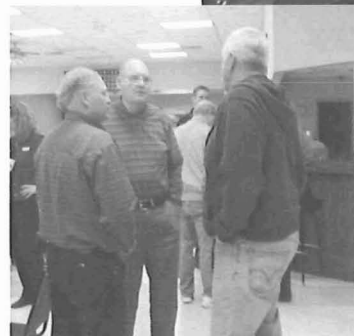
Catherine Johnson	Oklee	At Large
Genevieve Knott	RLF	Townships
*John Lerohl	Oklee	County
Vaughn Thorfinnson	RLF	Vocational Schools
Ronald Weiss	RLF	Watershed Dist.

### Roseau County

Jim Christianson	Badger	School Boards
*Mark Foldesi	Greenbush	County
Gerry Schiltz	Roseau	Municipalities
Debra Wiskow	Greenbush	Townships

### \*Board Members

### \*\*Chairperson



Above: Presentation by staff and Red Lake County Commissioners at the Annual Meeting.

# NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

	ACTUAL	
	REVENUES	PROJECTED
<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>CY ' 2011</u>	<u>CY ' 2012</u>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$62,628	\$62,628
		\$0
	\$62,628	\$62,628
<b>STATE</b>		
MN/DOT	\$71,968	\$50,000
STATE ARTS BOARD	\$359,990	\$85,479
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$3,615,022	\$3,215,214
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$37,974	\$98,000
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$814,619	\$601,602
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE	\$14,231	\$0
	\$4,913,804	\$4,050,295
<b>PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS</b>		
MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION - ARTS	\$20,611	\$14,049
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$21,764	\$0
BLANDIN FOUNDATION	\$9,511	\$17,500
	\$51,886	\$31,549
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL</b>		
LOCAL LEVY	\$246,933	\$235,181
	\$246,933	\$235,181
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$331,046	\$666,451
INTEREST	\$6,611	\$8,000
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$5,155	\$1,000
	\$342,812	\$675,451
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u><u>\$5,618,063</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,055,104</u></u>
	ACTUAL	
	EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>CY ' 2011</u>	<u>CY ' 2012</u>
SALARY/FRINGE	\$869,778	\$957,080
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$72,248	\$90,800
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$33,783	\$46,094
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$41,832	\$58,000
OTHER EXPENSES	\$208,327	\$152,288
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$1,225,968</b>	<b>\$1,304,262</b>
REGRANTED-ARTS	\$256,112	\$0
REGRANTED-AGING	\$2,691,705	\$2,281,446
REGION 4 AGING PROGRAM	\$381,857	\$369,396
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$717,053	\$500,000
BUSINESS LOANS	\$276,750	\$600,000
OTHER REGRANT	\$11,500	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><u>\$5,560,945</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,055,104</u></u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE</b>	<u><u>\$57,118</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, 2010, 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, 2010 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 23, 2011, 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 9 and page 25, 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 23, 2011  
Crookston, Minnesota

DREES, RISKEY & VALLAGER, LTD.

*Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.*  
Certified Public Accountants

Members of Minnesota and North Dakota Society of CPAs  
Members of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

# *Program Highlights*



## **NW Regional Development Commission**

### **Program Highlights Calendar Year 2011**

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 adults 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 & Discretionary Funding through the Minnesota Board on Aging - \$555,919; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$37,974; RDC Tax Levy - \$66,021; Miscellaneous - \$2,615; West Central Office - \$401,659.

**Regrant Funding Sources:** Older Americans Act & Discretionary Funds - \$1,979,455; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$386,976; State Nutrition Program - \$305,472.

**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 • • •

In 2011, efforts began by working with the nutrition provider's (Nutrition Services, Inc. and Lutheran Social Services) in preparing for a potential decrease in program funding. By mid-year, we as a group, were able to realign sites to provide the best service to the older adults in need utilizing available dollars efficiently. The ElderCare Development Partnership (EDP) grant was utilized by the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (LDS AAA) to collaborate with local service providers and implement many of the following programs. The LDS AAA prepared an EDP grant proposal for another five years of funding. In July we experienced a state shutdown. By September we had secured funding in the EDP grant; with enough additional dollars to add a part-time aging program development staff to work in the planning and service area (PSA). All Older American Act Title III funded contracts were renewed for 2011. September 1, 2011 the Senior Linkage Line® phone based assistance service was expanded to be the One Stop Shop for all Minnesota older adults and their families. October 1, 2011 we saw the expansion of long-term care options counseling; that



*Above: Seated (left to right) Kristina DeFrang, Senior LinkAge Specialist and Amanda Caillier, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator.*

*Standing (left to right) Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist/Technical Support; Darla Bergquist, Aging Program Development Specialist; Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge Outreach Specialist; Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director and Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist.*

is available to all people of all ages who want to move into a Registered Housing with Services establishment. MDS 3.0 continues by providing assistance to individuals over the phone. Through our outreach activity we provide information and education to local communities regarding concerns and issues related to older adults and disabled individuals.

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers • • •

We continued the expansion of research based caregiver support interventions that include: Caregiver Consultant, T-Care assessments and Powerful Tools for Caregivers. We had 13 new leaders that provided 4 sessions in the region. LDS AAA had 2 staff trained as Master trainers in Caregiver Coaching. We will plan to begin sessions in the Spring of 2012.

### Chronic Disease Self Management • • •

Two Land of the Dancing Sky AAA staff members received their Master Training Certification in Chronic Disease Self-Management. These staff will develop "Train the Trainer workshops" to recruit volunteer coaches to teach these classes in the communities that we serve. We continue to have a strong partnership with Minnesota Extension Service, Otter Tail, Becker, Clay and Wilkin County Public Health Departments and OAKS Living at Home Block Nurse program. To date, three CDSMP "Train the Trainer", workshops were coordinated in the southern part of our PSA. We also collaborated with Life Care Center in Roseau, Merit Care clinics and Marshall County LAH/BNP's to develop chronic disease management programs.

## *Aging continued . . .*

### **Matter of Balance . . .**

Three Land of the Dancing Sky AAA staff members have received their Master Training Certification in 2011. We have coordinated two Matter of Balance Train the Trainer workshops in our PSA. Currently, we have 56 active MOB coaches that conducted 22 MOB classes for Older Adults. Partnerships have been developed with Douglas County Public Health, LifeCare Medical Center, Living at Home Block Nurse Programs, Riverview Hospital, Villa St. Vincent and St. Joseph Medical Center to host Matter of Balance Classes.

#### **10 Alzheimer's Warning Signs**

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life.
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems.
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks.
4. Confusion with time or place.
5. Trouble understanding visual and spatial relationships.
6. Problems speaking/writing.
7. Misplacing things.
8. Decreased/poor judgment.
9. Withdrawal from work/social activities.
10. Changes in personality.

### **Early Identification Alzheimer's . . .**

We continue to have three Early Stage Memory Care Grants that work 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. Strong partnerships with the Clinics is the key to long-term sustainability of these projects. Although, the Early Memory Care Grants are almost complete, these programs continue to support Early Memory Care clients through Caregiver Coaching Programs.

### **Live Well At Home . . .**

Land of the Dancing Sky AAA has established a partnership with ElderCare Network and Pelican Rapids Oaks to participate in the LWAH project. This project was later expanded to include Northwood's Caregivers. The LWAH project targets high-risk older adults so they delay and/or avoid spending down to Medical Assistance. Important goals for Minnesota's long-term care system are to slow the growth of MA spending, and preserve individual choice, control and responsibility for one's care and support.

### **Sustainability of Non-Profits . . .**

We continue to see non-profit organizations struggle to meet the day to day challenges of keeping their doors open with changes in the economic climate as federal and state grants received cutbacks. Technical assistance was provided to non-profit organizations and Title III grantees on core strategies to develop multi-funding streams in order to sustain their programs. In October we coordinated a Long-term sustainability workshop that was attended by 32 of our Title III grantees

and non-profit organizations. This training focused on financial sustainability of their organization and gave our grantees tools to establish the true cost of services, implement cost sharing policies within their organization and developing a social networking marketing strategy which included: utilization of web-based tools such as Face book, Twitter, and Pay Pal.

### **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'. Twelve (12) presentations were provided to county commissioners, community education and service clubs which include: Rotary, Lion's Club and Chamber of Commerce. EDP Coordinator will continue to provide TA to communities that are interested in developing a Communities For a Lifetime project. Land of the Dancing Sky AAA has chosen to adopt the AARP Livable Communities evaluation tool to be administered to communities in our PSA, that would like to complete a comprehensive needs assessment.

### **Palliative Care . . .**

Land of the Dancing Sky EDP coordinator has provided TA assistance to Sanford Bemidji Palliative Care Team in the Development of a POLST Initiative creating a systems change across multiple health systems. This initiative focuses on training health care professionals to assist chronically ill individuals make end of life care decisions, and document those wishes on a POLST document. EDP coordinator assisted with the development of a Northwest Minnesota Foundation Grant for \$25,000 to fund the training and implementation of the project in Bemidji. Land of the Dancing Sky AAA will continue to assist other rural communities develop Palliative Care programs throughout our Planning and Service Area. Roseau LifeCare Medical Center continues to expand their Rural Palliative Care program, and was one of the first success stories which resulted from a Stratis Health Care grant.

### **Data Entry- New System called PeerPlace . . .**

In 2011, the entire state began transitioning to a new system for entering units of service for Older Americans Act funded programs. Multiple trainings (in-person and on-line) have been offered to the service providers who will be entering data into the PeerPlace system.

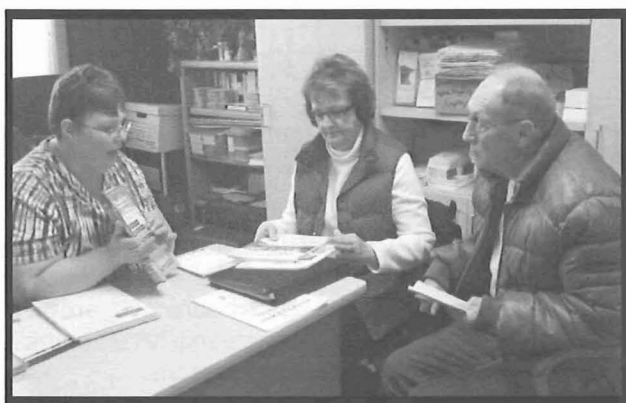


## *Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights*



### **Senior LinkAge Line® Calls Received . . .**

In 2011, the Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists from both the Warren and Fergus Falls offices provided assistance to over 14,407 contacts for assistance with issues such as: Medicare Part D plans, problems with accessing services, housing options, Long Term Care options counseling, etc. Over 18,341 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.



*Above: Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge Specialist, working with clients on Medicare Issues.*

### **Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers . . .**

This year the Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers attended an in-depth refresher course on Health Insurance Counseling that was held in our Warren office. We had several volunteers who assisted Senior LinkAge Line® staff at enrollment sites during Medicare's Open Enrollment Period. Our volunteers did a great job spreading the word about the change in Medicare's Open Enrollment time!

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. We have also 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 . . .**

Four hundred fifteen (415) presentations, outreach and other events were provided. Topic areas for the presentations included: Falls Prevention, The File (Summary of records for Estate Management), Minnesota Health Care Directives, Medicare A-D, Health Care Fraud and Abuse, Medicare Savings Programs

and Extra Help for Medicare Part D. Staff and volunteers also participated in various health fairs providing information on the extra help available for Medicare beneficiaries and 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 various Senior and Community Centers to review current year changes with Medicare beneficiaries. Also, Annual Open Enrollment dates for Medicare Advantage Plans and Part D drug plans changed this year. We needed to get the word out to beneficiaries on this change so they did not miss the opportunity to make their choices for 2012. In a time of much anxiety, it was good to clarify the changes for the seniors to let them know that we will be here to help them understand.

### **Medicare Savings Programs and Extra Help for Medicare Part D . . .**

Together with Legal Services of NW Minnesota, we presented on the Health Care Programs in Minnesota for Low to Modest Income Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. We also had a local pharmacist from the region present on other ways to help defray prescription costs.

### **Outreach Sites at Sanford Clinic in Thief River Falls and Bemidji . . .**

SLL staff collaborates with Sanford 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. As a One Stop Shop, we can assist seniors with a variety of issues.

### **Medicare Annual Open Enrollment Sites Held with OPTIONS . . .**

The new Annual Open Enrollment dates for Medicare Advantage and Part D drug plans is October 15<sup>th</sup> to December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. During this time, we again collaborated with OPTIONS: Resource Center for Independent Living, to provide 1:1 outreach sessions in assisting individuals with Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Advantage and Part D Enrollment. Events were held in Crookston, Ada, Fosston, Roseau, Karlstad and Mahanomen. Staff from both agencies were available at these sites for individual meetings with Medicare beneficiaries.

## Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights

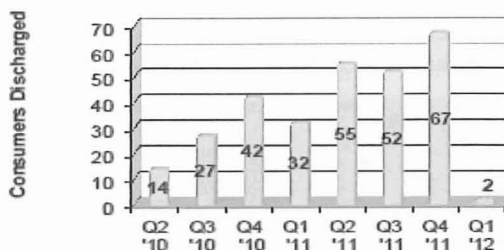
The Return to Community initiative resulted from 2009 legislation. This initiative facilitates community discharge from nursing homes, when a resident has been in a nursing home for a 60 to 90 day admission, and indicates a preference to return to the community. This initiative is targeted to nursing home residents who have expressed a desire to return to the community, and have a supportive person who can assist them living in the community.

The intervention involves assessment, care planning, service coordination, placement and ongoing monitoring of care in the community once the individual has returned home. From 1/1/2011 to 12/31/2011: 1,589 contacts were made to consumers for assistance in their efforts to return to the community. 58 community planning tools (which is an interview with the consumer) were completed while consumer is still in the nursing home. 41 consumers returned to the community. Those 41

consumers had a Community living support plan completed. This plan helps consumers know what they will need at home for services, the cost of those services, a list of contact information for doctors and visits, and an emergency back-up plan for the consumer.

If you know someone in the nursing home who would like to return to the community, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800- 333-2422.

Total CLS Discharges  
by Quarter



## 2011 Aging Grantees

**Kittson County Senior Medical Travel** - Provided 770 one-way trips to 41 persons.

**Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program** - Provided 355.75 hours of chore service to 88 persons.

**Roseau County Senior Medical Travel** - Provided 1,002 one-way trips to 89 persons.

**Roseau County Sentencing to Service Chore Program** - Provided 161 hours of chore services to 20 persons.

**Tri-County Community Corrections Sentencing to Service Chore Program** - Provided 487.5 hours of chore service to 170 persons.

**Valley Housekeeping Program** - Provided 4,559.5 hours of homemaker services to 110 persons.

**LSS Caregiver/Respite Program** - Provided 1,576.25 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 328 persons and 5,665 hours of Respite services to 63 persons.

**Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program** - Provided 231 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 40 persons, and 4,061 hours of Caregiver Respite to 27 persons.

**RSVP Groceries to Go and Handy Hands Program** - Grocery shopping assistance to 16 persons and 236 hours of handyman services to 45 persons.

**Mahube Bone Builders** - Provided 936 strength building sessions to 683 participants.

**Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program** - Provided 164 hours of Caregiver Coaching services to 36 persons, 230 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 55 persons and 701.75 hours of Caregiver Respite services to 23 persons.

**Medication Management** - Provided 102 in-depth medication management sessions to 109 persons in Regions 1, 2 & 4.

**LifeCare Chronic Illness Workshops** - Provided 6 workshop sessions on managing chronic illness to 16 participants.

**Legal Services** - Provided 1,105 hours of legal services to 287 persons, and provided 21 educational sessions to 426 persons in Region 1, 2 & 4.

**Lakewood Home Health Aide Program** - Provided 59 hours of home health aide services to 5 persons.

**Clearwater Senior Transportation** - Provided 231 one-way trips to 59 persons.

**LSS Senior Nutrition Program** - Provided 235,359 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 7,703 persons.

**Lifecare Matter of Balance Workshops** - Provided 31 strength building sessions to 43 persons.

**Mahube Relatives as Parents** - Provided 382 hours of Caregiver Counseling services to 65 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

# 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.

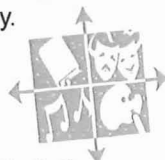
**Program Funding Sources:** Minnesota Legislature - \$63,475; McKnight Foundation - \$11,228; RDC Tax Levy - \$2,325; Other Income - \$2,212; Interest - \$435; NW MN Arts Council - \$50,286.

**Re-Grant Funding Sources:** MN Legislature - \$255,612; McKnight Foundation - \$34,182.

**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, Services, and Statistics:

#### **Promotion and Increasing Visibility •••**

An e-newsletter, that began in 2010, goes monthly to 750 people. People can sign up for the newsletter easily by clicking the link on our website home page [www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org](http://www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org). The general public was continually informed through our web site and our Northwest Arts newsletter (3 editions) reaching 850+ arts constituents.

#### **Arts Project Grant Program •••**

From January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011, we re-granted \$23,030 to 11 different schools throughout the region to purchase artistic equipment for use in their school, and by community groups and members. All these projects are aimed at children with 4,180 youth benefitting. We granted \$11,860.00 in support of four other arts projects. An estimated 2,000 adults and over 700 youth were impacted by the grant activity.

#### **Artists in the Schools Grant Programs •••**

In 2011, \$35,125 was re-granted to area schools. Fifteen projects were awarded serving over 6,000 students. Schools supported our area's Safari touring childrens' theatre week-long workshop and productions, as well as residencies with other local artists including: Jean Ranstrom, a pastel artist from Alvarado; Jenn Steinbrink, a potter in Crookston and Christine Foster, a painter from Thief River Falls.

*Right: Mara Wittman,  
Arts Council Director*



#### **Advocacy and Informing the Public on the Amendment •••**

The Arts Council provided the seventy six grantees (awarded \$314,995 in CY 2011), with advocacy information including new window clings and banners. Arts Advocacy efforts with legislators included a group of constituents attending Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol in March 2011. Staff from our arts council actively participated as a board member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

#### **Public Art Tool Kit •••**

Forecast Public Art was hired by the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council to create an on-line tool kit. This tool kit launched in August 2011.



*Artists and arts leaders gather at Barb Seeger's home in Red Lake Falls to host a coffee party for Representative Deb Kiel. Rep. Kiel is pictured second from the left in the front row.*

#### **Minnesota's Historic Northwest •••**

In 2011, our office promoted the activities of this group of eleven county historical societies. This included helping with their new web site, training in Word Press, creating a special grant program for their members and promoting their current traveling exhibit on rural churches.

*Arts continued . . .*

**State: General Allocation Funds \$45,315.00**

**Arts Project Grants**

	<b>Award</b>
Ada/Borup School District	\$3,000.00
Goodridge School District	\$2,830.00
Stephen/Argyle School District	\$3,000.00
Tri-County School District	\$2,470.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$2,700.00
Oklee School District	\$2,890.00
Climax-Shelly School District	\$1,000.00
Norman County East School District	\$2,570.00
St. John Lutheran School	\$1,005.00
Lancaster School District	\$750.00
Greenbush-Middle River School Dist.	\$815.00
Middle River Community Theatre	\$3,000.00
City of Karlstad	\$2,870.00
TRF Arts Council	\$2,990.00
Valley Crossing Arts Council	\$3,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,890.00</b>

**Artists in the Schools Grants**

Roseau School District: Folk Music Res.	\$2,175.00
TRF School District: Music Residency	\$3,000.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$2,750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,925.00</b>

**Student Artist Training Mentor Grants**

Dylan Bergeron, Argyle: Music	\$500.00
Isaac Bolduc, Stephen: Acting	\$500.00
Taylor Myers, Viking: Voice	\$500.00
Levi Lewis, Greenbush: Photography	\$500.00
Michaela Knutson, Stephen: Voice	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>

**Artists in Schools Legacy Grants**

Greenbush-Middle River School	\$2,500.00
Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District	\$5,000.00
Fertile-Beltrami School District	\$4,600.00
Stephen-Argyle School District	\$2,100.00
Roseau School District	\$4,200.00
Crookston School District	\$2,100.00
Tri-County School District	\$4,200.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$2,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,200.00</b>

**State: Arts Legacy Funds**

**\$314,995.00**

**Student Artist Training Mentor Grants**

Isaiah Burkel, TRF: Theater	\$500.00
Haley Kujava, Strandquist: Voice	\$500.00
Taylor Wilson, Greenbush: Visual	\$500.00
Christy Anderson, Karlstad: Clarinet	\$500.00
Cynthia Kaste, Fertile: Photography	\$500.00
Kristen Grochowski, Strandquist: Voice	\$500.00
Katelyn Vilmo, Ada: Theater	\$500.00
Nicole Lubarski, Newfolden: Voice	\$500.00
Kati Larsen, Greenbush: Visual	\$500.00
Miranda Nygaard, Kennedy: Music	\$500.00
Kaitlyn Fuglseth, Fertile: Graphic	\$500.00
Lily Erdal, Ada: Music	\$500.00
Alexandra Regeimbal, Crookston: Voice	\$500.00
Boma Afonya, Crookston: Voice	\$500.00
Keary Stanger, Ada: Music	\$500.00
Matt Stanger, Ada: Music	\$500.00
Emily Jensen, Warroad: Visual	\$500.00
Capri Pederson, Argyle: Writing	\$500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>

**State: Arts Legacy Funds**

**Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grants**

Marshall County Fair	\$10,000.00
Association of the French of the North	\$6,000.00
Two Rivers Area Theatre, RLF	\$6,000.00
Roseau Area Arts Association	\$900.00
Thief River Falls Arts Council	\$5,320.00
East Grand Forks Campbell Library	\$9,470.00
City of Roseau	\$3,130.00
Friends of Lake Bronson State Park	\$5,050.00
Clayworks, RLF	\$10,000.00
Kittson Central School District	\$8,000.00
Thief River Falls School District	\$4,255.00
Crookston Community Theatre	\$4,100.00
North Country Fiddle and Dance, EGF	\$4,100.00
Hallock Library Board	\$4,770.00
Polk County Fair Assn., Fertile	\$3,180.00
Middle River Community Theatre	\$9,000.00
9/11 Remember America Committee	\$10,000.00
Summer Arts Stages, East Grand Forks	\$10,000.00
City of Thief River Falls	\$10,000.00
Norman County Fair	\$1,750.00
Ada Chamber of Commerce	\$3,100.00
Polish Nat'n Alliance Lodge in Florian	\$4,000.00
Stephen Arts Council	\$9,280.00
Northern Jazz, Thief River Falls	\$8,970.00

## Arts continued . . .

Red Lake County Fair Board	\$1,980.00
Thief River Falls Parks and Recreation	\$8,500.00
Tri-River Pioneers Museum, Plummer	\$2,150.00
Roseau Area Arts Assoc.	\$2,200.00
Roseau School District	\$5,670.00
EGF Econ. Housing Authority	\$2,800.00
Middle River Community Club	\$1,330.00
Crookston Civic Music League	\$4,035.00
Julie Elick: Artists on Main in Roseau	\$6,000.00
EGF Campbell Library	\$10,000.00
Univ of MN Crookston	\$10,000.00
Warroad Summer Theater	\$10,000.00
Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School Dis.	\$10,000.00
Polish National Alliance, Florian	\$5,100.00
Goodridge Vet. Memorial Park	\$10,000.00
Thief River Falls Arts Council	\$8,675.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,795.00</b>

## Heritage Legacy Grants

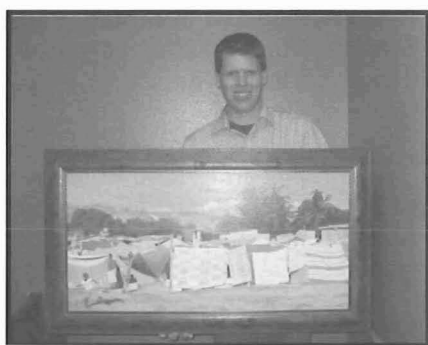
Kittson Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
Clearwater Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
Roseau Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
East Polk Co. Heritage	\$2,800.00
Polk Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
McIntosh Heritage and Arts	\$2,800.00
Pennington Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
Assoc. of French of the North	\$2,800.00
Warroad Heritage Center	\$2,800.00
Norman Co. Historical Society	\$2,800.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,000.00</b>

## McKnight Foundation and Legacy Funds

### Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition • • •

Coordinated 2011 exhibit in Crookston at their public library from April 6 - 17, 2011. This included the jury process, registration, hanging artwork and the artist reception. 140 artists displayed pieces for almost a week, and into the Legacy weekend. \$1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Patrick Luber of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Award winning pieces are pictured below.

Beau Bakken of Hallock won 1st place for his painting.



## Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

### Adult Winners (McKnight Foundation Funding)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$500	Painting by Beau Bakken of Hallock
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$300	Sculpture by Lorrie Foster of Red Lake Falls
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place \$200	Photograph by Loren Younggren of Hallock
Merit \$100	Painting by Jean Ranstrom of Alvarado
Merit \$100	Pottery by Robin Foster of Red Lake Falls
Merit \$100	Photograph by Kayla Evenson of Climax
Merit \$100	Monoprint by Janet Johnson of Roseau
Merit \$100	Painting by Lucille Nelson of Argyle
People's Choice \$100	to Rock Bakken of Hallock

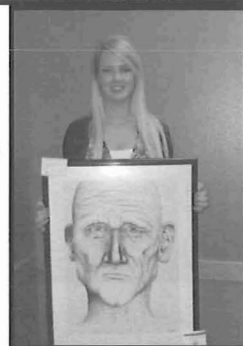
Lorrie Foster of Red Lake Falls won 2nd place for her sculpture.



### Student Winners (State Arts Funding)

1 <sup>st</sup> Place \$300	Lithograph by Courtney Bethune of Warroad
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place \$150	Drawing by Lily Potter of East Grand Forks
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place \$100	Pottery by Christian Erickson of Viking
Merit \$50	Experimental Photograph by Nora Hahn of Climax
Merit \$50	Painting by Lauren Klinge of Crookston
Merit \$50	Sculpture by Monkojay Wilson of Plummer
Merit \$50	Still Life Painting by Mikaela Janicke of Greenbush
Merit \$50	Photograph by Isabella Hukriede of Hendrum
People's Choice \$50	to Michelle Stahlecher of Crookston

Lily Potter of East Grand Forks won student second place for her drawing.



## Arts continued . . .

### McKnight Foundation Funds Granted in CY 2011

Individual Artist Fellowship	Award
Joel Miller, Roseau	\$4,000.00
Sculpture studio equipment	
Jessica Pribula, East Grand Forks	\$4,000.00
Visual display supplies	
Jolene Juhl, Greenbush	\$1,500.00
Glass studio equipment	
Steve Adkins, Roseau	\$1,500.00
Photography printer	
Frank Olson, Roseau	\$1,500.00
Saxophone purchase	
Jeanne O'Neil, East Grand Forks	\$1,500.00
Print making training	
Heather Sabian, Crookston	\$1,500.00
Visual art series	
Total	\$15,500.00



*Example of fellowship artist  
Jessica Pribula's artwork.*

### **Northwest Artist of the Year Award for 2011 (McKnight Foundation Funding)**

Sister Norma Jean Eide of Crookston \$500.00

### **Northwest Arts Advocate of the Year Award for 2011 (State Arts Funding)**

Anita Poss of East Grand Forks \$500.00



*Left: Anita Poss accepting her award from Dale Knotek,  
Vice-Chair of the Arts Council. Right: Sister Norma Jean  
Eide standing in front of her visual art display.*



*Above: Seated (left to right) Linda Short of Warren and  
Jane Anderson of Thief River Falls. Standing (left to right)  
Mara Wittman of Warren, Pat Hanson of Middle River,  
Bonnie Stewart of Fosston and Dale Knotek of Crookston.*

### **Leadership Conference • • •**

Six of our key arts volunteers attended a leadership workshop in Walker in April 2011 sponsored by the Forum of Regional Arts Councils. Over 20 other statewide arts leaders joined our group to learn skills from the Shannon Institute.

### **Grant Writing and Informational Workshops • • •**

Staff conducted fifteen grant writing workshops throughout the region. Over 150 people attended the sessions.

### **Photography and Video Footage • • •**

In 2011, the Northwest Minnesota Arts Council hired photographers to shoot pictures at arts events. Several grantees were encouraged to record video footage to measure outcomes and give testimonials.

### **Artists of Northwest Minnesota Booklets • • •**

The 2nd Edition of the Artists of Northwest Minnesota booklet was formatted and printed in December of 2011 for distribution in 2012-2014. Chris Lane of Newfolden was the graphic artist contracted for typography and design for the booklet.



*This sculpture titled "The Heritage of This Place" was  
designed and created by Sue Suess and Joel Miller of  
Raven Works for Roseau. This project was funded  
with Arts Legacy funds. Miller was just selected as  
our \$4,000 fellowship winner.*

# 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 - \$33,588; and interest \$6,176; Misc. - \$37. 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): Cam Fanulik, Jennifer Olson and Troy Schroeder

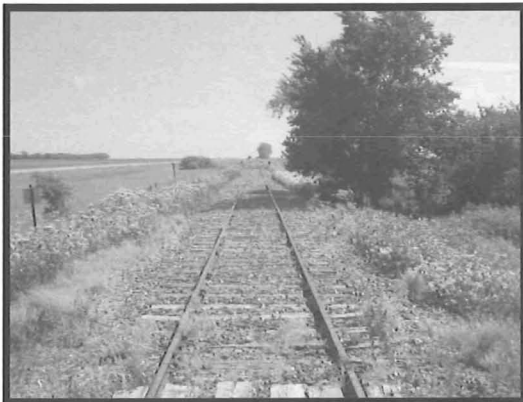
## Community Development Highlights

### Land of the Dancing Sky • • •

Continued updates and publication of the Northwest Minnesota Visitors Guide and the Visit Northwest Minnesota Web Site, and efforts to promote the positive aspects of our area. The Guide and Web site provide free listings for local attractions and events.

### Abandoned Railroad purchased in Roseau and Norman Counties • • •

The Roseau County Trailblazers and Sand Hill Snow Cruisers each bought nearly twenty-miles of railroad right of way from Minnesota Northern Railroad to utilize as a multi-use trail system. The Roseau County Snowmobile club bought the railgrade between Warroad and Roseau and will link to their existing trail systems. The Sand Hill Snow Cruiser Club bought the rail grade from Perley to Shelly. The club has plans to connect with existing trails in the center of Norman County and create a link to the Fargo-Moorhead metro. Both clubs are hopeful the new trails will bring an economic boost to the communities along the trail in all seasons of the year. ATV's will also be allowed to use the trails during the summer months.



(Above): Railroad Abandoned looking South of Hendrum.

### Oslo Comprehensive Planning • • •

The NWRDC is assisting the City of Oslo with a comprehensive plan that will include land use planning and zoning. The plan will include a zoning map containing the following districts. General Residential, High Density Residential, Agriculture Residential, Rural Landscape, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Parks and Recreation, Greenway and General Agriculture. The city is moving the west portion of the dike and having it certified by the Corps of Engineers. Several homes will be moved out of the floodplain, and a new housing district will be created to entice new development in the city. The 2010 aerial photo will be used to map the different planning zones.

### Green Step Cities • • •

Provided coaching/consulting services to area communities interested in implementing the best practices that provide actions for cutting energy use, decreasing carbon footprint and accomplishing other sustainability goals that exceed state regulatory requirements. The Statewide program is designed to provide maximum flexibility to communities in designing practices that save money and deliver a stream of multiple environmental, social and financial benefits. The cities of Warren and Red Lake Falls are participating in the program.

### Warren Parks/Trails Planning • • •

Assisted the City of Warren with Federal Transportation Enhancement grant application for the construction of a city-wide parks and trails project with regional ties to Old Mill State Park, Marshall County Park, and the Wetland, Pines and Prairie Audubon Sanctuary.

## *Community Development Continued ...*

### **Housing Study • • •**

Funding from Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Community Partnership and Mn Housing Partnership was used for a professional housing study to examine factors influencing the Thief River Falls/Community Partnership housing market, and determine strategies to create housing options. Strategies include: rehabbing and improvement of existing single family units, creating housing options for seniors moving out of single family homes, designing options that address needs ranging from those of the homeless population to those searching for available market rate homes and providing entry level housing for new employees including: less expensive rental units and home ownership options. More work will be done to identify specific targets including: addressing the affordability gap for students and entry level workers, costs and barriers of financing housing developments and providing homes in outlying communities that are affordable and liveable.

### **Community Partnership • • •**

Continued work with the nine community members to support workforce and housing development in the Thief River Falls area. Information was provided about available housing in the Thief River Falls and Hallock areas, in response to hiring efforts at Digi-Key and Northstar Agri-Industries. Community Partnership partnered with Mn Housing Partnership and Northwest Minnesota Foundation to fund a housing study for the greater TRF area.

### **Community Asset Building • • •**

Assisted Fertile, Stephen, Crookston, Fisher and Warren in visioning sessions sponsored by Bremer-based banks in those communities and Northwest Minnesota Foundation. Sessions were designed to build a vision for future success and sustainability, encourage community participation and leadership and to develop the concept and establishment of endowment funds in these communities.

### **Red Lake Falls Housing Development • • •**

Provided assistance to the city and private developer with business planning for town home housing development. The proposed project is slated for construction in 2012.

### **Blandin Broadband • • •**

Provided assistance with marketing of the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities project in conjunction with Blandin Foundation; and partnerships with Mn Extension, Mn Work Force Centers, Mn Colleges and Universities and PCs for People and other partners. A Fall Technology Fair was held on campus of NCTC, with 285 people in attendance. The Fair provided presentations, classes and workshops, with the goal of expansion and increased use of broadband internet services in rural areas, and to grow the regional technology workforce.



*Left: Shannon Mortenson discusses GO GREEN Center geothermal system with Chuck Gagner, co-owner of Northwest Mfg. Inc. and Per Carlsson, Swedish district heating developer.*



*Right: Geothermal Unit in the GO GREEN Center.*

# 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 - \$66,971.

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

## *Economic Development Highlights*

### **Business Assistance •••**

Provided more than 1,500 hours of staff assistance on business/job creation and retention-related projects that included: working with 72 businesses on business planning, referral, financial packaging, loan applications and workout strategies. Loan Fund Activity for 2011 totaled 7 loans in the amount of \$699,750, creating/retaining 106 jobs and leveraging \$683,750 in public investment and \$6,772,030 in private investment.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) •••**

Reviewed economic development strategies in 2011 CEDS, and updated the current document for the seven county region. Major strategies were retained with added emphasis on workforce training for skilled positions, workforce housing and technology cluster development. A new CEDS will be delivered in the fall of 2012.

### **Local Investors •••**

Assisted Marshall County and the City of Warren in exploration of developing an informal network of local investors to support area business development. Ongoing local investor groups in Kittson County and Norman County also received assistance in reviewing potential business start-ups and acquisitions.

### **Heating the Midwest with Biomass •••**

Assisted Agricultural Utilization & Research Institute and multi-state Midwest Biomass Resources Action Team with planning of "Heating the Midwest with Biomass" conference, to be held in Wisconsin in 2012. Action Team goals include: gathering biomass data from a seven-state region to provide benchmarking for potential projects and determining infrastructure requirements for biomass industry expansion in the Midwest.

### **Renewable Energy •••**

Continued work with Juhl Wind and local wind developers. A 68 MW project has been proposed for Newfolden area by TGI Renewables, and is currently going through the State scoping and public meeting process with construction slated for 2012. Other work included assisting the City of Red Lake Falls and a private developer with initial planning stages for a waste-to-energy plant siting in Red Lake County, and assistance to private business in Roseau County interested in biomass pelleting and distribution.



Above: Senator Amy Klobuchar visits NW Mfg, Inc. in RLF.

### **Impact 20/20 •••**

Continued participation with Northwest Minnesota Foundation and area businesses, education and government partnership to develop new models of training programs, assist students and individuals with rigorous career planning and career path recognition, and design strategies for greatest worker/employer impact.

### **Workforce Housing •••**

Continued assistance and support to Digi-Key and Northstar Agri-Industries including: gathering and providing available housing information in the area, promoting projects designed to encourage "home-grown" engineering graduates (Ingenuity Frontier) and Impact 20/20. This work will also address labor force/housing issues with workforce expansions at Mattracks, in Karlstad and Polaris, in Roseau.

### **Red River Flooding/Inter-regional Planning •••**

Participated with Red River Basin Commission and core collaborators in 35 counties from MN, SD, and ND to address liveability principles and goals for regional sustainability in the local economy and environment, and address flooding issues in a regional context. All information points to significant negative impacts from a proposed Fargo/Moorhead flood diversion project; that would place additional areas in 100 year floodplain and decrease the effectiveness of major flood mitigation projects on the Red River.

# 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 - \$54,338.

**Loan Funding Sources:** Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$276,750.

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

## 2011 Loan Highlights

Northwest Minnesota showed a marked increase in loan activity in 2011, compared to the previous two years of economic downturn in the state and national economies. Although Minnesota was not affected as deeply as other areas of the country, in terms of unemployment and job loss during the downturn, there was significant slowdown in loan activity. Credit has now begun to loosen in the lending industry, which has opened up opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses to increase start-up and expansion activities.

During 2011, the Enterprise Loan Fund Committee approved funding for new start-ups and expansions in several economic sectors:

- Manufacturing (3)
- Construction (1)
- Retail Grocery (1)
- Restaurant (1)
- Dental Office (1)

**Loans totaling \$699,750 were made to the following businesses:**

- McIntosh Machine & Mfg., Inc. - McIntosh
- Dr. Joy's Dental Clinic - Halstad
- Joe DiMaggio's Bar & Grill - Erskine
- Ladysmith Machining, LLC - Erskine
- Ideal Aerosmith, Inc. - East Grand Forks
- KC's Country Store - Badger
- Asphalt Preservation Company - Goodridge

The above businesses currently have a total base level of 63 full-time equivalent employees. The loan activity will assist in the creation of 34 new full-time equivalent jobs.



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

## Enterprise Loan Fund Committee :

The Committee also reorganized in 2011. Randy Aarestad, Halstad and Doug Safar, Warren completed their terms of service. The new structure is as follows:

- Reed Engelstad, Chairperson, Red Lake Falls
- Todd Peterson, Vice-Chair, Roseau
- Jim Herdliska, Erskine
- Michelle Benton, Thief River Falls
- Shannon Mortenson, Kennedy
- Danielle Harless, Halstad
- Darby Boe, Warren

## Historical Loan Activity (period ending 09/30/11):

Total Loans Made:	167
Active Loans:	40
Total Amount of Loans Made:	\$11,181,375
Other Financing Leveraged:	\$55,176,334
Jobs Created/Retained:	1,462

## Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 09/30/11):

<u>County</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kittson	19	\$1,066,621
Marshall	34	\$2,153,705
Norman	17	\$ 883,533
Pennington	12	\$1,009,850
Polk	50	\$3,589,975
Red Lake	10	\$ 583,115
Roseau	25	\$1,844,876



Above: Dr. Joy's Dental Clinic in Halstad, MN.

# 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 - \$97,566; Regrant - \$717,053; Tax Levy - \$3,156.

**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

## *Emergency Operations Highlights*

### **Joint Powers Board Staff •••**

Continued in partnership with HSEM Region 3 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management) in Northwest Minnesota to perform 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.

### **2011 State Homeland Security Program Grant •••**

Completed and applied for the 2011 State Homeland Security Program Grant on behalf of the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board. Also completed grant applications for the Coast Guard and Emergency Operations Center federal investments.

### **Conference Attendance •••**

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

### **Strategic Plan Creation •••**

Composed a strategic plan for HSEM Region 3 that incorporates a previously completed regional capability assessment with new National Preparedness Goal guidelines. A risk assessment is included, as well as a regional storm and project history.

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan Funding Approval •••**

Hazard Mitigation funding was approved for Clay County to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan. Norman and Marshall Counties have started updating their respective hazard mitigation plans.

### **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.

### **Regional Radio Board Meeting Attendance •••**

Attended regularly scheduled Regional Radio Board and Radio Advisory Committee meetings, and presented interoperability-related grant information if requested.



# 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 \$71,968; RDC Tax Levy - \$11,531.

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



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

## Transportation Highlights

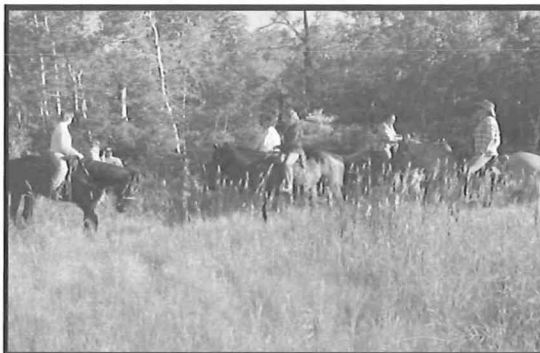
### Regional Trails Plan

The Northwest Regional Development Commission received a community planning program grant through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to develop a multi-use regional trail plan for the NWRDC's seven counties. The RDC transportation department has successfully worked on trail development and recreational equipment proposals through SAFETEA-LU (Mn/DOT transportation enhancement applications), and MN DNR regional trail grant proposals for cities and counties. This assistance has led to recreational opportunities in communities that were not possible in preceding years without traveling out of the local community or region. The planning document gave project leaders and communities the tools to seek alternative funding options and creative ways of planning trails.

The development of recreational opportunities such as multi-use trail corridors has several positive effects on the local community. Counties in the NWRDC service region have seen a continuous decline in population; the fast paced lifestyle of the American family, along with the internet, has replaced outdoor recreational activities resulting in a nation where obesity is alarmingly becoming a threat to society. The trails plan addresses these issues and the economic benefits that outdoor recreation provides to a community.

The regional trails plan focused on inter-county trail connections linking the Headwaters Region, West Central Region, North Dakota and Canada. The plan links existing trails to new proposals using GIS and GPS equipment. The maps in the plan were created using ESRI's ArcView 10; map documents from this plan are available either on the NWRDC website or by contacting the NWRDC.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission has participated in statewide trail workshops that focused on trail development, and the benefits achieved from outdoor recreational opportunities. The RDC discussed the lack of regional trails and outdoor recreational opportunities with the public, industrial sector, counties, cities, RDC's, state offices and clubs. The results of these discussions led to the development of the trails plan, and the education to local clubs on the process of trail acquisition and construction. The NWRDC will partner with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to hold a workshop in 2012 on how to access and leverage the legacy funds.



(Above and Left): The North Country Horseman Saddle Club is creating trails on Marshall County land in Nelson Park Township.

## *Transportation Continued . . .*

### **2011 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan . . .**

The NWRDC completed a transit coordination plan in 2011. The focus of the Plan was Human Service Transportation Coordination with a special emphasis on transit dependent populations in Northwest Minnesota identified as: People in Poverty, Minority Population, Limited English Proficiency, Persons 65 and older, Zero Vehicle Households and Low Wage Jobs. The largest concentrations of the transit dependant populations identified are located in the communities of Warroad, Roseau, Hallock, Warren, Thief River Falls, Red Lake Falls, Crookston, East Grand Forks and Ada; these are primarily the county seats or larger communities that provide medical services, housing for seniors, low income housing opportunities, social service offices and retail services needed by these populations.

The plan expressed coordination of services between the transit providers to make the best use of the resources with a limited amount of funding. The steering committee (pictured below), that helped to develop the plan, will continue meeting in 2012 to focus on high priority projects and coordination efforts to make the system function more efficiently.



### **Minnesota State Aviation System Plan . . .**

The NWRDC was involved in the planning of the state aviation system plan. The primary objective of the Minnesota State Aviation System Plan (SASP) is to provide the State of Minnesota with excellent planning tools that will assist in making informed decisions about guiding the development of Minnesota's system of airports, and expending funds in a cost-effective manner. The intent of the plan is that it be accepted and embraced by the Minnesota aviation community, regulatory and funding agencies, the general public and lawmakers. It will be developed in an open, collaborative and innovative manner with end products that are user-friendly.

The study team provided five-year (2015), 10-year (2020) and 20-year (2030) forecasts of annual passenger enplanements, cargo tonnage, aircraft operations and base aircraft by system airport. The passenger forecasts include a breakout of enplanements by major origin-destination market. Aircraft operations forecasts are broken out by major aircraft type. The study team had 13 tasks to complete ranging from project management, inventory and forecasting to public involvement.

### **Counties within the Mn/DOT District Test a New Road Stabilizer . . .**

Kittson, Pennington, Beltrami and Marshall Counties all purchased Permazyme 11X to test on county gravel roads. The enzyme is worked into the road to strengthen soft spots often caused by frost boils and heavy commercial vehicles. The enzyme binds to the clay in the gravel base to form a very hard surface that can withstand the environment and physical conditions the roads endure throughout the season.

Permazyme 11X is an enzyme produced by Pacific Enzymes, Inc., and is used in various locations as a stabilizing agent for soils and reclaimed roadways. Laboratory tests have been conducted on various soils provided by the Lake County Department of Public Works out of California. The main tests performed during the study are soil gradation, Atterberg limits, soil classification by both AASHTO method and Unified classification method, moisture-density analysis using modified proctor test, triaxial compression tests and R-value tests. The permazyme application is meant to keep roads from failing due to frost boils in the spring and during wet cycles. An application of permazyme also reduces dust on gravel roads by half.

The 2011 construction season was the first application in northwestern Minnesota and the county engineers that have done test sections are happy with the results so far. They are waiting to see how the spring thaw affects the road base, and if this is an application they plan to pursue into the future.



*Above: Pennington County hired Road Reclaimers, Inc. to reclaim county road 84 to a depth of 12 inches. Permazyme was applied to harden the road.*

# Special Projects

## US FISH AND WILDLIFE CHILDREN AND NATURE

Funding Sources: US Fish and Wildlife Regrant - \$14,231.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

Administered the funds for thirty grants with several groups to develop children and nature based activities in the hopes of getting young people involved in outdoor recreational activities. \$500 grants were awarded to each organization that has projects ranging from a trip to the Eli Wolf Center, gardening projects, bug collection, ice fishing, photography of nature and many other activities the kids enjoyed, and will hopefully continue to participate in for years into adulthood. The program was developed through funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Northwest Sustainable Development Partnership, State Health Improvement Program, River Watch, University of Minnesota Extension and several other non-profit entities also participated to make this a successful collaboration of youth, and the importance nature has on the development of children

## NW MN FOUNDATION ENERGY

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$10,095; Tax Levy - \$220.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC completed a seven-county study of energy usage and renewable energy resources. The information helps identify potential projects that are easiest to develop using available resources of renewable energy including: geothermal, wind, solar and biomass. The data was shared with local government, businesses and the public, including two "Let's Do Energy" forums and four energy efficiency meetings held at GO GREEN Business Incubator in Kennedy. Biomass pelleting and anhydrous ammonia from wind production, were identified as two of the likeliest projects for development. Industry consultants provided assistance to area businesses and individuals interested in exploring the development of these resources for profit, including harvest, transportation, processing and sales.

## MN TRAIL PLAN

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$9,054.23; Tax Levy - \$595.35.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

The NWRDC created a regional trails plan for the Region. The plan focused on all modes of recreational trail use. The North Country Horseman Saddle Club and Northstar ATV club are working on the creation of a trail system in Marshall County. This trail system will bring together the motorized and equestrian riders in a unique fashion, to illustrate that both interests can share the same recreational space. The regional plan provides a planning guide for connecting existing trails with new proposals, and will aid in regional trails planning grant applications. Law enforcement has provided valuable information to structuring the use of motorized trails, particularly ATV's in Thief River Falls, the clubs hope this effort continues in other communities within the region. The trails plan can be viewed on the NWRDC website at: [Http://nwrdc.org](http://nwrdc.org)

## BROADBAND PROJECT

Funding Sources: Blandin Foundation - \$19,521; Tax Levy - \$378.

Staff: Jennifer Olson

The NWRDC participated in the Northwest Technology Partnership, a group was established as part of the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) initiative. Thief River Falls is one of eleven MIRC demonstration communities across the state. On-going initiatives that allow residents to better utilize broadband technology include: regularly scheduled digital literacy classes, Computers for our Community and a large-scale technology fair.

## MN COORDINATION PLAN

Funding Sources: MN Department of Transportation - \$20,000; Tax Levy - \$441.

Staff: Troy Schroeder

The RDC contracted with Mn/DOT to complete a transit coordination plan. The plan will focus on a locally developed coordinated public transit human services transportation plan to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with low incomes. The plan provides strategies for meeting those local needs, and prioritized transportation services for funding and implementation.

# Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

## Plans

**2011 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 2011 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.

**2011 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.

**All Hazard Mitigation Planning** - Started the 5 year update process for the Clay, Marshall and Norman All Hazard Mitigation Plans.



## 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](http://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 2011 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 Bunness	Crookston
Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Genevieve Knott	Red Lake Falls
Warren Olson	Halstad
Julie Pahlen	Roseau
Glenda Phillipe	Warroad
Nathan Redland	Halstad
Oliver Swanson	Thief River Falls
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
Wallace Eid	Mahnomen
W. Patrick Johnson	Clearbrook
Kathy Judkins	Bemidji
Ken Moorman	Baudette
Diane Mostad	Kelliher
John Nelson	Clearbrook
John Oren	Baudette
Joe Vene	Bemidji
Nancy Wendler	Baudette

## Regional Arts Council

Kiki Anderson	Thief River Falls
Charles Erickson	Roseau
Barbara Geer	Middle River
Alice Hofstad	Plummer
Patricia Jacklitch	East Grand Forks
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
* Dale Knotek	Crookston
Ken Kylanen	Twin Valley
Aliza Olson	Roseau
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
Roger Falk	Roseau County
Mike Flaagan	Pennington County
Marvin Gunderson	Norman County
* Donald Jensen	Pennington County
Brian Ketring	Roseau County
Courtney Kleven	Red Lake County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Dave Sorensen	Red Lake County
Brent Strand	Red Lake County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

## Bridge Subcommittee

Milton Alm	Norman County
Lone Aune	Marshall County
Kelly Bengtson	Kittson County
Sharon Bring	Marshall County
Curtis Carlson	Marshall County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

## Enterprise Fund Committee

### Loan Fund

** Randall Aarestad	Halstad
Michelle Benton	Thief River Falls
Darby Boe	Warren
** Reed Engelstad	Red Lake Falls
Danielle Harless	Halstad
James Herdliska	Erskine
Shannon Mortenson	Kennedy
Todd Peterson	Roseau
Doug Safar	Warren

### Job & Career

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

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

\*In late 2011, the Enterprise Fund lost a dedicated chairman with the death of Duane Lyberg.

\*Chair

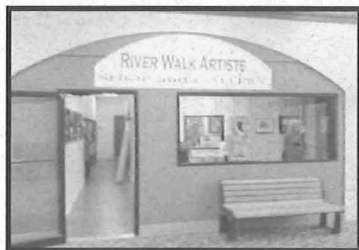
\*\*Loan Chair

# 2011 Highlights

## Arts

### River Walk Artists Shop and Gallery •••

In 2011, our staff assisted with the development of a shop for artists in East Grand Forks located in the Riverwalk Centre Mall. The store includes a space that our Arts Council will use as gallery space to feature our fellowship artists, and themed exhibits for our region. The first show on display are the paintings of Christine Foster of Thief River Falls until December 31, 2011.



## Transportation

### Audubon Center •••

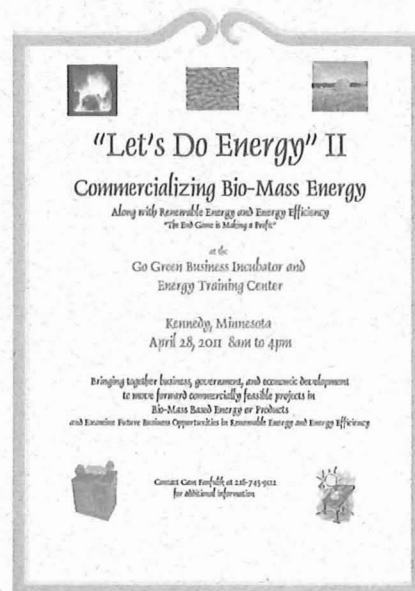
The NWRDC assisted the Audubon Center of the Red River Valley with mapping and marketing to promote all the recreational experiences available at the center, and at birding sites within the Region. The Audubon Center hired Heidi Hughes to manage the 160 acre nature park. Heidi plans to promote the area to the birding community across the country. She is working with the Snake-Middle-Tamarac Watershed to promote the impoundment areas, and educate the public of all the nature and beauty available in Northwest Minnesota.



## Economic Development

### Renewable Energy •••

Conducted a follow-up "Let's Do Energy II" conference at Kennedy Go Green Business Incubator. The Conference brought together consultants, educators, businesses and interested individuals to narrow the focus to identifying projects with the greatest chance of development and commercialization. Biomass pelleting and anhydrous ammonia production from wind energy were listed as the two most likely forms of renewable energy sources to be developed, and consultants identified potential business partners from the private sector. Two energy efficiency seminars were also held for the public and commercial vendors that provided information on: energy savings, available programs, measures to eliminate energy waste and energy efficiency best practices.



## Emergency Management

### Strategic Plan •••

In 2011, a draft was completed of the HSEM Region 3 Strategic Plan. This document capitalizes on previously completed regional studies, while incorporating information released in Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness. This is a whole community centered approach to preparedness that utilizes multiple partners to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to and recover from threats and hazards.

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