



Annual Report | 2011



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC), I am pleased to present the 2011 annual report. This report represents the efforts of our talented and dedicated staff and of local elected officials who serve as the board of RNDC. Information presented in this report illuminates the activities and resources used throughout the region to make a difference in the lives of youth, families, seniors, workers, businesses, nonprofits, governments, and citizens at large

The Commission is governed by 36 regional leaders. These individuals help represent the 72 cities, 147 townships, school districts, the Minnesota Valley Council of Governments, and the following special interest groups: Agriculture, Commerce, Crime Prevention, Environmental Quality, Health and Human Welfare, Minority Populations, Tourism and Recreation, and Transportation.

RNDC has continued partnering with groups such as the South Central Economic Growth Collaborative, Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. (MNRAAA), Southern Minnesota Competiveness Grant, Highway 169 Corridor Coalition, Renewable Energy Task Force, Brown County Economic Collaborative, Fiscal Hardship and many more collaborative efforts.

RNDC gained new partnerships in 2011. RNDC has begun collaborating with Greater Mankato Growth on committees and projects. One new partnership

with Greater Mankato Growth is REDA. The Regional Economic Development Alliance aims to facilitate an economic development partnership that serves the communities of greater Mankato.

Thank you to the committed staff members who all work so hard to make Region Nine the “Go To” region to live and thrive.

I would like to personally thank the board of directors as well as the full Commission for their dedication and hard work. The team members at Region Nine have applauded the groups and stated they have been one of the most engaged boards and commissions in the history of Region Nine.

A special thanks to Chair Jim Swanson for his leadership while the position of Executive Director was vacant. He was instrumental in leading the team through a time of change.

I hope you will enjoy learning about how Region Nine is successfully growing and expanding as it serves the area, from reading this 2011 Annual Report.

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of Region Nine.

Nicole Griensewic
Executive Director

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FROM THE COMMISSION BOARD CHAIR

This was a challenging year for Region Nine. Following the resignation of our Executive Director last fall, the agency staff pulled together and worked as a team to maintain services while the search process took place.

Kudos to our staff and Directors for their efforts to move Region Nine Development Commission forward during this transition. I appreciate Lu Vanderwerf for being patient with me and helping me to better understand the finance side of Region Nine. Linda Giersdorf was great to ensure all the programs of MNRAAA were functioning to a high degree while going through changes and more mandates handed down by the state agency. Ronda Allis was superb in keeping me updated on economic and transportation issues for the region, and took on a strong leadership role in the agency. I would also like to commend the members of the Commission for their support in assuring that Region Nine maintained its programs and initiatives. Many hours were logged reviewing the goals of Region Nine and we made good progress on the strategic plan, to ensure the organization was meeting the needs of the region.

We were fortunate to end the search process, within four short months, with the selection of our new Executive Director, Nicole Griensewic. Nicole has

brought new vitality and energy to the organization and has been instrumental in gaining new partners as well as renewing former relationships.

I am excited for the future of Region Nine. We have renewed leadership. We have a great staff. We have new partners. We have former partners asking us to help them.

In order to grow our capacity to serve and with respect to the demands of new initiatives and partners, we have begun to add more staff. We are in short order becoming the “go to” agency for communities and businesses in our region.

As Commissioners, we need to stay involved and supportive of our staff to make this truly a team effort focused on economic growth for our nine county region. Although it was a time consuming year for me as Chair, I must say that I did enjoy seeing the success stories taking place and working with the excellent leaders in Region Nine governmental entities.

Thank you for letting me serve you.

Jim Swanson
Board Chair



Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc.

Senior LinkAge Line®: A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors

Since 1997, many older adults in Minnesota have relied on the Senior LinkAge Line®, a statewide service of the Minnesota Board on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging, as their first call for assistance when experiencing questions or issues on a variety of subjects. Most widely known for Medicare expertise and helping older adults age well in the community, the Senior LinkAge Line® is also often used for helping Minnesota seniors and their caregivers to find answers to other questions that may involve state agencies, such as how to handle a driver's license that has been revoked or determining if a professional holds a current license. Because of the extensive knowledge of the Senior LinkAge Line® specialists, as well as the increasing popularity of the line, when Lt. Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon had a vision for a One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors, it made sense to expand the already in-place Senior LinkAge Line®.

The newly expanded Senior LinkAge Line®: A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors can now quickly assist Minnesotans on a variety of subjects that require the

expertise of other state agencies. With one call, a specialist can connect the caller to appropriate state agency staff that can directly assist the caller without requiring a second, or even third, call to be made. For example, if a senior has questions regarding their property tax, a Senior LinkAge Line® One Stop Shop specialist can chat with a staff from the Minnesota Department of Revenue to find an answer for the caller. This virtual network is made possible through the use of Revation, a specialized chat and call system. The Senior LinkAge Line®: A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors will continue to expand over the next year with connecting seniors to volunteer and employment opportunities.

To seek assistance with any area concerning Minnesota seniors and their caregivers, call the Senior LinkAge Line®: A One Stop Shop for Minnesota Seniors at 1-800-333-2433. Specialists are also available through online chat at www.MinnesotaHelp.info®. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Voicemail is available after hours.

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative: Phase I

General Grant Information

The purpose of the Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative is to improve access to transportation resources for veterans, military families and other clients by connecting customers in one place to rides and transportation options available from a variety of transportation providers and programs in their area. The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$34.6 million to local government agencies for 55 projects ranging in size from \$29,000 to \$2 million to finance capital costs of implementing, expanding or increasing access to local One-Call/One-Click Transportation Resource Centers. The grant focused on capital expenses including hardware, software, and engineering and design, but did not fund vehicle purchases, operations, vehicle dispatch or trip scheduling. The maximum award was \$2 million through a funding partnership of 80 percent federal and 20 percent local match.

Phase I of Minnesota's Information and Referral Project

The Minnesota Department of Transportation MnDOT, with the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc., the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), and other partners, will use \$532,840 of the \$1.19 million grant to make transportation enhancements in Southwestern Minnesota to the MinnesotaHelp™ Network, Minnesota's existing statewide one-call/one-click center. Clients of the MinnesotaHelp™ Network include veterans, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Phase I will augment technology links between transportation providers, veterans organizations in the 27 counties in Southwestern Minnesota, and the existing MinnesotaHelp™ Network. The grant will cover the purchase of hardware, such as computers and VoIP phones, and software that will ensure smooth and secure data transfer. Training for software operations is another component of Phase

MNRAAA cont. on p. 5

Thank you from the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc.

On behalf of the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc., I would like to thank the Board, Advisory Councils on Aging, Senior LinkAge Line volunteers, as well as all our volunteers and staff for the work they do on behalf of older adults and caregivers. Your help is very much appreciated.

- *Linda Giersdorf*, MNRAAA Executive Director

MnRAAA cont. from p. 4

I. The project will benefit the Veterans Linkage Line, Senior Linkage Line, and the Disability Linkage Line, all three of which are housed under the MinnesotaHelp™ Network.

Phase I will include oversight by a coordinating council made up of transportation providers (both public, non-profit, and private), Veterans organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans, County Veterans

Service Officers, regional planners, and representatives from state agencies (MnDOT, DHS, and DVA). The coordinating council will also provide opportunities for public input and engage additional veteran and military family, human service and public transit providers to participate in the project development process. A project management team will meet more frequently throughout the project to coordinate with stakeholder groups and to manage the timeline, scope, and budget.

Helping Others Create Their Own Personal Success.

Sue was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and began losing her mobility at age 18. She struggled with losing her independence, having to change her plans for the future, and realizing at a very young age that her life would no longer be the same. Despite this, Sue challenged herself and brought an energy and passion to all that she did throughout her years.

Now at 47 years old, Sue was faced with a new challenge. After joining a Living Well with Chronic Conditions class and considering her “action plan,” a weekly component of the class that challenged each participant to do something that would benefit their lives; Sue decided she did not want to be immobile

anymore. At week one she announced to the group that though she had not been able to walk up a flight of stairs in years, she was ready to walk again. Each week Sue practiced climbing the stairs and each week she grew stronger. By the end of the sixth week of the Living Well with Chronic Conditions class, Sue not only climbed one flight of stairs, but eight flights of stairs!

Sue’s story is one of many that highlight the power that Living Well with Chronic Conditions can have on recognizing each participant’s potential for achievement and creating a platform for amazing personal success while inspiring others along the way.

TRANSPORTATION

2011 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan

In 2011 Region Nine Development Commission developed a public transit and human services transportation coordination plan, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, local providers and stakeholders. The plan is a requirement of SAFETEA-LU, (Safe Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act) the current federal surface transportation bill, and will allow the release of certain future federal transit dollars to the state, local agencies and providers.

The purpose of human services public transit coordination is to improve transportation services for persons with disabilities, older adults, and individuals with low incomes by ensuring that communities maximize use of transportation resources funded through public and private sources.

The 2011 Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan is an update of the 2006 plan and will assist stakeholders as they determine ways to coordinate transit services in Region Nine.

Federal regulations state that projects eligible for funding under the Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Section 5310), Job Access and Reverse Commute (Section 5316), and The New



Freedom Initiative (Section 5317) programs must advance strategies identified in a Local Human Service Transit Coordination Plan. This planning process fulfills federal requirements by engaging transportation providers, social services agencies, and members of the public in identifying strategies for regional transportation coordination.

Beyond fulfilling federal requirements, this planning process encouraged representatives of diverse

Transportation cont. on p. 6

Transportation cont. from p. 5

organizations to join together in articulating specific projects that could advance coordination strategies in Region Nine. Through public outreach activities, stakeholders brainstormed project ideas and refined these ideas in a collaborative setting. The final project list reflects input of a broad range of regional stakeholders and provides a 5-year blueprint for future coordination efforts in Region Nine.

The plan is comprised of three key components:

1. Public involvement through creation of a steering committee, stakeholder workshop, and a provider survey;
2. An inventory of transportation services within the region;
3. Identification of strategies to enhance coordination and address gaps in service.

Strategies that ranked high throughout the planning process include:

1. Regional Transportation Linkage Line (central location for information)
2. Centralized Mobility Manager (dispatch center)
3. Diversification of vehicle fleet
4. Extension of evening and weekend service hours

Throughout the planning process three key themes kept emerging as deterrents to transit coordination:

1. Funding
2. Provider “buy-in”
3. Regulations/policies

Providing transit, especially in less populated, rural areas, is not always cost-effective. Furthermore, as state and federal dollars become more difficult to access, it will become increasingly more challenging to provide services in Greater Minnesota. There are currently funds available; however, success in receiving those funds has proven to be more difficult.

Change is also difficult. Providers become comfortable with their service provision. Routes are established. Drivers are hired. Convincing providers to change the way things are being done (or have been done) is also a test. In order to be successful with transit coordination, there has to be “buy-in” by the providers.

Finally, some of the current policies and regulations have made transit coordination difficult. Finding ways to work around insurance challenges, crossing county boundaries, and hefty driver requirements (certification, drug and alcohol testing, training, etc...) have placed an undue burden on transit coordination.

A copy of the 2011 Plan can be found on the Region Nine website under the transportation tab.



Thank You

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):

Lisa Bigham, MN/DOT

Jim Broich, Region Nine Commissioner

Drew Campbell, Region Nine Commissioner

Peggy Evenson, Region Nine Commissioner

Al Forsberg, Blue Earth County Engineer

Terry Genelin, Region Nine Commissioner

Jeff Johnson, Mankato City Engineer

Steve Koehler, New Ulm City Engineer

Dan Kuhns, Region Nine Commissioner

Tom Loveall, Region Nine Commissioner

Brian Malm, Bolton and Menk

John McDonald, Faribault County Engineer

Darrell Pettis, LeSueur County Administrator/Engineer

Nathan Richman, Waseca County Engineer

Phil Schafer, Region Nine Commissioner

Mark Scheidel, MN/DOT

Mary Safgren, MN/DOT

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regional Economic Development Collaboration *Walking the Walk*

Collaboration is not just a buzzword used at meetings. It happens at the intersection of opportunity and planning. By building strong partnerships through conversation with our regional partners, RNDC plans for opportunities where collaboration can occur. It's following through on the phrases "walking the walk" after "talking the talk."

The Minnesota Valley Action Council, RNDC, and Pettipiece & Associates have partnered to assist local jurisdictions in the pursuit of the State of Minnesota's Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). This represents a public, private, and non-profit collaboration. Both Minnesota Valley Action Council and Pettipiece & Associates have a strong history of administering the SCDP. Over the past two years, RNDC has brought in over \$900,000 in rehabilitation funding through the SCDP. These funds equal economic development for South Central Minnesota.

The Small Cities Development Program helps cities and counties with funding for housing, infrastructure and commercial rehabilitation projects that benefit people having low and moderate incomes.

Projects must meet one of three objectives:

- Benefit people of low and moderate incomes.
- Eliminate slum and blight conditions.
- Eliminate an urgent threat to public health or safety.

In addition, need impact and cost effectiveness must be documented and the general public must be involved in the application process.

Cities with fewer than 50,000 residents and counties with fewer than 200,000 residents are eligible.

This partnership will leverage resources and capitalize on each organization's strength in order to serve South Central Minnesota best.

It is the intent of this partnership to:

- Leverage the existing resources of the region – strengthen communities' existing funds for economic development.
- Provide the best service and highest likelihood of success – evaluate which communities are most competitive.
- Advocate for funding for South Central Minnesota every year – communicate priorities to DEED staff.
- Work for communities who are the most ready for SCDP funding – help communities fulfill their economic development goals.
- Assist communities of all sizes in becoming ready to apply for SCDP funding – provide technical assistance to communities.
- Utilize the grant administrative capacity of the partnership to make communities competitive in the application process – capitalize on each organization's strengths.
- Facilitate coordination among local jurisdictions – mediate competition between communities.

Thank You

Community & Economic Development Committee:

Eric Anderson

Gary Sturm

Pam Meyer

Rob Hammond

Rob Anderson

Karen Wagner

Steve Rohlifing

Connie Ireland

Peggy Evenson

Linsey Warmka

Bob Schabert

Dan Kuhns

Michael Fischer

Molly Westman

Charlie Schmitz

Tom Loveall

Diane Halvorson

Russ Wille

RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE

South Central Minnesota Regional Energy Study

The main accomplishment of the Renewable Energy Task Force, in 2011, was the completion of the South-Central Minnesota Regional Energy Study. The study was funded by grants from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, the Southwest Clean Energy Resource Team and the Southeast Clean Energy Resource Team.

Focus Areas

The study estimated the energy consumption, renewable energy potential, energy costs, and greenhouse gas emissions for all nine counties in South-Central Minnesota. The estimates of energy consumption and renewable energy potential produced as part of the study were derived using the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute's Template for Estimating County Level Energy Use and Renewable Energy Potential. Using these estimates, it was then possible to approximate the region's annual energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

Principal Findings

The study found that the region has the potential to produce 7.5 times the energy it consumes on an annual basis. The region consumes an estimated 102 trillion Btu of energy annually. However, the region has the theoretical potential to produce 765 trillion Btu of renewable energy from biomass and wind alone. (The potential from solar, geothermal and hydropower were not examined as part of this study; the potential from these sources is more reliant on human will and technology than resource availability.)

This potential presents the region with several opportunities, including the opportunity to:

- Become energy independent
- Become a major source of energy exports in the

Midwest

- Become a leader in the renewable energy and clean technology fields
- Expand and diversify the regional economy

The study found that region spends an estimated \$1.6 billion annually on energy. If even a portion of this money could be reinvested into the community, the results would be significant. Such an investment would aid local communities in a variety of ways – from providing jobs to increasing demand for local products and services. This estimate also provides perspective relative to the investment that may be necessary to reconfigure the region's existing energy infrastructure from a fossil fuel dependant model to a more sustainable model.

The study found that the region contributes 9.7 million tons of greenhouse gases annually (for this study greenhouse gases were measured in carbon dioxide equivalents). This amount is only 6% of the total greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota. However, on a per capita basis, the region emits nearly twice the national average and a quarter more than the state average. This is attributed to the high level of manufacturing activity in the region; both energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions are strongly correlated to manufacturing output.

Future of Energy in the Region

The study was intended to stimulate and support community discussions regarding the future of energy generation and consumption in the region. Furthermore, the study was envisioned to aid communities in the development of the local renewable energy industry, as well as the regional economy as a whole.

Funding Services and Uses

| AMOUNT | FUNDER | PROJECT | TIME FRAME |
|------------------|---------------------|--|------------|
| \$21,900 | SMIF | Community Wind | 2009-2010 |
| \$20,000 | SMIF | Regional Energy Study | 2010-2011 |
| \$12,000 | CERTs | Regional Energy Study | 2010-2011 |
| \$38,950 | USDA-RBEG | Bulk Buy | 2011-2012 |
| \$29,880 | Carolyn Foundation | Bulk Buy, Staff Time, Plotter, Teleconference Device | 2011-2012 |
| \$6,100 | CERTs | Bulk Buy | 2012 |
| \$128,830 | TOTAL AMOUNT | | |

Thank You

These Organizations

- Agricultural Utilization Research Institute
- Clean Energy Resource Teams
- Gustavus Adolphus College
- Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
- United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
- Windustry

Thank You

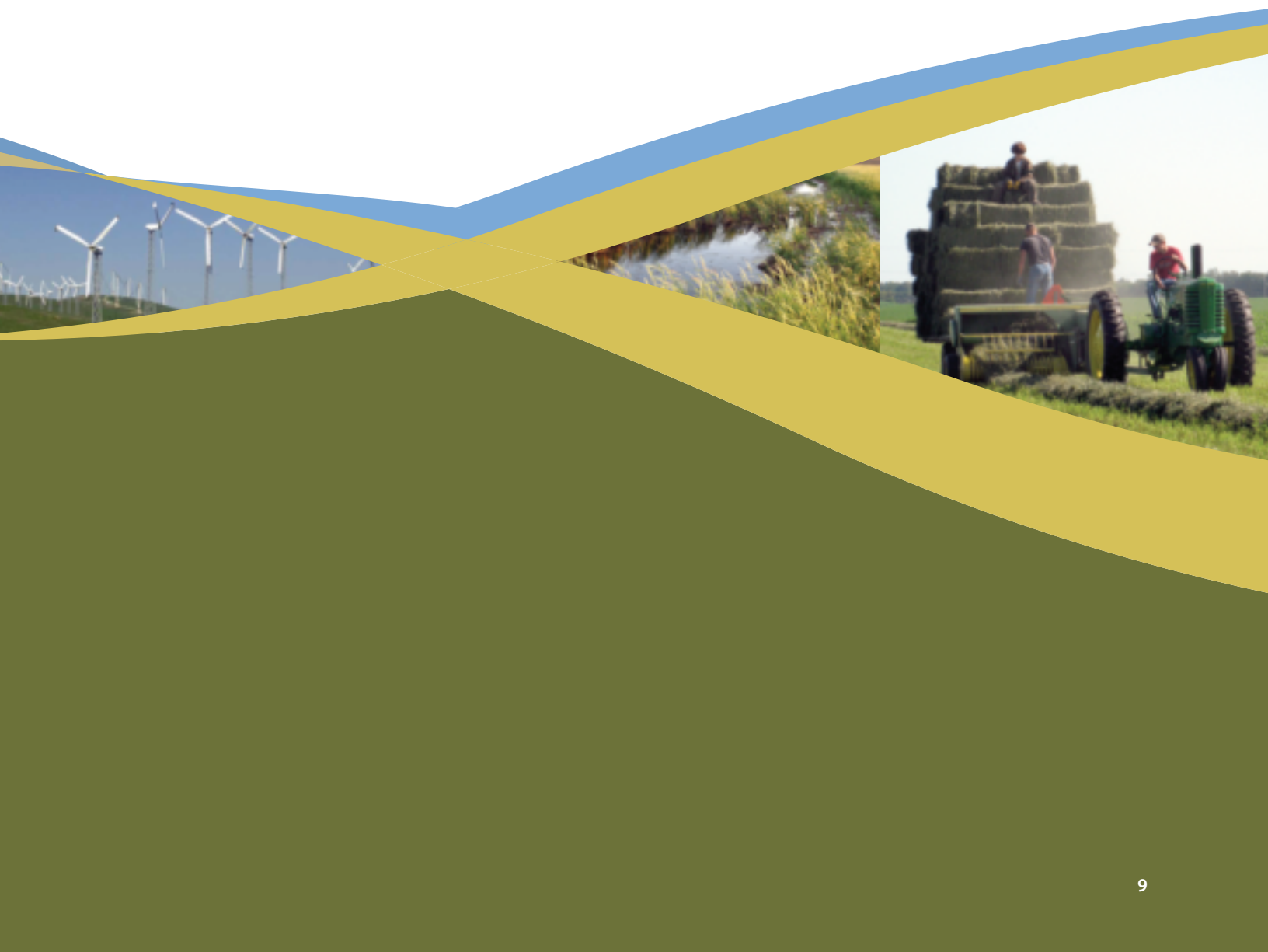
Renewable Energy Task Force

Executive Board

Dr. James Dontje, Chair
Robert Johnson, Vice-Chair
Katy Wortel, Secretary
Dr. Paul Lindfors, Member-at-Large

Special Thanks to:

Monika Antonelli
Dr. Raymond Asomani-Boateng
Al Christensen
Susan Flores-Diaz
Lee Ganske
Jim Gibson
Alissa Harrington
Joel Haskard
Rich Huelskamp
Jane M.F. Johnson
Todd Leonard
Mark Lindquist
Linda Meschke
Nick Nelson
Leigh Pomeroy
Dr. Louis Schwartzkopf
Dennis Timmerman
Dr. Dan Turner



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

| Revenues: | | ACTUAL | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | 2011 | | |
| FEDERAL | 481,621 | CONFERENCE REVENUE | 35,655 |
| STATE | 276,834 | CHARGES FOR SERVICES | 3,574 |
| TAX LEVY | 451,758 | INTEREST | 73,860 |
| OTHER SOURCES | 123,216 | TOTAL REVENUES | 1,446,518 |
| Expenditures: | | | |
| PERSONNEL | 820,777 | EQUIPMENT / DEPRECIATION | 14,301 |
| FRINGE | 310,402 | CAPITAL OUTLAY | 7,200 |
| COPYING / PRINTING | 23,088 | OFFICE SPACE | 1,710 |
| PUBLIC NOTICE | 2,837 | MARKETING | 9,381 |
| POSTAGE | 6,623 | PROGRAM & STAFF DEVELOPMENT | 871 |
| TELEPHONE | 22,402 | FUND BALANCE RECOVERY | 0 |
| TRAVEL - STAFF | 48,861 | OFFICE SPACE | 64,731 |
| TRAVEL - OTHER | 26,111 | PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT | -38,479 |
| REGISTRATION | 13,738 | TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 1,439,906 |
| SUPPLIES | 10,475 | NET EXPENDITURES | 1,439,906 |
| PUBLIC / SUBSCRIP / MEMBER | 14,212 | BALANCE TO RESERVES | 6,612 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 4,931 | *PASS THRU | 525,524 |
| CONSULTANT | 14,936 | | |
| INSURANCE | 560 | | |
| ERRORS & OMISSIONS INSURANCE | 20,026 | | |
| MAINTENANCE | 6,546 | | |
| LEGAL | 9,360 | | |
| AUDITING | 24,306 | | |

Indirect Rate for 2011 was 22.80%
Fringe was budgeted to be 41.91%, actual was 37.82%

REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION LEVY HISTORY

| <i>Year Payable</i> | <i>Percent Base</i> | <i>Levy Increase</i> | <i>Levy Amount</i> | <i>Increase</i> |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2011 | 461,733 | 3.00% | 475,583 | 3.00% |
| 2010 | 448,284 | 3.00% | 461,733 | 3.00% |
| 2009 | 435,227 | 3.00% | 448,283 | 3.00% |
| 2008 | 422,550 | 3.00% | 435,227 | 3.00% |
| 2007 | 410,243 | 3.00% | 422,550 | 3.00% |

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

The Region Nine Development Commission's Revolving Loan Fund Program has the primary role of providing financial assistance in the form of loans to entrepreneurs seeking to open new businesses, as well as to those existing businesses looking to expand. The primary focus of the clients receiving loans is to add jobs to their local and regional economy.

During the 2011 fiscal year, financial hardship caused the clients of the loan program to take a hard look at the circumstances that their businesses were facing, and make some hard decisions. Rather than indulging in dreams of how they could take their business to the next level; they were instead re-thinking their ability to even maintain the status quo. Some were forced into "survival mode."

Region Nine's role shifted from that of promoting the EDA's mission of adding jobs and expanding business to that of a partner helping them to lose as little of their

business as possible. It was essentially throwing them a life line that would enable their survival. This was primarily done through negotiating deferments that allowed the business to maintain a level of cash flow essential to continue business functions, while still making some level of payment toward their loan. Region Nine worked closely with these businesses and constantly reviewed the business circumstances.

In the end, our definition of a successful year had changed. The usual measures were not applicable. While there were a few clients who did not survive, there were seven businesses that continued operations because of our cooperation in a difficult situation. While these surviving businesses had to move forward with fewer employees, it was a success that they were moving forward with the employees they maintained. If we had not worked with them, all of the employees of these businesses would have been at risk. How can we not consider that a successful partnership?

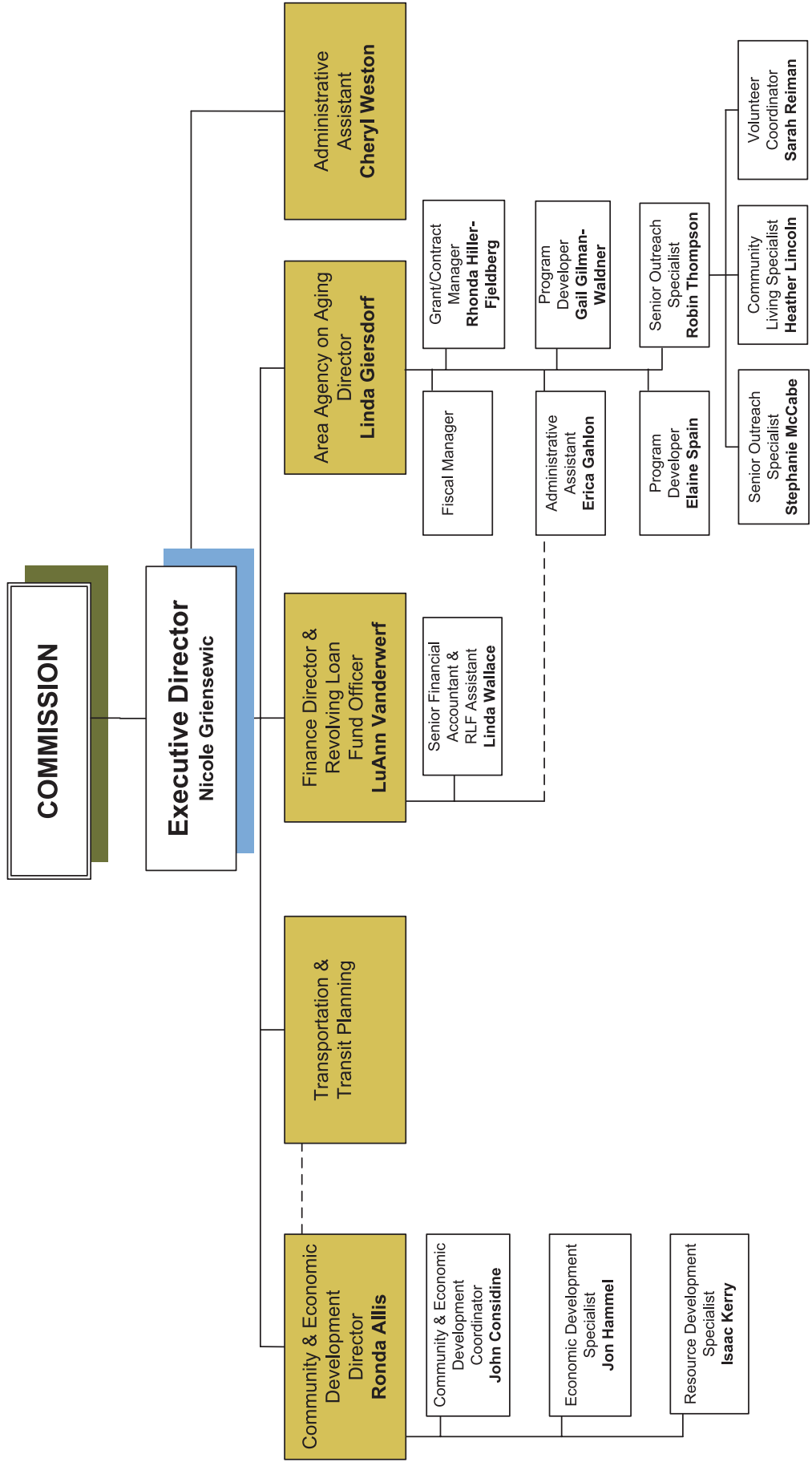
Thank You

Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee

| | | | |
|-------------|---|----------------|-------------------------|
| Broich, Jim | Mayor, City of Sleepy Eye | Paulson, Jim | Pioneer Bank, St. James |
| Hayden, Don | Economic Development Director, Le Center | Regner, Tim | Banker, Sibley County |
| Hansen, Jay | Nicollet County Bank | Roesler, Bob | Sherburn City Council |
| More, Jim | Easton State Bank | Raimann, Carol | Roundbank Waseca |

Region Nine Development Commission

Organization Chart



REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STAFF

Administration

Nicole Griensewic, Executive Director
507.389.8872 / nicole@rndc.org

Cheryl Weston, Administrative Assistant
507.389.8885 / cheryl@rndc.org

Finance

LuAnn Vanderwerf, Finance Director
507.389.8878 / luann@rndc.org

Linda Wallace, Senior Financial Accountant
507.389.8889 / ljwall@rndc.org

Community & Economic Development

Ronda Allis, Director & Transportation Coordinator
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John Considine, Community & Economic Development
Coordinator
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Jon Hammel, Economic Development Specialist
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Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc.

Linda Giersdorf, Executive Director
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Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Grant/Contract Manager
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Erica Gahlon, Administrative Assistant
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Heather Lincoln, Community Living Specialist
507.389.8864 / heather@rndc.org

Stephanie McCabe, Senior Outreach Specialist
507.389.8894 / stephanie@rndc.org

Elaine Spain, EDP & Project ROSE Coordinator
507.389.8860 / espain@rndc.org

Robin Thompson, Senior Outreach Specialist
507.389.8876 / robint@rndc.org

2011 COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Blue Earth County

Ahrenstorff, Brad
Campbell, Drew
Flores, Janie
Hendricks, Ann
Hurd, Charlie
Schaller, Doug

Cities under 10,000
County Commissioner
Minority Populations
School Boards
City of Mankato
Township Board

Brown County

Berg, Jim
Broich, James
Juni, Frederick
Schmitz, Charles

County Commissioner
Cities under 10,000
Township Board
New Ulm City Council

Faribault County

Hammond, Rob (Treasurer)
Loveall, Tom
Olson, Darwin

Cities under 10,000
County Commissioner
Township Board

LeSueur County

Heldberg, Kermit
Rohlfing, Steve
Wencl, William

Township Board
County Commissioner
Cities under 10,000

Martin County

Bolers, Jerry
Gorath, Harlan
Roesler, Bob
Schafer, Phil

County Commissioner
Fairmont City Council
Cities under 10,000
Township Board

Nicollet County

Dranttel, Marie
Genelin, Terry
Meyer, Pam
Norland, Diane
Strand, Tim (R9 Vice Chair)

County Commissioner
Township Board
Cities under 10,000
North Mankato City Council
Mayor, City of St. Peter

Sibley County

Evenson, Peggy
Pautsch, Brenda
Swanson, Jim (R9 Chair)

Township Board
Cities Under 10,000
County Commissioner

Waseca County

Coy, Cindy
Elvebak, Laura
Kuhns, Dan
Owens, Gary

Cities Under 10,000
MN Valley Council of Governments
County Commissioner
Township Board

Watonwan County

Fenske, Candace
Mikkelson, Lance
Sanders, Scott
Sturm, Gary

Health & Human Welfare
Township Board
County Commissioner
Cities under 10,000

HISTORY AND MISSION

The Creation of Regional Development Commissions

“The legislature finds that problems of growth and development transcend the boundary lines of local government units and not a single unit can plan for their solution without affecting other units in the region; and assistance is needed to make the most effective use of local, state, federal and private programs in serving the citizens of urban and rural regions.”

Background on Region Nine

The Region Nine Development Commission was authorized by the Regional Development Act of 1969, and was organized by local officials in 1972. The purpose of regional development commissions “is to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical and governmental concerns of each region of the state”. Working regionally, being challenged by the rapid changes in our communities. Finding ways to help citizens navigate those changes. Focus on problem solving and creating value. Region Nine is comprised of nine south central Minnesota counties including: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan. The area includes 72 cities and 147 townships. Their combined population is approximately 222,790 of the State’s 4,919,479 people, according to the 2000 Census.

Region Nine Development Commission

Forty-three leaders from across the region serve on the Commission including:

- Thirty-four elected officials representing nine counties, 72 cities, 147 townships, school districts and soil and water conservation districts.
- Eight representatives of special interest groups, including agriculture, commerce, crime prevention, environmental quality, health and human welfare, minority populations, tourism

and recreation and transportation. The Minnesota Valley Council of Governments is also represented.

Because of the strategic and collaborative approach to planning over the years, Region Nine Development Commission is well positioned to be a valuable resource for small business growth. RNDC’s vision and leadership will work to ensure the economic vitality of this region into the future.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the RNDC is to promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning, and technical assistance. We will maintain a future-oriented perspective that helps to facilitate decisions which result in healthier and more prosperous communities that are better equipped to move forward into the future.

What We Value

We are accountable to the public, our funding agencies and to each other for the quality of our work, promoting development of the region and being fiscally responsible.

We promote, encourage and provide opportunities for development, leadership and mentoring at all levels of participation within the organization. We expect professionalism to be demonstrated by our behavior, conduct and loyalty. We value timely, open and honest communication to enhance organization effectiveness. We embrace change and celebrate new challenges, are able to identify problems, look at the options and evaluate the consequences with a sense of purpose and future.

We value and respect the diversity of the region and of our organization. We support teamwork across the organization, lending knowledge and skill as needed to be successful and efficient.

South Central Minnesota: State Representatives



Representative: Paul Torkelson
District: 21B
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance
 Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Policy and Finance (Vice Chair)
 Legacy Funding Division



Representative: Terry Morrow
District: 23A
Affiliation: Democrat
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance
 Higher Education Policy and Finance
 Transportation Policy and Finance



Representative: Kathy Brynaert
District: 23B
Affiliation: Democrat
Committees: Education Finance
 Rules and Legislative Administration
 Ways and Means



Representative: Bob Gunther
District: 24A
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Jobs and Economic Development Finance (Chair)
 State Government Finance
 Ways and Means



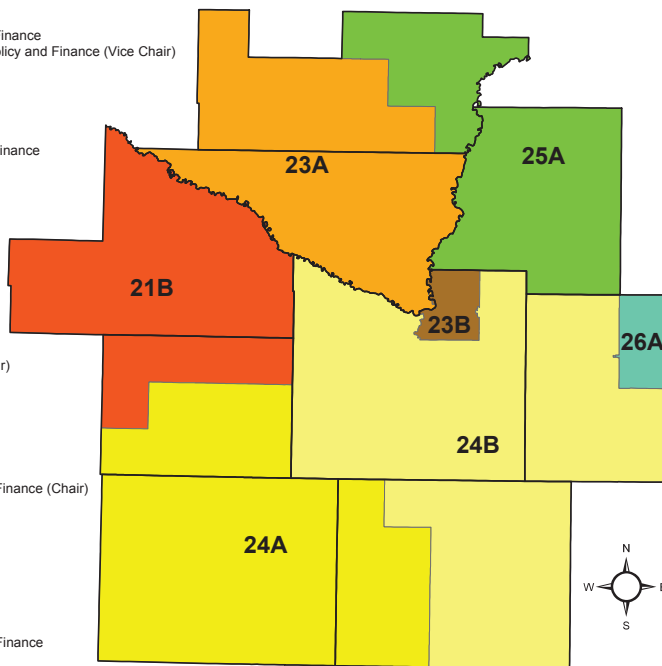
Representative: Tony Cornish
District: 24B
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Judiciary Policy and Finance
 Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance (Chair)
 Ways and Means
 Legacy Funding Division



Representative: Glenn Gruenhagen
District: 25A
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Civil Law
 Health and Human Service Reform
 Judiciary Policy and Finance
 Public Safety and Crime Prevention Policy and Finance



Representative: Kory Kath
District: 26A
Affiliation: Democrat
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Finance
 Education Reform
 Veterans Services Division



Produced by Region Nine Development Commission, January 2011
 Legislative districts may extend into neighboring regions.

South Central Minnesota: State Senators



Senator: Gary Dahms
District: 21
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Economies (Vice Chair)
 Commerce and Consumer Protection
 Environment and Natural Resources



Senator: Kathy Sheran
District: 23
Affiliation: Democrat
Committees: Health and Human Services
 Higher Education
 Local Government and Elections
 Transportation



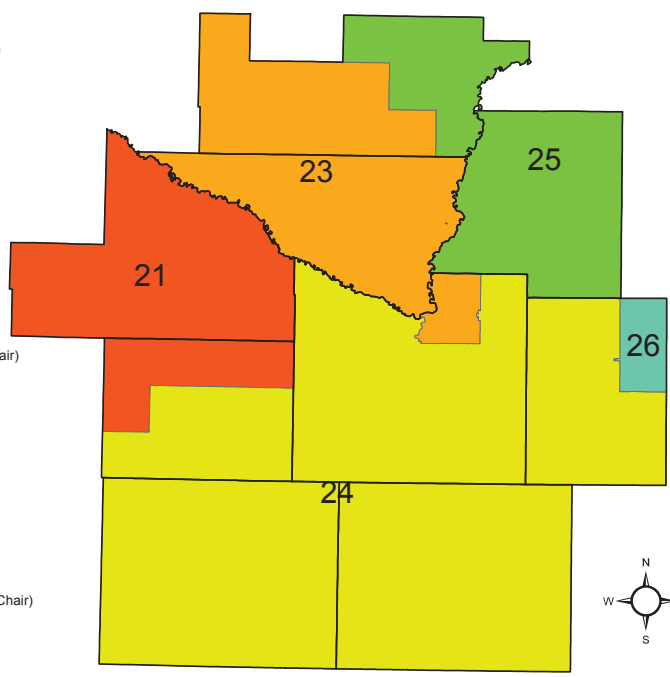
Senator: Julie Rosen
District: 24
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Agriculture and Rural Economies
 Capital Investment
 Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications (Chair)
 Health and Human Services (Vice Chair)
 Taxes



Senator: Al DeKruif
District: 25
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Education
 Jobs and Economic Growth
 Transportation



Senator: Mike Parry
District: 26
Affiliation: Republican
Committees: Finance
 State Government Innovation and Veterans (Chair)
 Finance
 Transportation



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Region Nine Development Commission Members



Region Nine Development Commission is excited to be implementing social media tools, making the organization more accessible to those we serve. Connect with us on Facebook (by scanning the QR code to the right) and Twitter (@RegionNineDC) to learn more about the services we offer as well as other local resources, initiatives and opportunities. Together, we can work to build and strengthen our local communities.



Your Regional Partner for Progress