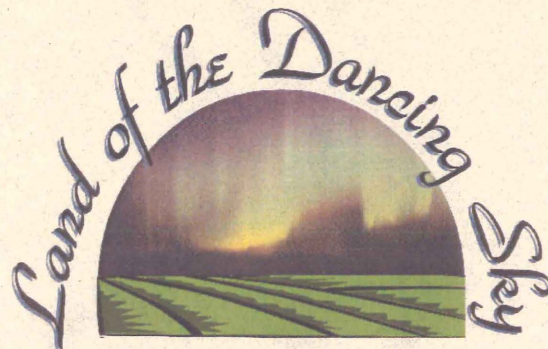




Northwest Regional Development Commission

(www.nwrdc.org)

Annual Report Calendar Year 2012



(www.visitnwminnesota.com)

Table of Contents

General Highlights

Letter from the Chairman	3
Introduction and NWRDC Staff List	4
Commission Membership List	5
Budget	6
Audit Letter	7

Program Highlights

.	8
Aging	9-12
Arts	13-16
Community Development	17-18
Economic Development	19
Enterprise Loan Fund	20
Emergency Operations	21
Transportation	22-23
Special Projects	24
Publications	25
Committee Lists	26

2012 Highlights Letter	27
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Working for Local Units of Government in Kittson, Marshall, Norman,
Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties

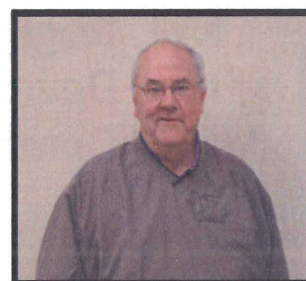
NWRDC • 115 South Main, Suite 1 •
Warren, MN 56762 • 218-745-6733

Agency Web Site Address: www.nwrdc.org

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

Letter from the Chairman

Dr. Joe Bouvette



Diversity and Growth

One of the cardinal rules for developing community prosperity is to diversify the economic base and become as self-reliant as possible. This strategy appears to have served Northwest Minnesota well, as the area has suffered less ill effects and exhibited more signs of prosperity during the national recession than many areas of the country. A strong farm economy and resilient manufacturing sector have played important roles in maintaining the region's competitiveness during this period of economic uncertainty, along with steady gains in value-added agriculture and new ventures that promote tourism, arts and recreation.

All of these things, of course, bring to the region the quality of life and the atmosphere that we strive for in making our area a great place to live and work. As you page through this report, you will notice that NWRDC staff assist in these efforts through a variety of programs,

projects and partnerships. These include things like educating seniors about their care options and helping them to stay in their homes longer and live independently, or, it may be assisting local artists with business planning and developing a regional showcase to market their products. It includes providing comprehensive planning for communities or participating with the Community Partnership to provide affordable housing opportunities for workforce, or providing low-interest loans to small business through our revolving loan fund. When you add transportation and emergency management planning to the mix, or working with groups to provide educational career paths for students, or promoting ingenuity and innovation in entrepreneurship...the list becomes as diverse as the area we serve. NWRDC looks forward to the coming year, and continuing to help bring community prosperity throughout the region.

River Walk Gallery in East Grand Forks

The Northwest Minnesota Arts Council is proud of their very successful first year running a gallery space in East Grand Forks. The gallery is located within the Riverwalk Center Mall (River Cinema movie theater). We contracted with Therese Jacobson to coordinate and install the exhibits. Therese did an outstanding job!

Our gallery was on the Art and Wine walk, which was an excellent way to increase exposure for the artists that we showcased. Please continue to visit our gallery next year. Here is a list of this years exhibits and some statistics and awards!



Art/Wine Walk Overall

<u>Exhibit Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Functional Art Exhibit*	May 1 - June 24	291	420
Deb Aune, Erin Nelson	June 27 - Aug 6	221	1,385
Renee Jensen, Karen Engevik, Kathy Comstock	Aug 7 - Sep 9	375	756
Jean Ranstrom, Jerome Fuglseth	Sep 11 - Oct 14	275	562
Irene Bertils, Jolene Juhl	Oct 15 - Nov 12	235	509
Holiday Exhibit: Various Artists	Nov 13 - Jan 14		976
		1,397	4,590

The galleries received **People's Choice Award** for *Best Non-Alcoholic Venue* during the months of July, August, and October 2012. The North Valley Arts Council (NOVAC) presented the gallery with a plaque and check.

* Robin and Lorrie Foster, Carole Wilson, Mary Jane Doak, Cathy Forgit, and David Pirtle.



What The NWRDC is All About . . .

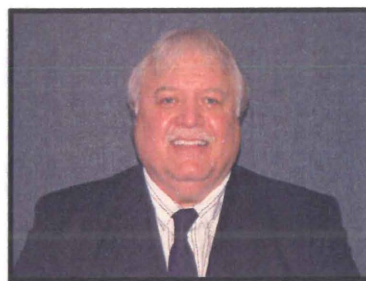
Regional Development Commissions were created by the State Legislature through the Regional Development Act of 1969. The intent of the Act was to create an option for rural units of government to supplement existing public services and coordinate specific activities of mutual concern. Although created 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 Waldner, Aging Program Development Specialist
 Beth Budziszewski, Program Developer/Grant Manager
 Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge® Outreach Specialist
 Emily Thorlacius Curry, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist
 Cameron Fanfulik, Executive Director, Loan Fund Manager/
 Economic Dev.
 Shannon Henrickson, Aging Program Director
 Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations
 Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist
 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

Staff who worked at the NWRDC this past year, but no longer work at the RDC: Amanda Caillier and Kristina DeFrang

As of January 23, 2013, Shannon Henrickson will no longer work at the NWRDC. We wish her well on her new adventure!

*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) Kimberley Johnson and Elvera Cullen. (back row; left to right) Gary Kiesow, Nathan Redland, John Lerohl, Dr. Joe Bouvette and Warren Strandell. 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

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.

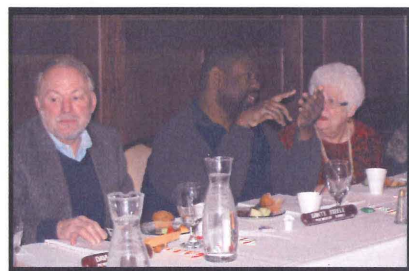
Roseau County

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

*Board Members

**Chairperson

Right: Pennington County Members caucus at Annual Commission Meeting.



Above: Commission Members at the Annual Commission Meeting in East Grand Forks.



NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	ACTUAL REVENUES CY '2012	PROJECTED CY '2013
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$62,628	\$56,365
	\$62,628	\$56,365
STATE		
MN/DOT	\$59,514	\$39,270
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$3,072,642	\$3,463,247
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$130,434	\$98,000
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$587,796	\$140,130
	\$3,850,386	\$3,740,647
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS		
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$13,518	\$0
BLANDIN FOUNDATION	\$15,479	\$0
NW MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL	\$118,080	\$103,863
	\$147,077	\$103,863
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL		
LOCAL LEVY	\$231,901	\$242,256
ARDC SCENIC BYWAYS		\$14,000
	\$231,901	\$256,256
MISCELLANEOUS		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$825,666	\$660,975
INTEREST	\$4,784	\$5,000
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$430	\$0
	\$830,880	\$665,975
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$5,122,872</u>	<u>\$4,823,106</u>

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES CY '2012	PROJECTED CY '2013
SALARY/FRINGE	\$991,008	\$984,029
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$93,195	\$101,995
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$30,032	\$46,394
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$82,736	\$173,849
OTHER EXPENSES	\$164,814	\$160,707
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,361,785	\$1,466,974
REGRANTED-AGING	\$2,125,115	\$2,336,495
REGION 4 AGING PROGRAM	\$406,710	\$389,637
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$459,384	\$30,000
BUSINESS LOANS	\$763,000	\$600,000
OTHER REGRANT	\$0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$5,115,994</u>	<u>\$4,823,106</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	<u>\$6,878</u>	<u>\$0</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, 2011, 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.

The Commission has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions* for the year ended December 31, 2011.

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, 2011 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 15, 2012, 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.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Northwest Regional Development Commission's financial statements as a whole. The other supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is 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. The other supplementary information and Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are the responsibility of management and are derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

June 15, 2012
Crookston, Minnesota

DREES, RISKEY & VALLAGER, LTD.

Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.
Certified Public Accountants

Members of Minnesota and North Dakota Society of CPA's
Members of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

Program Highlights



**NW Regional
Development
Commission**

Program Highlights Calendar Year 2012

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 - \$543,670; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$131,696; RDC Tax Levy - \$58,500; Miscellaneous - \$25; West Central Office - \$444,125.

Regrant Funding Sources: Older Americans Act & Discretionary Funds - \$1,442,166; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$375,141; State Nutrition Program - \$307,808; NW MN Foundation - \$13,518.

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 •••

It has been a very busy year at Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging. New work has begun in the area of care transitions from Hospitals and Health Care Homes under the Administration on Aging Integrated System Grant. A transition to home has continued in the Return to Community Program as individuals return home after stays in the Nursing Home. Staff has been working very hard to build capacity in the region for evidence-based/evidence-informed programs, and home and community-based services. As you can see by all the information provided in the following short articles, many things are moving forward that offer seniors and their caregivers the opportunity to manage their lives at home and in their communities. If you are interested in any of the classes or workshops, call the Senior LinkAge Line® to locate a session near you. We continue to provide federal grant funds to agencies in the region with dollars from the Older Americans Act. You may have heard Older Americans Act (OAA) program dollars mentioned on the news this year with financial struggles in Washington and cuts to



Above: Seated (left to right) Rose Reed, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist/Technical Support; Beth Budziszewski, Program Developer/Grant Manager and Darla Waldner, Program Developer.

Standing: (left to right) Emily Thorlacious Curry, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist; Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist/Outreach Coordinator; Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist and Shannon Henrickson, Aging Director.

Not Pictured: Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist.

the discretionary funds. In 2013, our region will lose \$132,513 in OAA funding due to declining population. It is so important for our seniors and their families to take note of all the programs that are available, and use them to help seniors remain safe in their homes even if you have to expend some minimal dollars to do so. Spending these dollars will offset costs for you in the long run. Look into options available through the programs discussed in the article and listing in this annual report. Get curious about some of the things that may help you to stay and support you in your home.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers •••

We have committed our time and energy into supporting caregivers by participating in the evidence-based program: Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC). Two staff are in the process of becoming PTC Master Trainers for our region. This will help us meet our goal of developing PTC Leaders in our communities that can offer the classes for caregivers. Some of the tools taught in the class are self care, such as: exercise, relaxation, medical checkups, Management of Emotions (guilt, anger, depression), Self-Efficiency (such as increased confidence with caregiver demands) and use of community resources.

Chronic Disease Self-Management •••

Land of the Dancing Sky AAA has received a license with Stanford School of Medicine to facilitate "train the trainer" sessions on their evidenced-based Chronic

Aging continued . . .

Disease Self-Management curriculum. This evidence-based curriculum provides older adults, and their caregivers with chronic conditions, with tools to manage the day to day aspects of their disease. To date, the Land of Dancing Sky AAA has two staff that have received their Master Trainer certification to facilitate these "train the trainer" workshops; and two staff that are trained leaders to teach the curriculum to older adults. AAA staff have facilitated four Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops with Older Adults living with chronic conditions. Partnerships with Minnesota Extension Services, Public Health, hospitals, clinics, Living at Home Block Nurse and Faith in Action programs will continue to expand Chronic Disease Self-management workshops throughout our planning and service area.

Sustainability of Non-Profits • • •

The Land of the Dancing Sky EDP staff continues to see a large increase in demand for assistance in our planning and service area; by providing technical assistance to non-profit organizations that are faced with the impossible challenge of dealing with cutbacks in funding on both a state and federal level. We have chosen to take a three tier approach in creating sustainable models of service. Tier 1 is the 1:1 technical assistance that works closely with our local partners to engage them in best practices with Board Development, finding their niche and reduction in the duplication of services. Tier 2 includes a yearly staff-coordinated Long Term Sustainability workshop targeted at our Title III grantees, LAH, Faith in Action and non-profit partners across our region. Land of the Dancing Sky collaborated with a non-profit consultant who shared valuable sustainability strategies such as: marketing and branding your name combined with social marketing strategies such as Paypal, Facebook and Twitter to engage the Baby Boomer generation, as well as the long distance caregiver. In addition, the consultant provided creative tools for organizations to lead their business into the future. A new layer that was implemented this year was a Budget 101 workshop that was co-facilitated by the NWRDC Financial Officer and Grants Manager. This helped our title III providers understand all of the parts of a budget, and how to develop their true costs of services. We are proud to say that the organizations that participated have been implementing the core strategies that we have shared such as: developing multi-funding streams, cost sharing and social marketing strategies. The strategies, combined with a better understanding of their true costs of services, are actually starting to make profits. Collaboration is the key to sustainable models of service in the future.

Matter of Balance • • •

The Land of the Dancing Sky AAA have four staff that have received their Master Trainer license to teach "Train the Trainer workshops" for coaches to facilitate MOB classes. We have facilitated four Train the Trainer sessions throughout our planning and service area in the following communities: Bagley, Thief River Falls, Perham and Fergus Falls. We have seventy-two Matter of Balance coaches in our planning and service areas, which have facilitated seventeen Matter of Balance classes for older adults that are at risk for falls. We have three new partnerships with St. Joseph Hospital, Sanford Thief River Falls Hospital, and Altru Hospital to expand Matter of Balance in their service area.



Above: Matter of Balance collaboration with Northland Community and Technical College Occupational Therapy students.

Live Well At Home • • •

Land of the Dancing Sky AAA continues to provide technical assistance to our Live Well at Home partners: Eldercare Network, Oaks LAH/BNP and Northwoods Caregivers. This project targets high risk medically frail older adults, and links them to risk management programs such as MOB & CDSMP, and home and community-based services providing them with the option to cost-share the purchase of these services. The goals of this program are to delay or avoid spending down to Medical Assistance. Although, the LWAH grant has discontinued; our partners continue to utilize the Live Well at Home rapid screen assessment, risk management strategies and web-based tools to keep older adults living independently in their home. We continue to provide training to non-profit organizations, health care systems and other aging partners on this rapid screening tool; which identifies older adults whom are at-risk, and have been adopted by multiple organizations as the initial assessment in their intake process.

Aging continued ...



Caregiver Consultant ...

The Caregiver Coach Model is research-based 1:1 assistance that is given to caregivers to develop a person-centered plan for their own individual caregiver journey. This caregiver coach can walk hand and hand with the caregiver throughout this process, and provide the tools and assessments necessary to manage the day to day challenges of care giving. Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging staff served on a Caregiver task force to develop a new curriculum for Caregiver Coaching for Professionals. We have 2 AAA staff who received their Master Training to facilitate "Train the Trainer" Caregiver Coaching workshops and provide fidelity monitoring. In April, we facilitated our first "Train the Trainer" Caregiver Coaching workshop that resulted in new caregiver coaches in our PSA.

Communities for a Lifetime ...

EDP Coordinator and staff continued to provide information and promising practices on the Minnesota 2010 Transform, which educated communities on the Baby Boomer Age Wave and encourages communities to develop comprehensive plans to accommodate the emerging needs of the number of older adults needing access to services. AAA staff have provided information to thirty aging provider networks and communities that include: Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, Chamber of Commerce, city planners and health care organizations on strategies that provide services to older adults through a lifetime of healthcare and housing options available within their service area. AAA staff are trained in how to administer a community assessment that provides a framework to identify gaps in services that need to be developed to make their community more elder-friendly. To date, we continue to seek opportunities in working with our local communities to assist them in achieving our goal of creating communities of a lifetime in rural Northwest Minnesota.

Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights



Senior LinkAge Line® Calls Received ...

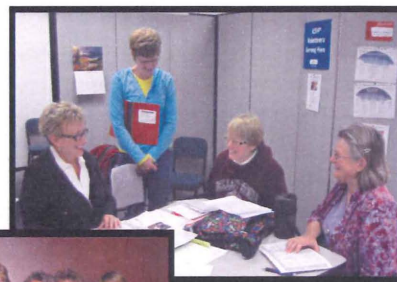
In 2012, the Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists from both the Warren and Fergus Falls offices provided assistance to over 15,602 contacts for assistance with issues such as Medicare Part D plans, problems with accessing services, housing options, Long Term Care options counseling, etc. Over 19,749 additional 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. Two new Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists were hired and trained to replace Amanda Caillier and Kristina DeFrang, who left the agency for new opportunities.

Presentations ...

Six hundred sixty-two (662) presentations, outreach events and other events were held during 2012. Our main focus this year was to make people more aware of the increasing expenses associated with Healthcare Fraud and Abuse.

Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers ...

In 2012, Amy Dahlman was hired to manage the volunteer program for our entire service area. Quarterly meetings and updates are held as well as recruitment presentations. Four volunteers were recruited to provide assistance during Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment Period to help with calls regarding Medicare Part D plans and enrollment in their choices for 2013. Volunteers were trained in the beginning of October, and assisted with phone calls on the Senior LinkAge Line® until the first week of December.



Volunteers attending a training for Medicare's Annual Enrollment.



Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights

A legislative initiative passed during the 2009 session, known as "Return to Community", requires the Minnesota Board on Aging and its designated Area Agencies on Aging to provide long-term care options counseling to current residents of nursing homes who express a desire to return to the community.

Individuals who have low to moderate needs, have been in the nursing home less than 90 days and have expressed a desire to return to the community and/or have a supportive caregiver are connected to a Community Living Specialist. The intervention involves; assessment, care planning, service coordination, placement and ongoing monitoring of care in the community. This is a person-centered approach and engages the nursing home staff as key to an effective transition.

The Community Living Specialists are highly trained nurses and social workers who work with discharge planning staff and/or nursing home social workers, and have the opportunity to provide follow

*Right: Nancy Sandahl,
Community Living Specialist*



up services in the community which are critical to sustaining a transition back to the community.

The initiative primarily serves private pay individuals. Those individuals who are on a public program, or who have a managed care coordinator, will be connected to their county of residence or managed health care organization for assistance. Currently, there have been over 600 consumers assisted in returning to the community through this program statewide. To date, the Community Living Specialist from our service area has provided long term care counseling to 158 nursing home consumers and 123 have been assisted back into the community.

2012 Aging Grantees

Kittson County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 790 one-way trips to 31 persons.

Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 366.5 hours of chore service to 97 persons.

Roseau County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 945 one-way trips to 95 persons.

Tri-County Community Corrections Sentencing to Service Chore Program - Provided 449.5 hours of chore service to 166 persons.

Valley Housekeeping Program - Provided 3,934.75 hours of homemaker services to 104 persons.

LSS Caregiver/Respite Program - Provided 1,776 hours of caregiver counseling services to 160 persons and 4,243.75 hours of respite services to 43 persons.

Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program - Provided 220 hours of caregiver counseling services to 48 persons, and 4,736.5 hours of caregiver respite to 24 persons.

Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program - Provided 121 hours of caregiver coaching services to 31 persons, 242 hours of caregiver counseling services to 53 persons and 640 hours of caregiver respite services to 16 persons.

Medication Management - Provided 119 in-depth medication management sessions to 95 persons in Regions 1, 2 & 4.

LifeCare Chronic Illness Workshops - Provided 6 workshop sessions on managing chronic illness to 12 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.

Clearwater Senior Transportation - Provided 303 one-way trips to 25 persons.

LSS Senior Nutrition Program - Provided 235,249 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 7,088 persons.

Lifecare Matter of Balance Workshops - Provided 15 strength building sessions to 22 persons.

Mahube Relatives as Parents - Provided 328 hours of caregiver counseling services to 56 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

MN-ND Alzheimers Program - Provided 140.5 hours of caregiver consultation services to 147 people and 35 education events to 693 persons.

Red Lake County Social Services Chore Program - Provided 7 hours of heavy chore services to 3 people.

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: NW MN Arts Council - \$118,079; RDC Tax Levy - \$4,788;

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.

Right: Mara Wittman,
Arts Council Director



Advocacy and Informing the Public on the Amendment • • •

The Arts Council provided the forty two grantees (awarded \$193,005 in CY 2012), 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 2012. Staff from our Arts Council actively participated as a board member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts.

Arts Highlights



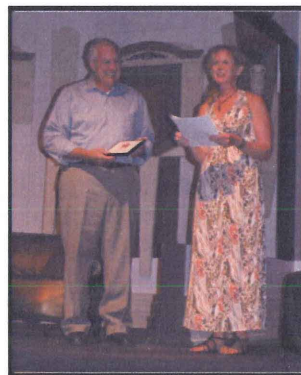
Arts Council Planning, Services, and Statistics:

Promotion and Increasing Visibility • • •

An e-newsletter that began in 2010 goes monthly to 800 people. People can sign up for the newsletter easily by clicking the link on our website home page www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org. The general public was continually informed through our web site and our NorthwestArts newsletter (2 editions) reaching 850+ arts constituents. Facebook and Twitter also brought information to more people.

MN General Allocation Grant Programs • • •

From January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012, we re-granted \$16,945 to 8 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 over 2,000 youth benefitting. We granted \$20,235 in support of nine other arts projects. An estimated 2,000 adults and over 700 youth were impacted by the grant activity. Twenty-two students received grants of \$500 for training opportunities, and \$8,940 was granted to four school districts to hold artist residencies or summer arts camps in their community.



Arts All Star Award presentation by Mara Wittman
to Senator LeRoy Stumpf

Arts All Star Report • • •

Senator LeRoy Stumpf was selected to receive an Arts All Star award from Minnesota Citizens for the Arts. Mara Wittman spoke before a Thief River Falls performance "Lend Me a Tenor", about Senator Stumpf's long term support of the arts.

Minnesota's Historic Northwest • • •

In 2012, our office promoted the activities of eleven county historical societies including their current traveling exhibit.

Riverland Association and Heartland Tourism • • •

Discussion and links continued to occur between arts programs and tourism. Marketing and web site training were a focus of our helpful efforts this year.

Arts continued . . .

State: General Allocation Funds: \$60,120.00

Arts Project Grants	Award
University of Minn Crookston	\$3,000.00
Stephen Arts Council	\$3,000.00
Roseau Area Arts Association	\$800.00
City of Karlstad: Prairie Fire Theater	\$3,000.00
Middle River Community Theater	\$3,000.00
Kittson County Historical Society	\$1,300.00
Crookston Community Theater	\$2,050.00
Warren Senior Nutrition Council	\$3,000.00
Valley Crossings Arts Council	\$2,960.00
Crookston Chamber of Commerce	\$1,125.00
Ada/Borup School District	\$1,700.00
Tri-County School District	\$1,105.00
Greenbush/Middle River School Dist.	\$2,930.00
Fertile-Beltami School District	\$2,640.00
Win-E-Mac School District	\$1,200.00
Fosston School District	\$3,000.00
Red Lake Falls School District	\$2,210.00
Stephen-Argyle School District	\$2,160.00
Total	\$37,180.00



Youth participating in children's theatre activity.

Artists in the Schools Grants:

Tri-County School District: Folk Music	\$2,340.00
Tri-County School District: Visual Res.	\$2,440.00
Roseau School District: Writing Res.	\$1,980.00
Crookston School District: Music Res.	\$2,180.00
Total	\$8,940.00

Arts Exhibit

McKnight Foundation and Legacy Funds:

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••

Coordinated 2012 exhibit in Kennedy at their city office building and VFW from April 28 - May 6, 2012. This included the jury process, registration, hanging artwork and the artist reception. 140 artists displayed pieces for almost two weeks. \$1,650.00 of awards were given to artists based on the recommendations of juror Robert Bykonen of Grand Forks, North Dakota. Award winning pieces are pictured below.



2012 NW Art Exhibit in Kennedy MN

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

Adult Winners (McKnight Foundation Funding)

1 st Place \$500	Painting by LaVonne Forsberg of TRF
2 nd Place \$300	Painting by Rock Bakken of Hallock
3 rd Place \$200	Mixed Media Painting by John Leopold of TRF
Merit \$100	Painting by Jean Ranstrom of Alvarado
Merit \$100	Sculpture by Deb Aune of Gatzke
Merit \$100	Photograph by Loren Younggren of Hallock
Merit \$100	Painting by Christine Foster of TRF
Merit \$100	Drawing by Lucille Nelson of Argyle
People's Choice \$100	to LaVonne Forsberg of TRF and \$100 to Loren Younggren of Hallock (tied)

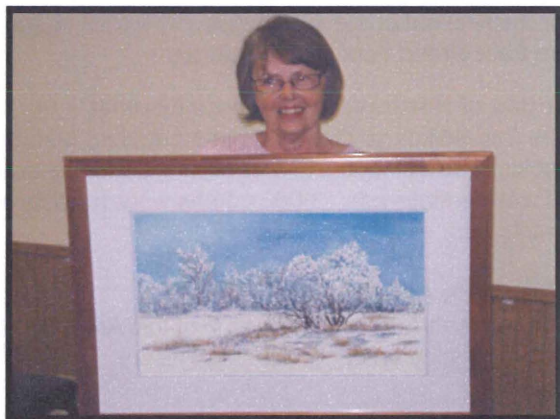
Student Winners (State Arts Funding):

1 st Place \$300	Drawing by Meghan Fish of Warroad
2 nd Place \$150	Painting by Lily Potter of East Grand Forks
3 rd Place \$100	Sculpture by Elijah Neufeld of Beltrami
Merit \$50	Printmaking by Kayla Whitaker of Roseau
Merit \$50	Drawing by Leah Klegstad of Hallock
Merit \$50	Sculpture by Levi Lewis of Greenbush
Merit \$50	Sculpture by Evangeline Goulet of Warroad
Merit \$50	Photograph by Kathryn Jagol of Fertile
People's Choice \$50	to Leah Klegstad of Hallock

Arts continued . . .

Student Artist Training Mentor Grants

Jacob Lutz, Crookston: Music	\$500.00
Michael Thompson, Karlstad: Music	\$500.00
Josie Nobles, Halma: Music	\$500.00
Kristi Grzadzieleski, Lake Bronson: Music	\$500.00
Alec Deschene, Argyle: Music	\$500.00
Solomon Liebl, Gary: Music	\$500.00
Brenna Skallet, TRF: Drama	\$500.00
Ashley Lorenson, Wannaska: Photo	\$500.00
Taylor Wilson, Greenbush: Visual	\$500.00
Alex Pederson, Warroad: Music	\$500.00
Leah Wittenberg, St. Hilaire: Music	\$500.00
Bryan Sanchez, Crookston: Music	\$500.00
Soren Eggerling, Hallock: Film	\$500.00
Zoia Kuznetsov, Fosston: Visual	\$500.00
Isaiah Burkell, TRF: Music	\$500.00
Nicholas Wilson, Greenbush: Music	\$500.00
Mary Balstad, Fosston: Theater	\$500.00
Sydney Olson, Warren: Music	\$500.00
Brett Drevlow, TRF: Music	\$500.00
Brayden Drevlow, TRF: Music	\$500.00
Brock Drevlow TRF: Music	\$500.00
Taylor Vedbraaten, Newfolden: Music	\$500.00
Total	\$11,000.00



Above: LaVonne Forsberg of Thief River Falls won first place for her painting.

Right: Deb Aune of Gatzke won a merit award for her sculpture.



State: Arts Legacy Funds: \$193,005.00

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grants

Friends of Lake Bronson State Park	\$5,125.00
Nancy Vraa of Red Lake Falls	\$900.00
Roseau County Historical Society	\$2,050.00
Association of the French of the North	\$6,700.00
North Country Fiddle and Dance, EGF	\$4,170.00
Roseau Area Arts Association	\$1,975.00
Kittson Central School District	\$7,440.00
Sandhill's Settlement Historical Soc.	\$1,350.00
River Walk Artists/Cecilia Lynse	\$6,400.00
Twin Forks Chorus	\$3,900.00
City of Roseau	\$4,520.00
Villa St. Vincent, Crookston	\$2,030.00
Ada Chamber of Commerce	\$825.00
Fertile Community Club	\$6,350.00
Red Lake County Fair	\$2,880.00
Crookston Chamber of Commerce	\$2,110.00
Fosston Library Arts Association	\$3,000.00
Summer Arts Stages, EGF	\$8,970.00
Crookston Chamber of Commerce	\$685.00
Tri-County School District	\$10,000.00
Roseau School District	\$6,390.00
Palmville Press, Wannaska	\$10,000.00
Polk County Historical Soc.	\$3,075.00
Thief River Care Center	\$3,350.00
East Grand Forks Campbell Library	\$10,000.00
Living at Home Nurse, Newfolden	\$1,500.00
Thief River Falls Arts Council	\$9,870.00
University of Minnesota Crookston	\$8,400.00
Summer Arts Stages, EGF	\$10,000.00
Warroad Summer Theatre	\$10,000.00
Roseau Friends of the Library	\$10,000.00
Crookston School District	\$10,000.00
Total	\$173,965.00

Artists in Schools Legacy Grants

Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District	\$2,500.00
Fosston School District: Writing	\$1,440.00
Thief River Falls School : Visual	\$2,500.00
Climax School District: Music	\$2,100.00
Crookston School District: Music	\$2,100.00
Tri-County School: folk and poetry	\$4,200.00
Roseau School District: writing	\$4,200.00
Total	\$19,040.00

Arts continued . . .

McKnight Foundation Funds Granted in CY 2012

Individual Artist Fellowship	Award
Caryl Turnow, Roseau Glass kiln for fusing projects	\$5,000.00
Betsy Saurdiff, Grygla Pottery equipment	\$5,000.00
Jean Westman, Climax Enameling Kiln	\$1,500.00
Sara Trangsrud, Roseau Pottery equipment	\$1,500.00
Clara DeRosier, Red Lake Falls Spinning Wheel	\$1,500.00
Joe VanCleave, Salol Wood carving equipment	\$1,500.00
Rhonda Biermaier, Roseau Workshop in glass tech	\$500.00
Monique Arneson, Roosevelt MTI Theater workshop	\$1,500.00
Total	\$16,000.00



Left: Example of artwork by fellowship artist, Caryl Turnow.

Northwest Artist of the Year Award for 2012

(McKnight Foundation Funding)

Nick Reitzel of Karlstad \$500.00

Northwest Arts Advocate of the Year Award for 2012

(State Arts Funding)

Bob Wenzel of Warroad \$500.00



Left: Nick Reitzel with his award. Right: Bob Wenzel accepting his award from Dale Knotek, Arts Council Chairman.



Art distributed at the December 2012 Community Supported Art reception.

Community Supported Art . . .

Artists who created 50 pieces each for the 1st year of this program include: Robin and Lorrie Foster of Red Lake Falls; John Leopold and John Charles Cox of Thief River Falls; Jeanne O'Neil and Paula Kallinen of East Grand Forks; Jenn Steinbrink of Crookston; Jolene Juhl of Greenbush; Renee Jensen of Stephen; and Chris Lane of Newfolden.

Work of Art Training Series . . .

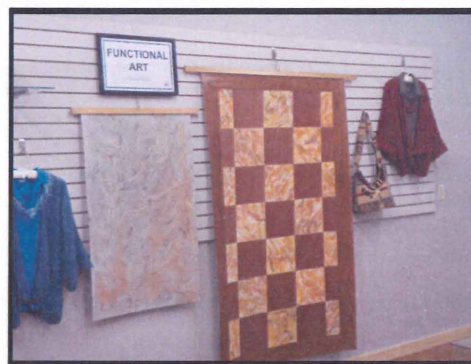
Twenty artists are learning business skills for artists in a 10 month series of workshops conducted by Springboard for the Arts out of the Twin Cities. The trainings are at the East Grand Forks Public Library.

Artists of Northwest Minnesota Booklet . . .

The 2nd edition of the Artists of Northwest Minnesota booklet was distributed to area libraries and businesses as well as statewide. 3,000 copies were published for distribution.

River Walk Artists Gallery . . .

See our feature article on page 3 of this Annual Report for information on our successful gallery!



Functional art show at our River Walk Gallery.

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 - \$58,993; and interest \$4,784; Misc. - \$405. Some projects also involve U.S. EDA Funding.

Service Priorities: Community planning and zoning, tourism development & promotions, recreational development and GIS Mapping.



Community and Economic Development Staff

(left to right): Cam Fanfulik, Jennifer Olson and Troy Schroeder

Community Development Highlights

Roseau Flood Diversion •••

The NWRDC provided technical and grantwriting assistance to the City of Roseau for federal EDA funding that would complete a flood diversion project around the city. The funding would help pay for control inlet and outlet structures and the completion of a diversion channel to finish the project. A unique combination of partners including: the US Army Corps of Engineers, the federal EDA, the State of Minnesota, and the City of Roseau have all played important roles in the project. Upon completion, the diversion channel will protect the city from flooding due to spring snowmelt and heavy rain events. The City of Roseau will also be declared to be out of the FEMA-designated flood plain at that time.

Oslo Dike Reconstruction/Recertification •••

NWRDC assisted with bringing federal EDA attention to the Oslo dike reconstruction efforts. The City of Oslo is in the process of removing the existing dike, and rebuilding it closer to the city in order to allow more greenway space for the Red River to flow during flood events. The City proceeded with home buyouts and planned infrastructure improvements that will include: sewer and water replacement, lift station, water tower replacement, urban renewal in the downtown area of the city and business expansions.



Left and Above: Infrastructure emplacement and construction activity on the Oslo dike recertification project.

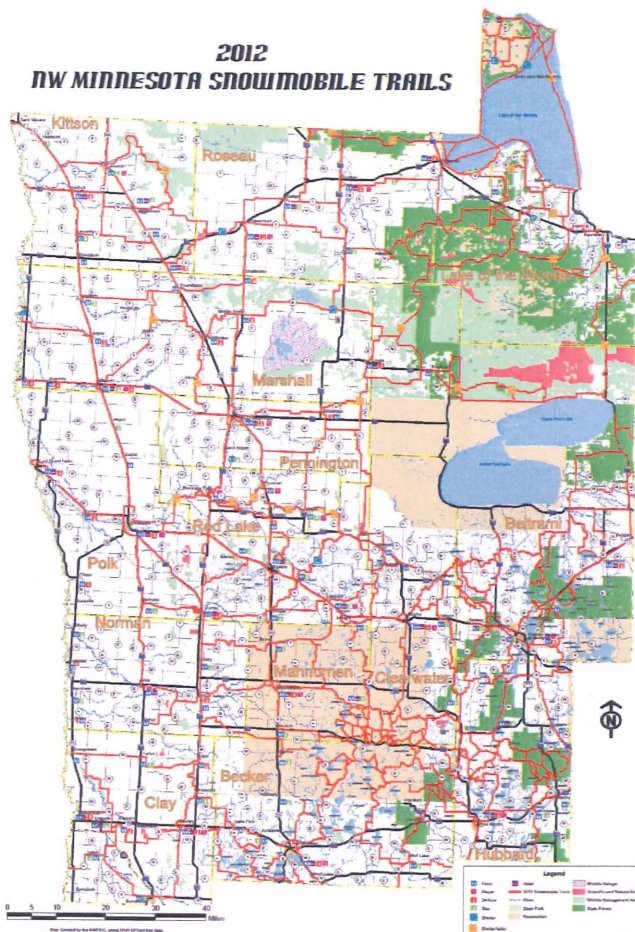
Community Development Continued ...

Green Step Cities •••

An on-going effort to provide coaching services to area communities interested in: implementing best practices that will cut energy use, decrease the carbon footprint and accomplish other sustainability goals that meet or 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 environmental, social and financial benefits. Several communities have expressed interest in the program as it is a useful tool for public awareness of ways to save money and capture energy efficiencies.

NW MN Snowmobile Map Updates •••

The NWRDC Transportation Planning Office coordinated discussion with snowmobile clubs and the DNR to get the newest trail information included in the DNR 2012 Region 1 Snowmobile map. The NWRDC created the maps with the new changes, and submitted to local club members for distribution throughout Northwest Minnesota. Scott Advertising from Bemidji publishes the maps with advertising from local business included.



Blandin Broadband/Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) •••

Provided on-going assistance with marketing of the MIRC project in conjunction with Blandin Foundation and partnerships with MN Extension, MN Workforce Centers, MN Colleges and Universities, PCs for People and other partners. The goal of the program is to expand and increase use of broadband internet services in rural areas, and to grow the regional technology workforce. In a related project, statewide regional development organizations (RDOs) have also enlisted the EDA University Center at UMC to provide methods to increase the use of broadband by area small businesses.

Community Partnership •••

Continued work with the nine community members and MN Housing Partnership to support workforce and housing development in the greater Thief River Falls area. Information was provided about available housing in Thief River Falls, Hallock, Roseau and Karlstad areas in response to hiring efforts from Northstar Agri-Industries, Mattracks, Digi-Key, Arctic Cat, Polaris and others. Information was also provided to City of Karlstad following a wildfire that destroyed several homes near the city. Updated housing studies were done by Community Research Partners, Inc., in conjunction with funding from the Community Partnership, MN Housing Partnership and the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. A later study by Maxfield Research, Inc. was also done for the City of Roseau to assess their housing situation.

Red Lake Falls Housing Development/Energy Project •••

NWRDC provided business planning assistance to a private company that is planning a housing development and biomass energy project near the city. The housing development will provide townhomes and manufactured homes that will supply options for rapidly expanding workforce in the Thief River Falls area. The energy project is designed to use any kind of carbon-based feedstock that will be burned and provide renewable energy for the housing development, and to the electrical grid. The feedstock can include any kind of biomass, including: sewage sludge, municipal solid waste, trees or crop residues.

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 - \$69,152.

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

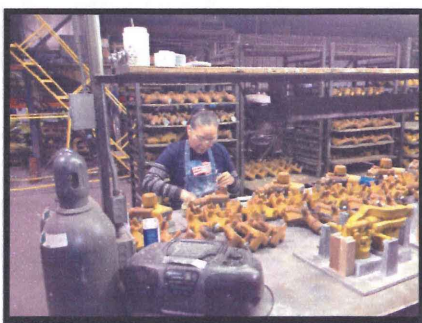
Economic Development Highlights

Heating the Midwest with Biomass •••

Assisted the Agricultural Utilization & Research Institute, and a multi-state Midwest Biomass Resources Action Team with the planning for the 1st Annual "Heating the Midwest with Biomass" conference event in Wisconsin. Action Team goals included: gathering biomass data from a seven-state region to provide benchmarking for potential projects, determine infrastructure requirements for biomass industry expansion in the Midwest, and analyze potential areas of growth in the industry (harvest methods, pellet market, thermal heat systems, feedstock procurement strategies, market analysis, etc.). Future projects include the development of a Household Fuel Use Study to determine needs in the Midwest region.

Business Assistance •••

Provided more than 1,600 hours of staff assistance on business/job creation and retention-related projects including: working with more than 80 businesses on business planning, referral, financial packaging, loan applications and workout strategies. Loan Fund activity for 2012 totaled seven loans in the amount of \$665,000, leveraging \$1,100,000 in other public funding and \$6,957,912 in private investment. The businesses will provide 51 new full-time equivalent jobs within three years. The businesses provide a current employee base level of 167 for a total of 218 jobs created and retained.



Above: Dee, Inc. employee deburring aluminum-casted molds for quality control.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) •••

Reviewed economic development strategies in 2012 CEDS, and updated the current document for the seven county region. Met with Enterprise Fund twice during 2012 to review strategies, and receive input on 2013 CEDS preparation. Major strategies were retained with emphasis on workforce training for skilled positions, "soft" skills training needs, workforce housing and technology cluster development. The 2013 CEDS was delivered in late November and approved at the Commission annual meeting.

Impact 20/20 •••

Continued participation and assistance with area businesses, educators and government partnership in an effort to grow the economy of Northwest Minnesota. Staff serves on the Education and Workforce Joint Taskforce that develops recommendations for policy advocacy, focuses on stronger career exploration and post-secondary preparation for students in K-12. Staff also serves on the Broadband Taskforce, with the goal of increasing the utilization of broadband by the region's businesses in order to increase commerce through a more robust telepresence.

Workforce Housing •••

Provided assistance and support to fast-growing area companies including: providing available housing information in the area and participating in projects that encourage home-grown talent development for high-skilled professions in the region (including Impact 20/20 and Ingenuity Frontier/IDEA Competition). Housing information was also provided to the City of Karlstad after a wildfire disaster destroyed several homes near the city.

Renewable Energy •••

NWRDC continued work with local individuals, companies and groups interested in providing harvest, processing and burning methods for biomass. This includes identifying areas for biomass production, developing biomass feedstock options, types of biomass for production, and types of burning methods for conversion to heat and electricity.

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 - \$66,282; RDC Tax Levy - \$1,745.

Loan Funding Sources: Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$763,000.

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

2012 Loan Highlights

Overall business activity and action in the revolving loan fund continued to gradually build as the economic climate steadily improved during 2012. Several businesses in the region are adding employees and making significant capital investment in their operations. Many other businesses are expanding their reach internationally with increased sales through exports. Credit from area banks continues to loosen up, which is a positive factor in entrepreneurial endeavors. Entrepreneurship, especially in the development of start-up businesses, remains a strong influence in the region.

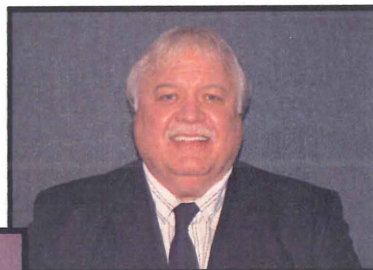
During 2012, the Enterprise Loan Fund Committee approved funding for new start-ups and expansions in three economic sectors:

- Manufacturing/Processing (4)
- Sanitation Service (1)
- Restaurant (2)

Loans totaling \$665,000 were approved to the following businesses:

- Dee, Inc., (aluminum foundry) - Crookston
- Harvest Restaurant & Lounge, (restaurant) - Argyle
- Les's Sanitation, (garbage collection) - TRF
- RS Grain LLC, (food packaging for export) - Euclid
- Specialty Products & Technology, Inc., (dehydrated food processor) - Fosston
- Drafts Sports Bar & Grill, (restaurant) - Crookston

The above businesses currently have a total base level of 167 full-time employees. The loan activity will assist in the creation of 51 new full-time jobs.



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



Historical Loan Activity (period ending 09/30/12):

Total Loans Made:	175
Active Loans:	37
Total Amount of Loans Made:	\$11,844,676
Other Financing Leveraged:	\$52,189,424
Jobs Created/Retained:	1,454

Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 09/30/12):

County	# of Loans	Amount
Kittson	19	\$1,066,621
Marshall	35	\$2,193,705
Norman	17	\$ 883,533
Pennington	13	\$1,071,850
Polk	55	\$4,129,975
Red Lake	10	\$ 583,115
Roseau	26	\$1,915,877



Above: Drafts Sports Bar & Grill of Crookston, MN
in the process of new construction.

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 - \$128,411; Regrant - \$420,187; Tax Levy - \$2,504.

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 performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management & mitigation strategies, projects and capabilities via a staff planning position. The NWRDC also serves as fiscal agent.

2012 State Homeland Security Program Grant • • •

Completed and applied for the 2012 State Homeland Security Program Grant, on behalf of the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board.

Conference Attendance • • •

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

THIRA Plan Creation • • •

Composed a Threat and Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (THIRA) plan for HSEM Region 3 that incorporates a previously completed strategic plan. All 14 Counties in Northwest Minnesota also created local, valid THIRA plans.

Regional Program Support • • •

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

Regional Radio Board Meeting Attendance • • •

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

Red River Valley Presentation • • •

Aided in the creation of a presentation at the AMEM Conference on the evolution of mitigation, preparedness, and response & recovery of the Red River Floods. Presented a section on the history of Red River Valley flooding.

Mass Sheltering • • •

Assessed municipal evacuation plans for all cities in Northwest Minnesota, and planned/exercised for an event that requires a regional response and multiple partners.



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 \$59,514; RDC Tax Levy - \$29,294.

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



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

Transportation Highlights

The Federal Government Passed a Transportation Bill



On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed into law a federal transportation bill, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Funding surface transportation programs at over \$105 billion for fiscal years (FY) 2013 and

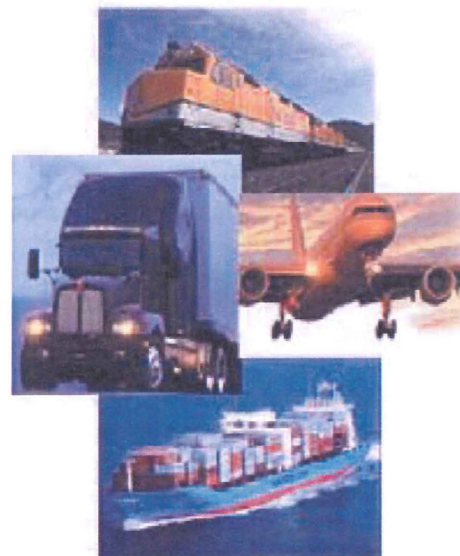
2014, MAP-21 is the first long-term highway authorization enacted since SAFETEA-LU expired in 2009. MAP-21 represents a milestone for the U.S. economy. It provides needed funds, and more importantly, it transforms the policy and programmatic framework for investments to guide the growth and development of the country's vital transportation infrastructure.

MAP-21 creates a streamlined, performance-based, and multimodal program to address the many challenges facing the U.S. transportation system. These challenges include improving safety, maintaining infrastructure condition, reducing traffic congestion, improving efficiency of the system and freight movement, protecting the environment and reducing delays in project delivery.

MAP-21 builds on and refines many of the highway, transit, bike and pedestrian programs & policies established in 1991. This summary reviews the policies and programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration. The Department will continue to make progress on transportation options, which it has focused on in the past three years, working closely with stakeholders to ensure that local communities are able to build multimodal, sustainable projects ranging from passenger rail and transit to bicycle and pedestrian paths.

MAP-21 expands the National Highway System (NHS) to incorporate principal arterials not previously included. Investment targets the enhanced NHS, with more than half of highway funding going to the new program devoted to preserving and improving the most important highways - the National Highway Performance Program.

Under MAP-21, performance management will transform Federal highway programs and provide a means to more efficient investment of Federal transportation funds by focusing on: national transportation goals, increasing the accountability and transparency of the Federal highway programs and improving transportation investment decision-making through performance-based planning and programming.



MnDOT Hosted a Corridor Investment Management Strategy with Region One Residents

The Minnesota Department of Transportation's Corridor Investment Management Strategy (CIMS) is a corridor-based initiative that brings MnDOT together with its local, modal and state partners to identify opportunities for collaborative and innovative investment. It offers a means to share information and identify opportunities to apply MnDOT's suite of lower cost, high benefit investment strategies that address safety, access and mobility.

The public was asked to provide feedback on anticipated investment needs on three corridors:

MN 11 (from North Dakota to International Falls)

US 2 (from North Dakota to Bemidji)

US 59/MN 32 (from Detroit Lakes to Karlstad)

Each corridor was discussed at a workstation where MnDOT staff walked participants through a series of maps that displayed information relating to MnDOT's investment program.

MNTH 11

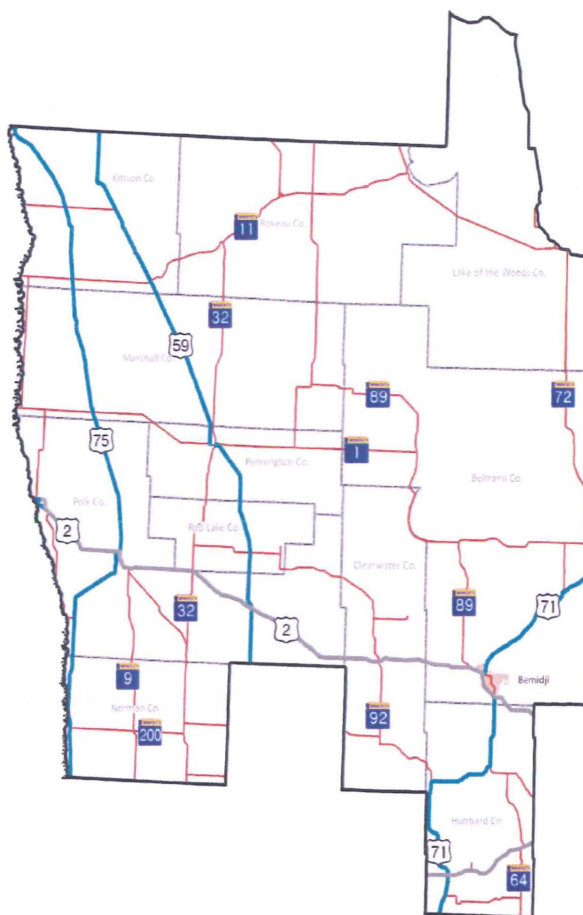
The discussion on MN 11 focused on the importance of the corridor in moving freight in the region. The corridor serves many large freight generators including: Marvin Windows, Polaris, Mattracks, Central Boiler and Northstar Agri Industries. It is the only paved east-west MN Trunk highway in the area.

US HWY 2

A much smaller group participated in a brief discussion around MnDOT's programmed investments and anticipated investment needs on US Hwy 2. Much of the discussion focused on the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks MPO area. There were questions regarding the role of US 2B in East Grand Forks. It was suggested as a potential turnback, where the state would give the road to the city. Currently, the city is not interested. The MPO's recommended "truck reliever" route and new bridge over the Red River were discussed. The role of the corridor as an important bike route was also discussed.

US 59/MN 32

The discussion on US 59/MN 32 focused primarily on the roadway condition and safety issues. MN 32 was highlighted as the better road for freight due to fewer road failures and poor road conditions on the southern end of US 59. The main safety issue discussed was shoulder width. Participants stated shoulders should be widened due to the truck volume on the corridor and for bicycle travel. The widened shoulder would also allow for passing vehicles making left turns. Participants also agreed that rumble strips are justified due to number of lane departure crashes; but if installed, should be placed to retain adequate space for bicycles where narrow shoulders exist. More detailed information is available on the MnDOT website at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cims/index.html>.



Special Projects

BROADBAND PROJECT

Funding Sources: Blandin Foundation - \$15,479; Tax Levy - \$1,823.

Staff: Jennifer Olson

Provided ongoing assistance with marketing of the MIRC project in conjunction with Blandin Foundation and partnerships with MN Extension, MN Workforce Centers, MN Colleges and Universities, PCs for People and other partners. The goal of the program is to expand and increase use of broadband internet services in rural areas, increase computer literacy and to grow the regional technology workforce. In a related project, statewide regional development organizations (RDOs) have also enlisted the EDA University Center at UMC to provide methods to increase the use of broadband by area small businesses.

MN COORDINATION PLAN

Funding Sources: MN Department of Transportation - \$800; Tax Levy - \$678.

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.

CITY OF OSLO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/ZONING ORDINANCE

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC staff is assisting the city with the development of a comprehensive plan that will provide a blueprint for future development in land use, economic development, public facilities/infrastructure, transportation and quality of place. The plan provides strategic direction and implementation strategies for elected and appointed officials in order to focus their efforts on community goals and vision. NWRDC will provide staff assistance through public meetings, mapping and plan development. Community participation will be a vital part of developing the plan, which began its initial stages in 2012 and is slated for completion in 2013.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Funding Sources: Norman County - \$22,159; Clay County - \$31,395.

Staff: Jennifer Olson

Clay and Norman Counties received funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to perform 5-Year Updates to the All Hazard Mitigation Plans. Mitigation planning serves to identify policies and actions to reduce risk and future loss when implemented. The NWRDC acted primarily as a pass-through agency, as a private consulting firm performed the updates.

HOUSING STUDY

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$7,700; Growth Partnership - \$7,950.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik

NWRDC staff provided grant-writing assistance for the Growth Partnership to obtain funding and provide updated housing studies for the nine member communities and greater Thief River Falls area. The studies were completed in early 2012 by Community Research Partners, Inc.; through funding from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, MN Housing Partnership and Community Growth Partnership. The updated studies were done to provide more current data, and recommendations in response to rapid employment increases and housing shortages in area communities.

Maxfield Research, Inc., was engaged by the City of Roseau to conduct a comprehensive housing study for Roseau County. The study provides recommendations on the amount, and types of housing that should be developed in order to meet the needs of current and future households in the county. An assessment of other challenges associated with housing development was included in the study.

Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

Plans

2012 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 2012 NWRDC Work Program - Details the goals and objectives of each of the program areas of the NWRDC including changes made to address emerging needs in the region, changes in funding levels and changes in program priorities.

2012 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 2012-13 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 - The 5 year update process for the Clay, Marshall and Norman All Hazard Mitigation Plans is still in progress. Completion will occur in 2013.



Publications

Directory of Artists and Arts Organizations - The directory contains listings of regional artists, arts organizations, school district offices and public libraries. Published at www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org.

Artists of Northwest Minnesota - Booklet to market 34 artists in the region. 3,000 printed in 2011.

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 2012 Annual Report - Information on the funding and work activities of the NWRDC over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

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

Senior News - Newsletter developed for the Senior Citizens and service providers of regions one, two and four in Northwest Minnesota.

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

www.visitnwminnesota.com - Web site devoted to the services, resources and recreational opportunities of our seven counties. Includes an on-line version of the Northwest Minnesota Visitor & Recreation Guide.

Northwest Minnesota Visitor and Recreation Guide - A comprehensive listing of attractions and facilities which offer opportunities and services to local and outside visitors to area communities.

www.housingnwminnesota.org - Housing related information that is documented for the following communities: Grygla, Middle River, Newfolden, Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Thief River Falls and Warren.

Committee Membership List

Region 1 Aging Advisory Committee

Bonnie Blacklance	Warren
* Craig Bunes	Crookston
Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Genevieve Knott	Red Lake Falls
Julie Pahlen	Roseau
Glenda Phillippe	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
Lloyd Engen	Clearbrook
W. Patrick Johnson	Clearbrook
Marilyn Martin	Bemidji
Ken Moorman	Baudette
Diane Mostad	Kelliher
John Nelson	Clearbrook
John Oren	Baudette
Marcia Schutt	Moorhead
Joe Vene	Bemidji
Nancy Wendler	Baudette

Northwest Minnesota Arts Council

Kiki Anderson	Thief River Falls
Faye Auchenpaugh	Thief River Falls
Charles Erickson	Roseau
Barbara Geer	Middle River
Patricia Jacklitch	East Grand Forks
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
Eryn Killough	Crookston
* Dale Knotek	Crookston
Ken Kylmanen	Twin Valley
Aliza Olson	Roseau
Bruce Reeves	Red Lake Falls
Kay Rosengren	Hallock
Deanna Swendseid	Stephen

HSEM Region 3 Joint Powers Board

Barb O'Hara	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

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

Job & Career

* Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Loran Lusignan	Grygla
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 Hetteen	Roseau
Garth Kruger	Warren
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Jim Thomasson	Mentor
Ethel Thorlacious	Stephen
Betty Younggren	Hallock

In mid 2012, the Region 2 Aging Committee lost a dedicated member with the death of W. Patrick Johnson.

*Chair

**Loan Chair

2012 Highlights

Aging

Administration on Aging Integrated System Grant

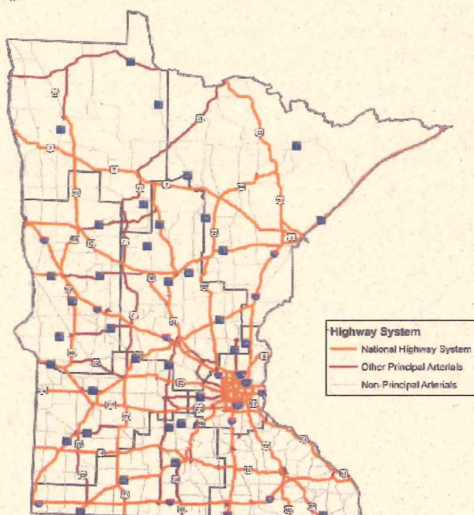
Utilizing this grant with hospitals and health care homes; the LDS AAA is ready and waiting to work within local and statewide efforts to reduce avoidable hospitalizations of older adults. For years, Area Agencies on Aging have developed and provided technical assistance to home and community-based service providers that help older adults remain independent at home. Many of these services are critical to the health status following a hospital stay, because what happens at home post-discharge often falls beyond the purview of the health care system. Using integrated care transitions with older adults will bridge the hospital-to-home transition, and help older adults avoid a repeat episode when hospitals and aging agencies work together.

Transportation

The passage of the new transportation bill MAP-21 is a two year bill that focuses investments primarily on the National Highway System. Region 1 has four roads classified as principle arterials that will fall under the National Highway System criteria for funding. They include MNTH 11, portions of MNTH 32, portions of USTH 59, and USTH 2. (See map below for road segments). This new federal policy will leave much of the regions highway system struggling for highway repair or improvement funds, thus you can expect a rough ride on many of the roads currently traveled. The state is researching new funding sources to help pay for the local road network. They include mileage taxes, more gas tax and higher registration fees.



Highway Systems in Minnesota



Economic Development

2012 was a year of exciting events in economic and community development. One of the biggest was the grand opening in August of the \$168 million Northstar Agri Industries canola crushing plant located in Kittson County. It is a fully integrated canola processing and refining plant, is the first canola processing plant in the state of Minnesota, and the first purpose-built canola processing facility in the USA. It employs 50 people with an annual payroll of \$3.5 million. The plant will provide food-grade heart-healthy canola oil for human consumption and high protein canola meal for the animal feed markets, and will be able to process more than 1000 tons/day. The plant is operating at full capacity and pulls raw canola seed from Minnesota, North Dakota, and Canada.



Above: Matt Kuzel, Plant Operations Manager for Northstar Agri Industries, exhibits the various stages and products of canola processing to Senator Amy Klobuchar and other dignitaries.

Emergency Management

THIRA Planning ...

HSEM Region 3 and all 14 Counties in Northwest Minnesota completed Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Plans. The THIRA process utilizes a whole community approach to identify local vulnerabilities. Emergency Management and local partners aided in identifying and describing threats/hazards, examining them using core capabilities and setting capability targets. This is part of a national preparedness effort under Presidential Policy Directive #8. Regular updates will aid in a secure and resilient nation with the necessary capabilities to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk.

Northwest Regional Development Commission
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