



Southwest Regional Development Commission

FY 2014 Annual Report

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Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Begins



TAP is a new way of funding trails like this one in Jackson County

The Transportation Alternatives Program or TAP is the combination of the former Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways, and Safe Routes to School funding categories. In Minnesota, the TAP program is the responsibility of the Area Transportation Partnerships (ATPs). The ATP is a collaboration between the RDCs, MN/DOT and local units of government in the region. The SRDC provides staff support to the ATPs in MN/DOT Districts 7 and 8.

Unlike past years, the ATP's have a target TAP funding amount each year that must be managed within the ATP. If the funds are not spent or a project drops out with no replacement project, the ATP's TAP funds go to the state to be distributed for TAP projects in other ATP's.

To help ensure project proposers are ready to submit and deliver projects if they are selected, a new process has been implemented statewide – the Letter of Intent and Review. SRDC Staff assisted with development of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and how ATP 7 and ATP 8 conduct the review. This process has been found to be valuable by both the ATP and the local project proposers. It has allowed the local projects to understand the process and the need for project readiness as well as mitigating any “red flags such as environmental issues” that have delayed past projects. Six initial LOI reviews were conducted, with one project deciding they had further work to complete before submitting and five submitting applications. Four of the projects were funded through TAP or the State Safe Routes to School solicitation.

Proven Programs to Live Well!

Evidence-Based Health Promotion programs, with results proven in scientific studies conducted nationwide:

A Matter of Balance: Have you suffered a fall or are you afraid of falling? This 8 week workshop will reduce your fear and teach you to prevent falls.

Living Well With Chronic Conditions: Have you had to change your lifestyle to deal with a condition such as diabetes or heart disease? This 6 week workshop will empower you to live a productive healthier life.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers: Are you feeling

overwhelmed? This 6 week workshop will help you learn skills to care for yourself while caring for others.

Would YOU like to live a healthier and more productive life? Call 1-800-333-2433 or go to www.mnhealthyaging.org for a listing of available services.

Wow! What a difference a year makes.....

Last year we reported that the Revolving Loan Fund was seeing an “uptick in applications”. Twelve months and twelve loans later, we have quite a different story to tell.

Perhaps it’s a sign of the times, or the economic recession has seen the pendulum do a full swing, but after their most recent meeting on July 24th, the RLF Committee has successfully utilized nearly all of the funds in the loan pool.

“This helped leverage an additional \$2.35 million dollars in other funding sources.”

When thinking about the impact that these loans have made, it is important to consider not only how much money was lent out directly from our program, but what was the result of this investment? The total amount loaned from the RLF in the last year was \$636,000. This helped leverage an additional \$2.35 million dollars in other funding sources. Additionally, more than 66 jobs were either created or retained as a result of these projects.

In terms of trends—we started to see long-time businesses sell to the next generation of owners. Some of these transitions went to the next familial generation, but more often than not, the buyers and sellers were not related. Another commonality is that the sellers are frequently acting as a subordinate lender—carrying a portion of the

debt on the business in order to ensure its success in the tender transition period. They are also working with the new owners during and after the changeover period which helps secure customer confidence and loyalty.

The RLF loans went to work in four different counties last year. Nobles County received \$50,000 of gap financing on one loan; three loans were completed in Lyon County for a total of \$112,000; Redwood County activity included four loans totaling \$174,000; and Pipestone County took high honors with four loans totaling \$300,000 in aggregate.

Currently, we are looking at a minuscule balance in the Revolving Loan Fund of about \$20,000. It’s rewarding to think about all the good work that’s being realized in our Region as a result of platforms like the SRDC’s RLF program.

2014 Loan Activity



- Nobles County
- Lyon County
- Redwood County
- Pipestone County

Regional Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Workshop

A Regional SRTS Workshop was held in Worthington on Tuesday May 27th and Wednesday May 28th. This hands-on workshop was facilitated by national expert Mark Fenton. Representatives from other communities and their SRTS teams attended. Attendance was great and participants were able to learn about; Active Living, SRTS planning and assessment, Strategies for their SRTS initiatives, stakeholder engagement strategies to sustain their SRTS initiatives, basic skills to facilitate their walk/bike audit and assess their SRTS data to identify opportunities and position their community to build a sustainable SRTS initiative.

A walking audit was also conducted with assistance from the Worthington SRTS Team. This audit was used to gather information for the Regional Workshop and will be used along with the information from the Regional Workshop to assist with the development of the Worthington SRTS Plan.



Mark Fenton and the Worthington SRTS Team demonstrate a pedestrian bump-out.

Westbrook Walnut Grove YES! Team B3 Database Project

The Youth Energy Summit (YES!) Team from Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools entered building and utility data into the B3 Energy Benchmarking System for ten buildings in the City of Westbrook to learn about energy use, as well as help the city better track energy use and utility costs in public buildings.

The YES! Team is a class that is interested in creating community environmental and economic vitality through hands on projects, so B3 Energy Benchmark data entry was the perfect project. The B3 Energy Benchmarking System is a State of Minnesota administered



program to benchmark public buildings. The B3 system compares public building benchmarks throughout Minnesota and generates reports to help public entities better understand energy use within buildings.

The project was completed through a partnership between the SRDC's Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT) Program,

Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools, and the City of Westbrook. The first step in the process was to gather information about public buildings in the City of Westbrook. The City Clerk provided building information, such as square footage, type of heating and cooling system, and the date of occupancy of each building to initially create the City of Westbrook's B3 accounts. She also gave the students access to 12 months of utility bill information. Katie Steen, Westbrook City Clerk, said "It was a simple process to get the information together for the students to enter. It took less than 3 hours for me to gather all the information and help the students when they had a question." Then, SRDC staff taught the students how to enter data into the system. The whole project took 4 class periods and 10 hours of time to enter in 12 months of public building utility data. The City Clerk spent 3 hours compiling the information, and the students spent 7 hours on data entry.

According to Pat Merrick, the YES! Team Teacher, "I cannot think of a better real work example for students to learn than the B3 database project." The students learned how to read utility bills and understand energy use in buildings, specifically the energy use in their own cities' buildings. The data entry process was easy for the city as well. Now, the city is able to generate energy and utility reports about its public buildings energy use to better moderate costs and track if improvements need to be made or how those improvements performed. Now the City of Westbrook is fully up-to-date in the B3 Energy Benchmarking System. Pat's class will continue to keep the B3 Energy Benchmarking System up to date by entering in the necessary data each fall and spring semester.

Overall, this project was a win-win for the students and the city. The students learned more about energy and the city will have a better sense of their energy use to make more sound economic and environmental decisions around its energy use.

<http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/students-westbrook-walnut-grove-public-schools-benchmark-citys-buildings-b3-energy-benchmarking>



SRDC Participates in NADO Day on the Hill

SRDC Chair Miron Carney, (far left) and Physical Development Director Annette Bair (second from right) join other NADO members from Minnesota for the annual National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Legislative Conference and Day on the Hill in a snowy Washington D.C. This annual event showcases the good work being done across the nation by Regional Development Organizations like the SRDC and gives Legislators an opportunity to hear about projects going on back home in their districts. Joining Miron and Annette are Dawn Hegland, Executive Director of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (second from left), Nicole Griensewic, Executive Director of the Region 9 Development Commission (center) and Brad Ahrenstorff, Vice Chair of Region 9, (far right).

Regional fire protection effort begins at SRDC Commission Meeting

One of the benefits to the region of the SRDC is having representatives from cities, counties and townships come together at Commission meetings. At our meeting in September, the subject of fire contracts came up among the Commissioners and a conversation ensued that resulted in the SRDC being tasked with holding a regional fire protection meeting to "Discuss regional issues regarding fire protection and mutual aid agreements."

Issues identified before the meeting were; inconsistent section rates charged to townships, leapfrogging for fire protection, costs associated with running and maintaining a fire department and changing demographics.

A Regional Fire Protection Meeting was held in Fulda on Thursday February 6th, Sixty-five attendees had the opportunity to bring up other issues they would like to discuss. The outcome of the meeting was to develop

a survey to get more information. Two surveys were developed. One survey was developed for townships and cities without a fire department, and one for cities with a fire department. Forty-one townships and cities without fire departments and seventeen fire departments responded to the survey. This was a great opportunity to share experiences related to fire protection and emergency response in southwest Minnesota.



Lyon-Lincoln Co-op's Tim O'Leary and SRDC's Betsy Herding

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) receives funding

Staff from the SRDC has been working to put together a pilot PACE program for the 18 county Rural Minnesota Energy Board area. The PACE program allows clients to receive a loan to do energy improvements and pay it back through a special

assessment. Funding has been received from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the REED Fund and USDA Rural Development through Lyon-Lincoln Co-op.

SRDC staff are currently working with clients

interested in the program, and hope to have the first loan closing in August of 2014. We are happy to be able to offer this exciting new program to the region. If you are interested or have any questions, contact Betsy Herding at 507-836-1638.

Senior LinkAge Line® CY2013 Statistics

Total Unduplicated Calls	25,017
Total Persons Served	14,343
Total Served Multiple Times	4,410
Total Rep/Caregiver	903
Contacts Out	60,451
Volunteer Hours	987

Caller Gender	Female 66%
	Male 34%
Caregiver	Female 72%
	Male 28%



Client Ethnicity

American Indian or Alaskan Native	78	(0.54%)
Asian Indian	7	(0.05%)
Black, African American	35	(1.63%)
Chinese	8	(0.06%)
Filipino	2	(0.01%)
Hispanic, Latino or Spanish Origin	90	(0.62%)
Korean	1	(0.01%)
Native Hawaiian	5	(0.03%)
Not Collected	3129	(21.67%)
Other Asian	24	(0.17%)
Other Pacific Islander	3	(0.02%)
Some Other Race/Ethnicity	37	(0.26%)
Vietnamese	8	(0.06%)
White, Non-Hispanic	10809	(74.88%)



SRDC Staff and RLF Committee members received a tour of Midwest Fire in Luverne prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting from Dean Atchison of Midwest Fire, (left).



2014 Annual Meeting Showcases Another Successful Year for the Southwest Regional Development Commission

SRDC staff member Doreen Veenhuis is also a talented baker and cake decorator and made this cake for the Annual Meeting in honor of the SRDC's 40th year.

SRDC Projects of the Year

Midwest Fire and Repair



Dean Atchison accepts the award from SRDC Chair Miron Carney

When the SRDC learned that Sarah and Dean Atchison were in negotiations to purchase Midwest Fire from the current owners, it seemed like the perfect fit. Dean had experience running a successful business in Fargo called Spectrum Aeromed, which specializes in air ambulance interior equipment. The acquisition of Midwest Fire seemed like a good opportunity for them, and also fit nicely with their existing expertise. Sarah and Dean have hit the ground running and focused on continuing to offer a top quality product, while expanding their territory. They have also focused on supporting and building their excellent team at Midwest Fire and making sure that the employees know that they are valued, and an integral part of the overall success of the company.

The SRDC partnered with First National Bank (Sioux Falls), Southwest Initiative Foundation, and the Prairieland Economic Development Corporation to offer a finance package that would benefit the new acquisition. These types of collaborations are critical in ensuring that these companies, and the jobs, remain in our Region. Thank you for your commitment to Southwest Minnesota.

Rock County Caregiver Education Group

The Rock County Caregiver Education Group was formed with the goal of identifying and connecting caregivers with the support they need. In the last several years, this group has provided educational classes monthly from April-November, led by professionals trained in their fields. Sessions are advertised so that the learning opportunities are available to all who wish to attend. Members of this group are employed by various local agencies who are involved with caregiving clients. Staff from Sanford Medical Center, hospice, Good Samaritan, Rock County Health and Human Services, Rock County RSVP/ACE, SW MN Crisis Center, and TRIAD each saw the need in the community and formed a partnership whose purpose is to identify, support, and also give direction to those who need information and assistance in their caregiving responsibilities. On hand to accept the award on behalf of the group were Greta VanDerBrink (A.C.E. of SW MN), Deb Drost (SW Health & Human Services), Janice Fick (Good Samaritan Center Advocate), Raevette Loonan (SW Crisis Center), Lynn Deberg (Sanford Health) & Carrie Sota (Good Samaritan Center). At right is Deb Drost addressing the annual meeting guests after having received the award.



SRDC Staff Recognized for their Service to the Agency



SRDC Chair Miron Carney and Executive Director Jay Trusty present Certificates of Appreciation for Continuous Meritorious Service to the Commission to, from left: Katie Gillette, 5 Years; Nicole Konz, 5 Years; Gail Radke, 10 Years; and Linda Tobias, 15 Years.



Lewis and Clark Regional Water System

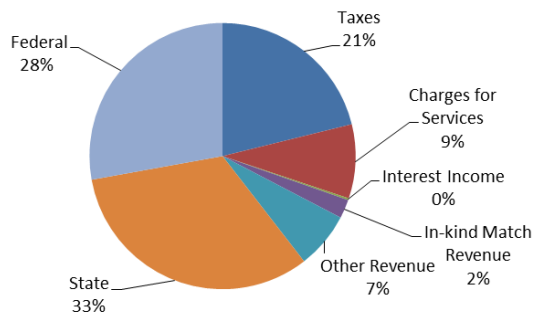
Troy Larson, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System was the guest speaker at this year's annual meeting, held at the Blue Mound Conference Center in Luverne. Funding for the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project was the Commission's number one legislative priority this past session. As a result of a lot of hard work by our area legislators, the project was awarded funding through the bonding bill. Troy gave the meeting attendees a brief history of the project and then turned to the results of the latest legislative session. As a result of the money appropriated during the session, the project should be able to be built to the connection with the City of Luverne and the hook-up with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water. This would leave the stretch to Worthington yet to be completed. Approved Federal funding has not been appropriated, leaving the project significantly short of its funding needs and extending the date of completion well into the future if it is possible at all. Federal appropriations levels have not even kept up with inflation, forcing the project to fall further and further behind.

	FY2014 YEAR END	FY2015 BUDGET
Revenues		
Tax Levy	331,626	327,693
MNRAAA-Adm/Pdc/IIID/ISG Funds	76,000	93,790
MNRAAA-Information & Assistance Funds	801,361	967,690
MNRAAA-Eldercare Development Partnership-EDP	34,420	34,420
Economic Development Administration	58,165	58,165
MN Department of Transportation	75,000	81,175
MnDOT-Safe Routes to School	0	17,770
CERTS Funds	71,117	70,334
Current Contracts	203,468	196,342
Interest Earned & Miscellaneous	15,753	7,295
Reserves Used	25,270	0
Total Revenues	1,692,180	1,854,674

	FY2014 YEAR END	FY2015 BUDGET
Expenditures		
Committee Expense	29,501	39,540
Salaries & Fringe	1,277,985	1,450,150
Staff Travel	67,385	75,708
Office Space	43,077	44,000
Postage	16,924	20,180
Communications	8,671	12,056
Print/Publication	6,899	16,190
Supplies-Mtg/Wkshp Expenses	26,756	21,335
Insurance	2,729	4,392
Computer	18,620	16,927
Depreciation	18,591	0
Equipment	25,270	0
Building Updates	0	0
Other	24,063	13,203
Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	8,298	20,900
CERTS seed grants	9,755	5,000
MNRAAA, Inc. consortium match	36,630	38,640
Debt Service-Principal & Interest	11,800	11,800
Office Building Principal Payment	12,649	13,361
Total Expenditures	1,645,603	1,803,382
Overall Balance	46,577	51,292

Financials

General Fund Revenues



FY2014 Project Reviews

During Fiscal Year 2014 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 5 projects from within the Region to avoid duplication and insure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a complete listing of the project reviews for FY14, please contact the SRDC office.

Audited Governmental Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2013

Revenues

Program Revenues

Charges for Services & Other	139,988
Operating Grants	894,989
Capital Grants	649,326

General Revenues

Property Taxes—General	321,227
Other Revenues	136,220
General Interest Revenues	3,318
RLF Interest Revenues	47,145

Total Revenues	2,192,213
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Expenses

Government Activities	1,491,671
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Total Expenses	1,491,671
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Change in Net Position	700,540
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Beginning Net Position	2,320,804
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Ending Net Position	3,021,344
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2013 Audit

The FY 2013 Audit was conducted by Richard W. Holmberg, LTD, Certified Public Accountant, Marshall, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Southwest Regional Development Commission.

Commission and Staff Members

FISCAL YEAR 2014 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERS

Vacant ----- Cottonwood County Municipalities
 Vacant ----- Cottonwood County Town Boards
 John Oeltjenbruns* ----- Cottonwood Co Commissioners
 Darrel Hage* ----- Jackson County Municipalities
 Richard Peterson ----- Jackson County Town Boards
 Dave Henkels ----- Jackson County Commissioners
 Darrel Denney ----- Lincoln County Municipalities
 Eloise Hauschild** ----- Lincoln County Town Boards
 Larry Hansen* ----- Lincoln County Commissioners
 Russ Stobb ----- Lyon County Municipalities
 Lori Grant ----- Lyon County Town Boards
 Mark Goodenow* ----- Lyon Co Commissioners
 Miron Carney** ----- Murray County Municipalities
 William Crowley ----- Murray County Town Boards
 Gerald Magnus* ----- Murray County Commissioners
 Vacant ----- Nobles County Municipalities
 Paul Langseth* ----- Nobles County Town Boards
 Matt Widboom ----- Nobles County Commissioners
 Les Nath* ----- Pipestone County Municipalities
 Daryl Hanenburg ----- Pipestone County Town Boards
 Bruce Kooiman ----- Pipestone County Commissioners
 Vacant ----- Redwood County Municipalities
 Vacant ----- Redwood County Town Boards
 Sharon Hollatz** ----- Redwood Co Commissioners
 Fabian Deutsch ----- Rock County Municipalities
 Vacant ----- Rock County Town Boards
 Robert Jarchow** ----- Rock County Commissioners
 Bob Byrnes* ----- City of Marshall
 Michael Kuhle* ----- City of Worthington
 Nils Nelson* ----- Region Eight School Boards
 Vacant ----- Region Eight School Boards
 Vacant ----- Region Eight Cultural Diversity
 Linda Halbur ----- SW Center for Independent Living
 Linda Spronk ----- SW MN Private Industry Council
 Dr. Raphael Onyeaghala - Southwest MN Higher Education
 Chris Sorensen ----- Health & Human Services

** Indicates Current & FY2014 Executive Comm. Members

*Indicates Current SRDC Board Members

Thank You to the following SRDC Commissioners whose terms expired in FY2014: Linda Halbur, SW Center for Independent Living; Darrell Holmberg, Cottonwood County Town Boards; Richard Shrubbs, SW MN Higher Education; Tom White, Cottonwood County Commissioner



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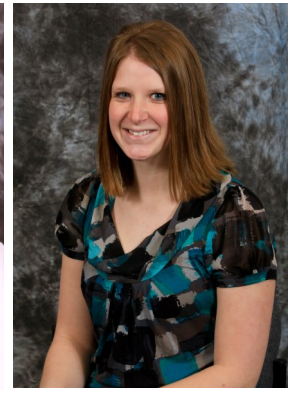
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The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is a nine county regional development commission made up of representatives from local units of government and public interest groups in Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock Counties. The purpose of the SRDC 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”. The Mission of the SRDC is to “Provide Professional Expertise and Leadership to Enhance Regional Opportunities”

Minnesota Association of Development Organizations

