



NWRegional Development Commission



www.nwrdc.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

*Serving the counties of Kittson, Marshall,
Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.*



www.visitnwminnesota.com

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NWRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (L TO R)
GARY KIESOW, OLIVER SWANSON, JOHN
LEROHL, KIMBERLEY JOHNSON, WARREN
STRANDELL, MARK FOLDESI, DR. JOE
BOUVETTE AND NATHAN REDLAND



ANNUAL COMMISSION
MEETING DECEMBER 2015



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



DR. JOE BOUVETTE, COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Welcome!

I am pleased to share this annual report of the Northwest Regional Development Commission as another productive year in Region One has come to a close. The Commission continues to play an important role in the development and prosperity of Northwest Minnesota through its varied programs and excellent service.

Our agency has added several staff in response to state mandates, and a pleasant byproduct is that we also are adding great talent, expertise and capacity. Our staff is dedicated to finding ways to become more efficient, maximize our service and provide the public with a great return on investment. As you page through this report, I hope you will take special notice of the many programs and projects we offer in economic development, arts promotion, emergency management, transportation, community

planning and services for the aging population. I trust you will also recognize the fine staff members who work in these programs and know that much of their performance is a direct result of support from an engaged Board and Commission members. I am proud of this organization's passion for service, its diligence and its determination to be a contributing force to the quality of life in Northwest Minnesota. Please enjoy paging through this report for an understanding of what we offer—we look forward to serving you!

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

Dr. Joe Bouvette**	Hallock	County
Kimberley Johnson*	Kennedy	Townships
Todd Truedson	Kennedy	Municipalities

Marshall County

Gary Kiesow*	Goodridge	County
Loren Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Sandra Simonson	Oslo	Municipalities
Gail Yutzenka	Argyle	School Board

Norman County

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

Pennington County

Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls	At Large
Dave Erickson	Thief River Falls	Townships
Brian Holmer	Thief River Falls	Municipalities
Karan Lincoln	Thief River Falls	Minorities
Dante Steele	Thief River Falls	Minorities
Oliver Swanson*	Thief River Falls	County

Polk County

Gerald Amiot	Crookston	Labor
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Seniors
Keith Sistad	Fosston	Townships
Warren Strandell*	East Grand Forks	County
Toby Strom	McIntosh	Municipalities
Kathleen Twite	East Grand Forks	Business

Red Lake County

Kevin Harmoning	Red Lake Falls	Municipalities
Catherine Johnson	Oklee	At Large
John Lerohl*	Oklee	County
Kevin Reich	Red Lake Falls	Townships
Ronald Weiss	Red Lake Falls	Watershed District

Roseau County

Jim Christianson	Badger	School Boards
Dennis Filer	Greenbush	Municipalities
Mark Foldesi*	Greenbush	County
Debra Wiskow	Greenbush	Townships

* Board Members

** Chairperson

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CAM FANFULIK, NWRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Listening and Leadership were Key in 2015

I am happy to present our 2015 Annual Report, highlighting the achievements and accomplishments of the Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC) over the past year. It is, by no means, a complete listing of all that we do but does provide many examples of important work in fulfilling our mission to the region.

As you read through this report, you will see that our programs and projects are a direct result of listening and leadership. We encourage staff to reach out and connect with communities, businesses and individuals to identify

needs and we do our best to help meet those needs. We work hard to recognize issues and concerns, spot trends, build relationships with our constituents, develop programs and respond in a timely manner. We also try to provide great *bang for the buck* by developing efficiencies in our programs and services. An example is the addition of several staff to meet state mandates and at the same time we are doing our best to lower indirect cost rates, cross-train staff and improve response time to customers across all of our programs.

Over the past year, several new initiatives have taken place: a statewide web-based mapping project for the Minnesota Board on Aging and Department of Human Services;

participation with other RDOs in a statewide development planning process called DevelopMN, to be unveiled in 2016; bringing in performing arts groups exclusive to Northwest Minnesota; providing planning and staffing services in Emergency Management; providing loans and technical assistance to businesses; assisting with comprehensive plans for communities and last, but not least, merging the Land of the Dancing Sky and West Central Agencies on Aging under the NWRDC umbrella. We welcome Mark and Karin to our staff!

There's a lot going on in Northwest Minnesota and at the NWRDC! I hope you enjoy the 2015 Annual Report.

WHAT IS A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION?

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

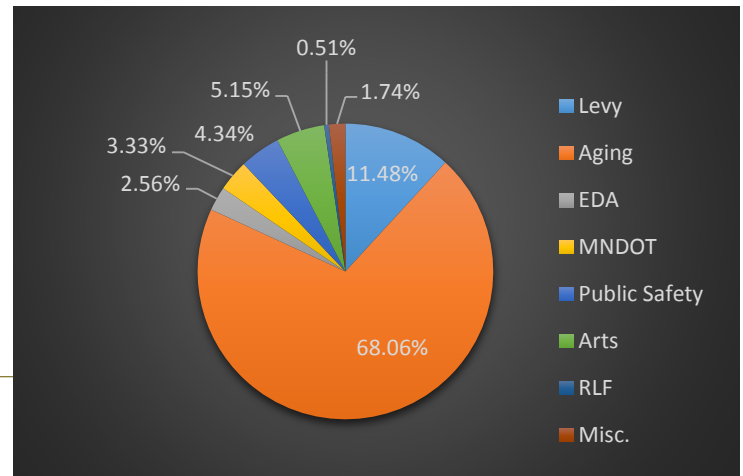
with the state and federal agencies that could provide assistance with local projects. Programs and work priorities have changed in response to economic and social trends; but, the central mission of supporting efforts by cities, counties, townships, businesses and individuals to improve living, working 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.

FINANCIALS & 2016 BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 2015

Actual 2015 Revenue Sources



REVENUES	CY'2015 BUDGET	CY'2015 ACTUALS	CY'2016 BUDGET
Local Tax Levy	\$256,988	\$252,758	\$ 264,698
MN Board on Aging/Department Health	\$1,548,690	\$1,498,349	\$ 1,725,740
Economic Development Administration	\$56,365	\$56,365	\$ 56,365
MN Department of Transportation	\$70,923	\$73,211	\$ 75,000
MN Department of Public Safety	\$93,832	\$95,452	\$ 87,277
NW Minnesota Arts Council	\$113,330	\$113,304	\$ 114,737
Land of the Dancing Sky AAA County Match	\$11,140	\$11,140	\$ 57,505
NW Minnesota Enterprise Fund	\$39,488	\$38,244	\$ 74,730
Local Contracts/Miscellaneous	\$61,562	\$62,561	\$ 12,878
Regrant Revenue	\$3,103,998	\$3,201,506	\$ 2,813,462
TOTAL	\$ 5,356,316	\$5,402,890	\$ 5,282,391

CY'2014 AUDIT

The CY'2014 Audit was conducted by Drees, Risky and Vallager, Ltd. Certified Public Accountant, Crookston, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Northwest Regional Development Commission.

COST ALLOCATION

CY'2015 Actual
Leave Rate:
16%

CY'2015 Actual
Fringe Rate:
36.30%

CY'2015 Actual
Indirect Rate:
7.79%

EXPENDITURES	CY'2015 BUDGET	CY'2015 ACTUALS	CY'2016 BUDGET
Salaries and Fringe	\$1,608,932	\$1,619,504	\$ 1,861,674
Professional Services	\$112,673	\$113,002	\$ 74,000
Travel	\$154,924	\$156,748	\$ 216,795
Supplies	\$30,139	\$37,684	\$ 40,954
Equipment	\$18,602	\$19,439	\$ 13,050
Other	\$260,048	\$218,596	\$ 262,456
Grants/Contracts	\$3,103,998	\$3,201,506	\$ 2,813,462
TOTAL	\$ 5,289,316	\$ 5,366,479	\$ 5,282,391



www.dancingskyaaa.org

LAND OF THE DANCING SKY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

AREA AGENCY ON AGING STAFF 2015

PURPOSE:

The 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, improve access to services and to help seniors remain independent and safe in their homes for as long as possible.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Nutrition, congregate and home delivered meals, legal services, housekeeping, chore services, home modification, transportation services, disease prevention/health promotion, early memory care, medication management, fall prevention, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance, Matter of Balance, chronic disease prevention, respite care and caregiver support.

A Year Of Aging Opportunities

The Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (LDS AAA) experienced many opportunities for expansion and development of new and innovative programs to serve older adults in our region.

As we reflect on the close of another amazing year we celebrate that this has been one of growth for our program.

The LDS AAA and the West Central Area Agency on Aging (WC AAA) made the decision to develop a true consolidation of the Joint Powers Board that resulted in the dissolution of the WC AAA as a separate entity and the merger with the LDS AAA, under the auspices of the Northwest Regional Development Commission. This became effective January 1, 2016.

Another administrative focus was to develop and implement a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) that includes

cross-training within key administrative and Senior LinkAge Line® roles as well as quarterly COOP planning drills.

Stronger Together – Healthcare Partnerships

Stronger Together is the theme for a partnership developed with the LDS AAA, Sanford Health and Wisdom Steps. This partnership began as an effort to increase the availability of the evidence-based health promotion programs to people in Bemidji, Red Lake, White Earth and Cass Lake communities. We believe that by working together we will achieve more than if we work independently; we are *Stronger Together*.

We coordinated leader trainings for Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self-Management and A Matter of Balance classes. We



STRONGER TOGETHER BOOTH AT
THE WISDOM STEPS CONFERENCE

have developed strategies to share leaders for each of these evidence-based classes to increase both the numbers of communities where we can offer these classes and the number of classes offered to participants. In addition, we promote this partnership through joint marketing and outreach efforts at health fairs, senior expos, powwows and other events. We developed a schedule so that a full menu of evidence-based classes, including Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance are available to seniors and anyone impacted by a chronic disease.



LEADER TRAINING FOR TAI JI QUAN:
MOVING FOR BETTER BALANCE



SENIOR LINKAGE LINE® OUTREACH AT
A COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

Evidence-Based Classes

During 2015, we facilitated seven “train-the-trainer” workshops that produced new leaders for A Matter of Balance, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance and Diabetes Self-Management. These leaders, along with leaders from Chronic Disease Self-Management and Powerful Tools for Caregivers partnered to provide 43 evidence-based classes to support seniors.

Caregiver Support

Are you providing unpaid assistance to a spouse, relative, or friend who is ill, disabled, or needs help with basic activities of daily living? Do you help with rides to the doctor, shopping, meals, bill paying, bathing, grooming, dressing, walking or transferring to a wheelchair, housekeeping, managing medications, or arranging services to be provided by others? If you provide services like these, whether or not you live with the person you are helping, you are a caregiver.

Caregiver support and services are critical links in supporting our seniors and the people who are caring for them. The LDS AAA provided technical assistance and support to Bemidji and Detroit Lakes as they increased awareness regarding caregiver and dementia issues through their efforts with *ACT on Alzheimer's*. These communities are implementing initiatives to become Dementia-Friendly Communities.

Senior LinkAge Line®

The Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL) has experienced another successful year of growth and positive impact. We pride ourselves on developing community partnerships and serving seniors. The SLL has four broad service areas that fall under its umbrella. They are: Phone Specialists, Senior Outreach Specialists, Pre-Admission Screening Specialists and Return to Community Specialists.

In 2015, the SLL program served 14,802 seniors and the Outreach program served 11,906 people. In addition to assisting seniors during the Medicare Open Enrollment period our Phone Specialists also assist with Long-Term Options Counseling which helps people when moving into assisted living, identifies providers for home modifications, caregiver support and transportation and chore services.

The Pre-Admission Screening Specialists completed 4,524 screens for nursing home admissions. As well as follow-up calls for people who are returning home following a nursing home stay.

Return to Community was chosen as a top three award winner for the Minnesota State Government Innovation Award. The LDS AAA played a role in this award by assisting 154 people who wanted to return home following a nursing home stay in 2015. Since this program began in 2010, our staff has assisted 505 people return home or to their community.

2015 AGING GRANTEES

Productive Alternatives
Senior Medical Travel [\$16,500]

Roseau County
Senior Medical Travel [\$8,000]

Clearwater Senior
Transportation [\$4,000]

Northwest Sentence to
Serve Chore Program [\$10,000]

Tri-County Community
Corrections Chore
Program [\$12,000]

Legal Services of
Northwest Minnesota [\$47,850]

West Central
Community Action
Home Modification [\$12,835]

Lake Region Healthcare [\$9,736]

Mahube Tai Ji Quan [\$20,000]

LSS Caregiver/Respite
Program [\$109,165]

Northwoods Interfaith
Caregiver Program [\$28,420]

Park Rapids LAH/BNP/
Interfaith Caregiver
Program [\$14,850]

Central MN Elder Network
Caregiver Respite [\$9,383]

Mahube Relatives
as Parents [\$16,900]

Alzheimer's Association [\$14,091]

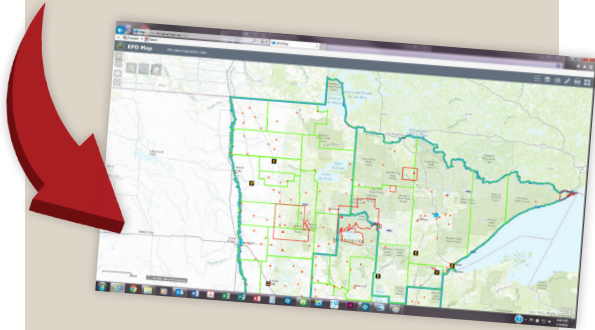
Nutrition Services
Incorporated Senior
Meals [\$829,439]

Lutheran Social Services
Senior Meals [\$707,655]

COMING SOON!

CUSTOM WEB MAPPING APPLICATION

The NWRDC contracted with the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Minnesota Department of Human Services to create a web mapping application that allows users to query specific information that relates to the Area Agencies on Aging programs.



The web map has census data linked to layers that allow users to query information, aiding in planning for the best services for the utilizing public.

The map currently shows provider locations for chore services, transportation services and nutrition sites. This information is connected to other layers that can be displayed by census tract at the school district, county or regional Area Agencies on Aging level.

The application was built by Houston Engineering and is capable of running on several different formats, from smartphones to desktop computers.

The Minnesota Board on Aging and the Department of Human Services will publish the address to their sites soon.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



PURPOSE:

To assist communities in maintaining the services and infrastructure needed to support a robust economy and an attractive quality of life.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Community planning and zoning, tourism development and promotions, recreational development and geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

Comprehensive Planning for Area Communities

A unique partnership has developed over the past two years to bring comprehensive planning services to communities in Region One. The NWRDC has teamed with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NWMF) to assist small communities with planning efforts to help position themselves for the future. The NWMF has provided underwriting assistance to communities in order to help pay for planning services provided by the NWRDC.

The communities leverage those dollars by providing matching funds. By doing this, small towns with limited budgets and staffing limitations are able to do the planning necessary to provide a blueprint for development and growth. Comprehensive plans are put together through a series of public meetings that engage the community and result in a reasonable and rational basis for development, including land use, economic development, housing, transportation needs, recreational opportunities, infrastructure options and many other “quality of place” issues. The public process is designed to encourage community participation so that residents have an important role in determining their own destiny.

The NWRDC assisted the cities of Gary, Red Lake Falls and Ada in a series of public meetings to develop effective comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances for the communities. The outcomes help guide public policy in several topic areas, including land use, transportation, recreation, and housing. The planning process encourages public engagement in determining goals and aspirations through a community vision and covers a long-term time horizon, typically 10-15 years.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE:

To maintain and increase the population level and job base in the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Business development, labor force development, renewable energy, promotion and planning.



2015 CONSTRUCTION WORK PROCEEDS ON LARGE PLANT EXPANSION AT FARMER'S ELEVATOR CO. OF ALVARADO

Impacting an Effective Labor Force

The NWRDC works in a variety of areas that have a wide-ranging impact on the development of an effective labor force in the region. We participate in Impact 20/20, a group comprised of business, education and government leaders from across the region with task forces focusing on broadband development, education, workforce development and housing. We continue efforts in business creation, retention and expansion through our Revolving Loan Fund. We provide grant writing and technical assistance to communities, businesses and individuals. We participate in *Heating the Midwest* with the Biomass Steering Committee, which is comprised of educators and developers from several midwestern states and examines opportunities in renewable energy development. These, and many other efforts, contribute to the overall

economic health and resiliency of Region One.

MADO/DevelopMN

We participated in the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) for the purpose of sustaining a statewide peer group of EDD/RDC directors and planners and for the creation of a Greater Minnesota Development Strategy, now identified as DevelopMN. Statewide MADO planners and directors have completed SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and developed strategic SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time Bound) goals, strategies and objectives for the implementation

of DevelopMN. This strategic statewide plan identifies the primary pillars of human capital, economic competitiveness, foundational assets and community resources as common development opportunities in greater Minnesota. The plan fosters more inter-regional collaboration, increased local alignment with state and federal partners and a more effective rural voice in promoting economic development objectives in rural Minnesota.





www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL (NWMAC)

PURPOSE:

To provide full-time staff, office space, shared office equipment and support staff to the non-profit Northwest Minnesota Arts Council. FY 2015 \$95,727.68

MISSION

To support and enhance the development of arts and artists in Northwest Minnesota.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Grants and grants administration, artist showcase, arts promotion, workshops/training and statewide leadership in arts.

More information can be found at www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org including how to sign up for monthly e-newsletters to stay informed and see NWMAC annual reports with more details.

NWMAC PARTNERS WITH ARTS MIDWEST AND THE TRF SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BRING BALADINO TO THIEF RIVER FALLS IN OCTOBER 2015. THIS AMAZING BAND FROM ISRAEL CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS ALL WEEK AND ENDED WITH A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE. GREAT SUCCESS WITH 427 ADULTS AND 1,941 YOUTH ATTENDING DURING THE WEEK

[HTTP://WWW.NORTHWESTMINNESOTAARTSCOUNCIL.ORG/2015/10/BALADINO-INTERVIEW-WITH-KTRF/](http://www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org/2015/10/baladino-interview-with-ktrf/)

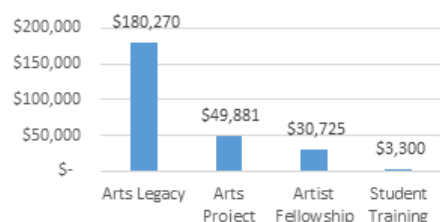
Awards



Northwest Star Artist: Karen Engevik of Roseau received \$5,000.00 for her Black Horse Pottery and Tile business success. She was publicly recognized at the NWMAC reception in April at the Engelstad Arena in Thief River Falls, with 200 people in attendance.

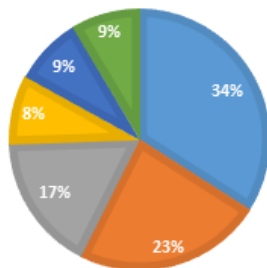
Grants

Grouped Categories: Grants Awarded in FY 2015



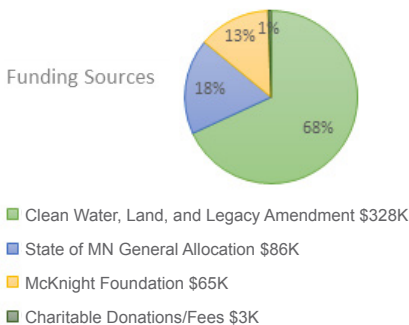
47 Interviews!

■ Artists ■ Arts Org Leaders
■ NWMAC Director ■ NWMAC Board
■ Showcase Specialist ■ Promotions Specialist



Radio Pioneer 90.1 at 3:05 on Tuesdays.

Funding Sources



Workshops



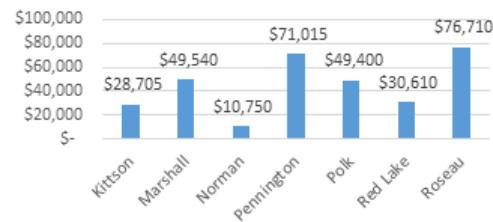
Nicholas Jackson of Bemidji conducts an illustration workshop in Warren, with 12 artists attending.

Gallery

Riverwalk Artist Gallery, EGF: 5,000 Annual Visitors



County: Total Grants in FY 2015





TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

HOUSTON ENGINEERING DISCUSSING OSLO FLOOD
ALTERNATIVES AT A MNDOT MEETING

PURPOSE: To insure safe and efficient movement of people and commodities in the region. To provide an on-going forum for important transportation issues in the region. To assist MnDOT and provide input with its planning efforts and programs.

SERVICE PRIORITIES: Direction setting, comprehensive regional planning, legislative advocacy and MnDOT project coordination.

Collaborating for Minnesota's Transportation Vision

We served as staff for the Accountability, Transparency and Communications Workgroup for the MnDOT Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan (SMTP) and the 20-year Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP). The SMTP and MnSHIP are both part of MnDOT's Family of Plans, which stem from the Minnesota GO 50-Year Vision. The Vision outlines what Minnesotans desire from the state's transportation system and identifies key guiding principles MnDOT strives to achieve. The SMTP is the state's highest level plan. Public involvement will be integrated with technical tasks and timelines for the SMTP and MnSHIP. MnDOT will be presenting the plan and gathering input statewide in the coming year.

We are working with the Waters of the Dancing Sky Scenic Byway to promote the communities in Roseau and Kittson counties.

We are also working with the King of Trails Scenic Byway to promote the communities in Kittson, Marshall, Polk and Norman counties. The byway traverses to the state of Texas!

We are partnering with the Department of Tourism and the Sustainable Partnership to re-establish the Red Lake River Corridor Group which will help communities become eligible for Legacy funding.

We are assisting Halstad and Ada on *Safe Routes to School* applications to promote the statewide health improvement program that would allow kids to walk to school in a safe environment.

We are also assisting East Grand Forks and Oslo with DNR discussions to acquire a new boat dock to help promote the use of the Red River.

We are working with MnDOT to get the NWRDC to lead the *Toward Zero Deaths* program for Kittson, Roseau and Marshall counties.

We are assisting Red Lake Falls, Gary, Ada, Oslo and Warren with comprehensive planning and mapping.

We are coordinating efforts to purchase the abandoned rail line from Shelly to Perley in Norman County. There are plans to connect the 19-mile segment with the Heartland Trail in Moorhead and create an international bike route by traversing into Canada!

We are also gathering and creating trail maps for MnDOT to incorporate into the statewide bike planning effort. The MnDOT bicycle plan will help to promote tourism and provide alternative modes of transportation in the region.



NORTHWEST REGIONAL 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.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

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



ANDREW PERALTA, NEW DAIRY QUEEN RESTAURANT
OWNER IN THIEF RIVER FALLS, WAS A REVOLVING
LOAN FUND RECIPIENT IN 2015

2015: A Year in Review

Sean Ranum, with the NWRDC, has taken on the role of Loan Fund Manager and the Loan Reviewing Committee welcomes four new members from Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Hallock and Greenbush as we enter 2016. The loan fund continues to see spotty activity, which is a trend that originated back in 2013. However, the loan fund is beginning to see more interest from the retail and service type businesses than in previous years. Six loans were opened in 2015 for a total of \$515,000 dollars. In addition to opening new loans, other loan fund activities included loan restructuring, interest rate adjustments, payoffs, loan assistance to community economic development agencies (EDAs) and technical assistance.

We provided technical assistance in the form of information and referral to other organizations and agencies including but not limited to: Small Business Development Center, EDA University Center, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute, Department of Employment and Economic Development, Headwaters Regional Development Commission, Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the IDEA Competition.

Loans closed in 2015:

Valley Hardware & Supply – Halstad
Peralta Inc. and AP LLC (Dairy Queen) – Thief River Falls.
Caribou Grill LLC – Hallock
McIntosh Country Store LLC – McIntosh
RS Grain LLC – Euclid

Historical Loan Activity

(period ending 12/31/2015):

Total Loans	191
Active Loans	39
Total Loan Amount	\$13,409,390
Other Financing Leveraged	\$76,572,281
Jobs Created/Retained	1,745
Total Project Costs	\$89,981,670

Historical Loan Activity by County

(period ending 12/31/2015):

County	# of Loans	Amount
Kittson	21	\$1,211,620
Marshall	37	\$2,493,705
Norman	18	\$904,248
Pennington	17	\$1,555,850
Polk	61	\$4,644,975
Red Lake	12	\$683,115
Roseau	26	\$1,915,876



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING

RED RIVER REGIONAL BOMB SQUAD RESPONDING
TO AN INCIDENT IN NORTHERN MINNESOTA

PURPOSE: To aid Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) Region Three in the preparation, planning and implementation of activities related to regional mitigation, response and recovery.

SERVICE PRIORITIES: Utilize a specifically geared, annually evolving work program to support existing emergency management capabilities throughout Northwest Minnesota, as approved by the Emergency Management Joint Powers Board, Regional Program Coordinator and HSEM staff.

Joint Powers Board Staff

We continued our partnership with the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Region Three in Northwest Minnesota by performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management and mitigation strategies, projects and capabilities via a staff planning position. The NWRDC serves as a fiscal agent.

Regional Meeting Attendance

We attended regularly scheduled Regional Radio Board, Radio Advisory Committee and Northwest Health Services Coalition meetings.

Shelter Go-Kits

Shelter Go-Kits were created for 14 counties and two tribes in Northwest Minnesota. These kits are wheeled cases that contain equipment, signage and forms that are necessary when long

and short-term sheltering is required during disaster situations.

Emergency Operations Plan Template

We created an Emergency Support Function Hybrid-based Emergency Operations Plan template for use at a county level. Migration is currently occurring at the county level.

Conference Attendance

We attended the Governor's Conference, Under One Roof and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers Conference.

Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation

We also were able to participate in a presentation in coordination with Carol Bye, LDS AAA Senior Outreach Specialist, about Emergency Preparedness for seniors during the Red Lake County Fair.

Regional Mutual Aid Agreement

We created a regional mutual aid agreement. This document allows personnel and other county/regional resources to be available to each party in the agreement upon request. Currently, all 14 counties have either entered into the agreement or are in the process of accepting it. This agreement is open to city and tribal partners.

Vigilant Guard

We also participated in a sheltering exercise in Duluth. Vigilant Guard tested the Minnesota National Guard's ability to respond to large-scale incidents. More than 1,400 service members from the Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin National Guard joined 500 state, federal and local response agency participants at three training sites across the state: Duluth, Camp Ripley and St. Paul.

PLANS & PUBLICATIONS PREPARED BY THE NWRDC

PLANS:

2016 Aging Area Plan – Includes senior and provider input as well as 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.

2015 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – 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.

Regional Arts Plan – Includes goals, strategies and work activities for State Arts Funds and McKnight Arts Funds.

Revolving Loan Fund Plan – Consists of program elements and guidelines.

PUBLICATIONS:

SeniorNews – A newsletter for senior citizens and service providers of Northwest Minnesota.

Artists of Northwest Minnesota – A directory of 36 artists and non-profit organizations. 3,000 printed in 2015.

Government Units of Service Directory – A listing of service agencies and government offices from the township and legislative levels.

CY 2014 Annual Report – A report sent to local officials and legislators of funding and work activities of the NWRDC.

NW MN Visitor & Recreation Guide – A guide of attractions which offer services and opportunities in Northwest Minnesota communities.

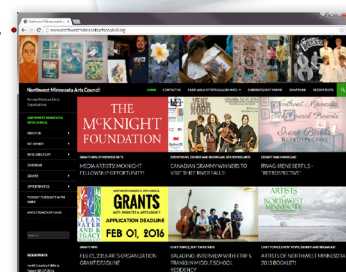
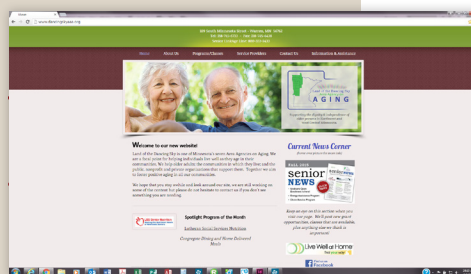
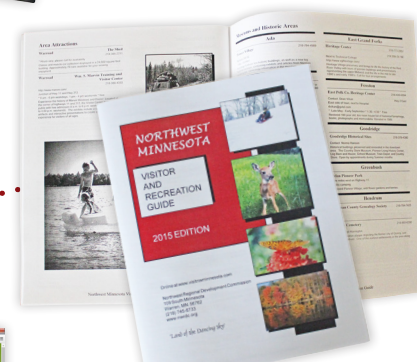
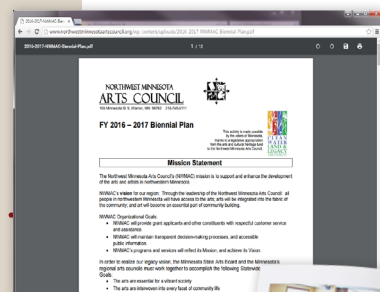
WEBSITES:

www.nwrdc.org

www.dancingskyaaa.org

www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org

www.visitnwminnesota.com



NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TEAM



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Executive Director



Carol Sorensen
Financial Director



Betty Safranski
Administrative Support



Brenda Solberg
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Screening Specialist



Donza Erickson
Pre-Admission
Screening Specialist



Dana Grahn
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Screening Specialist



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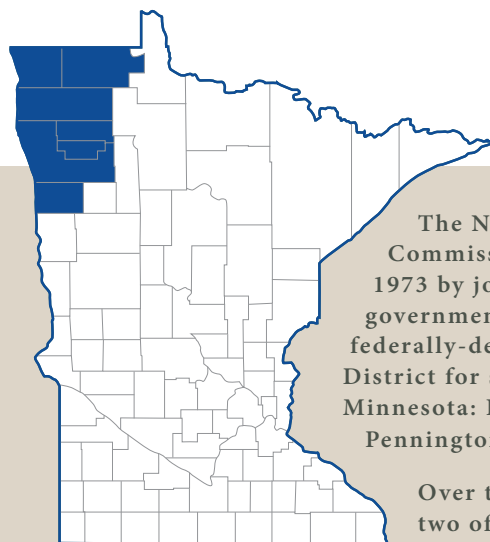
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC) was created in 1973 by joint actions of local units of government. The Commission acts as a federally-designated Economic Development District for seven counties in Northwest Minnesota: Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.

Over the past several years we have seen two of the programs we offer expand services into other counties, outside of the original seven counties. These are counties where capacity did not exist or where local units of government requested our assistance as needs arose.

The Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging coverage area has grown to serve 21 Minnesota counties while remaining a program of the overarching NWRDC organization.

The same is true of Homeland Security & Emergency Management which serves a total of 14 Minnesota counties, while remaining under the auspices of the NWRDC organization.



Counties Served: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, Norman, Mahnomon, Clay, Becker, Hubbard, Wilkin, Otter Tail, Traverse, Grant, Douglas, Stevens and Pope



Counties Served: Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Beltrami, Polk, Pennington, Red Lake, Clearwater, Norman, Mahnomon, Clay, Becker and Hubbard