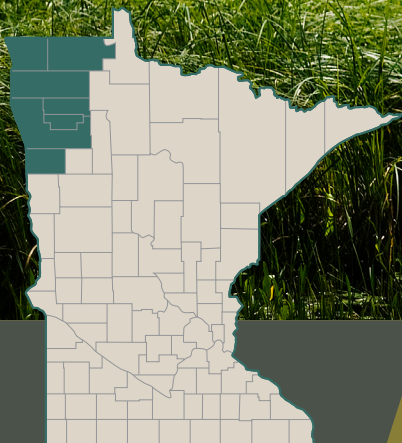
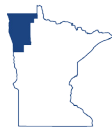




NWRegional Development Commission



www.nwrdc.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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



www.visitnwminnesota.com

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2016 ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING IN DECEMBER.

SENATOR LEROY STUMPF ATTENDED
THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



DR. JOE BOUVETTE, COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Welcome!

For over 40 years, the Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC) has worked to provide programs and exceptional service as part of its mission.

A year ago, I wrote that the NWRDC was responding to state mandates to increase staff and programming in our Area Agency on Aging, reflecting the growing need for services due to aging trends in rural and western Minnesota. An older population, coupled with population loss and outmigration of the past several decades could be perceived as a potential weakness of the region's economic vitality. But, the true strength of this region has always

been its people, and I think a positive and flexible response to these challenges opens doors to new opportunities.

Much has been done to stimulate economic resiliency in the region and the framework of vibrant and diverse economy continues to grow. The NWRDC assists in this process by listening and responding to the needs of the people — an area where the NWRDC is a proven leader. Our staff work to recognize trends and identify local needs and assist with issues like the development of a flexible-hours workforce, adequate housing and daycare, promotion of the arts, succession planning, transportation improvements and trails development, effective broadband infrastructure,

homeland security and emergency management, senior health care, cultural amenities, business retention and expansion and many other concerns related to an ever evolving economy. Addressing these proactively is necessary to keep and attract talent and improve our quality of life. It promotes a higher standard of living and makes this a welcoming destination area for locals and visitors alike. This is why I think the NWRDC's priorities are in alignment with growing the region ... and helping to make it a better place to live.

Thank you for your support of this organization and I hope you enjoy our annual report.



COMMISSION MEMBERS THAT WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING: (L TO R) GERALD AMIOT, GARY KIESOW, JOE BOUVETTE, GERALD JACOBSON, KATHY TWITE, KEITH SISTAD, DEB WISKOW, JOHN LEROHL, WARREN STRANDELL, KEVIN HARMONING, SHARON JOSEPHSON, KEVIN REICH, KATHY JOHNSON, RON WEISS, GAIL YUTRZENKA, ELVERA CULLEN AND BRIAN HOLMER.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CAM FANFULIK, NWRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends...

The end of 2016 is drawing to a close and it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the past year's accomplishments and share with you. We feel it's important that you not only know what the NWRDC did this past year, but why we did it. We want to be sure to recognize that your investment in this organization and in the region is resulting in positive outcomes that make this area a better place to live, work and play.

With the level of activities that the NWRDC performs through its various programs, we simply can't include everything that we have done over the past year in this one small document. However, we can give you several of our key accomplishments, the trending issues that we are working on and real stories where those activities have had a positive outcome. The stories are important for a variety of reasons, but primarily to show how "the dots get connected" and how our services make a difference in real people's lives.

Especially important to us are the relationships and partnerships that are essential to collaborative efforts in this region. You will notice many of those

collaborations through our work with state and federal departments, philanthropic organizations, peer agencies and collective associations.

As always, we are constantly re-examining ourselves and our internal operations to improve our communications, making sure our staff are adequately trained and making the most of our human resources in order to be better facilitators and bring people together to solve problems. We think you'll agree that the NWRDC is making a difference in Northwest Minnesota. We always welcome your input and comments so that we can better serve you.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

Dr. Joe Bouvette**	Hallock	County
Kimberley Johnson*	Kennedy	Townships
Kevin Hanson	Kennedy	Municipalities

Marshall County

Gary Kiesow*	Goodridge	County
Loren Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Lindsey Oslund	Grygla	Municipalities
Kristina Potucek	Warren	School Boards
Gail Yutrzenka	Argyle	School Boards

Norman County

Milton Alm	Hendrum	Municipalities
Sharon Josephson	Fertile	Townships
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

Mark Foldesi*	Greenbush	County
Brenda Sather	Greenbush	Municipalities
Debra Wiskow	Greenbush	Townships

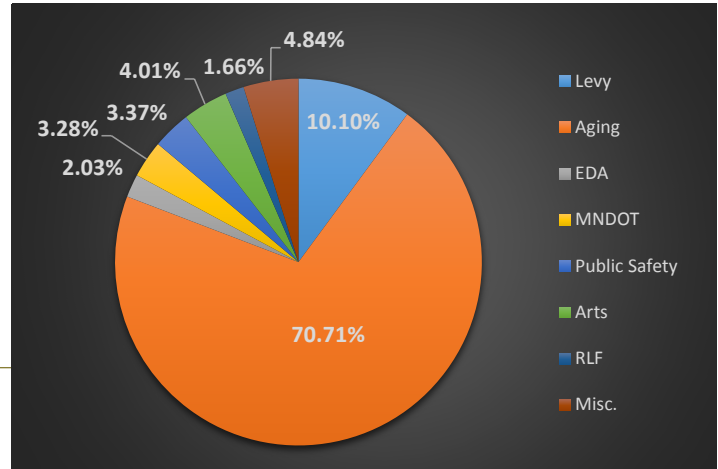
* Board Members

** Chairperson

FINANCIALS & 2017 BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Actual 2016 Revenue Sources



REVENUES	CY'2016 BUDGET	CY'2016 ACTUALS	CY'2017 BUDGET
Local Tax Levy	\$264,698	\$261,698	\$ 272,639
MN Board on Aging/Department Health	\$1,729,514	\$1,776,852	\$ 1,689,634
Economic Development Administration	\$52,628	\$52,628	\$ 52,628
MN Department of Transportation	\$83,689	\$84,893	\$ 75,000
MN Department of Public Safety	\$87,277	\$87,327	\$ 87,277
NW Minnesota Arts Council	\$106,949	\$103,797	\$ 115,770
Land of the Dancing Sky AAA County Match	\$55,163	\$55,163	\$ 55,164
NW Minnesota Enterprise Fund	\$46,035	\$43,000	\$ 70,239
Local Contracts/Miscellaneous	\$110,143	\$125,436	\$ 112,542
Regrant Revenue	\$2,791,183	\$2,391,355	\$ 2,791,719
TOTAL	\$ 5,327,279	\$4,982,149	\$ 5,322,612

CY'2015 AUDIT

The CY'2015 Audit was conducted by Brady Martz, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants, Crookston, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Northwest Regional Development Commission.

EXPENDITURES	CY'2016 BUDGET	CY'2016 ACTUALS	CY'2017 BUDGET
Salaries and Fringe	\$1,972,982	\$1,995,676	\$ 1,947,264
Professional Services	\$69,515	\$75,126	\$ 82,000
Travel	\$184,924	\$182,196	\$ 226,476
Supplies	\$34,460	\$36,585	\$ 40,918
Equipment	\$15,592	\$15,251	\$ 10,400
Other	\$258,623	\$274,492	\$ 223,835
Grants/Contracts	\$2,791,183	\$2,391,355	\$ 2,791,719
TOTAL	\$ 5,327,279	\$ 4,970,681	\$ 5,322,612

COST ALLOCATION

CY'2016 Actual
Leave Rate:
17.86%

CY'2016 Actual
Fringe Rate:
37.33%

CY'2016 Actual
Indirect Rate:
7.31%



www.dancingskyaaa.org

AREA AGENCY ON AGING STAFF 2016

LAND OF THE DANCING SKY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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.

Together We Are Stronger

The Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (LDSAAA) experienced many opportunities for growth and development of new and innovative programs that serve older adults in Northwest and West Central Minnesota. As we reflect on the close of another year we are reminded of the many regional health care and aging providers that collaborated to serve these people. Together we are stronger and we are making an impact on the communities in our region.

The LDSAAA strengthened its advocacy role through participation at the Aging Policy Day on the Hill, celebrating revisions made to the Older American's

Act established in 1965 that funds home and community supports. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) across the nation support this effort.

We participated in Senator Klobuchar's *Supporting Our Seniors* listening sessions around our region. This was an opportunity to educate legislators on real issues facing today's older adult population. Senator Al Franken came to Fergus Falls to address the high costs of medications and hear the impact it has on older adults. Guess what? There is more work to be done. Advocacy has taken on a new challenge this year as we advocate for more funding for volunteer-based transportation, which impacts all of our home- and community-based services. Rural, older adults have limited access to services because of the distance needed to travel to access services.

Workforce issues also impact our aging providers. We will be developing closer relationships with economic developers to advocate and develop a plan to address this issue. Older Minnesotans have a right to age in place in the community of their choice. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work closely with older adults and their caregivers.



SENATOR AL FRANKEN VISITED THE LDSAAA OFFICE IN FERGUS FALLS.

Healthy Living As You Age

The *Healthy Living As You Age* initiative has provided an opportunity for the LDSAAA to partner with other Minnesota AAAs and local health care providers to expand the availability of evidence-based health promotion programs across our 21 county region. Leader trainings were hosted in targeted communities that increased the number of leaders who offer A Matter of Balance, Tai Ji Quan, Chronic Disease and Diabetes Self-Management classes.



A MATTER OF BALANCE CLASS IN ULEN.

Some of our local partners in this project include LifeCare, Riverview, Sanford Health, Lake Region Healthcare, Park Rapids CHI St. Joseph's, Breckenridge, Ecumen, Living at Home programs in Warren, Park Rapids, Barnesville, Pelican Rapids, as well as Northwoods Caregivers and Lakes and Prairies Community Action.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

A program that makes a positive difference in caregivers' lives through increased confidence in coping with caregiver demands, management of emotions and improved self-care behaviors.

Caregiver Consultant Services

Providing care for an older adult or someone with memory loss can be stressful and overwhelming. Caregiver Consultants help people assess their situations and identify strengths, concerns and issues as well as find solutions and resources to assist in providing care.

Holding a "Family Meeting"

A family meeting is a chance for spouses, children and others involved in the care of an older adult to identify needs, share responsibilities and develop a plan that will best serve the whole family. It can help build understanding about changes in an older adults health or ability to function and increase communication and sharing of caregiving responsibilities.

Senior LinkAge Line®

The Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL) continues to provide information and assistance to seniors and their families.

Our broad service areas that fall under the SLL include Phone Specialists, County Coordinators, Outreach Specialists, Pre-Admission Screening Specialists, Community Living Specialists and Volunteers.

Six Phone Specialists and eight County Coordinators helped 95 seniors save \$167,008 during Open Enrollment!

Two Pre-Admission Screening Specialists completed 5012 screens for nursing home admissions. They also followed up with people discharged after a short nursing home stay.

Three Community Living Specialists assisted 162 people return home after a nursing home stay. The savings impact per senior returning home is \$5,166 on average per month!

We also offered 13 Medicare 101 educational classes in our region. If you would like a class offered in your area call us today!



THROUGHOUT OPEN ENROLLMENT THE SLL TOOK NOTE OF CLIENT'S SIGNIFICANT AND NOTEWORTHY INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS AFTER COMPARING PLANS - \$167,008!

2016 AGING GRANTEES

Productive Alternatives
Assisted Senior Medical
Travel [\$24,500]

Clearwater Senior Assisted
Transportation [\$4,000]

Northwest Sentence
to Serve Chore
Program [\$11,973]

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

Legal Services of
Northwest Minnesota
[\$51,000]

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

Lake Region Healthcare
[\$13,000]

Mahube Tai Ji Quan [\$16,000]

LSS Caregiver/Respite
Program [\$113,665]

Northwoods Caregivers
[\$28,889]

Park Rapids
Living at Home [\$12,566]

Central MN Elder Network
Caregiver Respite [\$11,182]

Mahube Relatives
as Parents [\$16,900]

Alzheimer's Association
[\$14,525]

Nutrition Services
Incorporated Senior
Meals [\$863,700]

Lutheran Social Services
[\$707,655]

In 2016, the LDSAAA supported over 38,952 older adults wanting to continue to live at home in their community and the caregivers that support them across the 21 county region.

16 Contracted Title III Federal Older Americans Act Service Providers

11,579

Consumers
served via the
Senior LinkAge Line®

9,315

Older Adults
received 222,795
Congregate Meals

2,387

Older Adults
received 168,141
Home Delivered
Meals

125

Older Adults
received over
878 One-way
Trips

12,419

Hours of Respite
provided to 109
Caregivers

2,089

Sessions of
Coaching and
Counseling provided
to 339 Caregivers

483

Older Adults
participated in
Health Promotion
Programs

205

Older Adults
received 755 hours
of Chore and
Homemaker Services

350

Older Adults
received 610
hours of Legal
Counseling



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE:

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

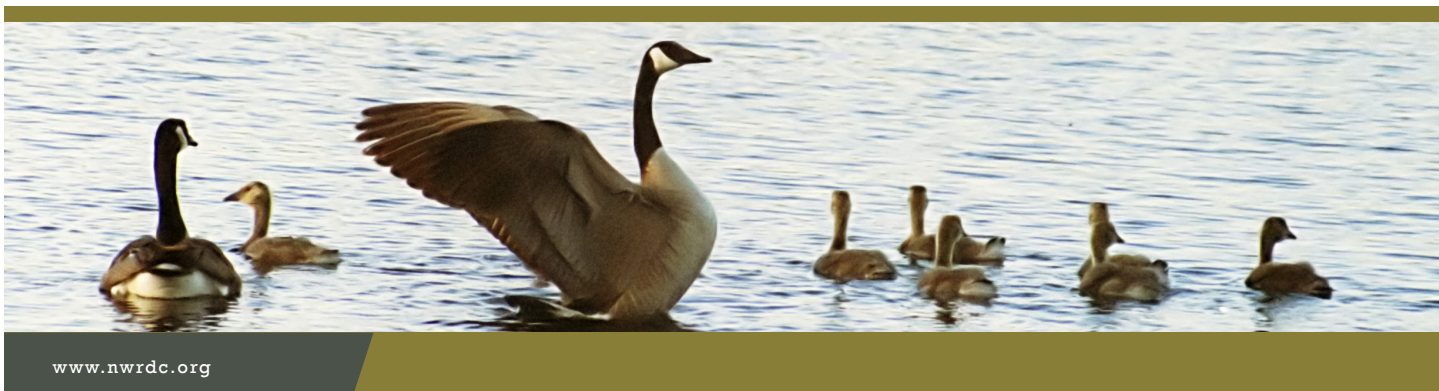
SERVICE PRIORITIES:

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

Supporting a Diversified and Resilient Economy

The NWRDC is charged with assisting communities through a variety of means that support a diversified and resilient economy and contribute to an attractive and compelling quality of life. Staff participate in a variety of groups, steering committees, taskforces and the like throughout the year. Even when we are doing our “normal” work program routine, there are many occasions during the year when opportunities or challenges spring up and must be addressed. The variety is endless and more than can be shared on these pages, a more complete review of our work program is available on our website at www.nwrdc.org.

In 2016, the NWRDC staff were heavily involved with comprehensive planning in the City of Fisher and Smiley Township, assisted with curriculum and seminar development for a statewide professional peer learning process, worked with the U of M RSDP on developing funding priorities, reviewed applications for community-based projects, served on an advisory board for the UMC EDA University Center to conduct economic impact analysis and applied research and collaborated with MADDO colleagues to create DevelopMN — a statewide economic development strategy for rural Minnesota. These projects, and more, are just some of the issues that we work with on an annual basis.



www.nwrdc.org

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.

Exciting Projects are a Mainstay

Helping to make people's ideas, dreams and hopes a reality is a fun and exciting part of the Economic Development field. We get to work with entrepreneurs and established enterprises who are starting new companies, expanding operations, creating innovative products, buying high tech equipment to improve efficiencies and providing unique niche items to the goods and services markets.

Grantwriting is an expanding area for the NWRDC, as staff completed successful grant applications to Minnesota Dept of Agriculture for Vertical Malt Company in Fisher to purchase equipment that will build

production capacity and provide unique customized malt products for the craft brewing industry. Craft brewing, wineries and distilleries are a growing segment of the Northwest Minnesota economy, proving that cold weather is not a barrier to making high-quality beverage products in the region. In addition, the NWRDC has consulted with other growers and individuals in putting together grant applications that address edible bean segregation and shipping, hops production, cold weather grape varietal trials, food processing, wastewater treatment and business succession planning.

The NWRDC's participation in Impact 20/20, an influential group of leaders throughout the region, led to the addition of a Housing Taskforce and the creation of a Housing Action Network to address housing shortages and barriers to housing development.

The NWRDC staff serve on the Housing and Workforce taskforces, as well as the Leadership Council of Impact 20/20.



A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) IS DESIGNED TO BRING TOGETHER THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC ROADMAP TO DIVERSIFY AND STRENGTHEN REGIONAL ECONOMIES.



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.

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.

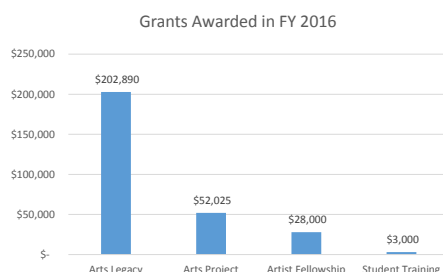
NWMAC PARTNERS WITH ARTS MIDWEST AND THE TRF SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BRING LE VENT DU NORD OF QUEBEC TO THIEF RIVER FALLS AND RED LAKE FALLS IN FEBRUARY 2016; AND LORRAINE KLAASEN'S SOUTH AFRICAN MUSIC TO THIEF RIVER FALLS AND WARREN IN NOVEMBER 2016. THESE TWO AMAZING BANDS CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS ALL WEEK AND ENDED WITH A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE. GREAT SUCCESS WITH 1000 ADULTS AND 4,000 YOUTH ATTENDING DURING THE WEEK!

Awards



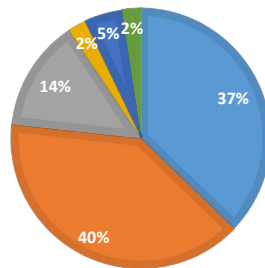
Northwest Star Artist: Barb Geer of Middle River received \$5,000.00 for her lifetime achievement in performing arts. She was publicly recognized at the NWMAC reception in April at the Roseau City Center & Library, with 200 people in attendance.

Grants



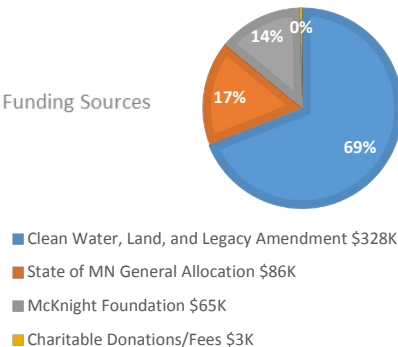
43 Interviews!

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



Radio Pioneer 90.1 at 3:05 on Tuesdays.

Funding Sources



Gallery

Riverwalk Artist Gallery, EGF:
5,000 Annual Visitors





TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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

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

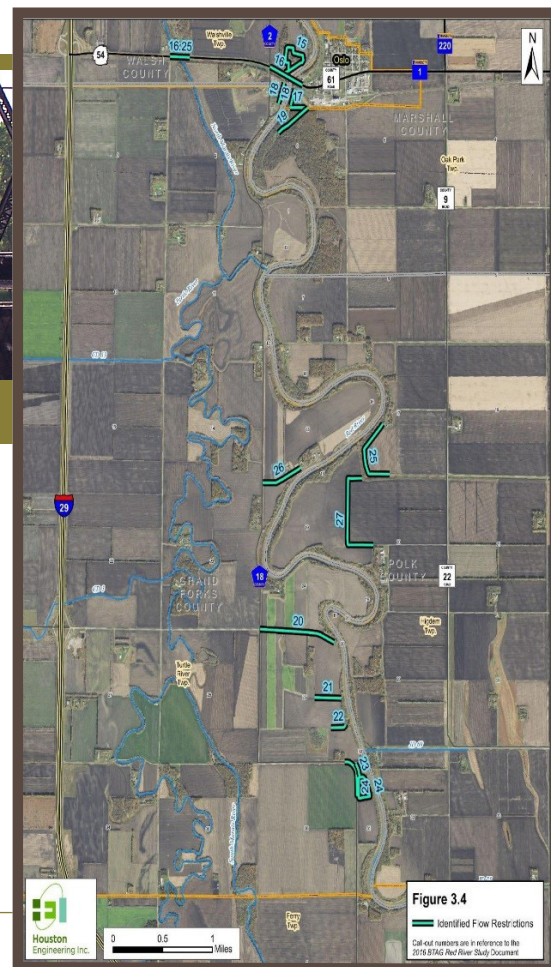
The NWRDC has contracted with MnDOT on several projects in the past year, including a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan for the Ada School District, a regional transit plan for our seven county service area, coordination of a fleet of bikes that will be shared with school districts to encourage and teach kids how to properly ride and promote healthy living, as well as service on the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee that meets quarterly in Minneapolis.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) attended a presentation by Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering on the second phase of the Oslo flood modeling project, which will focus on the hydraulic characteristics of the Red River of the North near Oslo. The project will also evaluate the

existing agricultural levees, effects of removing identified potential flow restrictions and a proposed setback levee alternative alignment.

Transit Plan

The NWRDC Transit Plan is following Federal transit laws under the FAST Act, which requires that projects selected for funding under the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program be included in a locally developed and coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan and that the plan be developed and approved through a process that included participation by seniors, individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and other members of the public. These plans are completed every five years.



OSLO FLOOD MODELING PROJECT. THE GREEN FEATURES INDICATE POTENTIAL FLOW RESTRICTION AREAS FOR REMOVAL.

Ada Safe Routes to School Plan

A plan is being drafted for the Ada SRTS program. It's goals include:

1. Enabling and encouraging children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bike to school.
2. Making biking and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age.
3. Facilitating the planning, development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE LOAN FUND



KATY HOLTER, OWNER OF HOLTER FLORAL & GIFTS IN ROSEAU, WAS A REVOLVING LOAN FUND RECIPIENT IN 2016. (L TO R) KATY, PAULETTE, SHELBY AND CHASE

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.

2016: A Year In Review

The Northwest Regional Enterprise Loan Fund saw three different companies pay loans in full during 2016. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) thanks those companies for their relationship with the NWRDC and wishes them the best in future endeavors.

The number of new loan applications continues to remain low, a trend that continues since 2013. The number of inquiries in 2016 is comparable to previous years but the projects seen to completion have dropped. The RLF closed one loan in 2016 for \$75,000 and committed two other loans for \$250,000 that are set to close in 2017. The RLF has seen a recent spike in inquiries during the waning months of 2016 which will set the RLF up for a great 2017. 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 2016:

Holter Floral & Gifts – Roseau

Historical Loan Activity (period ending 12/31/2016):

Total Loans	192
Active Loans	36
Total Loan Amount	\$13,484,390
Other Financing Leveraged	\$76,757,281
Jobs Created/Retained	1,748
Total Project Costs	\$90,241,671

Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 12/31/2016):

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	27	\$1,990,876



TANKER TRUCK AND TRAIN COLLISION IN CALLAWAY.

www.nwrdc.org



TORNADO NEAR THE CITY OF BELTRAMI ON AUGUST 28, 2016.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING

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

Continued our partnership with the Region Three Joint Powers Board in Northwest Minnesota in performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management and homeland security strategies, projects and capabilities via a staff planning position.

Conference Attendance

Attended the Governor's Conference, Under One Roof, Rainy River Cross Border Conference and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference.

Regional Meeting Attendance

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

State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)

SHSP grant funds were attained to address high-priority projects within the 14 counties in Northwest Minnesota. The following investments were identified and saw funded projects:

- Mass Care
- Chemical, Biologic, Radiologic, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE)
- Community Preparedness
- Strengthen Planning

Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation

Participated in presentations in coordination with Carol Bye (Senior LinkAge Line Outreach and Evidence Based Programs Coordinator) and local Emergency Management about Emergency Preparedness for Seniors in the cities of Karlstad, Hallock, Laporte and Crookston. A video presentation

was also created and dispersed through RSVP of the Red River Valley at the University of Minnesota – Crookston.

Manitoba Meeting

A meeting was held with emergency management personnel from Manitoba, Canada and Kittson, Roseau and Lake of the Woods Counties to discuss partnering on future initiatives and responses.

Community Disaster Response & Recovery Conference

On June 7, the Region Three HSEM Joint Powers Board, the NWRDC and the Headwaters Regional Development Commission partnered with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation to host a regional conference. The Community Disaster Response & Recovery Conference was funded through the Philanthropic Preparedness, Resiliency and Emergency Partnership (PPREP).

PLANS & PUBLICATIONS PREPARED BY THE NWRDC

PLANS:

2017 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.

2016 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – The 2016 – 2021 CEDS has taken a little different shape to more closely resemble that of each of the other Economic Development Regions of Greater Minnesota. The Economic Development Regions have agreed upon four key cornerstones to economic development; Human Capital, Economic Competitiveness, Community Resources and Foundational Assets. Each region has based their CEDS on these cornerstones and developed their own unique goals and strategies. The 2016 CEDS does maintain previous priorities of Planning, Promotion, Business Development, Labor Force Development and Renewable Energies with added emphasis on workforce related issues such as housing, childcare, training and business succession planning.

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 2015 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.

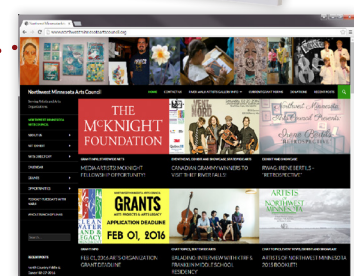
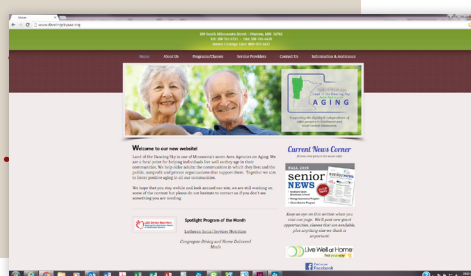
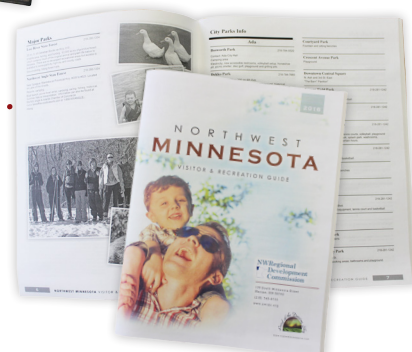
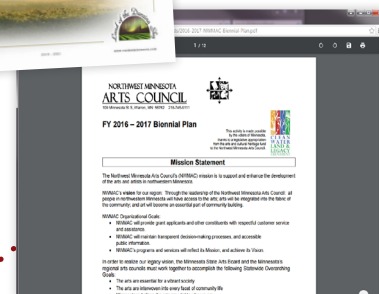
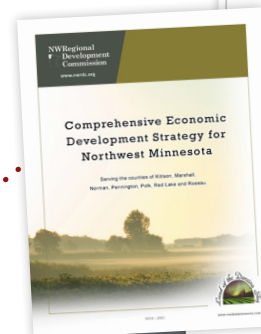
WEBSITES:

www.nwrdc.org

www.dancingskyaaa.org

www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org

www.visitnwminnesota.com



NWRDC TEAM



Cameron Fanfulik
Executive Director



Carol Sorensen
Financial Director



Betty Safranski
Administrative Support



Kelly Pahlen
Administrative Support



Mara Hanel
NW Minnesota Arts
Council Director



Sean Ranum
Loan Fund Manager/
Economic Development
Planner



Troy Schroeder
Transportation
Planning Director



Jennifer Olson
Emergency Operations
Planning Director



Darla Waldner
LDS AAA
Director



Beth Budziszewski
Senior LinkAge Line®
Supervisor



Danica Robson
Program Development
Coordinator



Judi Weiss
Grant & Contract
Manager/Program
Developer



Kate Storhaug
Program Developer



Amy Dallmann
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Connie Troska
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Carol Bye
Healthy Aging
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Nancy Finstrom
Community Living
Specialist



Debbie Eiler
Community Living
Specialist



Heather Pender
Community Living
Specialist



Dana Kloeppner
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Screening Specialist



Shelly Peters
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Valerie Mattison
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Administrative Support



Kaela Wiskow
Pre-Admission Screening
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NWRegional Development Commission

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WHAT IS A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION?

Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) 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, RDCs were left in the hands of local representatives to insure that the final design would reflect area needs and preferences.

Nine total RDCs were established to provide technical assistance to the local units of government in their region.

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.

The West Central Initiative Foundation (WCI) performs some of the same functions as an RDC.

