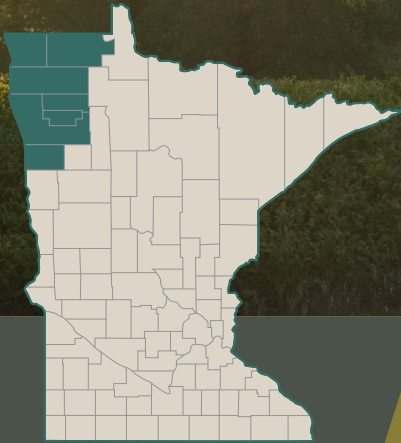




# NW Regional Development Commission



[www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org)

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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



[www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://www.visitnwminnesota.com)

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SENATOR LEROY STUMPF ATTENDED THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING.



2017 ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING IN DECEMBER.



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

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DR. JOE BOUVETTE, COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

## Welcome Colleagues & Friends!

**An annual report always lends itself to looking at accomplishments over the past year and recognizing the hard work that it entailed. The talented staff at the NWRDC have had a tremendous impact on a variety of topic areas and issues, but they don't do it alone!**

The work done by the Northwest Regional Development Commission is a direct result of a robust collaboration

with regional partners, local units of government, businesses and individuals to reach the goals that make our region a resilient and high quality place to live and work.

Central to that regional success is assisting local units of government with the planning and implementation of projects that contribute to our economic well-being. Our community fosters a quality of life that makes it possible for older adults to stay in their homes for as long as they are able. We strive to better our community

by providing training to young people to continue their arts education, providing a loan and business expertise to an entrepreneur with a cool idea, or helping a community establish an effective infrastructure system.

The work of the NWRDC is wide-ranging and vital to the future of all the communities it serves. We are proud to share the results of our accomplishments with you.

Thank you for your support!



COMMISSION MEMBERS THAT WERE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING: (L TO R) LORAN LUSIGNAN, GARY KIESOW, GERALD JACOBSON, RON WEISS, KATHY TWITE, JIM DUCHAMP, KEVIN REICH, JOHN LEROHL, ELVERA CULLEN, LINDSEY OSLUND, GAIL YUTRZENKA, KIM JOHNSON, SHARON JOSEPHSON, DAVE ERICKSON, DAVE TREUMER, KEITH SISTAD, JOE BOUVETTE, GERALD AMIOT AND WARREN STRANDELL.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CAM FANFULIK, NWRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Friends...

**I am happy to provide our 2017 Annual Report on the many areas of interesting and exciting work that we do here at the NWRDC. I am lucky to work with amazing, dedicated people who believe in providing effective service to their customers and clients.**

This agency strives to be responsive, but also nimble enough to be able to address issues as disparate as flood

disaster relief, border crossing hour reductions, workforce housing shortages, virtual dementia training for caregivers, transportation and transit snags and even planning for the possibility of a hazardous chemical spill from a train derailment.

The Commission is charged with helping local units of government and the people they represent to “maximize the possibilities” and make the most of our resources

and assets. The diversity of projects and programs that we offer are designed to help achieve a high quality of life and quality of place for our region. Support from our partners and stakeholders are the reason the NWRDC is successful in reaching its goals and objectives, and we will continue to make every effort to serve you.

We appreciate your support as we move into an exciting 2018!

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

### Kittson County

Dr. Joe Bouvette**	Hallock	Counties
Kimberley Johnson*	Kennedy	Townships
David Treumer	Kennedy	Municipalities

### Marshall County

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

### Norman County

Milton Alm	Hendrum	Municipalities
Sharon Josephson	Fertile	Townships
Nathan Redland*	Halstad	Counties

### Pennington County

Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls	At Large
Dave Erickson	Thief River Falls	Townships
Cody Hempel*	Thief River Falls	Counties
Brian Holmer	Thief River Falls	Municipalities
Karan Lincoln	Thief River Falls	Minorities
Dante Steele	Thief River Falls	Minorities

### Polk County

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

### Red Lake County

Jim DuChamp	Plummer	Municipalities
Catherine Johnson	Oklee	At Large
John Lerohl*	Oklee	Counties
Kevin Reich	Red Lake Falls	Townships
Ronald Weiss	Red Lake Falls	Watershed District

### Roseau County

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

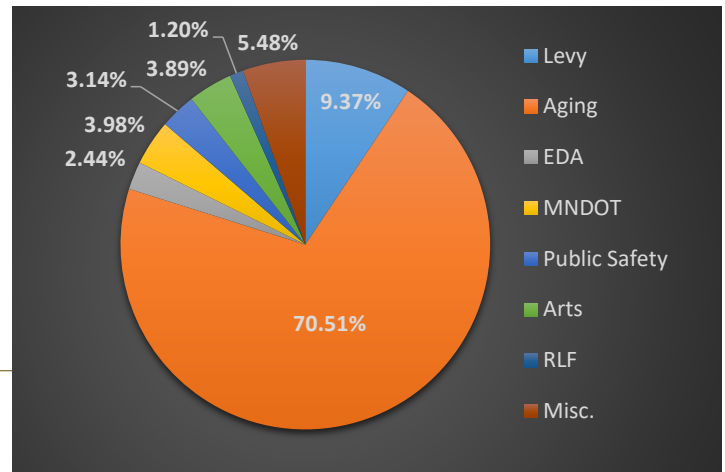
\* Board Members

\*\* Chairperson

# FINANCIALS & 2018 BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 2017

## Actual 2017 Revenue Sources



REVENUES	CY'2017 BUDGET	CY'2017 ACTUALS	CY'2018 BUDGET
Local Tax Levy	\$272,639	\$268,638	\$280,818
MN Board on Aging/Department Health	\$1,951,648	\$2,021,968	\$2,259,753
Economic Development Administration	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
MN Department of Transportation	\$106,554	\$114,124	\$75,000
MN Department of Public Safety	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$80,963
NW Minnesota Arts Council	\$110,452	\$111,535	\$117,316
Land of the Dancing Sky AAA County Match	\$50,639	\$50,639	\$52,228
NW Minnesota Enterprise Fund	\$33,369	\$34,365	\$43,210
Local Contracts/Miscellaneous	\$117,817	\$106,520	\$133,064
Regrant Revenue	\$3,085,380	\$2,999,776	\$2,839,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,888,498</b>	<b>\$5,867,565</b>	<b>\$5,951,592</b>

### CY'2016 AUDIT

The CY'2016 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'2017 BUDGET	CY'2017 ACTUALS	CY'2018 BUDGET
Salaries and Fringe	\$2,123,961	\$2,164,656	\$2,406,770
Professional Services	\$211,853	\$183,550	\$156,556
Travel	\$200,983	\$211,306	\$250,281
Printing/Postage	\$46,466	\$54,296	\$62,426
Supplies	\$36,376	\$47,089	\$45,787
Rent/Maintenance	\$50,382	\$57,201	\$66,590
Equipment	\$24,491	\$25,219	\$8,500
Other	\$108,606	\$139,799	\$115,442
Grants/Contracts	\$3,085,380	\$2,999,776	\$2,839,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,888,498</b>	<b>\$5,882,892</b>	<b>\$5,951,592</b>

### COST ALLOCATION

CY'2017 Actual  
Leave Rate:  
**17.36%**

CY'2017 Actual  
Fringe Rate:  
**37.84%**

CY'2017 Actual  
Indirect Rate:  
**8.15%**



www.dancingskyaaa.org

# LAND OF THE DANCING SKY AREA AGENCY ON AGING (LDSAAA)

AREA AGENCY ON AGING STAFF

### 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, falls prevention, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance, Matter of Balance, chronic disease prevention, respite care and caregiver support.

## Visioning for the Future of Aging Programs and Services

**The Land of the Dancing Sky AAA had the opportunity to participate in a Theory of Change and Strategic Planning for our region.**

The strategic plan represents a collective vision and roadmap for identifying needs and prioritizing services that encourage rural older adults and communities to thrive. Our strategic planning process was developed by the Minneapolis-based Aurora Consulting.

We believe that all older adults and caregivers are vital to the quality of place in each of our rural communities. While vital, our aging population must adapt to an ever-changing world while facing challenging economic barriers. Because

of this, we recognize how important it is for older adults to have access to services regardless of where they live and for each of us to be empowered to live and age healthier, no matter our age.

We look forward to the future of aging services as we address the barriers between where we are and where we want to be. We will continue to work toward increasing our capacity and achieving a broader public awareness of our services. We resolve to strengthen and develop creative partnerships providing comprehensive services to older adults. We are committed to

### Administrative Excellence

Strategic Plan 2018-2020



#### Strategic Direction One Strengthen our relationship with communities

- Engage stakeholders in collaboration.
- Identify community strengths and gaps.
- Develop new community relationships.

#### Strategic Direction Two Expand Outreach

- Build community toolkit.
- Develop greater marketing capacity.
- Promote positive aging culture.

#### Strategic Direction Three Maximize Internal Systems

- Bridge internal knowledge.
- Streamline work management systems.
- Support, develop, and celebrate staff.

diligently working to instill the values of dignity, service and collaboration while partnering with our communities and patrons.

In our region, we envision vibrant communities invested in their elders. We envision older adults and caregivers planning for the future. We envision that together, our communities and older adults thrive.

## Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL)

In 2017, our vision to provide assistance to older adults and their caregivers by assisting them with long-term care options counseling was successful! Through Medicare and Health Insurance education as well as providing support through the transitions of care, staff have reached more than 12,616 seniors and caregivers. The SLL has expanded its programs and services in our region to diverse communities and increased our numbers of persons served.

This past year, the SLL programs and services served a total of 27,336 sessions, which was the result of 19,419 phone calls and in-person interactions.

During open enrollment, Phone Specialists, County Coordinators and Volunteers compared costs which resulted in \$881,892 in savings!

Pre-Admission Screening Specialists processed 5,566 screenings for nursing home admissions and provided follow up calls to 398 people upon returning home from a short-term nursing home stay.

Community Living Specialists in our Return to Community program discharged 164 older adults to their homes with a support plan and a five year follow-up. The savings impact of older adults returning home from a nursing home stay is, on average, \$5166.00 per person per month.

Also, we are excited to announce that we received additional funding to expand our Return to Community program to 5 new populations scheduled to be implemented throughout 2018!



THROUGHOUT OPEN ENROLLMENT THE SLL TOOK NOTE OF CLIENT'S SIGNIFICANT AND NOTEWORTHY INDIVIDUAL SAVINGS AFTER COMPARING PLANS - **\$881,892 IN SAVINGS!**

## Healthy Living As You Age



Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act and talk about dementia!

Developed by the Alzheimer's Society, the goal of the Dementia Friends sessions is to help community members understand dementia and learn small things they can do to make a difference for people living with dementia.

Our Development staff were trained to facilitate Dementia Friends sessions in March and since then have provided 26 sessions in 16 communities, resulting in 453 people becoming Dementia Friends!



Another tool used to spread awareness and help create dementia-friendly communities is the Virtual Dementia Tour.

This groundbreaking, evidence-based method, uses sensory tools and instruction to simulate the effects of dementia so people can personally experience the physical and cognitive challenges.

Service organizations such as Police and Fire Departments, EMS, Social Services, faith-based communities and communities at-large have all benefited from this experience.

Our Development staff have also become trained to lead these tours and this past year agencies such as Polk County Social Service, Lake of the Woods Providers, the NWRDC and even MN Rep. Deb Kiel participated in Virtual Dementia Tours!



REP. DEB KIEL PARTICIPATING IN THE VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR

## 2017 AGING GRANTEES

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

Clearwater Senior Assisted Transportation [\$4,000]

Northwest Sentence to Serve Chore Program [\$12,586]

Tri-County Community Corrections Chore Program [\$12,557]

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

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

Lake Region Healthcare [\$13,000]

LSS Caregiver/Respite Program [\$146,777]

Northwoods Caregivers [\$30,174]

Park Rapids Living at Home [\$15,503]

Central MN Elder Network Caregiver Respite [\$16,586]

Alzheimer's Association [\$9,787]

Nutrition Services Incorporated Senior Meals [\$867,900]

Lutheran Social Services [\$768,580]



www.nwrdc.org

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BREWING EQUIPMENT & PRODUCTS AT FAR NORTH SPIRITS & REVAION ALE IN HALLOCK.

### 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 and promotions, recreational development and geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

## Providing Services, Building Capacity, Meeting Challenges

The NWRDC assists the region in achieving a diversified and resilient economy and in developing an attractive and compelling quality of life.

We participate in a variety of regional groups, committees and taskforces throughout the year. We also receive requests to assist communities when they are faced with unique situations, issues or challenges and are looking for expertise in dealing with state and federal regulations, understanding grant guidelines and liaison services with governmental partners.

In 2017, the NWRDC has made housing a signature priority as we have seen an increase in activities that address the workforce issues in the region. Expanding companies in the region recognize that employees they hire need to have adequate and available housing. In addition, workers want amenities that give them options including access to basic needs, quality childcare and schools, recreational

opportunities, bike and walking-friendly streets, proximity to regional centers, access to business and entrepreneurial assistance and more!



We participated in a MN Housing Partnership program that provides hands-on learning experiences for rural communities who need to bring housing development and other projects to their areas. We also continue to play a partnership role in Impact 20/20, a group of NW MN leaders who promote workforce development, education, broadband development and housing. These partnerships have led to the creation of a Housing Action Network, which will share best practices and look for ways to encourage housing diversity and availability in the region!

People who are starting out in life and raising a family, or those who are returning to the region to live and work, are making important life decisions regarding their community of choice. We are helping to build a regional brand that encourages forward-thinking and progressive rural attitudes so that residents know that infrastructure and people's needs will be met and business growth is promoted through a responsive government.

We are also celebrating the expansions of large multi-national companies in the region, such as Digi-Key, Polaris, Arctic Cat and Marvin Windows. We also want to recognize and support the significant risk and investments from smaller companies: Weave Got Maille, a jewelry manufacturer in Ada; Far North Spirits, a distillery in Hallock; and other small manufacturing, retail and service businesses that are broadening their footprint through an effective use of broadband and networking capacity.





www.nwrdc.org

CONGRESSMAN PETERSON AND SENATOR KLOBUCHAR HOLD FARM BILL LISTENING SESSION IN RED LAKE FALLS.

## 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.



## Helping Others, Developing Capacity, Achieving Economic Diversity

**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.**

This program encompasses two areas that are mutually beneficial in helping to promote and encourage development in the region. We work with entrepreneurs, businesses, communities and

individuals to assist with project development and provide technical assistance to help build the capacity of the various participants to reach their ultimate goals. Additionally, the ability to access the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) of our non-profit NW Regional Enterprise Fund, Inc. (NWREF) allows us to make low interest loans and provide gap financing to assist with project completion. The NWREF loan committee and RLF staff have made loans to a variety of business sectors in order to encourage business growth and respond to area priorities as listed in our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

As recognized in our CEDS priorities, NWRDC staff have made loans and provided business assistance to sectors as diverse as lumber yards, childcare centers, service stations, essential

community services (grocery, car dealerships, restaurants, grain elevators and assisted living), food shippers and distributors, value-added food processors, manufacturers and many others. Helping to provide a diverse and flourishing economic sector is paramount to a successful and resilient rural region!

In 2017, we worked with area businesses and communities to provide grant applications for broadband development and wastewater pre-treatment for a local food processor. We also worked with two area counties to help put together a RLF and economic development arm for business development, as well as with regional and local communities and businesses to establish housing diversity through development programs.



[www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org](http://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.

## 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](http://www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org) including how to sign up for monthly e-newsletters to stay informed and see NWMAC annual reports with more details.



NWMAC PARTNERED WITH ARTS MIDWEST AND THE TRF SCHOOL DISTRICT TO BRING CHINESE/MONGOLIAN MUSIC TO TRF AND WARREN IN MARCH 2017. THIS AMAZING BAND CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS ALL WEEK AND ENDED WITH A PUBLIC PERFORMANCE. IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS WITH 1,000 ADULTS AND 4,000 YOUTH ATTENDING DURING THE WEEK!

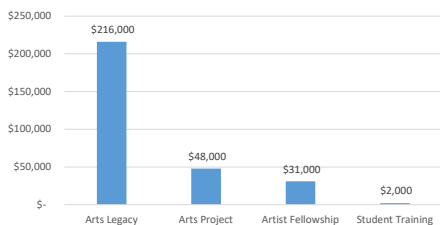


PAST & PRESENT BOARD MEMBERS (& SPOUSES) CELEBRATED 40 YEARS AS AN ARTS COUNCIL!

## Northwest Star Artist

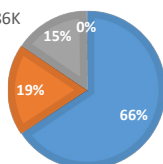
Annalee Woodstrom of Ada received \$5,000 for her lifetime achievement in creative writing. In April, she was recognized at the NWMAC reception in Halstad.

## Grants Awarded



## Funding Sources

- Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment \$328K
- State of MN General Allocation \$86K
- McKnight Foundation \$65K
- Charitable Donations/Fees \$3K



## New! Teaching Artist Roster Program

Five artists completed *Artist in Residency* for schools training. They will be listed on our website and available for residency work in our region soon!

## Equality & Respect for All

Equality and Respect for all catalog available depicting all 44 pieces that were created by individuals throughout our region. Ten, 2-hour workshops, lead by Trey Everett of Crookston and Janet Johnson of Roseau, were held that helped participants connect with the theme and create a piece.



JEANNE O'NEIL, EGF, PRINTMAKING SERIES, LUCILLE NELSON, ARGYLE, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS AND JANET JOHNSON, ROSEAU, 30 BOWLS IN 30 DAYS.

## Riverwalk Artist Gallery, EGF

5,000 Annual Visitors

Tune in Tuesdays to Radio Pioneer 90.1 at 3:05!



www.nwrdc.org

# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**PURPOSE:** To ensure 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 its planning efforts and programs.

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



TOWNHALL MEETINGS WERE HELD IN ROSEAU & LANCASTER TO DISCUSS BORDER CROSSING HOURS.

## Border Crossing Hours

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has proposed reducing the hours of operation at the Lancaster and Roseau Port of Entries (POE). Townhall meetings were held in Roseau and Lancaster in November to gather comments from the public. Both townhall meetings showed opposition to reducing the hours of operation at the ports citing it would be damaging to the businesses and welfare of the people residing in the area. These ports are utilized for emergency care, employment, shopping and recreational opportunities.

After the townhall meetings were held the Customs and Border Protection agencies made the decision to implement new, reduced, hours that will take effect January 7, 2018. The Roseau POE will operate 8:00 am - 8:00 pm year round and the Lancaster POE will operate

8:00 am - 6:00 pm during the winter months and 8:00 am - 8:00 pm during the summer months.

Congressman Peterson's office has written a letter to the U.S. Border Protection Agency seeking the implementation of virtual interview process technology that is currently being used at the Northwest Angle. With infrastructure improvements at the Lancaster and Roseau POEs, 24 hour port access would be available.

## Safe Routes to School

The NWRDC applied for a fleet of bikes through the MnDOT Safe Routes to School program and was awarded a fleet of 25 bikes, gear and an enclosed trailer to share with school districts around the region!

Access to bikes is a key component in enabling teachers and after-school programs to better educate students on safe bicycling skills. Through bike fleet

awards, MnDOT supports teachers using the Walk! Bike! Fun! Curriculum across Minnesota in training students in safe walking and bicycling behavior. MnDOT has held two solicitations per year, for bike fleets, since 2014; the NWRDC was selected in 2017. The bike program is targeted toward children in grades 4-6 and up to grade 8.

This past fall the fleet was used for the first time by the Win-E-Mac School District and the students and teachers had a great experience!

Information about the Walk! Bike! Fun! bicycle and pedestrian safety curriculum can be found on the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota website at: <http://www.bikemn.org/education/walk-bike-fun>.

Sign up on our website to bring the bike fleet to your community or call the NWRDC today!

# 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.

## 2017: A Year In Review

The Northwest Regional Enterprise Loan Fund saw 5 different companies pay loans in full for 2017. The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) thanks those companies for their relationship with the NWRDC and wishes them the best in future endeavors!

New loan production saw an uptick for 2017. The RLF closed 7 loans in 2017 for \$725,340 and committed 3 other loans for \$262,500 that are set to close in the near future. The number of inquiries in 2017 was strong in comparison to previous years. Due to several large payoffs in 2016 the program still has over \$650,000 available to lend in 2018.

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.

### Historical Loan Activity

*(period ending 11/30/2017):*

Total Loans	199
Active Loans	35
Total Loan Amount	\$14,209,728
Other Financing Leveraged	\$84,592,781
Jobs Created/Retained	1,766
Total Project Costs	\$98,802,781

### Historical Loan Activity by County

*(period ending 11/30/2017):*

County	# of Loans	Amount
Kittson	21	\$1,211,620
Marshall	40	\$2,769,045
Norman	18	\$904,248
Pennington	19	\$1,755,850
Polk	62	\$4,744,975
Red Lake	12	\$833,115
Roseau	27	\$1,990,876



# 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 and HSEM staff.

## We're Ten Years Old!

**2018 marks approximately ten years since the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board and the Northwest Regional Development Commission began partnering together to "Prepare Today For The Demands Of Tomorrow".**

With an ever-evolving work program combined with an active array of hazards present in Minnesota; it takes many individuals active in emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in order to save lives, reduce property damage and decrease/eliminate future effects. Government, local agencies, volunteers, businesses and emergency response personnel all work together and lend efforts/resources to keep our communities safe. The following points highlight a few of the successes that the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board's regional planning program has accomplished in 2017, thanks to a grant funding opportunity through Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM):

- Charging stations for portable technology
- Local partnerships – NW Health Coalition, NW Regional Radio Board
- Badge identification and credentialing
- Manitoba/Minnesota Meeting
- Regional Strategic Planning
- Regional Response Team Planning
- Homeland Security Information Network Planning
- Philanthropy Planning with the NW Minnesota Foundation
- IPAWS for portions of NW Minnesota
- Governor's Conference, AMEM and Under One Roof Attendance (including two associated exercise evaluations and participation in a Regional Planner presentation).
- Senior Disaster Preparedness Presentation at the "Age Odyssey" conference in partnership with the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging. Individual presentations have also occurred.
- Completion of the Critical Infrastructure Preparedness Planner Learning Path

With an enhanced focus on homeland security and terrorism incidents in the upcoming year, the Northwest Minnesota Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board is looking at an exciting and prepared 2018!

# PLANS & PUBLICATIONS PREPARED BY THE NWRDC

## PLANS:

**2018 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.

**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 - 2021 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.

**2017 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](http://www.nwrdc.org)
- [www.dancingskyaaa.org](http://www.dancingskyaaa.org)
- [www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org](http://www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org)
- [www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://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**  
Development Supervisor



**Judi Weiss**  
Grant & Contract  
Manager/Program  
Developer



**Kate Storhaug**  
Program Developer



**Amy Dallmann**  
Program Developer



**Connie Troska**  
Program Developer



**Carol Bye**  
Healthy Aging  
Coordinator



**Nancy Finstrom**  
Community Living  
Specialist



**Debbie Eiler**  
Community Living  
Specialist



**Heather Pender**  
Community Living  
Specialist



**Dana Kloepfner**  
Pre-Admission  
Screening Specialist



**Shelly Peters**  
Pre-Admission  
Screening Specialist



**Valerie Mattison**  
Pre-Admission Screening  
Administrative Support



**Kaela Wiskow**  
Pre-Admission Screening  
Case Aide Specialist



**Helen Phalen**  
Volunteer Coordinator /  
Senior LinkAge Line®  
Phone Specialist



**Kathy Dahl**  
Senior LinkAge Line®  
Phone Specialist



**Melissa Hoef**  
Senior LinkAge Line®  
Phone Specialist



**Jennifer Hedrick**  
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**Lyn Pankratz**  
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**Marlene Dahlquist**  
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**Paul Baymler**  
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# NWRegional Development Commission

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In 2017, the LDSAAA supported over 34,913 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

**12,616**

Consumers served via the Senior LinkAge Line®

**7,452**

Older Adults received 220,865 Congregate Meals

**2,109**

Older Adults received 173,340 Home Delivered Meals

**81**

Older Adults received over 904 One-way Trips

**9,521**

Hours of Respite provided to 97 Caregivers

**1,887**

Sessions of Coaching and Counseling provided to 488 Caregivers

**492**

Older Adults participated in Health Promotion Programs

**161**

Older Adults received 665 hours of Chore and Homemaker Services

**594**

Older Adults received 797 hours of Legal Counseling