

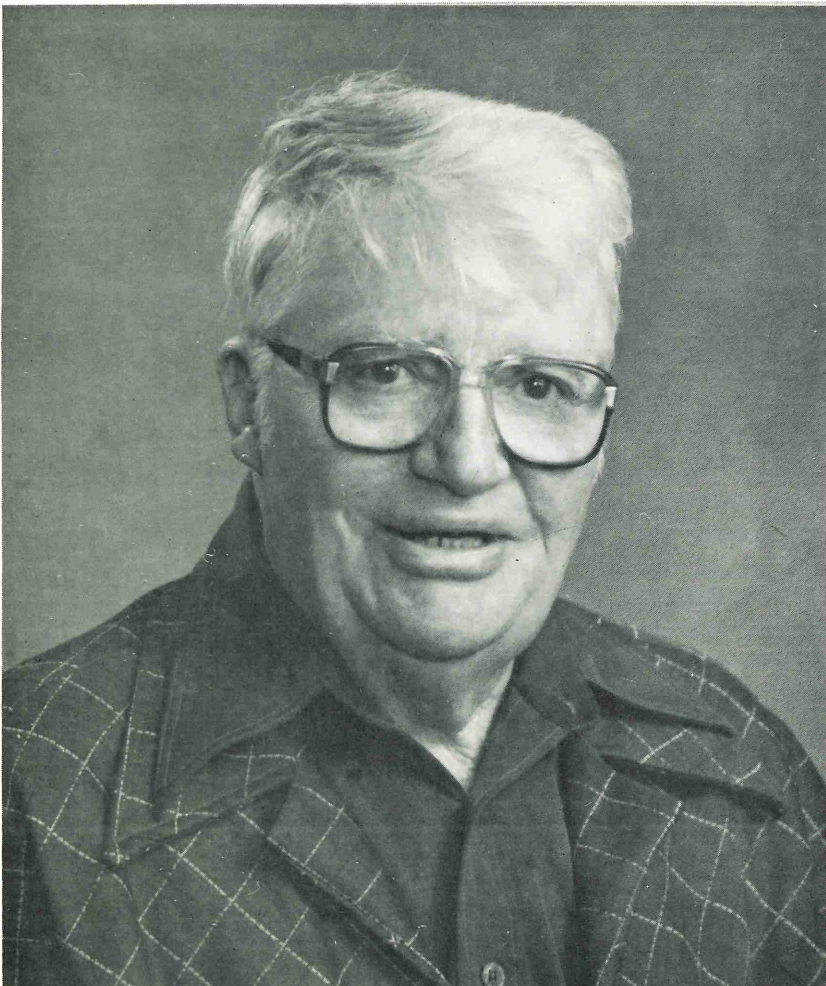
ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987



MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Chairman's Report



**Orville Wog
Meeker County
Township
Representative**

The past year marked the beginning of the fourteenth year since the commission was formed. During that period, a lot of changes have occurred in rural Minnesota. We have seen the price of agricultural land inflate to an all time high only to be devalued to a level that caused serious financial problems for many farmers and more than a few banks. The price of corn and especially soybeans soared to record highs in the early 1970's only to plummet to unrealistic lows in the mid-1980's.

Throughout those 14 years, the commission has matured. It no longer views itself as four individual counties brought together by a piece of legislation. Current commission members seem to view the commission as an integral unit that can accomplish significantly more as a single unit than as four counties, 26 school districts, 40 cities and 82 townships. Job creation through economic development technical assistance is one of the commission's major objectives. It no longer matters to the commission in which county or city economic development occurs. What matters is that the region does not lose any more jobs and that new jobs are created. The commission's economic development emphasis is on assisting manufacturing firms to expand, relocate to the region or start new businesses. Although everyone wants development in their own backyard, what is more important is that our regional economy remains healthy.

COMMISSION STAFF

Executive Director H. Eugene Hippe
Secretary/Receptionist Pam Wiegmann
Secretary/Bookkeeper Kay Ruhl
Financial Officer Lorraine Patton
Aging Program Director Robert Otto
Community/Economic Development Specialist..... Lee Larson
Gerald Grinde
Donn Winckler
Craig Molstad
Supporting Staff..... Matthew Peick, Intern and draftsman
(April-June)
Amy LaPatka, Partime Student Draftsperson (July-April)
Lynn Tewes, Intern (June)
Tony Horning, Draftsperson (May-June)

COMMISSION MEMBERS

KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Townships Dean Aarvig (July-Aug.)
Howard Larson (Sept.-June)
Municipalities Charles Haupt (Aug.-Dec.)
Rodney Slagter (Jan-Feb.)
Swen Rime (March-June)
County Earl Larson
City of Willmar..... Steve Enockson
Public Interest..... Dennis McGaughy (July-Aug.)

MCLEOD COUNTY

Townships Harold Sanken
Municipalities..... Joe Miller
County Grant Knutson
Public Interest..... Charles Warner
School District Randall Thalmann

MEEKER COUNTY

Townships Orville Wog
Municipalities..... Marlin Lietzau
County..... George Rice
Public Interest Andrew Walters

RENVILLE COUNTY

Townships Wesley Kuske
Municipalities Roger Cooper (Aug-Dec.)
Carlyle Harried (Jan.-June)
County Pat Kubesh
School Districts Virginia Draheim
Public Interest Richard Loftness
James Schafer

OFFICERS

Chairman..... Orville Wog
Vice Chairman Steve Enockson
Secretary/Treasurer Virginia Draheim

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

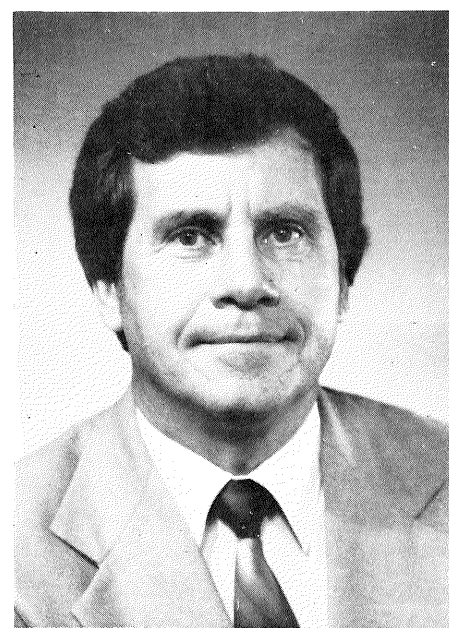
Orville Wog, Chairman
Steve Enockson
Virginia Draheim
Joe Miller
Wesley Kuske

Executive Director's Message

H. Eugene Hippe

The 1980's bore witness to significant economic and social changes in rural Minnesota. The counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker and Renville did not escape the effects of those changes, although some of the counties were impacted more than others.

The commission has attempted to be versatile during these periods of change. It has always tried to be receptive to the changing needs of local units of government, but more recently it has focused also on the need to create more and diverse jobs. This focus has resulted in staff being encouraged to find and work with manufacturing firms that want to locate or expand in the region. Emphasis has been placed on manufacturing because manufacturing is value added and creates new wealth rather than just redistributing existing local dollars.



However, existing programs have not suffered because of the new focus. The commission still administers an efficient and effective program for senior citizens. It still responds to short-term needs of local governmental units and it still coordinates and works closely with state agencies to accomplish special projects. The commission's work program and areas of emphasis will continue to change as local problems, needs and opportunities change. Any changes will always be intended to provide more meaningful and beneficial services.

COMMISSION PURPOSE

The legislation which authorized the creation of regional development commissions was passed in 1969. The purpose of the commission is to facilitate intergovernmental cooperation and ensure orderly and harmonious coordination of state, federal and local comprehensive planning and development programs for the solution of economic, social, physical and governmental problems.

The purpose of the commission is broad which allows the commission to provide the following services: conduct special analytical studies, promote economic development, research funding sources, write and administer grants, support job creation projects, prepare economic development plans, draft special maps, prepare tax increment finance district plans, codify and write ordinances and administer multi-county programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission received a \$50,000 grant during Fiscal Year 1987 from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). This is the seventh year the commission has received this grant, which is for the purpose of providing staff assistance on economic development projects.

During the past year, staff completed financial packages and submitted successful applications for public financing for six regional businesses. The projects resulted in loans totalling \$307,500 from public sources, which leveraged \$537,225 in private funds. A total of 68 new jobs will be created by these six projects. Staff also provided extensive economic development assistance to business, development groups and governmental units in 18 additional communities.

A major project which was funded in Fiscal Year 1987 was a public works grant from EDA in the amount of \$560,000. This grant will help create an industrial park in Eden Valley which will initially accommodate five different manufacturers, creating a total of 37 new jobs. Staff also completed a preapplication to EDA for a Renville-Meeker Counties Revolving Loan Fund. Eight communities in the two counties have pledged \$221,500 as the local match toward the creation of the fund. \$443,000 has been requested from EDA to help capitalize the revolving loan fund.

The commission utilizes a nine-person advisory committee to assist in determining goals and objectives in the annually updated Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP). Committee members for Fiscal Year 1987 were:

Charles Warner, Chairman - Brownton
Ken Franke - Plato
Don Hultgren - Raymond
Howard Page - Dassel
Suzanne Meyerson - Atwater
Richard Loftness - Hector
Nick Kleinhuisen - Renville
John Seehausen - Morton
Richard Hoglund - Willmar

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

MINIMUM TILLAGE

In 1985 the Commission obtained a grant from the Governor’s Rural Development Council to promote and educate people about the benefits of minimum tillage. During the next 30 months the Commission worked closely with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker and Renville Counties. Jointly they were able to raise the level of awareness about minimum tillage conservation practices. Specific accomplishments included arranging subsidized contracts between farmers who owned minimum tillage equipment and farmers who wanted to experience minimum tillage practices on their own land but did not own the proper equipment. These demonstration plots were publicized by placing attractive wood signs on the demonstration location. As a result of the grant, all of the districts now own their own IBM PC computer acreages. The districts designed and built a model they use at their county fair booth and a float they use in local parades. Other educational methods included annual poster contests with the winning posters being used for billboards displayed at different locations in all four counties.

PROJECT NOTIFICATION AND REVIEW

From July 1, 1986 to June 30, 1987, the commission processed and reviewed 72 applications requesting state and federal funding assistance. Twenty-four of the applications were for funding aging related projects and sixteen were for transportation projects. Eleven requests were for open space/recreation proposals and five others were also related to community development. The remaining proposals were: economical development - four, energy-three, housing-two, and miscellaneous-seven. Only one of the proposals received a negative comment and the commission decided to forward “no comment” on one other applications. The commission reviewed but did not comment on nineteen applications that were determined to be of local significance and had no major effect on other agencies or governmental jurisdictions.

The commission has an annual contract with the Department of Transportation to assist MnDOT with the local aspects of transportation planning. This local planning focused on two major areas. The first area was the Highway Jurisdiction Study. The study inventoried ownership of roads. In addition, it included or took into account certain construction and usage data. The study was not intended to recommend the “turn back” of any specific roads, but rather it was intended to identify roads which had the potential for turn back if certain criteria was considered. It did identify

inequities that could create problems if a turn back law was enacted and implemented.

The second major focus area was on MnDOT’s market artery proposal. This proposal used criteria that classified the importance of roads based primarily on retail sales volumes in the communities located along the highway. U.S. Highway 212 has no major communities located along most of it and therefore the highway was not considered a major arterial. Local communities organized to oppose the criteria used.

The transportation advisory committee members for fiscal year 1987 were:

- Harold Sanken, Chairman - Brownton
- Bruce Peterson - Willmar
- Bernard Alsum - Raymond
- Gordon Regenscheid - Litchfield
- Gene Dillon - Olivia
- Wes Kuske - Olivia
- Eugene Anderson - Hutchinson
- Gary Danielson - Willmar
- Dennis Stoeckman - Olivia
- Christ Weigel - Danube
- Howard Larson - Willmar
- Allan Schmidt - Cosmos
- Richard Kjonaas - Glencoe

1987 - 1988 FISCAL SUMMARY

Revenue and Expenditure Summary Fiscal Year 1987

REVENUES

FEDERAL		\$627,120
Economic Development Adminsitration	\$33,831	
HHS - Area Agency on Aging	593,289	
STATE		141,372
Legislative Appropriation	41,278	
Homestead Taxes	28,180	
Department of Transportation	38,398	
Governor’s Rural Development Council	27,486	
Agricultural Land Preservation	6,030	
State Nutrition	-0-	
LOCAL		141,559
Property Taxes	97,999	
Interest Earnings	22,793	
In-Kind Contributions	10,719	
Miscellaneous	10,048	
TOTAL REVENUES		910,051

EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICES	\$251,521
SUPPLIES AND PRINTING	10,063
OTHER SERVICES: Communications, Postage, Conference Subscriptions	27,978
CONTRACTED SERVICES	559,798
OTHER CHARGES: Rent, Insurance, Professional Services	27,301
CAPITAL OUTLAY	2,469
DEBT SERVICE: Xerox Copy Machine	2,108
TRAVEL: Staff and Advisory Councils	11,125
COMMISSIONERS: Travel and Per Diems	8,311
IN-KIND SERVICES	10,719
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	911,393

Proposed Budget Summary Fiscal Year 1987

REVENUES

FEDERAL		\$604,867
Economic Development Adminstration	\$50,000	
HHS - Area Agency on Aging	554,867	
STATE		186,678
Legislative Appropriation	41,278	
Homestead Taxes	25,000	
Department of Transportation	38,000	
Governor’s Rural Development Council	6,400	
State Nutrition	76,000	
LOCAL		156,911
Property Taxes	84,815	
Interest Earnings	20,000	
In-Kind Contributions	17,000	
Miscellaneous	900	
Reserve from Prior Years	34,196	
TOTAL REVENUES		948,456

EXPENDITURES

PERSONAL SERVICE	\$267,066
SUPPLIES AND PRINTING	11,010
OTHER SERVICES: Communications, Postage Conference, Subscriptions	30,162
CONTRACTED SERVICES	566,129
OTHER CHARGES: Rent, Insurance, Professional Services	25,300
CAPITAL OUTLAY	1,500
DEBT SERVICE: Xerox Copy Machine	2,109
TRAVEL: Staff and Advisory Councils	13,700
COMMISSIONERS: Travel and Per Diems	14,480
IN-KIND SERVICES	17,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	948,456

The State Auditor audits the commission annually and indentified no problems during the most recent audit.

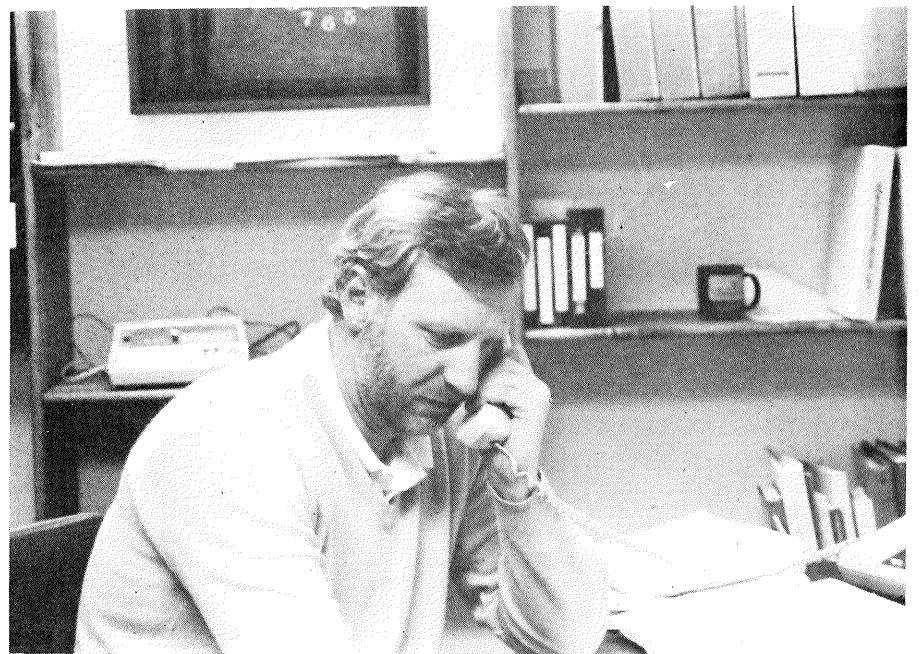
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The primary funding source for the Aging Program is Title III of the Older Americans Act. Other sources of funding include state nutrition funds and USDA reimbursement for nutrition services. The commission provides a match for administrative funds and all service providers are required to match the project funds awarded.

A 13-member advisory council assists the commission's operation of the Aging Program. The advisory council is charged with development of the plan for the Area Agency on Aging and making recommendations to the commission regarding the expenditure

of funds for administration of the area plan and the award of funds to service providers. Members of the Aging Advisory Council for 1987 were as follows:

Andrew Walters, Chairman - Watkins
Paula Brandt - Willmar
Agnes Draheim - Olivia
Carola Frank - Fairfax
Elna Peterson - Glencoe
Clarence Klein - Watkins
Brandon Pietsch - Litchfield
Jo DeBruycker - Willmar
Lucille Ehmke - Willmar
Ray Johnson - Sacred Heart
Ancher Nelsen - Hutchinson
Stemple Johnson - Stewart
June Hagglund - Dassel



Bob Otto, Director of Aging Program

HIGHWAY 12 ECONOMIC CORRIDOR STUDY

Adequate transportation linkage to the Twin Cities metropolitan area has long been a concern of the residents of West Central Minnesota. The development commission negotiated a contract with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to conduct a special study that contrasts the economic development along U.S. Highway 12 with the economic development along U.S. Highway 169 from the edge of Minneapolis to Mankato and also to Mille Lacs Lake. The commission is responsible for collecting all data and the analysis will be conducted by Dr. Robert Bixby from St. Cloud State University. The study is expected to be completed in early 1988.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical Assistance to local units of government covers a wide variety of activities. It can mean doing research on census statistics or helping complete special forms or applications. It can mean meeting with a planning commission throughout the year on a special project or it can mean working with a city council to apply for a grant, update city maps or codify the city ordinances.

One of the commission's staff worked throughout the year with a planning commission on the Kandiyohi County Ag Preservation Study. Several cities were assisted with preparing applications for the Small Cities Development Grant Program. Numerous requests were met that required preparing potential sources for funding a specific project. The commission continued providing staff assistance to the West Central Solid Waste Planning Commission and assistance was given on a new grant application in Kandiyohi County on household hazardous waste. Staff

assisted numerous communities with comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and tax increment finance districts. Some cities were assisted with Star City requirements and the Community Improvement Program. Two communities were assisted with preparing applications for energy coordination grants and many communities explored possibilities and submitted grant applications for open space/recreation projects.

Although economic development is reported on separately in this annual report, it needs to be pointed out that the contacts made by staff on community development projects often lead to discussions on economic development. One staffperson is assigned to work on all the community and economic development activities in an entire county. This concentrated approach has led to considerable economic development activity this past year.

MINIMUM MAINTENANCE ROADS

Townships gained a new option for maintaining roads as a result of the 1985 legislative session. A law was passed regarding the minimum maintenance of roads that are seldom used but still provide access to private property. The commission submitted a grant proposal to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the purpose of helping townships become familiar with the new law and assist in identifying roads that were candidates for minimum maintenance. Staff worked with all 82 townships and have prepared individual township maps showing all township roads. These maps can be used for a multitude of purposes including public hearings on minimum maintenance roads.

Transportation

The Area Agency on Aging funded five transportation projects. Two of the projects provided county-wide service and three projects provided local area service.

Legal Services

Two legal services were funded in the service area. One project served one county and the other project served three counties in the service area. Both projects offered a Medicare Lay Advocate Program utilizing volunteer advocates to assist seniors with medicare related issues.

Adult Day Care

The Area Agency on Aging funded an Adult Day Care Program which provided two types of service. One type of service was based on the use of a medical service model, while the other type of service was based on utilization of a social model for services.

Congregate and Home Delivered Meals Programs

One agency was funded for provision of both congregate and home delivered meals in the planning and service area. Two additional meal sites were opened in 1987 for a total of 20 congregate sites and home delivered meals service available in 20 communities.

Telephone Reassurance

Title III funds enabled a hospital to purchase equipment and provide telephone reassurance services to residents of the county.

Ombudsman

The Area Agency on Aging funded, as part of a two-region consortium, the Southwest Area Ombudsman Program. The ombudsman staff mediates problems in nursing homes and board and care facilities. Training of staff and residents was also provided as well as assistance in development of resident and family councils.

Respite Care

Public health nursing service agencies in all four counties were assisted in provided respite care services to clients and family care-givers. These projects provided assistance to several persons diagnosed as having Alzheimer's Disease.

Hospice

Grant funds were utilized for expansion of an existing hospice program. The project provided direct services to clients and families while also providing case management and coordination for other essential services.

Multipurpose Senior Centers

The Area Agency on Aging provided funding for six senior center projects. Grants were used for capital improvements and renovation of facilities.

Reports from projects on the number of persons served indicate that over 8,000 people age 60 and over received benefit from the availability of Title III funded programs.

MARKETING RURAL MANUFACTURING

A small grant was obtained from the Governor's Rural Development Council to assist 20 manufacturing firms with analyzing their marketing potential. An intern from St. Cloud State University who is majoring in marketing was hired for the summer of 1987. The project proposes that local jobs can be created if local manufacturers can obtain a larger market share through increased or more effective advertising.