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Regional Development Commission

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1988

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Northwest Regional Development Commission
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 1988

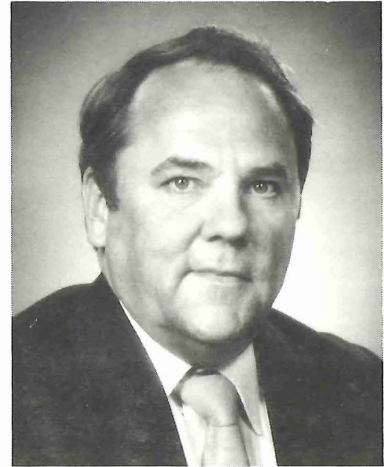
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It is with honor and some pride that I present to you, the governments and people of northwest Minnesota, this Annual Report of the Northwest Regional Development Commission. Last year I ended my letter with the rhetorical question, "Where do we go from here?" I am pleased to say that the NWRDC has made significant strides in the past year toward becoming an organization that is directly serving the needs of the local governments of northwest Minnesota.

We began this year with a new logo and letterhead and a new Executive Director. Our new logo brought a fresh and new image to the NWRDC. It reflects our commitment to working toward "Making the Best of Our Resources." With good leadership from the Board of Directors and the Commission our new Director has been able to guide the NWRDC on a path of growth and commitment to service. A quick overview of some of the activities of the past year says much about how we have developed as a Regional Commission.



Dr. Joe Bouvette, Chairperson

In August we reviewed and restructured the staff and committee structure of our economic development programs to better serve the region's economic development interests. A result of this is the approval by each of the counties in this region of a new Overall Economic Development Plan. It had been two years since we last went to the counties with an OEDP. An active OEDP Committee and good work on the part of the staff has resulted in the preparation of this important economic development tool and your approval of it.

Our thirteenth annual Fall Conference on Aging had its largest turnout ever. Over 330 people came to Crookston to attend this important event. This support of the Fall Conference is a clear indication of the quality of the aging program at NWRDC. Also in September was the first recital for participants in the Artist Mentor Program that NWRDC began last summer with support from the State School for the Arts and Resource Center. The quality of the performances and projects is a testament to the talent of the young people of our region.

In November the NWRDC joined in partnership with the International Coalition on Land and Water Stewardship to prepare Comprehensive Local Water Plans for the seven counties of our region. This is an important project for the counties, as reflected by their financial commitment to the project, and for the NWRDC. Our involvement is a direct result of your desire to have the RDC respond to identified needs. We will continue to work with you to address natural resource concerns throughout the region.

The NWRDC, in response to growing demands for services, improved its ability to respond to these demands by adding several new computers to our operation. This allows us to more professionally and quickly respond to requests for assistance. It has also allowed us to increase our services without adding new staff. The improved computer capabilities is clearly reflected in the quality of the product we see produced by our staff.

The improved computer capabilities also allowed us to introduce our new newsletter format in March. Response to the three issues produced has been very positive. Our newsletter has become a source of useful information for the people of the region. The format and appearance of the newsletter is a direct result of hard work by all the staff. I encourage you to let them know you appreciate their efforts.

In February long time Commission employee Helen Jurchen retired. Helen worked at as a dedicated employee for 14 years. We were fortunate to find a highly qualified replacement for Helen in Suzan Kozojed. If you have not met Suzan, she is the staff person assigned to the revolving loan fund. I hope you will take a minute to say hello the next time you stop by the offices.

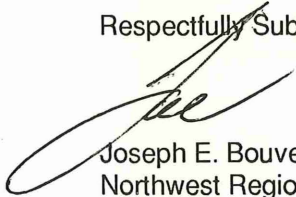
We also installed an incoming 800 number in February. We did this in order to improve communications with the people of the region and better respond to local concerns. Use of the 800 number has been beyond our expectations. Calls into the RDC on the 800 number are averaging over 130 per month.

April was an important month for us. The NWRDC celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in April. Fifteen years of service to northwest Minnesota is a reflection of our commitment to the people of this region. In April we also received word that the revolving loan fund was recapitalized for another \$400,000. A special thanks must be given to the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund and the counties of the region for contributing the necessary local match for the recapitalization. Additionally, after three years of haggling and arguing with EDA, we were able to add Norman County to the list of participating counties in the loan fund.

The NWRDC and the Northwest Private Industry Council renewed its Local Elected Officials agreement in April. This renewal is a reflection of a new spirit of cooperation between our agencies. I believe a thank you to both Boards and the two agencies Director's is in order for their efforts to build this cooperative relationship.

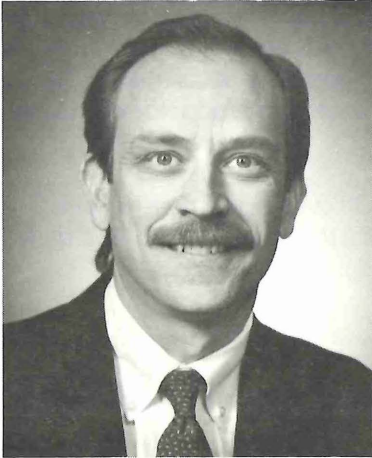
So, where do we go from here? Your Regional Development Commission will continue to operate as a service organization to the local governments of this region. We will be responsive to your needs and concerns. This is your RDC and we will be here to continue to serve you in a spirit of working together to "Make the Best of Our Resources."

Respectfully Submitted,



Joseph E. Bouvette, Chairperson
Northwest Regional Development Commission

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Jerry L. Nagel, Executive Director

As organizations grow and mature it is important to their ongoing success that they keep in focus their mission or purpose. This has been particularly important for the NWRDC over the past two years. Without direction the NWRDC would not be as strong as it is today. Because of the leadership and guidance that the Board of Directors, Commissioners and Advisory Committees provided, the NWRDC has emerged from its fifteenth year of operation as an important service agency to the local governments of northwest Minnesota.

Chairperson Bouvette outlines in his letter some of the more significant accomplishments of the NWRDC over the past year. The letter and activities just begin to communicate the growth in demand for NWRDC services in the region. A recent review of our 800 number showed that we had over 170 calls into the agency in a recent 30 day period. While the leadership and involvement of Commissioners and committee members is the key reason for this growth, I believe another key element is the hard work and clear vision of purpose of the NWRDC staff.

Last winter each of the staff wrote down what they believed the mission of NWRDC is and how they would like the NWRDC to be viewed by you. A few examples of comments clearly show this vision of purpose. "To improve the quality of life in northwest Minnesota." "To enhance the quality of life by responding to community needs." "To be a resource for the people of northwest Minnesota." "Provide technical and informational services to the people of Region 1 to promote and make possible a more economically viable rural Minnesota."

When describing how they would like you to view NWRDC, the staff's sense of purpose is evident. "A strong organization where people from the region come for assistance and to get answers." "An organization that goes back to the grass roots of why it was created - to assist local units of government." "Our office should be seen as a cohesive unit, with people working together, but contributing their special talents where they can best be utilized." "An organization that is respected, both within the Region and across the State, for its high quality of work and its ability to make the best of its resources." "I would like to see the Commission well respected because of its high quality of work and knowledge."

After writing their thoughts on the mission of NWRDC and how they would like to be viewed by you, the staff was asked to write down what they were willing to do to accomplish these things. The answers very clearly show how dedicated the staff at NWRDC is to northwest Minnesota and the mission of NWRDC. "Staff must be willing to always put forth their best effort to insure that the job is always done in a timely and professional matter." "Staff must be willing to work hard and put forth high quality work." "Place a great degree of trust in the judgement of local policy makers in terms of setting direction." "Put forth the extra effort and time to provide quality services." "To listen, to follow direction, to give advice, and to promote northwest Minnesota."

NWRDC is a service organization for the local governments and people of northwest Minnesota. The staff, the Board of Directors, the Commissioners and the Advisory Committees are all working to insure that the product that leaves our doors is the best that can be provided. I believe that all of us at the NWRDC are doing our best to provide you with a quality product.

I encourage each of you to take a moment the next time you visit with a staff member and let them know how much you appreciate their commitment to our region and its people and the hard work that they do. I know that I greatly appreciate working with the fine staff that NWRDC has.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jerry", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Jerry L. Nagel, Executive Director

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

County	County Board	Township Board	Cities
Kittson	*Charles Lindberg Kennedy	William Gatheridge Humboldt	George Wikstrom, Jr. Karlstad
Marshall	*Delray Larson Gatzke	Marville Magnusson Argyle	Vernon Gunderson Newfolden
Norman	Don Anderson Ada	Cary Sip Ada	*Floyd Hovland Ada
Pennington	Donald Grabanski Thief River Falls	Kermit Finstad Thief River Falls	Karen Young St. Hilaire
Polk	*Eugene Mattson East Grand Forks	Gary Letnes Crookston	Duane Knutson Fertile
Red Lake	*Willard Purath Red Lake Falls	Ralph Berg Brooks	Russell Pahlen Plummer
Roseau	Glenn Darst Greenbush	Donald Fast Warroad	Gary Hendrickson Warroad

SCHOOL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Sue Jevning
Warren

Harry Sjulson
St. Hilaire

PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS

Agriculture	Norma Hanson, Goodridge	•	Minorities	Melody Winans, TRF
Business	Harold Thomforde, Crookston	•	Soil & Water Conservation	Ronald Anderson, RLF
Financial Institutions	John Carpenter, Hallock	•	Vocational Schools	Harvey Tripp, EGF
Industry	**Dr. Joe Bouvette, Hallock	•	Watershed District	*Rudee Anderson, Greenbush
Low Income	Lowell Enerson, Oklee	•	Women	Kristi Thorfinnson, RLF
Labor	*Ray Beauchamp, TRF	•	Senior Citizens	Roy Jorgenson, Oklee

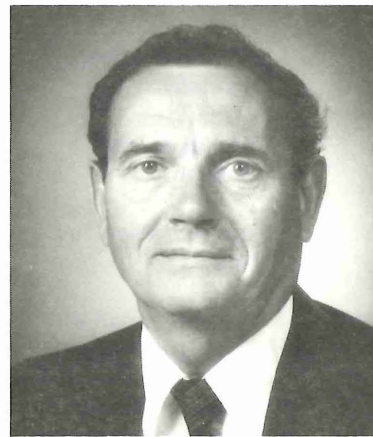
*Member Board of Directors

**Chairperson

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S



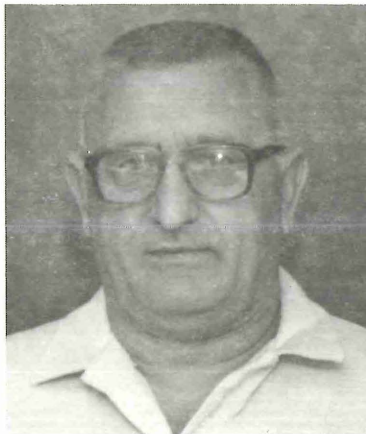
**Delray Larson, Vice Chairperson
Marshall County**



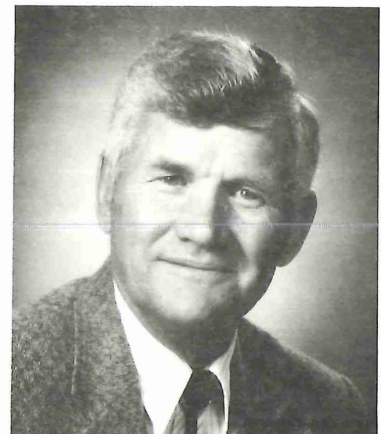
**Ray Beauchamp, Secretary
Pennington County**



**Charles Lindberg
Kittson County**



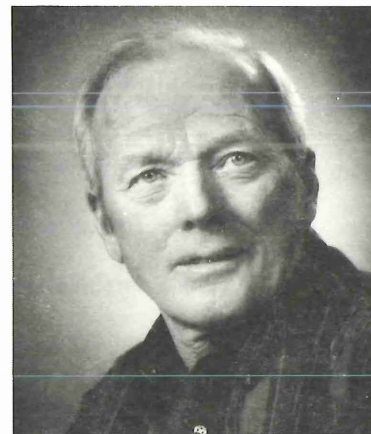
**Floyd Hovland
Norman County**



**Eugene Mattson
Polk County**



**Willard Purath
Red Lake County**



**Rudee Anderson
Roseau County**

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

AGING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Emil Bagley, Crookston
 Norbert Bertek, Fosston
 Monica Douglas, Moorhead
 Kermit Finstad, Thief River Falls
 William Gatheridge, Humboldt
 Howard Greenwald, Plummer
 Kurt Hanson, Halstad
 Pearl Hotvedt, East Grand Forks
 Lloyd Hovelson, Gary
 Charles Lindberg, Kennedy
 Calvin Melgard, Warren
 John Nowacki, Warren
 William Penning, Thief River Falls
 Phyllis Raebel, Red Lake Falls
 Opal Stenberg, Greenbush
 Lilja Snyder, Crookston
 Jeffry Stampohar, Warroad
 JoAnne Thompson, Roseau

REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Ruth Anderson, Greenbush
 Sharon Fannin, Karlstad
 George French, Crookston
 Carol Hallan, Warroad
 Diane Krepp, Thief River Falls
 Judith Landin, Warroad
 Ann Piersol, Red Lake Falls
 Marie Scott, Red Lake Falls
 Ric Sorenson, Fosston
 Betsy Sunram, Grygla
 June Troskey, Middle River
 Mike Trudeau, Thief River Falls
 KayDell Super, Middle River
 LaDonna Truedson, Kennedy
 Gene Lysaker, Twin Valley
 Ken Swanson, Ada

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Milt Arneson, Sr., Roseau
 Bernie Bergraff, Roseau
 Rollin Bergman, Ada
 Arvid Clementson, Fosston
 Harris Garberg, Twin Valley
 Kim Kraska, Lancaster
 Dr. Steve Levinson, Thief River Falls
 Arve Moser, Thief River Falls
 William Muldoon, Red Lake Falls
 Del Olson, East Grand Forks
 Cindy Spilde, Kennedy
 Lawrence Sundahl, Stephen
 Clayton Troskey, Middle River
 Vaughn Thorfinnson, Red Lake Falls

NW REGIONAL ENTERPRISE LOAN FUND

Richard Anderson, Thief River Falls
 Rollie Boldt, Thief River Falls
 Orville Botner, Thief River Falls
 John Carpenter, Hallock
 Harlan Charon, Hallock
 Carolyn Eeg, Greenbush
 Fred Grant, Thief River Falls
 Cleighton Hastad, Halstad
 Norman Hayes, Roseau
 Ron Johnson, Ada
 Delray Larson, Gatzke
 Steve Mercil, Crookston
 Mike Moore, Fertile
 William Muldoon, Red Lake Falls
 John Nelson, Gully
 David Paulson, Warroad
 James Richter, East Grand Forks
 Jim Rogalla, Thief River Falls
 Robert Sobolik, Crookston
 Vaughn Thorfinnson, Red Lake Falls
 Ray Tunheim, Newfolden
 Jerry Wendorff, Crookston
 Karen Young, St. Hilaire

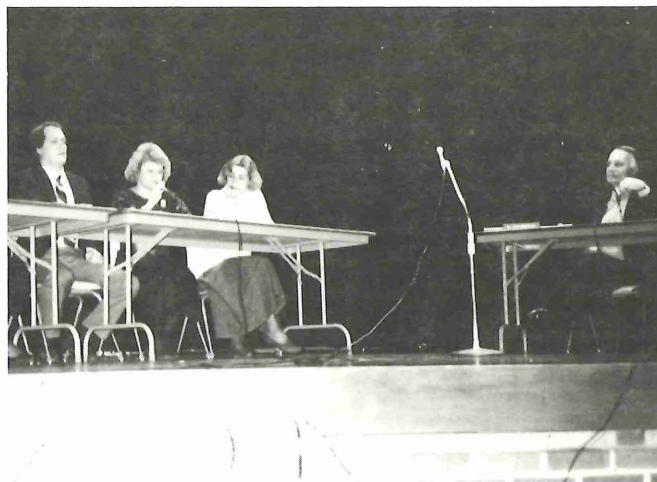
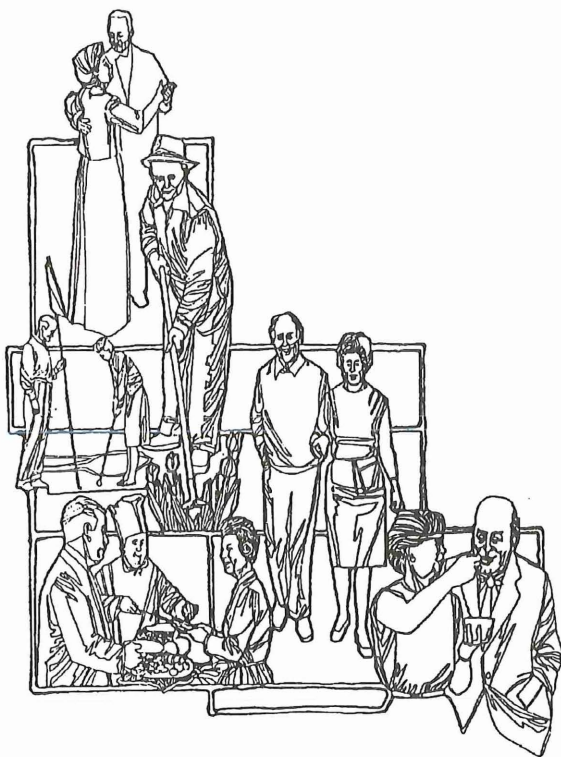
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Joe Bouvette, Hallock
 Glenn Darst, Greenbush
 Donald Grabanski, Thief River Falls
 Adrian Johnson, Kennedy
 Tom Kozojed, Thief River Falls
 Delray Larson, Gatzke
 Charles Marvin, Warroad
 Eugene Mattson, East Grand Forks
 Willard Purath, Red Lake Falls
 Ron Rasmussen, Ada
 John B. Rustling, Stephen
 Cary Sip, Ada
 Harold Thomforde, Crookston
 Clarence Vathauer, Red Lake Falls

AGING

The amended Federal Older American's Act of 1965 provides the philosophical base and fundamental guidelines for the NWRDC's Area Agency on Aging. It defines our purpose of working for a coordinated and comprehensive system of community options that help older persons maintain independence and dignity in a home environment. With this as the goal, the Commission (NWAAA) examines and plans for the needs of local older persons, and assists local governments and service providers through the provision of technical assistance and allocates funds for services.

FY 88 was a busy year for the Aging Advisory Committee. In addition to the usual grants review, monitoring and advocacy on behalf of older persons, many other education events were sponsored or organized by the NWAAA. An education event on the Living Will issue was held at Northland Community College on October 27 to provide information on the bills that had been introduced in the legislature, and to allow discussion of both bills.



Senator Durenburger Hearing

A public hearing on Long-Term Care for the Elderly was organized to help Senator David Durenberger gather information on long-term care issues. It was held on January 7 at Northland Community College.

A regional training session on the importance of the individual within an organization was sponsored by the NWAAA to provide training for seniors and service providers.

The NWAAA developed a Legislative Subcommittee on Aging issues to analyze and comment on legislation that affects older Minnesotans. The Subcommittee consists of representatives from the Senior Federation and AARP. Three members of the Northwest Aging Advisory Committee participated in visits to legislators and the Capital for the MBA/AAA sponsored "Day-on-the-Hill" in February. MBA, NWAAA, Headwaters AAA and regional senior organizations sponsored a Legislative Forum in June to gain information to develop legislative priorities for the next session.

The NWAAA has received funding from the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund to provide leadership training in Senior Centers in FY 89 and is assisting the Initiative Fund with a single grants round to fund senior centers.



RECORD ATTENDANCE AT FALL CONFERENCE

"Mining the Golden Years: Contribute Your Gems" was the theme of the 13th Annual Fall Conference on Aging held at the University of Minnesota, Crookston, on September 1. More than 330 persons (largest record of attendance), were present to hear Reverend Ernie Mancini deliver the keynote address on "Simple Gifts - Older Persons Can Give To Younger Generations". Luther Bjerke provided afternoon entertainment with his Scandinavian humor. Workshop topics included HMO's, Living Wills, Regional Tourism, Leadership, Grief, Aging and Physiology, Conservatorship, Writing Life History, and Housing Options. There was a resource display and a film room as well as a display of paintings by senior students of Betty Rantanen. The provision of information and education remain a priority service in Region I.



Luther Bjerke supplying humor at the Fall Conference

In FY 1988, the following aging funds were obligated to support community-based services:

Access Services

*Kittson County Sr. Transportation	\$ 850.00
**Roseau Sr. Medical Travel	6,100.00

Advocacy Service

NW MN Legal Services - Region I	23,618.00
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In-Home Services

*Inter-County Home Health Aide Care	2,925.00
*Marshall County Home Health Aide Service	4,041.50
*Polk County Home Health Aide Program	7,400.00
**Roseau County Chore Program	7,173.00
**Roseau County Home Health Aide Maintenance Program	2,982.00
**Roseau County Respite Program	1,237.00
Valley Chore Service - Polk Norman, Pennington	39,750.00
*Multi-County Extended Hour Home Health Care, Norman County	1,012.00

Nutrition Services

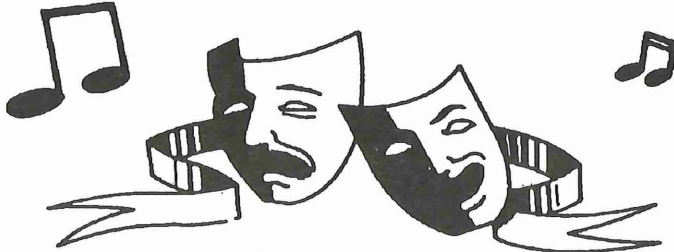
Sr. Congregate Nutrition Program	184,263.00
State Nutrition Funds	77,559.00
Home Delivered Meals	75,000.00

Senior Centers

Erskine Senior Center	8,400.00
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*Six Month Funding	
**Nine Month Funding	

ARTS



The Arts Council of the Northwest Regional Development Commission stimulates, promotes, and supports arts activities in the region. Technical assistance and financial resources are provided to non profit tax-exempt organizations, schools and units of government for arts projects. The Council's mission to expand the skills and capabilities of arts organizations, artists and arts sponsors is supported by funding from the Minnesota State Legislature, the Minnesota School for the Arts and Resource Center, and the McKnight Foundation Arts Funding Plan.

Local/Regional Arts Development funds totalling \$16,799 were granted to area arts organizations with funding from the State of Minnesota.

Grantee	Activity	Grant
Warroad Summer Theater	Production of <u>Bus Stop</u>	\$ 750
Northland Community College	Trombone Concert & Clinic by James ten Bense	460
TRF Area Arts Council	Performance of <u>Little Women</u> by the Minneapolis Children's Theater	2,550
City of Winger	Consulting project to determine interest in establishing a local arts outlet	1,500
Warroad Summer Theater	Production of <u>Once is Enough</u>	1,670
Northland Community College	Spanish Heritage Concert and Clinic by LaTuna	450
Middle River Community Theater	Production of <u>Bless Me Father</u>	922
Middle River Community Theater	Production of <u>Winnie the Pooh</u>	2,010
Crookston Community Theater	Production of <u>Showboat</u>	1,665
City of Ada	Presentation of <u>Beauty and the Beast</u> by the Missoula Children's Theater	500
Oklee Community Theater	Production of <u>Harvey</u>	1,530
42nd Street Song & Dance Company (Kennedy)	Production of <u>1940's Radio Hour</u>	2,257
Warroad Summer Theater	Production of <u>Oklahoma</u>	535

The McKnight Foundation Funding Plan provided \$5,360 in support for capital expenses to four semi-professional arts organizations:

Grantee	Activity	Amount
Warroad Summer Theater	Purchase of lighting equipment and head sets	\$ 1,305
Northern Prairie Artists Association	Purchase of display panels	1,100
Middle River Community Theater	Purchase of lighting system	1,303
Fosston Community Library and Arts Center	Purchase of music stands, movie screen and tools	1,652



Twenty-six students from ten schools participated in the 1987 Artist/Mentor Program. The students studied with a practicing artist during the summer of 1987, then presented a sample of their work at the "Summer's End Event".

The student participants were:

School	Student	Discipline	School	Student	Discipline
Ada	Vicki Fingalson	Voice	Red Lake Falls	Cindy Dupont	Painting
	Rhonda Norby	Voice		Kathy Delorme	Voice
	Matthew Swanson	Drama		Julie Ulrich	Painting
Argyle	Mark Deschene	Painting	Thief River Falls	Brenda Ode	Piano
	Dennis Kostrezewski	Photography		Denise Kiesow	Commercial Design
Badger	Mary Gregerson	Piano		Wendy Swanson	Creative Writing
	Scott Erickson	Drawing	Warroad	Roxanne Telle	Voice
Fosston	Stephanie Molden	Painting		Elizabeth Reishus	Theater
	Heidi Saeter	Flute		Chris Kotlarz	Theater
	Rachel Killian	Drawing/			
		Creative Writing			
Karlstad	Eric Lutz	Theater			
	Stephanie Carlson	Painting			
Kennedy	Janna Hultgren	Piano			
	Brad Thompson	Trumpet			
	Renee Anderson	Saxophone			
Oklee	Deone Haugen	Theater			
	Loni Bishop	Tenor Saxophone			

This project was supported by the Minnesota School and Resource Center for the Arts MAX (Minnesota Arts eXperience) Program

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Programs in the Commission underwent a number of changes during the year including the addition of new staff, new roles for staff and a reorganization of the committee structure which guides economic development efforts. The two main portions of these efforts are economic development planning/technical assistance and the Revolving Loan Fund Program. The two work very closely but each is able to concentrate on the detailed work of getting their tasks done.

Economic Development Planning/Technical Assistance - The Economic Development Planning Committee was separated from the Northwest Enterprise Fund so that they could concentrate on the development of the best strategies for strengthening the Commission's economic development programs. The Committee began work on a complete revision of the Overall Economic Development Program or economic development plan for the Region in January and finished in June. This new plan reflected an increased awareness of the importance of agriculture in our region and an appreciation for the success of efforts to strengthen other aspects of the economy. New strategies for the upcoming year will be assisting in the development of value added agricultural processing and concentrating on economic growth from within the Region. Existing strategies include assisting industry and manufacturing, encouraging growth in tourism, helping communities provide good public facilities and examining methods to increase retail sales in the Region. Some of the most positive points of the local economy identified during the planning process were the increase in manufacturing and the sound level of increases in personal income in the area. Both of these

factors point to a good economic foundation in the Region.

Staff provided assistance to local communities and individual businesses during the year on subjects ranging from financing an industrial expansion; to finding uses for a vacant school building; to exploring the processing of used tires. A big part of the Commission's role in economic development is to find answers to questions on how projects can be funded or on how projects can be made to work. This often involved working with other local, state and federal agencies or any source that has funding or information.

Revolving Loan Fund - The Northwest Enterprise Fund Revolving Loan Fund makes up the other half of the Economic Development Program and provides some of the dollars that are needed to make the economic development plan a reality. The Fund has made loans to industry and business for a portion of the cost involved in new facilities or an expansion of an existing operation. The primary goal is to create new jobs in the region. The following is a list of the projects funded by the Fund:

Marshall County

Mischel Grain, Warren	\$13,000
Valley Spuds, Stephen	\$75,000

Polk County

Dee Inc., Crookston	\$65,000
Don's Machine Shop, Fosston	\$26,400
Fashion Hause, EGF	\$30,000
Miller Building, Fosston	\$58,000
Northern Quilters, Crookston	\$75,000
S&S Development, Trail	\$75,000
V&V Sales, EGF	\$25,000

Pennington County

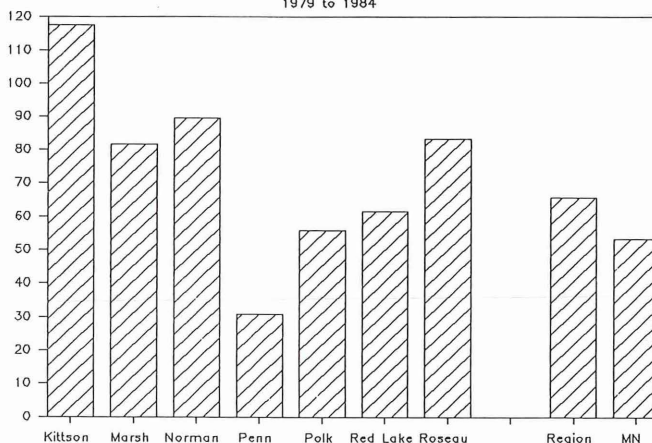
Sorvig Partnership, St. Hilaire	\$36,600
TIC General, TRF	\$50,000

Red Lake

Homark, Red Lake Falls	\$75,000
Homark, Red Lake Falls	\$ 6,700

The Enterprise Fund has also gone through an extensive reorganization process during the year, concentrating on improving the application process, examining the review criteria and increasing the involvement of the Enterprise Fund membership. A successful application to the federal Economic Development Administration for \$300,000 in additional loan funds and the commitment of \$42,000 in local match from the counties and \$64,000 in match from the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund will insure another active year for the Fund.

Total Personal Income Change
1979 to 1984



SPECIAL PROJECTS

The NWRDC was involved in a number of special projects during the year. This type of activity usually meets a unique need of a community or group which falls outside the mainline programs of the Commission or other local organizations.

Northern Minnesota Public Television Study - KAWC Public Television in Bemidji contracted with the NWRDC to complete a survey of television viewers and an economic analysis for the area around Thief River Falls. The survey was intended to determine if there is a demand for additional public television service in the area and if economic conditions indicate that the area could support new services. The results of the survey indicated that viewers supported more public television but were unsure if viewers would be willing to pay for this service. The economic analysis pointed out some real strengths in the area but also indicated some reasons to maintain a conservative approach to any new developments. The reader comments section of the survey showed some interesting results with the most common response indicating that there is too much violence and sex on television and that more family programming is needed. A ranking of program types showed movies as the most preferred type closely followed by nature shows, educational shows, sports programs and westerns. KAWC will be using the results of the survey to help plan for the public television needs of the area.



Strathcona Mall - "Paradise"

Strathcona Redevelopment Project - This year brought to an end the Commission's involvement in administering Strathcona's Community Development Block Grant. The project started over five years ago with

the dreams of a very determined group of Strathcona Community Club members and ended with the construction of a building housing the Post Office, Store, Gas Station and Cafe. A number of other improvements were also included in the project such as a new well, sidewalk improvements, street improvements, a new drainage system for the town and demolition of two dilapidated buildings. Each dollar of grant funds was matched with two dollars of local funds, private investment and volunteer labor and equipment. The new businesses have been operating for about 18 months and all the activity even attracted another new business to town. Staff who worked on the project will miss the down to earth approach and "nothing will stop us" attitude of the people in Strathcona.



Mr. Carrot Project, Trail, MN

Trail Economic Recovery Grant - The Commission was able to assist the City of Trail and the Mr. Carrot vegetable processing plant by helping with the administration of a grant and loan for the construction of the plant. Staff helped submit an application for a grant to the State for the City of Trail. The grant funds were then used by the City to make a loan to Mr. Carrot. NWRDC staff also helped Trail with the necessary paper work and governmental processing required by the grant. Mr. Carrot was able to market 200 acres of carrots during the year and is looking to expanding in the upcoming season. The funds that are repayed to the City will be used for additional economic development projects in Trail or the surrounding area.

Special Projects - Continued

St. Vincent Township Dike - The NWRDC has also provided St. Vincent Township with assistance in the administration of a Community Development Block Grant to acquire land to build a flood control dike. The project has a number of unique features because of the fact that the dike will mainly protect property in Canada rather than in the United States. The U.S. and Canadian governments, the State of Minnesota, St. Vincent Township, the local watershed district, the NWRDC, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and local land owners have all had to reach agreement on a multitude of major and minor details before the project could go ahead. Everything appears to be in place now and it is expected that construction could start in the fall of 1988. Funds for the Block Grant will be used to help purchase land. The Corp will do the actual construction engineering and Canada will pick up the actual cost of construction and maintenance. NWRDC staff have helped to wade through the paperwork and negotiations which fell on the Township.

Red Lake Riverland Initiative Grant - NWRDC staff also provided assistance to the Red Lake Riverland tourism promotion group in the administration of a grant from the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund. NWRDC help was needed because Riverland is a volunteer group and did not have the capacity to handle the financial and administrative requirements of this type of grant. The partnership between the NWRDC and Riverland on this project has been a natural one because tourism development is one of the RDC's economic development priorities. By working together Riverland was able to use the established financial system of the NWRDC

while the RDC was able to draw on the knowledge of Riverland to help encourage growth in tourism in the entire Region. Grant funds are being used for a number of tourism promotions including printing of a brochure, attending travel shows, advertising, providing technical advice to other tourism groups, printing a tourism newsletter and starting work on an inventory and guide to tourism attractions in Northwest Minnesota.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Commission provides a variety of types of assistance to local communities and agencies under the general subject of Technical Assistance. This is an area where the Commissions goal of providing services to the local area is most clearly implemented and a place where staff take on the role of doing whatever needs to be done. The types of assistance provided during the past year included planning the purchase of computer equipment, writing grant applications for Parks and Recreation Grants, answering requests for statistical information, writing grant applications for funding from the Northwest Minnesota Initiative Fund, setting up a city computer utility billings system, setting up informational meetings of self help, grant, loan and planning programs available from the State, applying for funding from the Greater Minnesota Corporation, implementing a tourism marketing program, completing community surveys, completing the Minnesota Star Cities Program, examining retail sales in individual communities, applying for funding from the Small Business Administration, setting up local revolving loan funds and obtaining funding for items such as street and sewer improvements.

COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLANNING

Fifteen counties in northwestern Minnesota, through a joint powers agreement, have received a grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) to participate in the 110b Comprehensive Local Water Planning process, authorized by the State legislature. All seven counties in Region 1 are involved in the process.

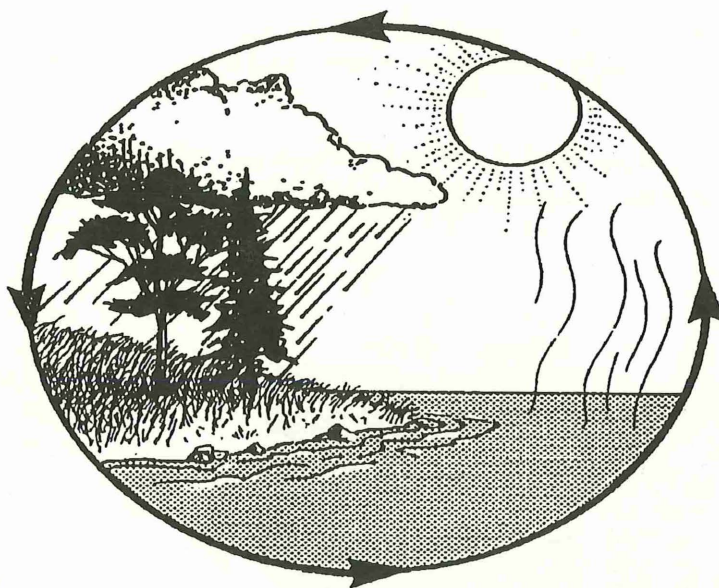
The International Coalition for Land and Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin is the project coordinator. As the lead planning agency for the northern eight counties (seven counties in Region 1 and Mahnomon County), NWRDC staff are assisting each local county task force in preparing comprehensive water resource management plans.



Wild Rice River Near Mahnomon

The project began with public meetings around the region to hear problem areas and opportunities for resource management. Concerns ranged from the extensive flooding problems associated with spring run-off in the Red River Valley to abandoned wells, recreational uses for water to the protection of surface water quality. Indeed, the issues varied greatly from one county to another.

The project represents the most comprehensive examination of water issues, taking more than 18 months to complete. The monthly county task force meetings are open to the public and participation is encouraged.



TRANSPORTATION

The efficient movement of people and commodities remains the ultimate goal of the transportation program at the NWRDC. From providing information to local units of government on the MnDOT funding issue to the promotion of traffic safety programs, the NWRDC remains active in transportation planning for the region.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) serves as an information point for both local units of government and MnDOT. The Committee met four times during the year to discuss transportation issues and provide recommendations to the full Commission.

The safety of the region's road system remains a high priority for the NWRDC. The Commission has sponsored events that have helped to increase public awareness to traffic safety.

The NWRDC held the first Northwestern Minnesota Traffic Safety Conference on September 10, 1987. More than 50 people heard Commissioner Paul Tschida of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety give the keynote address.

Staff has organized meetings of the northwestern Minnesota organizing chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The NWRDC introduced the State's first regional designated driver program by soliciting the help of Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola and the Minnesota State Patrol to promote and distribute the program to local drinking establishments.



The Regional Transportation Plan was reorganized during the past year. The Plan reflects new priorities for the region's transportation system including information on aeronautics, bikeways, highways, pipelines, railroads and transit.

The availability of transit is an important issue for rural Minnesota. With reduced private transit services being offered and fewer dollars for public transit assistance, the NWRDC recognizes the need for greater emphasis on transit planning.



NWRDC staff met with the Roseau County Committee on Aging to assist in the completion of a successful 16 (b)(2) grant application. The grant will provide 80 percent of the cost to obtain an eleven passenger van for the county. The new transit service is scheduled to begin in 1989 and will serve the senior citizen centers in Warroad, Roseau, Badger and Greenbush.

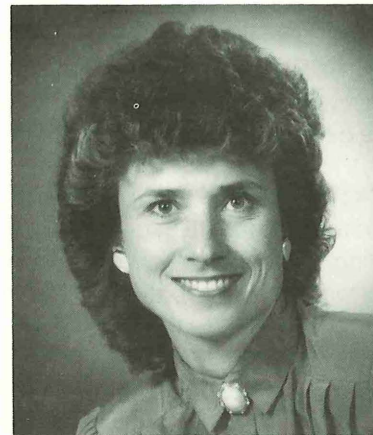
NWRDC STAFF



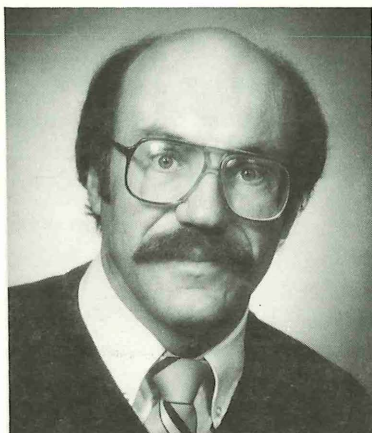
Jay Blake
Transportation/Natural Resource Planner
Water Planning Project Planner



Rose Carriere
Secretary/Receptionist



Donna Christianson
Financial Officer



Leon Health
Economic Development
Program Manager



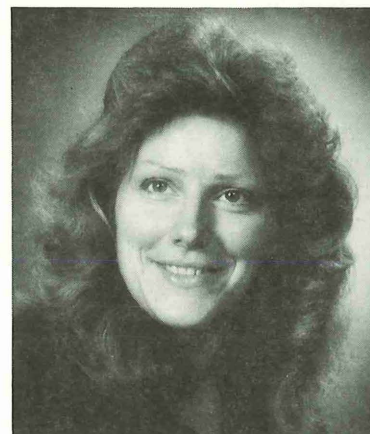
Suzan Kozojed
Economic Development
Planner



Faith Rud
Aging Program Manager



Linda Nelson
Arts Planner/Aging Grants Manager



Carol Sorensen
MIS Manager
Admin. Assistant/Water Planning Project
Financial Assistant

PUBLICATIONS

1987-1990 AREA PLAN FOR PROGRAMS ON AGING

The Area Plan presents the results of a regional senior citizen needs assessment and a demographic profile of the 60 plus population. It also is an inventory of services available and goals and objectives for meeting the identified needs of the older population of Region 1.

DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS FOR OLDER PERSONS IN NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

This directory has been developed as a resource for Region 1 senior citizens, consumers and professionals in the field of aging. It provides a brief description of programs, resources and agencies. It also describes the service areas, the primary contact person, as well as the addresses and phone numbers. The Directory is updated regularly as information changes.

DIRECTORY OF GOVERNMENT UNITS AND SERVICE AGENCIES

This Directory was updated as an easily available resource of information on governmental agencies and services in Region 1. The Directory contains listings of service agencies which have full-time staff and governmental offices from the township level through the legislative level. It also contains a brief description of the agency or office, the phone number and key contact person. The Directory is updated periodically to keep current with ongoing changes.

OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

During the year, this required document was rewritten. Sections were updated using available statistics. The Economic Development Committee reviewed and revised the "Economic Development Strategy" section of the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). The acceptance of the OEDP by the Economic Development Administration, following its adoption by the seven counties in Region 1 and the NWRDC, is required for the Region to retain its designation as the Economic Development District.

NWRDC NEWSLETTER

The Commission's newsletter, which is published bi-monthly, keeps units of government and agencies abreast of Commission happenings and funding resources.

FY 1987 ANNUAL REPORT

The NWRDC's Annual Report for FY 1987 was prepared and distributed to the members of the legislature and local officials and citizens.

ARTS PLAN FOR FY 1988-89

The Arts Plan outlines the services provided by the Regional Arts Council to enhance artistic development in northwestern Minnesota. Program information contained in the plan describes the process for applying for arts grants.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

This Plan involves two primary parts: 1) an inventory of various transportation modes in the region, and 2) goals and policies to guide transportation planning in the region. The plan provides a multi-model development strategy based on the region's perceptions of its future transportation system needs - primarily reflecting the region's needs for efficient movement of agricultural commodities. The plan was initially developed in 1981 with updates occurring bi-annually.

FY 1989 WORK PLAN

The Commission's Fiscal Year 1989 Work Plan was published. The document details the goals and objectives of the Commission in each of the program and planning areas.

COMMISSION BUDGET

FY'88 BUDGET

REVENUE

State Appropriations	\$ 40,976
Local Levy	104,413
MN Dept. of Transportation	25,000
Highway Jurisdictional	1,100
Economic Development	51,353
Water Planning	25,533
State Arts Board	19,557
MN Resource Center for Arts	13,648
MN Board on Aging	70,482
Northwest Enterprise Fund	19,500
McKnight Foundation	900
Kawe Northern MN Public TV	4,340
City of Strathcona	1,706
St. Vincent Township	500
City of Trail	2,500
Interest	8,390
Conference Registrations/Misc.	6,263
Sub Total	\$396,161
NWRDC Reserved Funds	<u>35,175</u>
TOTAL	\$431,336

EXPENDITURES

Salary/Fringe	\$253,358
Staff Travel & Registrations	29,585
Commission/Committee Travel,	
Per Diem, Expenses	23,707
Professional Fees	25,448
Office Expenses	68,238
Fixed Assets	31,000
TOTAL	\$431,336

FY'89 BUDGET

PROJECTED REVENUE

State Appropriations	\$ 40,976
Local Levy	101,308
MN Dept. of Transportation	25,000
Economic Development	53,500
Water Planning	60,000
State Arts Board	19,500
MN Resource Center for Arts	14,700
MN Board on Aging	73,200
Northwest Enterprise Fund	21,325
McKnight Foundation	1,900
McKnight Leadership Project	25,975
St. Vincent Township	1,400
NW Private Industry Council	3,000
Red Lake Riverland	1,272
Interest	8,235
Conference Registrations/Misc.	3,300
TOTAL	\$454,591

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

Salary/Fringe	\$265,099
Staff Travel & Registrations	33,625
Commission/Committee Travel,	
Per Diem, Expenses	26,045
Professional Fees	48,435
Office Expenses	79,187
Fixed Assets	2,200
TOTAL	\$454,591



ARNE H. CARLSON
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SUITE 400
525 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL 55103

296-2551

AUDITOR'S OPINION

Dr. Joe Bouvette, Chairman
Northwest Regional Development
Commission
P.O. Box E
525 Brooks Avenue South
Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701

We have examined the general purpose financial statements of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission, Thief River Falls, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1987, as listed in the table of contents. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission, at June 30, 1987, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Our examination was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund financial statements and supporting schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission. That information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arne H. Carlson".

ARNE H. CARLSON
State Auditor

September 25, 1987