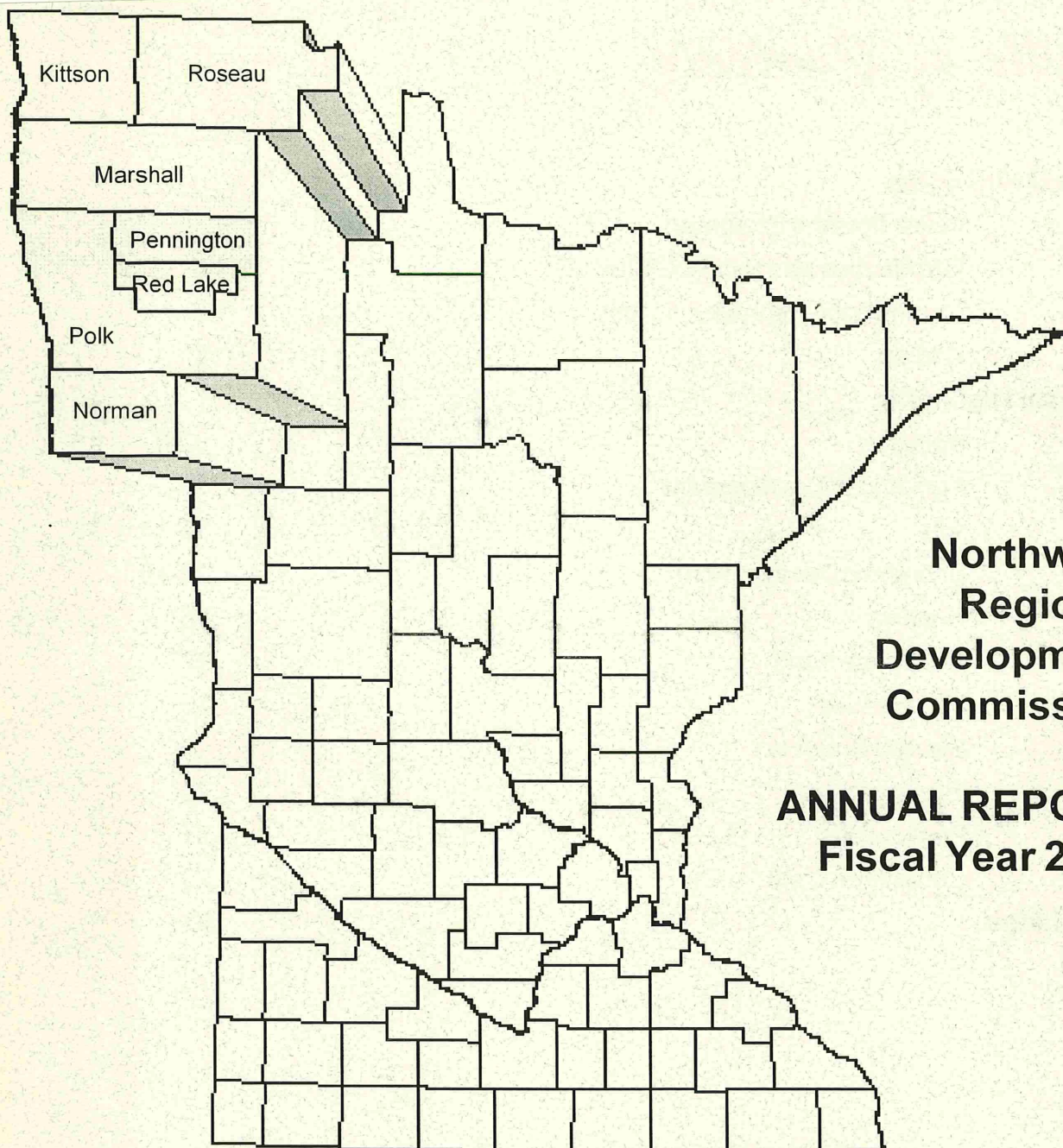




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**Northwest  
Regional  
Development  
Commission**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
Fiscal Year 2003**

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2003

Working for Local Units of Government in Kittson, Marshall, Norman,  
Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties

NWRDC • 115 South Main, Suite 1 •  
Warren, MN 56762 • 218-745-6733  
E-mail Address: [nwrdc@nwrdc.org](mailto:nwrdc@nwrdc.org)  
Agency Web Site Address: [www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org)

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# Letter from the Chairman

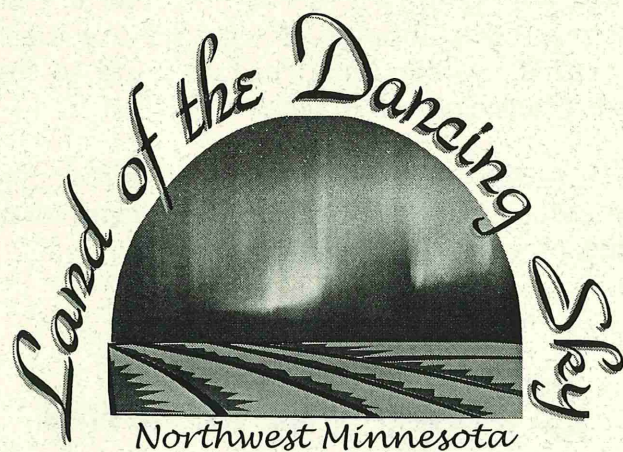
## "New Thinking on Rural Development"

Have you noticed a new tone in the discussions about rural development lately? The Minnesota and North Dakota Tourism Directors recently talked in the Grand Forks Herald about the dramatically increasing interest in a rural experience and the longing of city dwellers for open space and locally made products. Population estimates and projections for Northwest Minnesota indicate stability, and even future population increases, for the first time since the 1940s. The JOBZ Zones or tax-free zones legislation, passed in 2003, will provide many rural communities with a clear economic development advantage in attracting and growing businesses. Our regional job centers are experiencing strong employment growth, and discussions on possible agricultural based, value-added, closed loop production offers exciting opportunities for our farming communities. There is clearly a sense of increased optimism in the air.

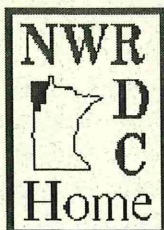
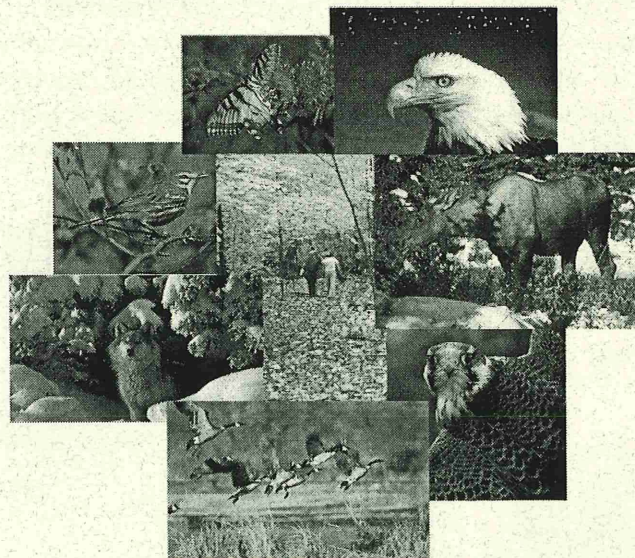
The Northwest Regional Development Commission is looking forward to working with local units of government, community groups, and other development organizations in pursuing these new opportunities over the upcoming year.



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STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155



Announcing a new promotional logo design for the Northwest Regional Development Commission: "Land of the Dancing Sky"! Our hope is this logo will help promote a unique new image for Northwest Minnesota.



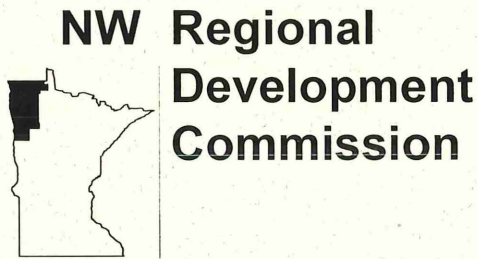
### Check out our two websites!

[www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org) for info on our agency and programs, including commission member listing, staff email links, legislator addresses and links, and on-line arts grant applications.

[www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://www.visitnwminnesota.com) for listings of county and city staff and elected officials, maps, and the Northwest Tourism Directory.

Visit  
Northwest  
Minnesota





### *What The NWRDC is All About . . .*

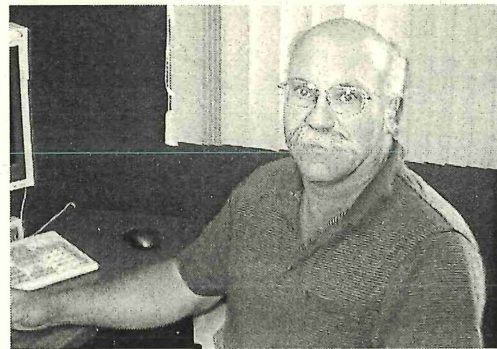
Regional Development Commissions were created by the State Legislature through the Regional Development Act of 1969. The intent of the Act was to create an option for rural units of government to supplement existing public services and coordinate specific activities of mutual concern. Although created by the State, Regional Development Commissions were left in the hands of local representatives to insure that the final design would reflect area needs and preferences.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission was created on February 2, 1973 by the joint actions of local units of government. Programs were set up to reflect priority work items of the time; and relationships were established with the state and federal agencies that could provide assistance with local projects. Programs and work priorities have changed in response to economic

and social trends; but the central mission of supporting efforts by cities, counties, townships, businesses and individuals to improve living, working and natural resource conditions in Northwest Minnesota has remained the same.

The Commission has worked to establish a manner of operation which reflects and compliments the independent, progressive style of Northwest Minnesota. Technical assistance, specialized program delivery, public participation, direct funding, access to information and formalized planning services are the basic materials which we can contribute to the construction of your project.

Please look over our Annual Report and stop by or call if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.



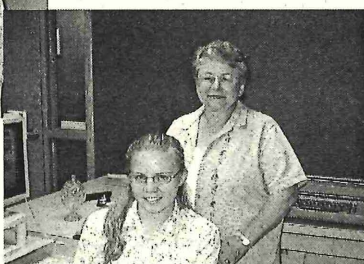
*Above: Leon Heath, Executive Director*



*Right: Carol Sorensen,  
Financial Officer*



*Left: Brenda Solberg,  
Front Office Manager/  
Arts Associate*



*Right: Jen Hill (seated)  
and Betty  
Safranski, Front  
Office Assistants*

## *Staff Listing*

### **NWRDC Staff**

Cameron Fanulik, Agricultural Development Specialist  
Kay Hegge, Econ. Development Planner/Farm Coord.

Leon Heath, Executive Director

Jennifer Hill, Front Office Assistant

Coralie Jones, Health Insurance Coordinator

Linda Nelson, Loan Fund Manager

Jennifer Olson, Flood Mitigation Planner

Rose Reed, Aging Program Technician/Senior  
LinkAge Specialist

Danica Robson, Aging Program Director

Betty Safranski, Front Office Assistant

Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

Brenda Solberg, Front Office Manager/Arts Associate

Carol Sorensen, Financial Officer

Mara Wittman, Arts Council Director



# Northwest Regional Development Commission



## NWRDC Board of Directors

Back Row: Left to Right - Delray Larson, Charles Lindberg, Dr. Joe Bouvette, Warren Olson. Front Row: Left to Right - Velma Oakland, Warren Strandell, and John Erickson. Not Pictured: Orris Rasmussen.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

### Kittson County

**Dr. Joe Bouvette	Hallock	County
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy	Townships
*Charles Lindberg	Kennedy	Industry
Dale Nelson	Karlstad	Municipalities

### Marshall County

Wayne Bergeron	Argyle	School Boards
Sandra Hapka	Warren	Agriculture
*Delray Larson	Gatzke	County
Ruth Magnusson	Argyle	Townships
Ole Soltvedt	Oslo	Municipalities

### Norman County

Glen Brookshire	Halstad	Municipalities
Fred Jamison	Ada	Townships
*Warren Olson	Halstad	County

### Pennington County

Elvera Cullen	TRF	Municipalities
*John Erickson	RLF	Townships
Daniel Johnson	Goodridge	SWCD
Roy Jorgenson	TRF	Seniors
Oliver Swanson	TRF	County

### Polk County

Eugene Dufault	Crookston	Townships
Martha Hurtado	Crookston	Minorities
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Labor
Bill Montague	Crookston	Financial Instituti
Bernie Solberg	Gully	Women
*Warren Strandell	EGF	County
Kathleen Twite	EGF	Business
Katya Zepeda	Crookston	Minorities

### Red Lake County

Allen Ducharme	RLF	Municipalities
Betty Halvorson	Plummer	School Board
Genevieve Knott	RLF	Townships
Robert Melby	Oklee	Low Income
*Velma Oakland	RLF	County
Vaughn Thorfinnson	RLF	Vocational Schools
Ronald Weiss	RLF	Watershed Dist.

### Roseau County

Bruce Olson	Badger	Townships
*Orris Rasmussen	Roseau	County
Charles Walsh	Badger	Municipalities

\*Board Members

\*\*Chairperson

Members who served for part of FY'2003: George Wikstrom, Arvid Clementson, Arlene Tucker and Arnold Paradis



Above: Left to Right - Norman County Commission members Glenn Brookshire, Warren Olson, and Fred Jamison caucusing at the Annual Commission meeting.



# COMMISSION BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ACTUAL FY '2003</u>	<u>PROJECTED FY '2004</u>
<b>FEDERAL</b>		
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$124,806	\$53,000
USDA	\$12,770	\$28,530
	\$137,576	\$81,530
<b>STATE</b>		
MN/DOT	\$50,000	\$50,000
STATE ARTS BOARD	\$125,488	\$88,741
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$1,445,572	\$1,492,590
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$7,816	\$82,000
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & ECONOMIC	\$32,000	
MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY	\$1,799,946	\$1,951,000
	\$3,460,822	\$3,664,331
<b>PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS</b>		
MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION - ARTS	\$24,109	\$24,000
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$52,217	\$28,646
RIVERVIEW	\$28,579	\$0
	\$104,905	\$52,646
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL</b>		
LOCAL LEVY	\$163,286	\$183,042
MISCELLANEOUS LOCAL CONTRACT	\$21,000	\$3,000
BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY SBDC	\$2,835	\$0
	\$187,121	\$186,042
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$698,979	\$661,911
INTEREST	\$18,931	\$8,700
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$31,246	\$3,300
	\$749,156	\$673,911
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$4,639,580</b>	<b>\$4,658,460</b>

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>ACTUAL FY '03</u>	<u>PROJECTED FY '04</u>
SALARY/FRINGE	\$507,317	\$624,846
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$37,752	\$57,934
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$29,860	\$36,193
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$144,021	\$9,800
PRINTING & POSTAGE	\$26,768	\$40,273
RENT & MAINTENANCE	\$13,925	\$15,500
WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE COSTS	\$9,278	\$6,000
TELEPHONE & INTERNET COSTS	\$12,295	\$16,832
SUPPLIES	\$7,840	\$10,050
OTHER OFFICE EXPENSES	\$59,873	\$36,488
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$848,929</b>	<b>\$853,916</b>
REGRANTED	\$1,324,594	\$1,259,544
BUSINESS LOANS	\$639,908	\$600,000
HOUSING PASS THROUGH FUNDS	\$1,831,946	\$1,945,000
FIXED ASSETS/RESTRICTED FUND	\$10,219	\$9,000
DEPRECIATION	(\$11,010)	(\$8,000)
	(\$791)	\$1,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$4,644,586</b>	<b>\$4,659,460</b>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>(\$5,006)</b>	<b>\$0</b>



# *Program Highlights*



## **NW Regional Development Commission**

### **Program Highlights Fiscal Year 2003**

*Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington  
Polk, Red Lake, Roseau  
Multi-County*



# Aging



## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

**Purpose:** To build a proactive, comprehensive and coordinated system of advocacy and services that ensures the rights and benefits of all older people.

**Program Funding Sources:** Older Americans Act through the Minnesota Board on Aging - \$109,367; RDC Tax Levy - \$36,156; Miscellaneous - \$7,326.

**Regrant Funding Sources:** Older Americans Act - \$763,980; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$305,181; State Nutrition Program - \$173,732.

**Service Priorities:** Regrant priorities are: nutrition, congregate and home delivered meals, legal service, transportation, chore/home repair, housekeeping, visiting and medical forms assistance. Support priorities are advocacy, education, support of county committees on aging and senior centers, inter-agency linkages, and information/referral.



Right: Danica Robson,  
Aging Program Director

## Aging Highlights

Provided educational sessions to over 326 seniors and service providers during the Fall Conference on Aging. Educational sessions included: Senior Volunteers, You Are Only Old Once, Coping with Loss in Later Life, Hearing Loss in Seniors, Neurobics-Aerobics for the Mind, Keeping Healthy, Home Modifications, Reader's Theater, Massage Therapy and Telemarketing Scams and Schemes.

Assisted FEMA, Red Cross, Disaster Response, and other agencies in identifying seniors in need of assistance following flooding in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Norman, and Mahnomen counties.

Received \$100,000 in Disaster Recovery Assistance funds from the Minnesota Board on Aging and Administration on Aging. These funds were awarded to agencies providing flood recovery assistance including: Legal Services, Chore/Clean Up Services, and One-to-One Assistance for seniors and caregivers.

Provided technical assistance and reviews to over 25 agencies submitting Community Service/Service Development Grants to the Department of Human Services. Funded projects included transportation collaborations, renovations to nursing homes to create assisted living units, expansion of the Living at Home Block Nurse program, and expansion of assisted living services.

Coordinated three technical assistance site visits with the Housing Developer from Arrowhead SAIL/EDP program. These visits included 20 site/agency visits and resulted in the expansion of community based alternatives for seniors and counties.

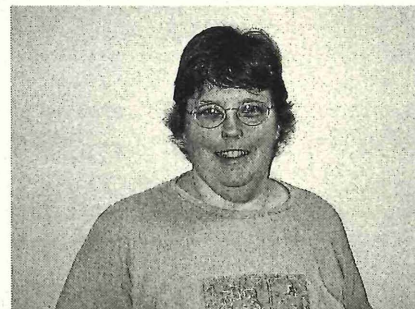
Participated in the Medication Management Project; a partnership of eight Area Agencies on Aging and the Minnesota Pharmacists Association. This project will provide seniors with the opportunity to have their prescriptions reviewed by a pharmacist to avoid adverse interactions. One-on-one sessions are coordinated through senior centers, senior clubs, parish nurses, and Living at Home/Block Nurse programs.

Assisted the Minnesota Board on Aging with the provision of Aging Services to Region 2. This included grants management and support of a Region 2 Aging Advisory Committee.

Assisted the Nutrition program with implementation of Community Based Partnerships (CBP) in Region 2. Visited ten nutrition sites in Region 2 to discuss and explain the concept of CBP to members of nutrition site councils and Senior Center Boards.

Coordinated two "Developing Housing with Services" workshops for Region 1 and 2 service providers. The workshop provided 40 individuals with information on bringing community based alternatives to their communities.

Worked with Clearwater County Task Force to implement a Title III-B grant for Clearwater County. Transportation is one of the service priorities; Task Force will work to identify and develop additional services for seniors.



Above: Rose Reed, Aging Program Technician/  
Senior LinkAge Specialist



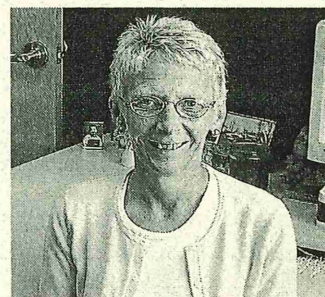
# Aging Continued

**Purpose:** The Health Insurance Assistance Program offers older adults, Medicare beneficiaries and their family members assistance in obtaining appropriate health care coverage, entitled Medicare/Medicaid insurance benefits.

**Funding Sources:** Health Care Access - \$28,579; Minnesota Board on Aging - \$93,312; RDC Tax Levy - \$13,310; and Miscellaneous - \$387.

**Service Priorities:** Specially trained volunteer health insurance counselors are available to assist all seniors, free of charge, with information and assistance on a confidential one-to-one basis. The program also serves to educate the public about the health care reimbursement systems and increase awareness of the program to seniors and family members.

Right: Cory Jones,  
Health Insurance  
Counseling Program Coord.



## Pilot Clinic Program • • •

Initiated and corresponded regularly with Altru Clinic staff in Baudette, MN to arrange for a pilot program to begin at the clinic. The program will assist Medicare beneficiaries one-on-one in accessing prescription drugs through the prescription drug assistance programs. The "free clinic" is scheduled to begin in June.

## Non-Government Site Outreach • • •

Conducted outreach sessions at non-government sites, and provided information to 1,385 attendees about publicly funded senior health care programs.

## County Partnership • • •

Continue to work closely with County Social Services in Regions 1 & 2 to forward applications for seniors that are eligible for State health care programs.

## Collaboration • • •

Continue to collaborate with agencies serving seniors, Respite, Senior Companion, Living at Home Block Nurse, Legal Services, Ombudsman, Parish Nurse program and RSVP to reach isolated and/or disabled seniors about health care options.

## Wisdom Steps • • •

Participated in planning and presenting information on Medicare and Medicaid to the American Indian community health, and elder program providers through the state. The objective was to further develop Medicare information to be more acceptable for American Indian Elders, and provide Medicare Education and assistance with application and enrollment in Medicare Programs within their communities.

## Volunteers • • •

Volunteers and staff continue to provide one-on-one assistance with completing applications for health care programs and prescription drug programs. Recruitment of volunteers is ongoing.

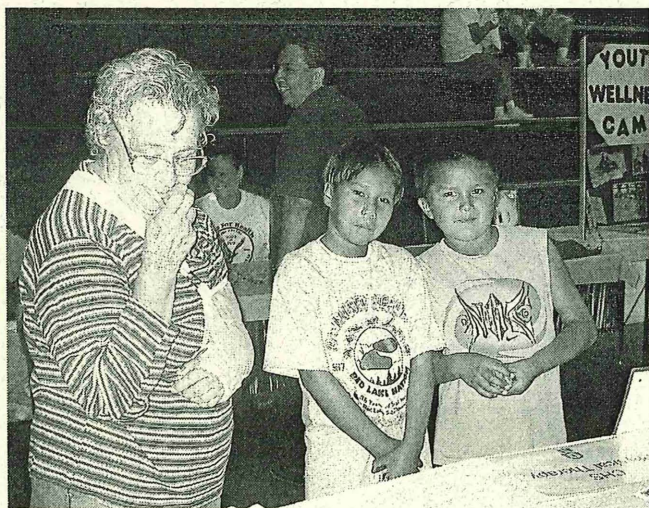
## Health Insurance Counseling Highlights

### Catch the Wave • • •

Regional Library staff conducted a total of 17 Senior Surf Days. Seniors learned basic internet skills and how to surf the net. This included emailing family and friends, accessing Medicare sites of interest, and other health care information.

### Health Fairs • • •

Participated in 12 Health Fairs providing information to seniors, family members and community agencies in accessing health insurance, government programs, family assistance and other resources related to health care needs.



Above: The Red Lake Health Fair provides information for all ages.



## *2002 Aging Grantees - Region 1*

**Kittson County Senior Medical Travel** – Provided 289 one-way trips to 40 unduplicated clients in 2002.

**Roseau County Senior Medical Travel** – Provided 477 one-way trips to 78 unduplicated clients in 2002.

**Senior Legal Services Project-Region 1** – Provided 3 educational sessions to 389 persons and 696 hours of legal assistance to 170 clients in 2002.

**LSS Respite and Caregiver Support-III-B Grant** – Provided 71.5 hours of respite services to 3 clients in 2002.

**LSS Respite and Caregiver Support-III-E Grant** – Provided 465.5 hours of respite services to 16 clients in 2002.

**NW Area Agency on Aging Info. & Assistance** – Provided information and assistance through Senior LinkAge Line® calls, one-on-one assistance and educational programs to 4,881 seniors and others in 2002.

**Valley Housekeeping Program** – Provided 8,681.25 hours of housekeeping services to 212 clients in 2002.

**NW Sentencing to Service Chore Program** – Provided 4,667 hours of chore services to 196 clients in 2002.

**Tri-County Sentencing to Service Chore Program** – Provided 3,613 hours of chore services to 175 clients in 2002.

**Roseau County Sentencing to Service Chore Program** – Provided 1,522 hours of chore services to 37 clients in 2002.

**LSS Senior Nutrition Program** – Provided 260,767 congregate and home delivered meals to 6,800 clients in 2002.

**LSS Health and Wellness Fairs** – Provided information and medication management sessions to 740 persons at regional health fairs in 2002.

**LSS Senior Nutrition Program Equip. Purchases** – Provided funds to purchase the following equipment for nutrition sites in 2002:

- **Warren**—dry storage shelving, stainless steel hand sink, steam table, six burner stove.
- **Twin Valley**—dishwasher, steam table
- **Gary**—steam table
- **Winger**—steam table

## *2002 Flood Assistance Grants*

**Legal Services** – Provided legal assistance to 41 clients for flood outreach and assistance.

**Wynne Consulting** – Provided 192 hours of information and assistance to 58 clients for flood outreach and assistance.

## *2002 Aging Grantees - Region 2*

**Bi-CAP Home Modification Program** – Provided 76 hours of home modification services to 33 clients in 2002.

**Clearwater Co. Transportation/Friendly Visiting** – Provided 224 one-way trips to 43 clients in 2002 and provided Friendly Visiting to 14 clients.

**Legal Services Project** – Provided 409 hours of legal assistance to 103 clients, and 5 education sessions to 266 clients in 2002.

**Hubbard County Housekeeping Project** – Provided 2,893.58 hours of housekeeping services to 36 clients in 2002.

**Lakewood Nursing Services** – Provided 195.25 hours of home health aide services to 7 clients in 2002.

**Red Lake Comprehensive Health Services** – Provided 318.50 hours of homemaker services to 6 clients in 2002.

**Lutheran Social Services Nutrition Program** – Provided 158,180 congregate and home delivered meals to 3,748 clients in 2002.



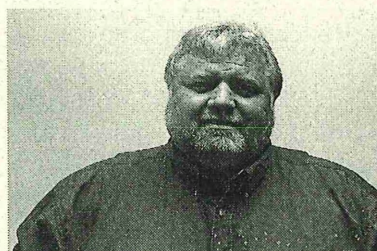
# Agricultural Development

## "CAPTURE THE VALUE"

**Purpose:** To provide a range of services which will assist in the development of projects that add value to local commodity production and resources.

**Program Funding Sources:** USDA-Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) - \$12,770; Northwest Minnesota Foundation - \$10,217; NWRDC Local Match \$4,375.

**Service Priorities:** Pooling resources and partners for agri-business project initiatives, and providing information, technical assistance, and staff support for ag value-added entrepreneurs.



Above: Cam Fanfulik, Agricultural Development Specialist

## Agricultural Development Highlights

Obtained a \$50,000 Rural Business Opportunity Grant from USDA for an ag value-added program called "Capture the Value." This project will concentrate on assisting rural entrepreneurs, farmers, and groups of interested individuals who are working to develop value-added agri-business opportunities in the region. Some of these opportunities include biodiesel/ethanol production, food-grade soybean processing, identity-preserved meat and grain production, and malting barley processing.

Obtained a \$40,000 grant from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, and \$17,125 cash match from the NWRDC for the "Capture the Value" project.

Assisted with the Norman County Visioning Session to determine needs and communicate what the NWRDC and "Capture the Value" can provide through services and technical assistance.

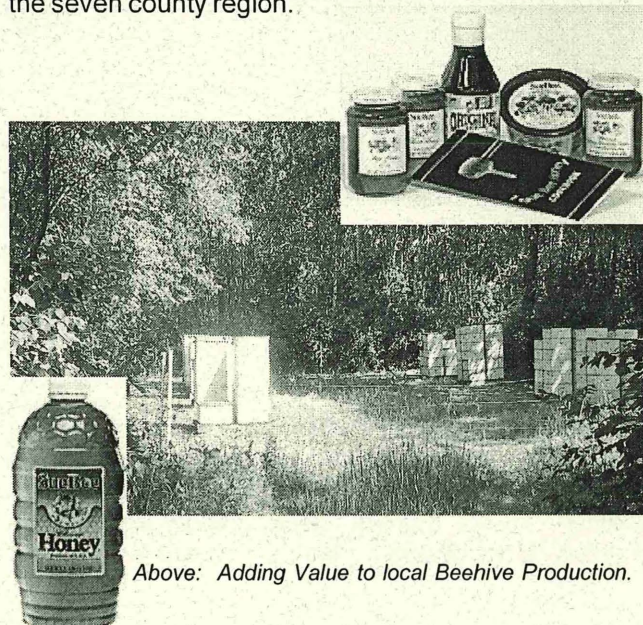
Completed a \$250,000 loan application to USDA on behalf of the City of Fosston, and Wild Rice Electric Cooperative for a wastewater pre-treatment facility. The facility will use state of the art technology to provide the capacity needed to treat the vegetable processing waste stream from Minnesota Dehydrated Vegetables, and provide potential to attract other ag processors and residents to Fosston.

Used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to develop maps showing commodity production in the seven county region. These maps will be used by interested groups to determine production capacity, transportation routes, and proximity to production, and will help show potential ag development sites in the region.

"Meats and Sweets" mini-tours are being developed that will be part of a promotion that highlights areas of interest and the specialty foods sold in the region. GIS maps will be used to tie together tourism routes with unique value-added foods that are produced in the area.

Assisted three ag businesses with loan and grant funding information from local, state, and federal sources that will allow them to expand and transition into food-grade processing.

Assisted with a survey and informational follow-up to gauge regional community interest in the Minnesota Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) initiative. Attended meetings with interested communities that are exploring possibilities for JOBZ and Agricultural Processing Facility Zones (AFPZ). The NWRDC is responsible for a multi-jurisdictional application to the State on behalf of the seven county region.



Above: Adding Value to local Beehive Production.



# Arts

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

**Purpose:** To promote, develop and encourage artistic growth and excellence of arts organizations and individual artists in northwestern Minnesota by awarding funds and conducting programs and services.

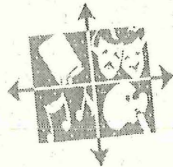
**Program Funding Sources:** MN State Arts Board - \$60,263 and Interest - \$687; McKnight Foundation - \$7,634; RDC Tax Levy - \$2,743; Miscellaneous - \$2,984.

**Re-Grant Funding Sources:** MN State Arts Board - \$65,225; McKnight Foundation - \$16,475.

**Re-Grant Programs:** *State Funds:* Production Assistance/Sponsorship; Artist in the Schools; Public Art Projects. *McKnight Funds:* Individual and Student Artist Grants; Small Capital.

**Service Priorities:** Direction setting, grants to organizations, grants to individual and student artists, exhibit, information including website, newsletter, training/workshops.

## Arts Highlights



### Grant Program Summaries

#### **Production Assistance/Sponsorship •••**

In fiscal year 2003, we re-granted \$42,290 to 14 different productions and 9 sponsorship projects throughout the region. Ten of the projects were specifically aimed at children. An estimated 14,900 adults attended and over 6,335 youth participated.

#### **Artists in the Schools Grant Program •••**

In the fourth year of this program \$19,210 was regranted to area schools. Thirteen projects were awarded serving 4,860 students.

#### **Public Art Projects •••**

One \$5,500 award was made this year to the Marshall County Park in Florian. Two installations and openings occurred in Warroad and Crookston.

#### **Small Capital Grants •••**

\$7,255 was granted to arts organizations to purchase mainly light and sound equipment. Three organizations received awards.

#### **2003 McKnight Artist Grants •••**

Five adult artists and nine student artists received awards this year. In the Individual Artist category \$3,750 was granted. In the Student Artist category \$4,470 was granted. Most awards were for technical training.



Left: Mara Wittman,  
Arts Council Director

### Services and Technical Assistance

#### **Web Site Development-Arts •••**

Updated web pages for the arts to include on-line application forms as well as downloadable pdf forms. Also added more information on arts organizations and artists.

#### **Advocacy Conference •••**

Held a one-day conference on advocating for the arts in your school and community at the Inn at Maple Crossing on September 5, 2003.

#### **Statewide Audience Development Initiative •••**

Helped facilitate two workshops on the SADI model, one in Bemidji in October and one in Thief River Falls in May.

#### **Newsletter •••**

Northwest Arts continued to provide a list of our grants as well as opportunities for artists, schools and arts organizations. Every other month the newsletter is printed and distributed to 850 arts constituents.

### Special Awards

#### **McKnight Artist Awards •••**

This is a new program to recognize an outstanding artist and arts advocate with a \$500.00 award. The awards were presented to Dr. James Thomasson of Mentor (as Northwest Arts Advocate); and Brent Radeke of Argyle (as Northwest Artist) at the Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition on April 6, 2003, in Crookston.

#### **Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••**

Coordinated 2003 exhibit in Crookston at the University of Minnesota library from April 2-6, 2003. This included the jury process, registration, hanging, and artist reception.



Above: Curtis Bjerke, East Grand Forks, received a student merit award for this drawing at this year's exhibit.



## *Arts Grants*

### Production Assistance/Sponsorship Grants:

- \*\* **Impressions Dance Company: Crookston**, \$2,090.00 for the production of "Sleeping Beauty" on November 23-24, 2002; and \$1,390.00 for the sponsorship of a theater/dance workshop on January 18-19, 2003.
- \*\* **Northwest Service Cooperative: Thief River Falls**, \$2,500.00 for the sponsorship of artists for the Young Author's Conference: The Writer Revealed on March 11, 2003.
- \*\* **Two Rivers Area Theatre: Red Lake Falls**, \$1,850.00 for the production of "The Dining Room" on March 27-30, 2003.
- \*\* **Crookston Community Theatre**, \$1,000.00 for the production of "The Cemetery Club" on June 5-8, 2003.
- \*\* **Warroad Summer Theatre**, \$1,800.00 for the production of "The Boys Next Door" on March 20-23, 2003; and \$2,200.00 for the production of "Gypsy" on July 30, 31, Aug 1-3, 6-10, 2003.
- \*\* **Thief River Falls Community Arts Council**, \$2,000.00 for the production of "My Fair Lady" on June 17-22, 2003; and \$1,815.00 for the production of "Bye, Bye Birdie" on August 5-10, 2003.
- \*\* **University of Minnesota Crookston**, \$2,410.00 for the sponsorship of the Minnesota Association of Community Theatre (MACT) Festival on April 2-6, 2003.
- \*\* **Middle River Community Theatre**, \$1,470.00 for the production of "Stewart Little" on June 22-25, 2003; and \$1,505 for the production of "Something Fishy" on September 25-28, 2003.
- \*\* **Scandinavian Festival: Roseau**, \$1,770.00 for the sponsorship of folk artists on July 21, 2003.
- \*\* **Summer Arts STAGES: East Grand Forks**, \$2,500.00 for the production of "Snow White Goes West" on June 2-14, 2003; \$1,000.00 for the sponsorship of safari start-up clinic on July 7-11, 2003; \$500.00 for the production of an original play by Upstagers workshops on June 17-18, 2003.
- \*\* **Dirt Diggers Garden Club: Warren**, \$2,500.00 for the sponsorship of artists to create two original light displays to be shown from November 2003 - January 2004 in Holiday Park.
- \*\* **Roseau Friends of the Library**, \$1,280.00 for the production of a childrens book by Maggi Adams to be available in November 2003; \$1,690.00 for the production of Regional Ramblings to be available in October 2003.
- \*\* **Fosston Library Art Center**, \$2,500.00 for the production of "Midsummer Nights Dream" on July 18-20, 2003.
- \*\* **Ada Summer Children's Theatre**, \$1,500.00 for the sponsorship of the Missoula production of "Snow White" on Aug 3-8, 2003.
- \*\* **Sherlock Forrest Playground: East Grand Forks**, \$2,500.00 for the sponsorship of a David Badman sculpture of a tree created in April 2003.
- \*\* **Association of the French of the North: Red Lake Falls**, \$2,500.00 for the sponsorship of LaBardasse musical entertainment on August 22, 2003.
- \*\* **City of Fosston**, \$0.00 for the production of a veteran's memorial film.
- \*\* **Heritage Foundation: East Grand Forks**, \$0.00 for the sponsorship of artists for their festival.

### Artists in the Schools Grants:

- \*\* **Stephen/Argyle School District**, \$1,920.00 for the sponsorship of a mural residency in February 2003; and \$675.00; for the sponsorship of a residency by ND Ballet Company on April 28-29, 2003; and \$1,405.00; for the sponsorship of Prairie Fire production of "Alladin" on Aug 8-9, 2003.
- \*\* **Norman County West School District: Halstad**, \$1,250.00 for the sponsorship of a collage/drawing residency with Susan Armington from October 21-25, 2002.
- \*\* **Roseau School District**, \$1,000.00 for the sponsorship of a folk music residency with Ross Sutter from May 19-23, 2003; and \$2,500.00 for the sponsorship of several writers as part of the "Celebration of Writing" project in April and May 2003.
- \*\* **Tri-County School District: Karlstad**, \$1,215.00 for the sponsorship of Prairie Fire Children's Theater workshop and performance of "Alladin" on June 22-28, 2003.
- \*\* **Climax-Shelly School District**, \$1,215.00 for the sponsorship of a Scandinavian fiddle and dance residency with Karen Solgard from November 4-6, 2002; and \$2,400.00; for the sponsorship of a residency by musician Randy Beard in May 2003 at the schools in East Grand Forks, Ada, Crookston, Climax, Twin Valley, and Halstad.
- \*\* **Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District**, \$2,400.00; for the sponsorship of a residency by musician Randy Beard in May and September 2003 at the schools in Warren, Fertile, Fisher, Kennedy, Karlstad, Newfolden, Argyle, and Plummer; and \$775.00; for the sponsorship of Safari's "Snow White Goes West" on July 21-25, 2003.
- \*\* **Kittson Central School District: Hallock**, \$995.00 for the sponsorship of a Prairie Fire production of "Tom Sawyer" on July 21-26, 2003.
- \*\* **Marshall County Central School District: Newfolden**, \$1,865.00; for the sponsorship of a video residency by Kris Sorenson in April 2004.



## *Arts Grants*

### Public Art Project Grants:

- \*\* **Marshall County Park: Florian**, \$5,500.00; for a etched granite entrance sculpture/sign by artist Karen Custard.

### NWRDC/McKnight Small Capital Grants:

- \*\* **Two Rivers Area Theatre: Red Lake Falls**, \$1,990.00 for the purchase of sound equipment.  
\*\* **Fosston Library Art Center**, \$3,225.00 for the purchase of two digital pianos.  
\*\* **Twin Forks Sweet Adelines: East Grand Forks**, \$490.00 for the purchase of a riser chair.  
\*\* **Two Rivers Area Theatre: Red Lake Falls**, \$1,550.00 for the purchase of lights, microphones, and paint.

### NWRDC/McKnight Individual Artist Grants:

- \*\* **Mary Noel: Crookston**, \$750.00; attend training at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City in January 2003.  
\*\* **Candace Osborn: Ada**, \$750.00; to purchase wood working supplies to complete new pieces for exhibition.  
\*\* **Dian Garber: Warroad**, \$750.00; to purchase photography supplies to prepare for an exhibit at Roseau Library.  
\*\* **Ethel Thorlacius: Stephen**, \$750.00; to publish a book of her stories on Kittson County.  
\*\* **LaVonne Forsberg: Thief River Falls**, \$750.00; to attend a watercolor workshop by Joseph Fettings in Michigan from August 11-15, 2003.  
\*\* **John Walsh: Greenbush**, \$0.00; to purchase congas.

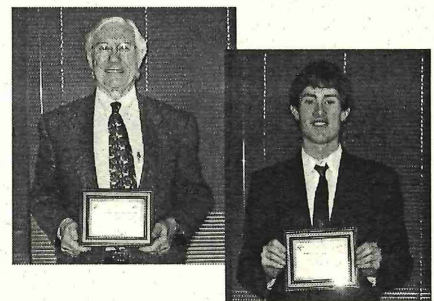
### NWRDC/McKnight Student Individual Artist Grants:

- \*\* **Angela Flaten: Warren**, \$500.00; for a voice mentorship with Maria Williams ending in a recital from September 2002 - May 2003.  
\*\* **D. J. McGregor: Warren**, \$500.00; for a voice mentorship with Matthew Komprood ending in a recital from September 2002 - May 2003.  
\*\* **Kari Anderson: Oslo**, \$500.00; for a voice mentorship with Maria Williams ending in a recital from September 2002 - May 2003.  
\*\* **Brent Radeke: Argyle**, \$500.00; attend dance training at STEPS on Broadway in New York City in August 2003.  
\*\* **Elizabeth Noel: Crookston**, \$500.00; attend training at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City from August 8-17, 2003.  
\*\* **Alexandria Dorman: Crookston**, \$500.00; attend training at the Broadway Dance Center in New York City from August 8-17, 2003.  
\*\* **Kathryn LaBine: Argyle**, \$500.00; attend Summer Performing Arts in Grand Forks in July 2003.  
\*\* **Brandee Swendseid: Stephen**, \$500.00; attend acting in front of the camera training at UCLA in California on July 20-25, 2003.  
\*\* **Devin Klink: Fosston**, \$470.00; to purchase visual art supplies in preparation of several exhibits.

### NWRDC/McKnight Northwest Arts Awards:

- \*\* **Dr. James Thomasson: Mentor**, \$500.00; Northwest Arts Advocate Award.  
\*\* **Brent Radeke: Argyle**, \$500.00; Northwest Artist Award.

Left to Right: Dr. James  
Thomasson and  
Brent Radeke



### Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition Awards:

#### **Adult Award Winners**

**1st Prize:** Marjorie Schafer and Robin Bodie, Red Lake Falls (pottery)  
**2nd Prize:** Jeanne O'Neil, East Grand Forks (print)  
**3rd Prize:** Christie Ketrang, Fisher (drawing)  
**Merit Drawing:** Ami Klegstad, Hallock  
**Merit Painting:** James Howard, Thief River Falls  
**Merit Photography:** Barbara Hansson, Lancaster  
**Merit Sculpture:** Corky Miller, Euclid  
**Merit Digital:** Charlie Lindberg, Kennedy  
**People's Choice:** James Garber, Warroad

#### **High School Student Award Winners**

**1st Prize:** Alicia Pietruszewski, Stephen (photograph)  
**2nd Prize:** Leigh Bailie, Fosston (painting)  
**3rd Prize:** Chris Lagasse, Crookston (drawing)  
**Merit Drawing:** Curtis Bjerke, East Grand Forks  
**Merit Mixed Media:** Brett Lynse, Crookston  
**Merit Sculpture:** Julia Hahn, Crookston  
**Merit Photography:** Kirk Hanson, Warren  
**Merit Digital:** Ashley Gubrud, Warren  
**People's Choice:** Chris Krapohl, Thief River Falls



# Economic Development

**Purpose:** To assist in the creation of new jobs by providing general planning guidance, technical assistance for specific industrial projects and services to local units of government.

**Program Funding Sources:** United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) - \$60,991; RDC Tax Levy - \$28,234; Miscellaneous Income - \$174.

**Service Priorities:** Regional Economic Analysis and Planning, Local Planning, Technical Assistance to Local Development Groups, Grant Writing, Business Counseling and Referral, Information on other Development Programs and Resources, Data and Statistics, and Tourism.



Above: Kay Hegge,  
Economic Development/Housing Program Director

## Economic Development Highlights

### Flood Recovery • • •

We provided staff support to the Roseau Flood Mitigation Task Force and the North Border Interfaith Coalition. We assisted with a short term and a long term plan for flood mitigation in the City and the County. We supplied direct assistance to families, farmers, businesses, and towns. We are the administrators of over \$5 million in state funding for housing rehabilitation for individuals. We are applying for USDA funding for a "Mutual Self-Help" Housing program to assist low income families build their own and their neighbors' houses. We are also applying for a companion HUD grant for infrastructure. A large amount of time was spent searching for funding for the struggling outreach groups.



Above: Pastor John Martinson, Chairman of the Board of the North Border Interfaith Coalition, is assisted by Danica Robson, Area Agency on Aging, and other members of the Unmet Needs group in Roseau.

### Norman County Visioning Session • • •

Assisted in the Norman County Visioning Session in which community leaders throughout the County came together to see how they might promote their county. Tourism efforts and ag value-added were two potentials for Norman County.

### Tax Free Zones • • •

Assisted with the effort to let every town know about the advantages of this new program of the Department of Trade and Economic Development. Called the JOBZ Initiative, it will allow our region to designate up to 5,000 acres as tax free zones to encourage commercial and industrial development.

### Grants Column • • •

Sent out bimonthly funding columns via e-mail to community leaders and the press to encourage grassroots groups struggling with the economy and state funding cuts.

### Strandquist • • •

Assisted Strandquist with a visioning process, and the development of a Small Cities Block grant to aid their struggling café and deteriorating housing. Assisted with the development of a new, modern, playground and wayside rest.

### Oslo • • •

Assisted Oslo with a visioning process, and the development of a Housing Committee.



## *Economic Development Continued*

### Funding for Feasibility Studies • • •

Feasibility study funds are available through the NW Minnesota Foundation which requires a 1:1 match. Rural Business Opportunity Grant funds through USDA takes too long and has been cut. To date, we have found out that towns with a local lodging tax can fund marketing feasibility studies.

### May Corporation • • •

Assisted in the business plan and financial package for this producer of high-end wheelchair recliners in Grygla.

### Small Business Development Center • • •

Contracted with the SBDC in Bemidji to assist with business plans and financial analysis of emerging entrepreneurs, business saves, and business expansions. Assisted 18 businesses.

### Tourism • • •

Assisted in the development of the Food and Favorites Map of the region that shows the scenic routes, and places to stop and purchase items unique to our area.

### New Logo • • •

Assisted in the development of a new logo and slogan, "Land of the Dancing Sky" for the NWRDC. Started the trademark process. It is hoped it may develop into a regional "stamp of approval" on local foods and products.

### Casework • • •

Over 40 families from Roseau County received technical assistance on flood recovery programs and other available programs that could help with their housing needs. Several cases required a "Flood Wrap" team effort.

## *Housing*

### HOUSING PROGRAM

**Purpose:** To increase the housing stock in the region.

**Program Funding Sources:** NW MN Foundation - \$7,500; RDC Tax Levy - \$2,768.

**Service Priorities:** Assisting communities, lenders, consumers, and agencies to access available programs that repair, rehabilitate and build affordable homes.

### *Housing Highlights*

#### Alternative Funding Sources for Affordable Housing • • •

Assisted in the development of a regional loan pool that will assist with interim construction financing for affordable housing projects in a 12 county region.

#### MHFA Grant Award • • •

Assisted in the preparation of a Community Reinvestment Fund grant application. We were awarded \$650,000 for interim construction financing for nine Institution Community Work Crew (ICWC) built homes, development of a Roseau County Repair Program, and acquisition and clearance for up to four flood-damaged homes in Roseau that will not fit into any other program.

#### EVHI Guidelines • • •

Regional "Economic Vitality Housing Initiative" guidelines were revised to more accurately represent the needs of the region, including the need for affordable housing for young singles, and the need to preserve a sense of place.

#### Mini Housing Fairs • • •

Held two housing conferences. On March 11<sup>th</sup>, an all day housing fair was held in the Polaris Community room in Roseau. Over 200 families came, many of which were flood victims. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, the NWRDC hosted a two-hour mini-conference at the VFW in East Grand Forks. Highlights of successful affordable housing programs were presented, along with questions and answers for USDA and Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation.



Above: Like a train of boxcars along Highway 89, 60 FEMA trailers in 2002, now number 29 in 2003.



# Enterprise 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, to ensure the successful completion of activities to be financed.

**Program Funding Sources:** Loan Interest and Loan Fees - \$64,171.

**Loan Funding Sources:** Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$642,241.

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



Above: Linda Nelson, Loan Fund Manager

## Disaster Relief

As a result of the flooding in June of 2002, loan funds were used to help businesses survive the economic stresses brought on by weather-related and other disasters. Financing was provided for working capital and other needs.

Enterprise Fund staff met with most of the businesses in Roseau to provide technical assistance and information on resources for flood recovery. Staff also served on the Roseau Flood Recovery Loan Program Committee.

To date, one hundred twenty-four business loans have been approved for financing for a total amount of \$7,565,323. The program has assisted forty-six new businesses, forty-four businesses with expansions, and thirty-four businesses with retention. Fifty-six of the loans are currently active, fifty-one are fully repaid, sixteen loans have been written off, and closing is pending on one approved loan.

## Standard Revolving Loan Fund

The following businesses received approval for financing through the Northwest Regional Enterprise Fund, Inc. in fiscal year 2003. "D" designates Disaster Relief Loan.

D - Roseau Business Plaza, Roseau	\$ 150,000
D - L/D Rose (Nelson's Cafe) Roseau	\$ 12,000
D - Transfers Unlimited, Roseau	\$ 42,500
Hanson Oil & Fuel, Inc., Red Lake Falls	\$ 50,000
Invisimax, Warren	\$ 50,000
D - Quilt S'More, Roseau	\$ 12,000
NWI Properties TRF LLP, TRF	\$ 81,000
May Corporation, Grygla	\$ 30,000
QC Techniques, Inc., Roseau	\$ 150,000
Karlstad Hardware Hank, Karlstad	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL LOANS</b>	<b>\$ 627,500</b>

The Enterprise Fund's administrative budget for the year is \$64,171. The loan fees collected and one-half of the interest earned on the loans and on accounts are used for administrative costs. The other one-half of the interest payments, along with the principal repaid on loans, becomes available for relending.





# Local Issues

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Purpose:** Discuss and develop solutions to rural issues and problems which are held common in Northwest Minnesota.

**Funding Source:** Local Tax Levy - \$44,567; and interest \$10,811; Misc. - \$19,301; Reserve Funds - \$5,006.

**Service Priorities:** Consensus building, planning, research, information, new program development, legislative advocacy.

## Local Issues Highlights

### Tourism Directory •••

Updated the 2003 version of the Northwest Minnesota Visitor and Recreation Guide. Published the guide to our visitnwminnesota.com web site. Printed 900 copies of the 48 page guide for distribution.



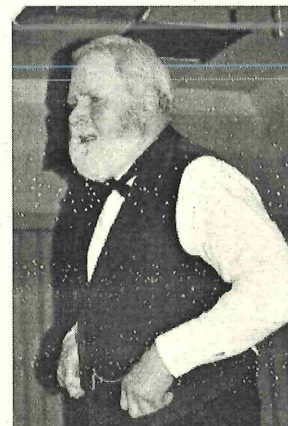
Above: Frosty Bobber Ice Fishing Tournament in EGF.  
(Photo by Ken McDonald)

### Web Site Promotion of NW Minnesota •••

Actively promoted the Visit Northwest Minnesota website [www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://www.visitnwminnesota.com). Updated any changes to the seven county section of the website based on their requests.

### MN Historic Northwest •••

Nine county historical groups worked together to complete joint projects. The NWRDC helps coordinate their meetings and format their newsletter and brochure. Helped plan mini conference on Arts and Cultural Tourism scheduled April 11, 2003 in Thief River Falls.



Right: Presentation of  
Pierre Bottineau  
at the Historical Conference.

### Tours and Routes •••

The Ag Value Added, Arts, Community Development, Economic Development, and Transportation Programs started a joint effort to promote the increased sale of local products. Targeted items include meats, sweets, crafts, antiques, and art. Visitors and local residents will be encouraged to tour our communities, see the local attractions, and buy our food and treasures.

### GIS •••

Improvements were made to our Geographical Information System (GIS) including the addition of floodplain maps and detailed census information. Several special projects were completed for local groups including establishment of a GIS database for promotion of the Red Lake River Corridor.

### Planning and Zoning •••

Comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances were completed for Fertile, Fisher, and Sanders Township. A draft plan was completed for Badger and discussions were held with Wyandotte Township on planning and zoning approaches.

### Flood Recovery •••

A great deal of effort went into helping move the flood recovery effort forward. Projects included helping organize federal, state and local structures, staffing the Roseau Area Flood Mitigation Task Force, supporting local recovery groups, securing recovery funding, and administering recovery grants.



# Special Projects

A variety of sources provided funding for special projects which supplemented services in our regular programs. We wish to thank each of these organizations for the opportunity to do more for Northwest Minnesota over the past year. The following is a summary of each project:

## EDA FLOOD RECOVERY

Funding Sources: Federal Economic Development Administration (\$50,000), Northwest Minnesota Foundation (\$25,000), NWRDC (\$11,274), Roseau (\$5,000), Roseau County (\$5,000), and the Roseau Watershed District (\$5,000)

This project provided funding for planning, grant writing and administrative activities related to recovery from the 2002 flooding. Funding was provided to Wynne Consulting, RPN Consulting, and the NWRDC. Staff worked on obtaining/administering housing funds, flood mitigation funds, business recovery funds, and infrastructure repair funds. Efforts assisted with approximately \$20,000,000 in recovery programs.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

Funding Source: MN Dept. of Public Safety (\$7,816)

The NWRDC will serve as the fiscal agent for funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local units of government. All Hazard Mitigation Planning includes risk assessment, mitigation strategies, and a monitoring/evaluation process for each county in the region. The plans for each county are to be in place by November, 2004. NWRDC staff will provide technical assistance and staff support activities for the planning process. Assistance includes meeting coordination, information gathering, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping, and plan writing for the seven county area.

Right: Jennifer Olson,  
Hazard Mitigation Planner



## COMPOST

Funding Source: Economic Development Administration (\$13,815) and Local Tax Levy (\$9,416)

The animal waste composting project grant from the Economic Development Administration was closed out this year, but the work is just getting started. Burkle Grain Service in Greenbush has taken the lead in forming a region wide cooperative which intends to produce and sell high quality and value compost. NWRDC staff will continue to support this effort and the related projects to increase animal based agriculture.

## INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNITY WORK CREW

Funding Source: Inter County Community Council (\$82,606)

The NWRDC continued to partner with Inter County Community Council on the construction of new housing using work crews from the Pennington County Corrections Center and the Minnesota Department of Corrections. New homes were built in Middle River, St. Hilaire, and Thief River Falls.

## MHFA FLOOD RECOVERY

Funding Source: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (707,114), In-Kind Staffing by NWRDC Financial Staff

The NWRDC served as the fiscal agent for a variety of 2002 flood, housing repair funds. Wynne Consulting served as the program delivery agent with support from a large number of local and regional service providers. Funding was used to assist low/moderate income homeowners in making repairs they could not cover with insurance, other programs, or personal funds.

## MHFA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Funding Source: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (\$1,010,326), In-Kind Staffing by NWRDC Financial Staff

The NWRDC served as the fiscal agent for regional housing development funds provided by MHFA. Programs included new housing construction, rehabilitation, and acquisition. Inter County Community Council, Northwest Multi-County HRA, Northwest Community Action Agency, and Tri-Valley Opportunity Council delivered the programs.

## SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Funding Source: Bemidji State University SBDC (\$2,835), and Local Tax Levy (\$361)

NWRDC Economic Development and Revolving Loan Fund staff worked with SBDC staff on providing technical assistance to local businesses on a variety of business development issues. Assistance included loan fund applications, business plans, financial statements, marketing, and business reorganization.

## NORTHWEST VISITORS STUDY

Funding Source: Northwest Minnesota Foundation (\$9,500) and local match (\$6,000). In-Kind Staffing by NWRDC Financial Staff

This project will identify the characteristics and needs of visitors to Northwest Minnesota. The information will be used help local communities in marketing and developing services or new attractions. The study is being completed by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center.



# Transportation

**Purpose:** To insure safe efficient movement of people and commodities in the region. Provide an ongoing forum for important transportation issues in the region. Assist MN/DOT and provide input with it's planning efforts and programs.

**Funding Sources:** MN Department of Transportation \$50,000; RDC Tax Levy - \$10,082.

**Service Priorities:** Direction setting, comprehensive regional planning, legislative advocacy, MN/DOT project coordination.

## Transportation Highlights

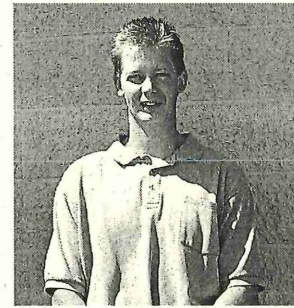
The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) continued to pursue funding throughout the fiscal year for the Tri-County 10-Ton Truck Corridor, that extends from Grygla in Marshall County to Gully in Polk County. A meeting with Congressman Peterson was held with members from the TAC, county commissioners, industry liaisons, and County Engineers to discuss the vital importance a 10-ton north-south shipping corridor has with the industrial and agricultural business throughout RDC regions one and two. A project information package was provided to Senator Dayton's office at their request to pursue high priority funding for this project. Pennington County is starting construction on a portion of the corridor during the summer construction season of 2003. The Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) has also appropriated over one million dollars for construction of this corridor in 2005.

Developed a Waters of The Dancing Sky Scenic Byway map illustrating the areas of interest throughout the county. The maps are located in restaurants, museums, and gas stations throughout the byway stretch.

Assisted the district with an access management training session, and discussed the issues with our TAC and other planners as developments occur within the region. The RDC will continue to support the Mn/DOT District 2 effort to inform county members of the importance future planning has on the development of the region.

Parcel mapping for Polk County was started with the Upper Minnesota Valley RDC as the lead agency. The NWRDC is responsible for the end product, and will investigate the updating procedures and assist the assessors office in developing a current database.

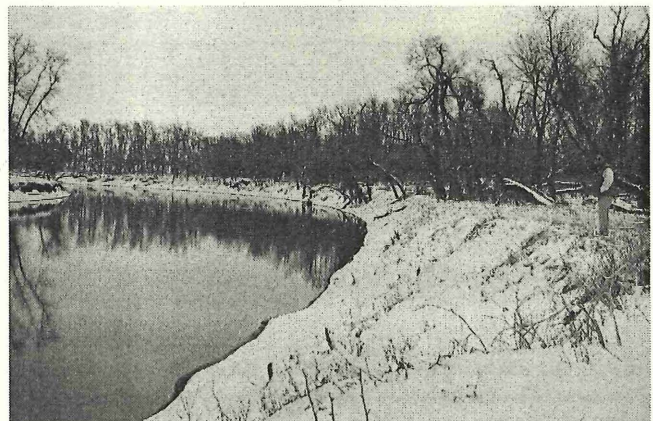
Right: Troy Schroeder,  
Transportation Planner



The 2003 fiscal year saw expansion in the geographic information system (GIS) department with the addition of ARCMAP 8.3. This new software is required to produce the FEMA floodplain maps for the region's hazard mitigation planning, that will occur during the 2004 fiscal year.

Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) held a large part in developing several maps within the region throughout the year. Projects included GPS gathering for trail development at the Fertile Sandhills Recreation Area, and tracking coordinates for All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails through the debated Consolidated Conservation (Con-Con) lands. The county workgroups and DNR have agreed on 63 miles of trails on these lands. Maps have been created with GIS and placed on the trail system through the Sandhills Recreation Area and information centers. Trail development for the region will continue with development of pedestrian trails in the years to follow.

Coordinated the City of Halstad, with the procedures necessary for the development of a boat ramp on the Red River near the Halstad Bridge. The Mn/DOT, ND/DOT, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wild Rice Watershed, Norman County SWCD, highway department, and the DNR were contacted for construction materials, permits, and land transfers. This process will continue through summer with the hope of construction beginning this fall.



Above: Glenn Brookshire, Mayor of Halstad, investigates the banks of the Red River for the location of a new boat ramp.



# *Plans, Studies and Publications*

Prepared by NWRDC

## **Plans**

**Area Plan on Aging** - The Area Plan on Aging examines senior input and demographic data to establish priorities for the use of Title III Older Americans Act funds. Includes budget information, an Executive Summary and work activities.

**FY 2003 Work Program** - Details the goals and objectives of the Commission in each of the program and planning areas.

**2003 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** - This document examines economic, social, and physical information about the seven counties in Northwest Minnesota and makes recommendations on activities to enhance and improve the economy. The recommendations concentrate on job creation, agriculture, housing, and infrastructure activities which can help address population loss.

**Regional Arts Plans** - Goals, strategies and work activities for State Arts Funds and McKnight Arts Funds are included in these plans.

**Revolving Loan Fund Plan** - Describes the program elements and guidelines for the loan fund. Updated in 2000.

**Fertile Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance** - NWRDC staff completed a Comprehensive Plan and related zoning ordinances under the direction of the City Council. The Plan examines development trends and sets out goals and implementation steps to help the City reach a preferred future. Highlights include a clear move towards attracting new residents who work outside the community.

**Fisher Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance** - NWRDC staff completed a Comprehensive Plan and related zoning ordinances under the direction of the City Council. Highlights include an even more aggressive effort to provide high quality small town living conditions.

**Sanders Township Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance** - NWRDC staff completed a Comprehensive Plan and related zoning ordinances under the direction of the City Council. Highlights include steps to both preserve the agricultural nature of the township and make room for non-farming residents.

## **Studies**

**Red River Bridge Study** - The Transportation Advisory Committee has formed a subcommittee to study the economic impacts and importance the Red River bridge crossings have on the region. Results of the study will be presented to MnDOT for future planning.

## **Publications**

**Commission Chronicle** - NWRDC Newsletter - Printed on a quarterly basis and distributed to government units, service agencies and interested persons. Contains current items of interest to local communities and Commission activities.

**Directory of Artists and Arts Organizations** - The directory contains listings of regional artists, arts organizations, school district offices and public libraries. Published online at [www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm](http://www.nwrdc.org/arts.htm).

**Directory of Government Units of Service Agencies** - The directory contains listings of service agencies and governmental offices from the township level through the legislative level.

**FY 2002 Annual Report** - Information on the funding and work activities of the Commission over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

**Northwest Arts** - Quarterly newsletter developed for the artists, arts organizations and schools in northwest Minnesota.

**Senior News** - Newsletter developed for the Senior Citizens and service providers of Region One.

**Senior Service Directory** - Resources for Region 1 seniors, consumers and professionals in the field of aging. It provides a brief description of programs, resources and agencies.

**[www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org)** - Published updates of program information changes to our agency website.

**[www.visitnwmnnesota.com](http://www.visitnwmnnesota.com)** - Web site devoted to the services, resources and recreational opportunities of our seven counties. Includes a on-line version of the Northwest Minnesota Visitor & Recreation Guide.

**Northwest Minnesota Visitor and Recreation Guide** - A comprehensive listing of attractions and facilities which offer opportunities and services to local and outside visitors to area communities.

**Resources for Economic Development** - Descriptions of agencies and both technical assistance and financial programs for economic development. Includes special sections on labor force and housing resources. Lists community revolving loan funds and economic development contacts.

**Northwest Minnesota Labor Force Assessment** - A Survey of Northwest Minnesota's Labor force, Employers and Students.



# Committee Membership List

## Aging Advisory Committee

Sharon Bring	Strandquist
Terence Blacklance	Thief River Falls
Bob Carlson	Thief River Falls
* Richard Dahlin	Ada
Matthew Edman	Alvarado
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Jamie Hennen	Ada
Beverly Hewitt	Lancaster
Roy Jorgenson	Thief River Falls
Charles Lindberg	Kennedy
Allen Ducharme	Red Lake Falls
Warren Olson	Halstad
Julie Pahlen	Roseau
Orris Rasmussen	Roseau
Lorraine Strand	Erskine
Ronald Weiss	Red Lake Falls

## Regional Arts Council

Karen Bang	Erskine
Dawn Bly	Fosston
Larry Braford	East Grand Forks
Rob Conwell	Red Lake Falls
Pat Dunning	Thief River Falls
Amy Filpula	Middle River
Mary Follett	Thief River Falls
* Dorothy Gehrke	Roseau
Anne Granitz	Roseau
Ruth Halverson	Karlstad
Betty Halvorson	Plummer
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
Gen Knott	Red Lake Falls
Kristi Kramlich	Ada
Honey Olson	Ada
Joyce Wikstrom	Karlstad

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Milton Alm	Norman County
Kelly Bengtson	Kittson County
Sharon Bring	Marshall County
Mike Flaagan	Pennington County
* Donald Jensen	Pennington County
Courtney Kleven	Red Lake County
Jeff Langan	Marshall County
Charles Lindberg	Kittson County
Bob Marvin	Roseau County
Ed Miller	Norman County
Lee Nielson	Red Lake County
Rodney Richmond	Roseau County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

## Enterprise Fund Loan Committee/

## Economic Development Planning Committee

Allen Bertilrud	Red Lake Falls
Perry Kolnes	Hendrum
Noel Labine	Argyle
Stuart McFarlane	Roseau
Ray Safranski	Thief River Falls
Kari Thompson	Crookston
* Ed Turn	Roseau

## Enterprise Fund Members

Betty Arvidson	Crookston
Allen Bertilrud	Red Lake Falls
Eugene Dufault	Crookston
John Erickson	Thief River Falls
Stephen Fisher	Warroad
Lee Ann Konkin	Ada
Stuart McFarlane	Roseau
William Montague	Crookston
Velma Oakland	Red Lake Falls
Arnold Paradis	Brooks
Terry Potucek	Warren
Gary Rice	Lancaster
Jim Richter	East Grand Forks
Doug Safar	Warren
Ray Safranski	Thief River Falls
Brenda Sather	Greenbush
James Snyder	Crookston
Kari Thompson	Crookston
* Ed Turn	Roseau
Dean Vikan	Fosston
George Wikstrom	Karlstad

\*Chair



**Drees, Risky & Vallager, Ltd.**  
*Certified Public Accountants*

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Directors  
Northwest Regional Development Commission  
Warren, Minnesota 56762

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of Northwest Regional Development Commission as of June 30, 2002, and for the year then ended, as listed in the Table of Contents. These general purpose financial statements are the responsibility of Northwest Regional Development Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the general purpose financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall general purpose financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northwest Regional Development Commission, as of June 30, 2002, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated September 26, 2002 on our consideration of the Northwest Regional Development Commission's internal control over financial reporting and our test of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as whole. The individual fund statements and 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 Northwest Regional Development Commission. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations", and is also not a required part of the general purpose financial statements of Northwest Regional Development Commission. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole.

DREES, RISKEY & VALLAGER, LTD.

*Drees, Risky & Vallager - Ltd.*  
Certified Public Accountants

September 26, 2002  
Crookston, Minnesota

*Members of National Associated CPA Firms  
Members of Minnesota and North Dakota Society of CPA's  
Members of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants*