

## East Central Regional Development Commission

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2000 Annual Report

STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL MN 55155

Summer/Fall 2000



## **EC RDC's Ames to Retire**

Roger Ames, Executive Director of the East Central Regional Development Commission for the past 12 years, with an over 31-year career in East Central Minnesota public service, has announced his retirement effective September 2000.

His first job in the area was as a Social Worker for 7 years in Pine County. In 1976 he accepted a position at the EC RDC and became the Area Agency on Aging and Human Services Director. In 1988 he was named Executive Director.

During his tenure with the Commission Roger assisted with program development and administration in the areas of employment training through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) and a regional developmental sabilities planning program during the later 1970s and early 80s, developed a regional child abuse prevention program that was widely used by area schools and others, established and directed an Area Agency on Aging program funded by the Minnesota Board on Aging, and has been instrumental in completion of the regional scenic byways and housing study. As Executive Director, Roger worked with the Commission to expand the transportation planning program, community and economic development programs, and the regional arts program. During the past two years he was instrumental in expanding, with financial assistance provided by the Federal Economic Development Administration, the Commission's planning and technical assistance capabilities by establishing an in-house geographic information systems (GIS) service.

In Roger's words: "I have had the privilege of meeting and working with some exceptional people, including elected officials, advisory committee members and fellow staff people. Although I look forward to doing some other things during retirement, I will miss working with these people. This Commission has performed, and I am confident will continue to provide, a valuable service to the Region. I thank the Commission for the opportunity to have served the region and I wish you all the best."

The EC RDC's board of directors has formed a search committee that has begun a search for the Commission's next Executive Director. They welcome ominations and expressions of interest for the position, which will be treated confidence. Please submit all inquiries to: Richard W. Jackson, Chairperson, East Central Regional Development Commission, 100 Park Street South, Mora, MN 55051; phone: 320/679-4065; fax: 320/679-4120. For a complete job description visit the EC RDC website at www.region7erdc.org.

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## Community and Economic Development News

Many of you may be personally familiar with the regimentation that military service provides. During my active duty tour in the military, I found this regimentation to be especially true at meal times. For example, my experience with military dinner menus often gave you only two choices: take it or leave it!

Fortunately, as citizens we have choices (more than two many times); however, let us not underestimate the virtues of being "focused" and sharing a sense of mission — especially in the area of economic development. Most often this sense of mission and focus will come from the community leadership. In the words of Margaret Mead, a renowned anthropologist, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

In our last newsletter I discussed a few of the projects that were in the works:

#### In the Background:

RE-capitalization of the RLF – Still working on this subject with Jack Arnold, our federal EDA representative. I think we have a good chance for success on this – as long as the local communities are willing to pledge the required local match (up to 50%).

EDA Pre-application – This was for the City of Harris (Chisago County); unfortunately, this project was not approved by the EDA. A number of issues influenced the rejection to include Chisago County is a non-distressed county; public vs. private ownership; and

major benefactors of the project. This does not mean the EDA will not help you if your project is in a non-distressed county. Please contact me to discuss questions you have as to the viability of any potential EDA project.

Small Business Development Technical Assistance Contract – Expired due to the hiring of a new consultant, Rick Utech, with Pine Economic Development Corporation.

#### On the Horizon:

Pine Habilitation and Supported Employment (PHASE) – Submitted \$25,000 grant for review by the Initiative Foundation for "soft costs" related to new building construction.

Economic Impact Study – A study examining the economic impacts (jobs, wages, and economic activity) of Pine Technical College and Cambridge Community College. Economic impact studies, provided by and benefit/cost analysis, are new services that the ECRDC provides to the Region.

Cambridge Industrial Park Expansion – Will be entering the pre-application stage by Fall 2000.

Continuation of RLF Activities — Due to a recent loan, we currently have between \$55,000 and \$60,000 available for lending purposes. Let me know if you are aware of any business that requires a "gap" lending assistance (for start-up or expansion).

## **How to Contact Your Legislators**

Senator Twyla Ring Room G-9, 75 Constitution Ave. St. Paul, MN 55155-1609 Phone: (651) 296-5419 sen.twyla.ring@senate.leg.state.mn.us

Senator Becky Lourey G-9 Capitol, 75 Constitution Ave St. Paul, MN 55155-1606 Phone: (651) 296-0293 sen.becky.lourey@senate.leg.state.mn.us Rep. Bill Hilty 241 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-4308 rep.Bill.Hilty@house.leg.state.mn.us

Senator Dan Stevens 105 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-5364 sen.dan.stevens@senate.leg.mn.us Rep. Loren Jennings 237 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-0518 rep.Loren.Jennings@house.leg.state.mn.us

Rep. Sondra Erickson 407 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-6746 rep.Sondra.Erickson@leg.state.mn.us

Rep. Jim Rostberg 545 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-5364 rep.Jim.Rostberg@house.leg.state.mn.us Governor Jesse Ventura 130 State Capitol 75 Constitution Avenue St. Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-3391

## **Transportation Program Highlights**

At a program review meeting held in June Bob Bollenbeck noted the past year's accomplishments in the Transportation Program. Highlights include participation in three MN/DOT Districts to facilitate the solicitation/prioritization of local projects seeking federal funds through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); technical assistance in activities such as welfare-to-work and local roadway task forces; transit activities especially with the Rum River Transportation Collaborative; Rideshare program development; and coordinating/facilitating meetings of the regional Transportation Advisory Committee. In addition, Bob Bollenbeck co-chaired the RDC transportation planners group statewide this past year.

"This coming year should be a good one for transportation" noted Bob. We expect to get a regional transportation plan well underway or completed, provide local technical assistance, and continue our statewide presence with transportation initiatives. We anticipate our strong working relationship to continue with Mn/DOT as we provide a forum for local units of government to discuss regional transportation issues. For more information, feel free to contact Bob at the EC RDC.

# Region 7E Projects Submitted for STIP

The EC RDC submitted a list of projects for consideration into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for FY 2003. Working with the various ATPs, projects being considered are in Mille Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, and Isanti Counties. For more information on specific projects being considered contact Bob Bollenbeck, EC RDC Transportation Planner.

### TH 8 Task Force on the Move

The Highway 8 Task Force in Chisago County is moving forward with plans for improvements to the corridor. Recently, a consulting firm was hired to conduct a scoping study. A tour of the roadway was also conducted to get a better sense of current needs and conditions. For more information contact Nora Holt, TH 8 Task Force Chair and EC RDC Public Interest Representative.

## TH 65 Study to be Conducted in Isanti County

Mn/DOT District 3 is beginning a TH 65 study in Isanti County. Local units of government and the EC RDC have been asked to take formal action endorsing the study which will have a focus of access management. "The actual study should be underway within the next few months," noted Bob Bollenbeck, EC RDC Transportation Planner.



Bob Bollenbeck
Transportation Planner
East Central Regional Development Commission
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Mora, MN 55051
Phone: (320) 679-4065 ext. 24
E-mail: bollenbeck@ncis.com

	EV.0000	FY2000	
	FY2000	REVENUES/	FY2001
	ADOPTED	EXPENSES	ESTIMATED
DEVENUES.	BUDGET	UNAUDITED	BUDGET
REVENUES	A400 700	0405.004	0400 404
Taxes	\$182,700	\$185,324	\$188,181
MN Board on Aging	\$338,277	\$452,052	\$446,268
EDA	\$52,155	\$54,486	\$53,000
State Arts Board	\$154,705	\$148,089	\$147,392
State Transportation	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
RLF-Interest/Fees	\$29,088	\$27,921	\$25,000
RLF-Repayments	\$84,000	\$79,897	\$100,000
Contracts	\$34,158	\$15,352	\$30,005
Interest/Other	\$14,798	\$12,106	\$9,769
McKnight Foundation	\$20,208	\$18,501	\$20,000
GIS-EDA	\$29,368	\$32,044	\$17,965
Inkind-GIS/Aging	\$6,307	\$7,238	\$7,070
Insurance Payment	\$228,997	\$228,997	\$0
Building/Equipment Use Allowance	<u>\$4,334</u>	<u>\$5,593</u>	<u>\$6,276</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,229,095	\$1,317,600	\$1,100,926
EXPENDITURES			
General Fund	\$112,563	\$109,795	\$105,642
RLF-Administration	\$13,684	\$14,602	\$22,200
State Arts-Administration	\$101 014	\$90,935	\$90,484
McKnight Arts-Administration	\$4,500	\$5,422	\$4,050
State Transportation	\$101,453	\$101,924	\$106,399
Aging Program-Administration	\$48,712	\$57,201	\$93,897
EDA	\$80,618	\$83,070	\$70,667
GIS Program	\$63,334	\$65,460	\$47,500
Contracts	\$12,246	\$2,757	
Aging-Pass-thru Contracts	\$312,028	\$420,377	\$375,845
Arts-Pass-thru Grants	\$72,258	\$72,178	\$74,527
RLF Loans	\$130,000	\$158,000	\$100,000
Bldg Repaired/Equipment Replaced	\$234,723	<u>\$231,118</u>	<u>\$0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,287,133	\$1,412,839	\$1,091,211

# East Central Regional Development Commission Board of Commissioners

#### **Chisago County**

David Christianson, Municipalities Representative \*Tom Delaney, Co. Commissioner Representative \*Nora Holt, Public Interest Representative Shane Stepp, Township Representative

#### Kanabec

Wally Goldsmith, Municipalities Representative \*Bill Hallstrom, Township Representative Dennis McNally, Co. Commissioner Representative Dick Nehring, Public Interest Representative

#### Pine County

Frank Grundmeier, Township Representative \*Bill Jokela, Public Interest Representative Irene Sandell, Municipalities Representative Frank Skaff, Co. Commissioner Representative

#### \*Personnel and Budget Committee

#### **Isanti County**

Laurence Collin, Public Interest Representative \*George Larson, Co. Commissioner Representative \*Melvin Larson, Township Representative Sue Larson, Municipalities Representative

#### Mille Lacs County

Edie Brady, Public Interest Representative
\*Dick Jackson, Co. Commissioner Representative
Steven Long, Municipalities Representative
\*Barbara Welty, Township Representative

#### **School Boards**

William Kieper, Southern School Board Rep. Alvin Simonson, Northern School Board Rep.

#### Native American Tribal Representative

Lester Morris, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

## **East Central Regional Development Commission Staff**

Roger Ames, Executive Director	rames@ncis.com
Bob Bollenbeck, Transportation Planner	bollenbeck@ncis.com
Dorothy Jones, Finance Officer	rdcfinance@ncis.com
Diane Levitt, Area Agency on Aging Consultant	ecaaa@ncis.com
Scott Marlin, GIS Planner	rdcgis@ncis.com
Mary Minnick-Daniels, Arts Program Manager	ecac@ncis.com
Trish Rydlund, Information/Office Manager	ecrdc@ncis.com
Scott Wadeson, Community/Economic Development Planner	wadesons@ncis.com
Donna Walberg, Area Agency on Aging Consultant	ecaaa@ncis.com

### **ARTIST GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The East Central Arts Council (ECAC) announces the new bi-monthly deadline of the ECAC/McKnight Individual Artist Program. This grant is for artists in the Region wanting to expand their artistry. Grants will be awarded to artists living in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties. ECAC will award a number of artist grants up to \$700 each. The upcoming grant application deadlines are October 1 and December 1, 2000.

Examples of projects qualifying for the Individual Artist Program are:

- " materials and/or services necessary for the completion of a new artistic work;
- " costs involved in presenting artwork such as a visual arts exhibit or portfolio;
- " costs involved in training or mentoring with a renowned professional artist.

Grant applications will be reviewed according to the quality of the artist's work, quality of the proposed project and the artist's resume. Funding for this program is provided by the McKnight Foundation.

#### **ECAC AWARDS ART PROJECT ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

The Board of Directors of the East Central Arts Council (ECAC) and the East Central Regional Development Commission have voted to award a total of \$12,708 to 21 different artists as a part of ECAC's Individual Artist Grant and Scholarship Programs. The funds are appropriated by The McKnight Foundation.

The ECAC Art Project Assistance Grant Program awards financial support to artists within the counties of Chisago. Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine. Items funded include materials and/or services necessary for the completion of a new artistic work; costs involved in presenting artwork such as a visual arts exhibit or portfolio; or costs involved in training or mentoring with a renowned professional artist.

The Individual Artist grants awarded this grant round were:
Debborah Richert, Chisago City \$1,000 Grant Purpose: sculpting supplies and Herman Iron Pour
Jeremy Nudell Kalin, Taylors Falls \$1,000 Grant Purpose: purchase of supplies for glaze project
Roger Nieboer, Mora \$1,000 Grant Purpose: travel - research for new theatrical work
Dawn R. Doering, Lindstrom \$970 Grant Purpose: annual Arabic music retreat
Christine E. Kapp, Taylors Falls \$1,000 Grant Purpose: production of artwork and art show
Paul Epple, Mora \$700 Grant Purpose: purchase of new kiln
Dick Schindeldecker, Mora \$823 Grant Purpose: painting supplies for new work of art
Sandra Achterling Borning, Stanchfield \$500

Grant Purpose: supplies for new work of art

Anthony LeTourneau, Hinckley Grant Purpose: travel to American Society of Artists seminar	\$1,000 Portrait
Robin Stiehm, Sandstone Grant Purpose: travel for choreography	\$577
Erin Harrington, Stacy	\$500
Grant Purpose: harp lessons with Michael Kl	ine
Thelma Olds, Mora	\$500
Grant Purpose: travel to convention of master	r penmen
Charlene Taute, Mora Grant Purpose: painting supplies	\$430
Julie S. Domogalla, Askov Grant Purpose: laptop computer for writing	\$500
Tracy Schindeldecker, Mora	\$500
Grant Purpose: classes with artist Amy Sabri	na .
Dick Schindeldecker, Mora	\$823
Grant Purpose: painting supplies for new wor	rk of art

## Scholarships for Kids

Scholarships for students in grades K - 12th grade are awarded to students interested in pursuing artistic growth. This year's ECAC/McKnight Scholarships were awarded to:

- Michael Defenbaugh, Pine City
   9th grade
   Grant Purpose: Indianhead Arts and Education Center Jazz Ensemble Session
- Rebekah L. Zemek, Pine City \$424
   8th grade
   Grant Purpose: Lutheran Summer Music Camp
- Tom Caza, Grasston \$300
   7th grade
   Grant Purpose: Indianhead Arts and Education Center Jazz Ensemble Session
- Bryan D. Schumann, Pine City \$300
   9th grade
   Grant Purpose: Indianhead Arts and EducationCenter Jazz Ensemble Session
- 5. Courtney Moore, Isanti \$84
  2nd grade
  Grant Purpose: Phipps Center for the Arts
  Class
- 6. Joe Palmer, Isanti \$300 8th grade Grant Purpose: Academy for Film and Television Classes

## ast Central Arts Council Members Sought

If the time is right for you to serve your community and if you have a background or strong interest in the arts this is your chance!

Because a number of term limits are expiring, the East Central Regional Development Commission is seeking representatives living in Chisago, Isanti, Mille Lacs, and Pine counties for the East Central Arts Council (ECAC). The Arts Council serves the five county area of Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs counties.

Primary functions of the ECAC Board members include advocating for the arts, providing direction for ECAC programming, making decisions about grant funding for local art projects and artists, and planning for the arts needs within the Region.

Board members attend ECAC meetings one evening a month. They generally serve a two-year term that is renewable. Members of the Arts Council are reimbursed for expenses such as mileage.

For information on the Artist Grants, Grants Awarded or how to become an Arts Council Board Member contact:

Mary Minnick-Daniels
East Central Arts Council
100 South Park Street
Mora, MN 55051
Or email: ecac@ncis.com
If you would like more information please call 320-679-4065

#### **REGION 7E**

Has your name or address changed? If so, please clip your address label and return.

Thank You!

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## East Central

Regional Development Commission

100 South Park Street P.O. Box 147 Mora, MN 55051

(320) 679-4065 FAX (320) 679-4120

## East Central GIS Services Available



- Mapping updates for county, township, and municipal comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and land use plans.
- Mapping and analysis for local units of government, transit systems, school districts, utility companies, and non-profits.
- General base mapping.
- Digital base mapping.
- GIS training.
- \* Help with GIS startup for local units of government and other organizations.
- \* GIS data acquisition.

If you have questions or ideas about integrating GIS for your organization please contact:

Scott Marlin, GIS Planner East Central GIS 100 Park Street South Mora, MN 55051 Phone: (320) 679-4065

E-mail: rdcgis@ncis.com