SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Fiscal Year 1992

ANNUAL REPORT

"It is the mission of the Southwest Regional Development Commission to address the economic, social, physical, and governmental needs and opportunities of Southwestern Minnesota; while transcending traditional jurisdictional configurations. Further, to apply a regional perspective to problems, allowing for a coordinated effort by local units of government to address the needs of the region's citizenry and the activities of area agencies resulting in the sharing of a regional private and public resources while increasing the efficiency of government in general.

In addition, the Commission shall serve as the mechanism for initiating change in local, regional, State, and Federal policy, programs and regulations translating the region's concerns into a blueprint of action."

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION COMMISSION MEMBERS

	Catalog Kunaran
	Coralee Krueger Cottonwood County Municipalities
1.	James Derickson Cottonwood County Town Boards
*	Marlowe Nelsen Cottonwood County Commissioners
	William Vangsness Jackson County Municipalities
*	Abner Brandt Jackson County Town Boards
*	Milford Gentz, Chairman Jackson County Commissioners
	Brian Williamson Lincoln County Municipalities
	Eloise Hauschild Lincoln County Town Boards
*	Carl Hauschild Lincoln County Commissioners
	Tim Fruin Lyon County Municipalities
	Barb DeBates Lyon County Town Boards
*	Dave Leversedge Lyon County Commissioners
	Mary MagnusMurray County Municipalities
	Leland Priebe Murray County Town Boards
*	Lennen Nelson Murray County Commissioners
*	Ron Bourassa Nobles County Municipalities
	Tom Lubben Nobles County Town Boards
*	Claire Gerber Nobles County Commissioners
	Darwin Madtson Pipestone County Municipalities
	Joseph Stepanek Pipestone County Town Boards
*	Clayton Ihlen, Vice-Chairman Pipestone County Commissioners
	Doug Strand Redwood County Municipalities
	Werner Fischer Redwood County Town Boards
*	Darold Neperman Redwood County Commissioners
	Judy Herman Rock County Municipalities
	Merten Peterson Rock County Town Boards
*	
*	John Feda City of Marshall
	Loren Carlson Region 8 School Boards
	Alvin Gruis Region 8 School Boards
	Jim Veenhuis, Sr Soil & Water Conservation District V
	Jan Jackson Region Eight Minority Representative
	Warren Peters Southwest Center for Independent Living
	Mary Lou Harthun Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council
	many Lou man chair Southwest minimesora in rate madstry country

* Indicates SRDC Board Members

STAFF MEMBERS

Randy Jorgenson	Executive Director
Maddy Forsberg	Aging Program Director
	Economic Development Director
	Physical Development Director
	Community Development Director
	Financial Specialist
Rhonda Wynia	Office Manager
	Financial Officer
Helen Brinks	Grants Manager
	. Admin. Assistant/Public Information Coord.
Janet Schaeffer	Secretary II/Finance Assistant
	Secretary

CHAIRMAN/DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY MILFORD GENTZ AND RANDY JORGENSON

Communities are curious creatures. For years many cities, counties, and townships have maintained a strong sense of independence. However, in recent times that independence has increasingly given way to new forms of neighborliness. At present, most communities have discovered that it often makes sense, dollars and cents, to cooperate in relation to providing for and securing public services.

This cooperation has evolved into a deliberate strategy for lowering per-capita costs of providing public services to constituents or obtaining services for them. Communities have worked out arrangements to share fire fighting and police services, road construction and road maintenance programs. They have cooperated in arrangements for water supplies, waste treatment facilities, and solid waste disposal projects. Some have deliberately planned and managed park and recreational facilities, floodplain areas, and other public resources. While others purchased school and governmental supplies together, gaining market advantages through economies of scale. More recently, communities are joining forces on resource recovery, recycling, and other matters.

Curiously, the cooperation amongst communities for economic development has lagged behind the cooperation of providing other community and public services. The attitudes of competition learned in the marketplace, and possibly in competitive sports, has carried over into attitudes about community/economic development. Many cities, counties, and townships have viewed their neighboring communities as rival competitors in business and industry development. Many have tried to "go it alone" holding the view that any new business attraction, expansion, or creation for economic development must be clear within their own boundary. In its most divisive form, the attitude is expressed as, "if we don't get it here, nobody's going to".

But the economy is changing, and so must the attitudes and actions of a number of communities. More and more communities are finding that harboring old views of competition and acting alone may be a formula for failure. Communities are finding that they must join forces with neighboring communities to achieve economic development gains given the new forms of competition they face. Examples of these efforts include communities supporting county economic development efforts for the good of all and multi-county groups joining together to highlight the potentials of their region. In light of the declining assistance available to local units of government, both in terms of dollars and manpower from the Federal and State level, these activities are needed now more than ever. But these efforts are more than the right thing to do. They are a deliberate means towards the

end of community/economic development. Without a doubt, cooperative efforts are an evolving strategy for economic revitalization. Communities are learning that cooperative approaches to development, job training, and business and industry promotion, yield important area benefits that communities acting alone may fail to achieve. Further, they are finding that cooperative approaches to tax policy, financial packaging, technical assistance, and support for the economic development staff and programs also yields benefits. A broader area encompassed, provides more financial capital, and natural resources, more labor and professional skills, and more consumers, all vital to economic opportunities.

Community leaders, policy makers, and development professionals review these efforts with increasing interest as rural communities face challenging futures. Communities in need and those in crisis seek innovative strategic solutions to a variety of development issues.

Cooperative strategies by southwestern Minnesota communities for community revitalization activities have assumed various forms, and span a wide range of methods and processes. Cooperation among communities in this area may be as limited as joint efforts on one or two projects or it may entail several projects, some ongoing activities, or even a comprehensive integrated program of economic development. Some of these efforts are long standing. Most of them are of a more recent vintage. The number of creative ventures demonstrating multi-community cooperation is increasing.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission involves public officials from different levels of government. They have joined forces to go beyond local infrastructure concerns and have tackled regional problems in relation to development issues. During this last year the Commission has been recognized by two organizations for its efforts nationally and regionally. In July the Commission received recognition from the Mid-America Economic Development Council for its work in relation to the Prairieland Exposition Center. In September the Commission will receive recognition by the National Association of Development Organizations again for the Exposition Center and in addition, for the development of the Southwestern Minnesota Solid Waste Management Task Force. However, these highlighted activities are just a part of the new programs brought to bear by the Region on behalf of local government for the benefit of all area communities, counties, and townships. The coordination of area transportation services on a regional level continues through the Commission. In addition, this past year has seen the development of the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership which was formed by the Directors and Chairmen of three area Community Action Agencies working in conjunction and cooperation with the Regional Development Commission. The Partnership was formed by the participating organizations in response to the critical housing needs being expressed by the communities within the organization service area. These activities are on behalf of and in response to local government concerns and needs. In addition, the Commission has developed working relationship with other governmental service providers to increase efficiency and effectiveness of programs available for the citizens of southwestern Minnesota, one of which is further detailed within this Annual Report.

These programs established and emplaced by the Regional Development Commission staff working under the direction of the Board of Directors and Full Commission indicate a responsive agency meeting the area's needs and providing an example of proper public administration to all. Lastly, we would like to thank you the people, your local elected leaders, and the staff of the Development Commission for all of the work that they have done during FY1992. It is through the efforts of all that together we can accomplish what alone may have been impossible.

Sincerely,

Milford Gentz, SRDC Chairman

Randy Jorgenson, SRDC Director

OPERATIONAL BUDGET

The 1992 Fiscal Year figures shown below are unaudited figures. The latest audit covering 1991 Fiscal Year finances was performed by the State Auditors. No negative findings were reported in that audit.

	FY92	FY93
REVENUES	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Grants and Contracts:		
Minnesota Board on Aging	\$ 92,223	\$ 93,450
Economic Development Administration	50,000	56,000
MN Department of Transportation	27,000	27,000
Small Business Development Center	6,666	13,332
Local Government and Business Contracts	81,278	- 46,460
Tax Levy	185,417	199,000
Interest and Miscellaneous	11,024	8,000
Reserves for Capital Equipment	6,761	19,000
Reserves/Possible Contracts	28,919	54,829
	35335	omitto ne resign
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>\$489,288</u>	<u>\$517,071</u>
EXPENDITURES	# 20 (07	# 20 500
Committee Expenses	\$ 38,687	\$ 38,500
Salaries & Fringe	307,444	326,581
Staff Travel	41,357	36,000
Rent	12,240	12,240
Postage	12,245	13,300
Telephone	9,205	8,800
Printing/Publication	16,227	16,400
Supplies	4,843	5,300
Insurance	4,691	5,550
Depreciation (Non-Car)	7,951	7,798
Audits	8,728	8,000
Computer	6,195	4,500
Aging Workshops	1,925	1,500
Equipment	8,924	22,400
Other	<u>8,626</u>	10,202
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$489,288</u>	<u>\$517,071</u>

NOTE: New budget includes Housing Partnership cost contribution of \$8,000. The amount of \$2,207 was spent in 1992 for May and June.



STATE OF MINNESOTA

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

296-2551

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Commissioners
Southwest Regional Development Commission

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Southwest Regional Development Commission and the combining financial statement as of and for the year ended June 30, 1991, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall 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 the Southwest Regional Development Commission at June 30, 1991, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Also, in our opinion, the combining financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of each individual fund at June 30, 1991, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole and on the combining financial statement. The supplementary information listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Commission. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose and combining financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements of each individual fund taken as alwhole.

MARK B. DAYTON STATE AUDITOR

October 3, 1991

Over the past year the SRDC has been actively performing a wide variety of community development activities. The latitude of activities conducted by the SRDC has steadily been increasing as communities engage in diverse projects. The Southwest Region's communities are made up of people with various individual and collective needs. They are in essence partnerships, both public and private working together to address the needs of their community.

Technical assistance is always available to communities, townships, counties, businesses, and organizations regardless of the size and scope of the project. Regionally-based development issues, concerns and problems are addressed by the SRDC through it's commissioners, director and staff.

A number of community development projects have been embarked upon this year. The types of services offered by the SRDC in the community development area include planning, housing, zoning, land use and grant writing.

The following are a few highlights from the community development projects the SRDC has been involved in during the 1992 fiscal year.

Small Cities Development Program

Applications were prepared and submitted to the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) for three cities. First, Ihlen's grant application requested funds to assist the City in securing a new water source. The existing source was contaminated by radium and nitrates. This application received approximately \$200,000 in DTED funding in February and will be administered by the SRDC. Second, Beaver Creek's application requested funding for a variety of public facilities which included streets and sanitary sewer improvements. Unfortunately, this application did not rank high enough to be funded. Third, the City of Milroy submitted an application to DTED requesting funds for streets, water system improvements, curb and gutter, and storm sewers. Again because of the competitiveness of the DTED program this project was not funded. Staff continued to perform administration and management duties for the Cities of Heron Lake and Ellsworth.

Housing

A number of housing tasks were undertaken this year. These tasks included the preparation of three municipal housing studies for the Cities of Cottonwood, Luverne, and Worthington. In addition, a regional housing model was prepared for the nine county area which outlined the housing needs and priorities for the region. Also, a housing market analysis was conducted for a FmHA project in Marshall. Finally, a series of meetings were held in relation to the formation of a multi-

community bond pool. This bond pool would utilize "Essential Function" bonds to build multi-family housing units throughout the region.

Land Use and Zoning

Three major land use planning projects were completed in this area. Staff worked with the City of Pipestone in preparing a Comprehensive Plan, which will guide the future development of the community. A Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance were written for the City of Jasper. A multi-jurisdictional land use plan was written and facilitated by the SRDC in the Redwood Area. This land use planning process was designed to work through annexation issues and problems. Finally, a Feedlot Ordinance was drafted for Redwood County.

FmHA Projects

The SRDC staff assisted communities with writing pre-applications and assisted in preparing Stages I and II of FmHA applications. A contract to administer the City of Morgan's water tower project was received. In addition, SRDC staff also performed inter-governmental reviews for numerous FmHA projects.

General Technical Assistance

The tornados in Chandler and Lake Wilson created a need for technical assistance in the areas of damage assessment and general assistance. Staff also authored a Rural Rehabilitation Pilot Project grant application. This project focused on agriculture, specific areas included alternative crops, conservation tillage methods, and a regional livestock study. Two grant applications were written and submitted to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and the Department of Human Services. A locational study was authored for a community to be used for the recruitment of a manufacturing business. The SRDC is active in supporting the Lewis and Clark Rural Water Project which encompasses three states.

The SRDC continues to work in many areas to provide assistance and work as an intermediary between the public and private sectors on a local, state, and federal level. The coordination and cooperation of the various governmental offices and the SRDC are vital to the successful completion of our objectives within the Region.

SRDC LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE		
Barb DeBates	Lyon Count	
Tim Fruin	Lyon Count	
Coralee Krueger	Cottonwood Count	
Jim Lewis, Committee Chairman	Rock Count	
Tom Lubben	Nobles Count	
Darwin Madtson	Pipestone Count	
Leland Priebe		
Doug Strand	Redwood Count	
William Vangsness		
Brian Williamson	Lincoln Coun	

In June of 1991 the Commission completed a legislatively mandated study which required the organization to evaluate its services and performance for the five year period prior to the data of publication. The SRDC determined that to achieve an accurate analysis, a systematic sample of the survey population occur and the results be inferenced from the findings to the region.

The results indicated that the Commission is performing in an exemplarily fashion, serving the public interests for the public good. Overall, ninety percent (90%) of the respondents indicated that the Southwest Regional Development Commission was an essential function of government. We conducted the survey blind questioning non-RDC elected officials and as a follow-up determined we should ask our own Commissioners similar questions. The following excerpts are from those interviews:

QUESTION: How useful is the RDC to local governments?

<u>City of Marshall, Mayor John Feda</u>: "It provides coordination for the Federal and State dollars that are being spent in our region, and there is a lot of merit in the fact that may be looked at from the regional level rather than from individual municipality or county. I personally think the Regional Development Commission has done it very well."

Lyon County Commissioner, Fred Worden: "I think it is very important. I agree with John on the complex Federal and State rules, regulations, funding, and so forth. It is very helpful that somebody keeps track of the activity and changes in laws and rules that exist and keeps on top of what is going on and responds to questions as they come up from the different levels of government in the region."

Murray County Commissioner, Lennen Nelson: "Very useful to Counties as an information resource, contract for planning, and money stays in the region instead of out of the region and state. The RDC is a resource information center for County Commissioners. There is also an indirect benefit to townships because of the benefit to County."

<u>Countryside Council Representative, Karen Tommeraasen</u>: "Very essential in assisting with things that need to be obtained, i.e. grants, data, resources."

Murray County Municipalities, Mary Magnus: "The City of Fulda uses the resources of the RDC continuously."

Nobles County Commissioner, Claire Gerber: "The RDC is as useful as local governments use it. The local units of government must make use of the RDC. As a County, we use the RDC a great deal for such things as solid waste and water plans."

Nobles County Town Boards Representative, Tom Lubben: "I feel it is useful to cities and counties."

Nobles County Municipalities, Ron Bourassa: "The RDC has a place and has helped smaller communities tremendously. The RDC has done great things in trying to bring about Prairie Expo."

QUESTION: What are the strengths of the RDC?

Lyon County Commissioner Worden and Marshall Mayor Feda: "Strengths are coordination of the use of public funds and cost savings to the taxpayers. Weaknesses are too many bases to cover."

(continued)

Murray County Commissioner, Lennen Nelson: "The RDC brings County Commissioners together much more often to discuss situations in Counties, through the SRDC Committees, Board of Directors meetings, and Task Force meetings. They also coordinate regional efforts of the Counties in areas such as solid waste."

Countryside Council Representative, Karen Tommeraasen: The RDC staff and programs are diverse, and cover so many areas of expertise. Broad representation of Commissioners and the public."

Murray County Town Boards Representative, Leland Priebe: "Highly trained and skilled staff who make extra efforts to go out of the way to help."

<u>Murray County Municipalities, Mary Magnus</u>: "Resources. Availability to many resources and technical assistance in surveys. planning, zoning, economic development, community development, housing, aging, and environmental areas."

Nobles County Commissioner, Claire Gerber: "A strength is that it gives us that word "Region" on a state level. As much as we would like to think, no individual county or city is independent. Looking at our Southwest Region, jointly we will need to be focused and understand that it is a must. On the weakness side, in the past there has not been a heavy emphasis on legislative group. This should be one of our keys. Counties have to be regionally-minded which will give them more bang for their buck."

Nobles County Municipalities, Ron Bourassa: "The Development Commission may try to be involved in too many things. Doing too much can spread yourself too thin, but it's hard to be critical of people for trying to do too much."

Nobles County Town Boards Representative, Tom Lubben: "The strength of the Development Commission is in the areas of solid waste, transportation, and aging."

The role of the Southwest Area Agency on Aging is to plan, coordinate and advocate for the development of a system of services that will meet the needs of older persons. The Area Agency is available to communities and agencies to explore and assess the needs of the agency and the older person, to evaluate and assist in expanding or developing programs.

The Minnesota Board on Aging has designated the Southwest Regional Development Commission as the administrative agency and governing body for the Area Agency on Aging in southwest Minnesota.

An advisory council representing all nine counties assists the Area Agency in making recommendations to the SRDC. The advisory committee is charged with the development of the Area Plan, recommending expenditure of funds for administration of the Area Plan and awarding funds for services to the elderly.

SOUTHWEST AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS		
Harvey Scholten		
Erma Schubbe	Rock County	
Mary Snobl	Minority	
Mae Ambrose, Chairperson	Jackson County	
Rueben Bollesen	Lincoln County	
Vernon Grinde, AARP		
Joseph H. Clercx	Pipestone County	
Everett Collin	Cottonwood County	
Pat Doherty		
Marie Haberman	Jackson County	
Clayton Ihlen, Pipestone Co. Commissioner	SRDC	
Don Delaney		
John Maurer, Ex-Chairperson		
Alice Bjerrum	Murray County	
Doris Oaklund		
Kathie Haynes, Ex-Officio		
Dorothy Reker, Ex-Officio	SW MN Opportunity Council	

In the SRDC 1992 Fiscal Year, the Southwest Area Agency on Aging awarded grants totaling \$673,997 for services to the elderly. Grants were awarded under four categories: Title IIIB, supportive services grants, IIIC Congregate Nutrition IIIC2-Home Delivered Meals and IIID-Frail Elderly services. Distribution of these funds are recommended by priority services, which are determined by needs assessments.

TITLE III-B GRANTS AWARDED

SENIOR CENTERS:	City	Date Awarded	Amount	
dan pordinate and will meet the perds of thes and agencies to	Hendricks Minnesota Lamberton Lakefield	July 1, 1991 August 1, 1991 April 1, 1992 April 15, 1992	\$ 16,000 18,720 25,000 3,721	
LEGAL SERVICES:				
	SMRLS	January 1, 1992	\$ 26,410	
TRANSPORTATION:				
	WESCAP Murray County Pipestone County	January 1, 1992 January 1, 1992 Janaury 1, 1992	\$ 41,490 6,510 9,969	
COORDINATOR			use jiiiishm	
ON AGING:	Murray County Nobles County	January 1, 1992 January 1,1992	\$ 3,500 11,000	
HOME HEALTH				
AIDE:	Cottonwood, Jackson CHS	S January 1, 1992	\$ 14,946	
	Lincoln, Lyon, Murray Pipestone CHS	January 1, 1992	11,259	
ADULT DAY CARE:				
	Habilitative Services	January 1, 1992	\$ <u>17,500</u>	
Total Title III-B Awards			\$206,025	
III C CC	ANGREGAME AN IMPRIMAN	CDANIES AND DED		
	NGREGATE NUTRITION	GRANIS AWARDED		
WESCAP:	Federal Funds State Funds	January 1, 1992 January 1, 1992	\$266,466 98,085	
Total III-C Awards			\$364,551	
III-B HO	OME DELIVERED MEALS	G GRANTS AWARDED		
WESCAP:				
WESCHI.	Federal Funds State Funds	January 1, 1992 January 1, 1992	\$ 86,855 9,935	
Total III-B Awards			\$ 96,790	
TITLE III-D FRAIL & ELDERLY GRANTS AWARDED				
LINCOLN, LYON, MU	RRAY &			
PIPESTONE CHS:	Home Health Aide	January 1, 1992	\$6,631	

Marketing

The Area Agency on Aging assisted in the development of a marketing grant to help the Area Agency on Aging's in Regions 8, 6E & 6W promote what services are available for the elderly in their regions. Materials were developed in conjunction with promotion of the Senior Linkage Line. Pamphlets, brochures and newsreleases were used to encourage seniors and their families to call the Toll Free Number 1-800-333-2433. The AAA maintains an updated directory of local organizations and service providers for senior services. Every day the AAA assists folks in finding help with household, health concerns, abusive systems, housing, transportation and hundreds of other concerns.

Senior Leadership

The SWAAA continued to work towards strengthening leadership on the senior population. Success's were the assistance in developing a Jackson County Council on Aging, strengthening Redwood County Council with expansion of programs, supporting efforts in Nobles County and participating in meetings of their county councils. County councils are the link between National, State, and Regional issues to the local senior center. Ideas are shared to promote community activities and impact the region's programs.

Human Development

The Human Development Committee was a new committee designated by the SRDC to address issues relating to the diverse needs of the population at large. The issues to be addressed were established at the initial meeting as the aging regulation, health care, and coordination of human services. A work plan was established for 1993 to be incorporated into the overall work program of the SRDC.

SRDC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		
Barb DeBates		
Werner Fischer	Redwood County	
Al Gruis	Nobles County	
Carl Hauschild, Committee Chairman	Lincoln County	
Clayton Ihlen		
Janice Jackson	Lyon County	
Coralee Krueger	Cottonwood County	
Tom Lubben	Nobles County	
Mary Magnus	Murray County	
Merten Petersen		
William Vangsness		

A COORDINATED CONNECTION

As the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is actively involved in economic development throughout the region. A critical part of this process is to work to deliver a coordinated effort among service agents in Southwest Minnesota.

During 1992, the Southwest Regional Development Commission embarked on a new effort that has bridged two very important programs together. The SRDC and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) out of Marshall have entered into a cooperative agreement to hire a person to work within the two organizations expanding the way in which business needs are met in SW Minnesota. This Finance Specialist will work with business from start to finish.

Never before tried, this partnership will offer other agencies a demonstration of how working together we can be of greater service to the constituents.

When a project is brought forward by a community or an individual business service is provided. Some typical activities can include: business plans, financial packaging in numerous programs, and directed referral and assistance in marketing and technical information. Business ventures can be start-up companies to existing companies working to expand or survive.

Prior to this cooperative agreement all of these services were provided but often activities between agencies were more difficult. This Coordinated Connection will make economic developments assistance more user friendly and provide the business needs to Southwest Minnesota.

CENSUS INFORMATION

The Southwest Regional Development Commission, as a regional census data center, has been receiving numerous requests from cities, counties, townships, and interested individuals on 1990 census data results and release dates. The data which is presently in the hands of the Regional Development Commission relates to basic population and housing figures. Many of the requests received at our office need more indepth analysis of population, housing, race, income, social and economics.

The information that local units of government are most interested in are the Summary Tape Files or STF's. STF 1 and STF 2 contain population and housing data.

STF 3 will include sample population and housing characteristics. STF 4 will contain housing and population subject data with more crosstabs comparing this data.

For more information please call the Southwest Regional Development Commission (507) 836-8547.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) has been designated an EDA Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce since November 21, 1985 and is committed to working within the nine counties to help improve the economy. Annually, the SRDC prepares a work program from which the commissioners and staff can focus their attention on specific areas. The economic development program has remained stable over the past few years and the public awareness of what the SRDC can do for business and industry has grown significantly. As part of the annual work program the SRDC implements the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) to reinforce the planning process and priority setting for the region's activities. While the economic development program area is involved with many projects too numerous to mention, below are some of the highlights of what was accomplished over the course of the last year.

- Organized and sponsored quarterly meetings of the Southwest Minnesota Economic Development Professionals. This organization brings together individuals from the region involved in development on a day-to-day basis to discuss common issues and concerns and then to work toward common solutions to these problems.
- Under the community cooperative program we provide specialized, concentrated planning services to meet the needs of communities who cannot afford to employ a full-time planner. This gives communities the advantage they need to take their ideas beyond the discussion stage to the planning and implementation stages. During the past year we have provided economic development expertise to the Cottonwood County Seed Capital Fund, the Westbrook Economic Development Authority, the Lakefield Economic Development Authority, the Prairie Expo Board, in addition to Murray County and Jackson County.
- The RDC provided professional staff services to the Prairieland Economic Development Corporation (PEDC), an SBA certified development company. We packaged, processed, closed, and serviced all 504 loans completed in this region. Organized and staffed the Corporation's Board of Directors meetings. During the year two 504 loans were closed and sold on the secondary market. Also, PEDC just received approval by SBA for an expansion of their area of operations. The service area of Prairieland Economic Development Corporation is now 14 counties in southwest Minnesota.

- Working in conjunction with the Expo Board we continue to further develop the Prairie Expo project. The purpose of this project is to tap the economic pipeline of Interstate-90 by accessing the 25,000 travelers who pass through this corridor daily. This past year much has been accomplished ultimately leading toward the
- construction of this project. Work related to a Southwest Minnesota Initiative Fund grant for the completion of the preliminary architectural design stage was finalized. This included architectural drawings, a table-top model, and an architectural concept brochure. Also, additional financial support was secured in the 1992 bonding bill. We thank our local legislators for their efforts in obtaining this necessary funding.
- Applications under the Economic Recovery Loan Program of the Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development were authored, submitted, and approved on behalf of the City of Westbrook and the City of Mountain Lake. The City of Westbrook was assisting a manufacturing facility with an expansion and the City of Mountain Lake was assisting a business who desired to purchase the vacated Land O' Lakes facility.
- When projects for funding are approved by the Department of Trade and Economic Development, the SRDC will assist these communities with the administration of these projects. This past year we have completed administration for projects in the cities of Tyler and Westbrook.
- As a regional census data center we process numerous census requests to various local units of government, private business, and individuals.
- This year we entered into a cooperative agreement with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) of Marshall. This agreement will allow the SRDC and the SBDC to work together to provide the area with business plan development, financial packaging, and general planning services. This sharing of resources increases the efficiency of both agencies while holding the cost of services to those we serve to a minimum.
- Completed a 101P (pre-application) and a 101A (final application) for \$1,000,000 in grant funds to assist the City of Windom with the upgrade of their wastewater treatment facilities.
- Provided direct technical assistance to local government, community organizations, development corporations, and private businesses in order to retain and create employment opportunities.

SRDC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ron Bourassa, Committee Chairman	Nobles County
Loren Carlson	
James Derickson	Cottonwood County
John Feda	Lyon County
Werner Fischer	
Tim Fruin	Lyon County
Judy Herman	
Darwin Madtson	Pipestone County
Lennen Nelson	Murray County
Merten Petersen	
Brian Williamson	Lincoln County

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PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 1992 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 75 projects from within the Region to avoid duplication and insure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a complete listing of the project reviews for FY'92 please contact the SRDC Office.

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SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

The following article was derived from the publication <u>Housing Minnesota/Summer</u> 1992 and was written by Steve Share.

Four agencies join to form new regional housing initiative, organize the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership

Four agencies in southwestern Minnesota have joined forces to form the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership to promote development of affordable housing.

The agencies include the Southwest Regional Development Commission (Slayton) and three community action agencies: Western Community Action Agency (Marshall), Prairie Five Community Action Council (Montevideo), and the Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council (Worthington).

The new Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership formalizes relationships nurtured by regional networking activities initiated two years ago by the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

The Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership also formalizes a growing interest in regional needs for affordable housing, needs becoming ever more apparent to the sponsoring agencies.

For the Southwest Regional Development Commission, lack of housing had become a barrier to regional economic development efforts.

For the Region's community action agencies, lack of affordable housing figured increasingly as a factor in program obstacles and client needs.

And for those individuals and agencies participating in the discussions of the Southwest Region Housing Network during two years of networking activities, the time was ripe to move beyond networking to form an organization to produce housing.

"Our role was to play the facilitator, to get the right people together," said Mila Quiring, who coordinated the Southwest Region Housing Network for Western Community Action, the sponsoring agency.

One of the "right people" to get together was Randy Jorgenson, director of the Southwest Regional Development Commission (RDC).

Jorgenson said he had come to believe that "housing is one of the most paramount issues for local government in Southwest Minnesota." Lack of housing, he said was frustrating the commission's economic development efforts. He related problems faced by businesses who wanted to add 200-300 employees but found they couldn't because of housing shortages.

Jorgenson said he had been looking around to identify a successful model for regional housing development. He settled on Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC), a community action agency which has assisted housing development efforts in nine counties in South Central Minnesota. MVAC has worked with local county governments to form a multi-county housing and redevelopment authority to seek funds for housing development from state and federal agencies.

Jorgenson, however, realized he could progress more quickly in his region by cooperating with the region's community action programs (CAPs) to develop a regional housing initiative.

CAPS: Looking at housing

CAPs in southwestern Minnesota, and throughout the state, are beginning to look to expanded involvement in housing production to meet local needs for affordable housing.

Most CAPs in Minnesota formed in the mid 1960s to administer federal anti-poverty programs. CAP activity in housing traditionally has consisted of activities such as home weatherization and participation in some housing rehabilitation programs. Some CAPs also administer housing subsidy programs, such as the federal Section 8 program, where individuals with a Section 8 voucher receive assistance to pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent. In addition, some CAPs provide referrals for emergency shelter and tap the Federal Emergency Community Services Homeless Grant Program to provide assistance to homeless people. CAPs also are beginning to participate in "self-sufficiency" programs related to subsidized housing programs.

But few CAPs in the state have developed expertise in housing development.

From network to partnership

Such was the case in southwest Minnesota, where CAPs had been meeting to discuss concerns about housing, but hadn't determined what to do. The CAPs were brought together, in part, by the activities of the Southwest Region Housing Network Project, one of seven regional housing networks across the state organized by the Minnesota Housing Partnership with the support of the Northwest Area Foundation.

A February, 1992 meeting hosted by the Southwest Region Housing Network Project brought representatives of the RDC and area CAPs together to learn more about MVAC's successful work in regional housing development. In the following weeks, the four agencies now sponsoring the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership firmed up plans for a cooperative venture.

The Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership officially incorporated June 3, 1992.

The RDC's Jorgenson said the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership initially incorporated as a temporary Minnesota nonprofit whose board will include the director and president of each of the four sponsoring agencies.

After a two year start-up period, however, the corporation will dissolve and a new nonprofit corporation will be created, directed by representatives from the 14 counties in the region.

Jorgenson explained his view that CAPs, which will be providing services to housing programs that will be developed, would have a conflict of interest if they remained directors of an organization that functioned as a housing developer and owner.

Ownership, Jorgenson believes, "should be vested in public government."

Jorgenson sees the new Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership creating two multi-county housing and redevelopment authorities "to serve areas not served" by existing housing and redevelopment authorities (HRAs).

The 26 HRAs in the Region, Jorgenson said, were created primarily to facilitate economic development. "They weren't created to help with housing."

Jorgenson anticipates that the HRAs might dissolve, reforming as Economic Development Authorities, and leaving housing development to the new multi-county HRAs developed by the new Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Experienced director hired

The new Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership has tapped Rick Goodemann of MVAC as executive director. In doing so, the new venture gets a jumpstart from Goodemann's twelve-plus years of housing development experience at MVAC. As community development coordinator at MVAC, Goodemann developed a statewide reputation for his work. He also served as coordinator for the South Central region for the Minnesota Housing Partnership's Regional Network Project.

Through the Network Project, Goodemann made connections with agencies in Southwestern Minnesota and began consulting on specific projects. He also helped outline how the agencies in the region could cooperate and together pursue a regional housing development strategy.

Goodemann began work May 18 for the Southwest Partnership. He will work primarily out of the Regional Development Commission office at Slayton. He said he also will maintain an office at each of the sponsoring community action agencies, in Worthington, Marshall and Montevideo.

Goodemann sees the new Southwest Partnership preparing a Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy and taking on some of the following activities: housing rehabilitation, new multi-family housing (market rate and low and moderate income), rental rehabilitation, home-ownership initiatives, and other development activities. He expects to be active in pursuing funding from the Small Cities Development Program and other funding sources.

The CAPs sponsoring the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership are excited about their new venture and thrilled to have Goodemann on board.

"This is unique and new to Southwest Minnesota," said Carol Moseng, executive director of Western Community Action, which serves Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Cottonwood and Jackson counties. Her agency began to get more involved in housing two years ago by agreeing to sponsor the Minnesota Housing Partnership's Southwest Region Network. The agency had been looking at becoming further involved and undertaking a gradual training and learning process. Now, Moseng said, "we don't need to take a year or two or three."

"Turf" issues and cooperation

Sponsors of the new Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership see some obstacles, including "turf" issues between established agencies.

"That's normal," said John Hubred, executive director of Prairie Five Community Action Council, operating in Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac Qui Parle, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties. "I think we can cooperate," he stressed, "it's our only alternative." The key thing to remember Hubred said, is "we need to get money in here to get our housing stock up."

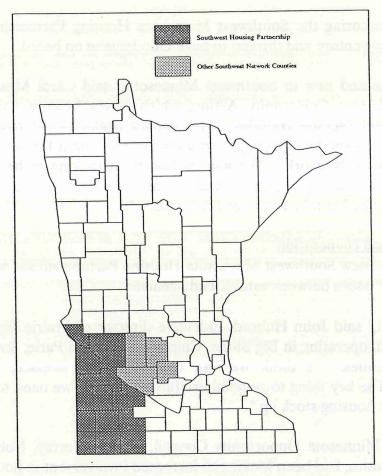
Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council, serving Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock Counties, had been looking at increased involvement in housing "for quite a while," said Marty Rickers, executive director. "The problem is we've never had a housing person with the expertise."

"Individually, none of us could afford a fulltime person to work on housing," Rickers said. "We're real fortunate we were able to hire Rick Goodemann.

Each of the four agencies sponsoring the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership will be contributing \$8,000 annually to the Southwest Partnership for its first two years.

For assuming the responsibilities of the Southwest Region Housing Network Project, the new organization also will receive \$11,000 from the Minnesota Housing Partnership for its first year.

For more information, contact Rick Goodemann, Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, 2524 Broadway Avenue, P.O. Box 265, Slayton, Minnesota 56172. Phone: (507) 836-8547.



Map shows counties served by Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership.

REGIONWIDE IMPACTS

- Awarded 13 Rural Rehabilitation Program Grants for Alternative Crops and Conservation Tillage.
- Authored a Regional Livestock Survey regarding Production.
- Sought Legislative Support for Lewis & Clark and Authored Minnesota Project Description.
- Prepared Waste Education Material to be Used for Public Education on Recycling in 1993.
- Provided Transportation Coordination.
- Coordinated, Facilitated, Assisted with Meetings for the Southwest Regional Solid Waste Task Force, Regional Transit Coordinators, Solid Waste Administrators, Mn/DOT, DTED, MARDO, MN Transportation Alliance, Economic Development Professionals, and Area Legislators.
- Conducted Survey for the Southwest Minnesota Highway Improvement Association in relation to prevailing wage rates.
- Created Southwestern Minnesota Housing Partnership.
- Secured Legislative Appropriation for Prairie Expo Center.
- Authored and Received a Southwest Minnesota Initiative Fund Grant to Conduct Architectural Design for the Prairie Expo Center Project.
- Authored FY 93 Economic Development Administration Planning Grant Application for the Department of Commerce and Implement Overall Economic Development Program.
- Assisted Travel Southwest Minnesota to Promote Regional Tourism.
- As Regional Data Center provided Census Information to Local Units of Government.
- Staffed Prairieland Economic Development Corporation.
- Sponsored Regional Conference on Aging.
- Conducted a Senior Legislative Issues Forum.
- Continued with the Development of an Aging Trust Fund.
- Compiled a Film Library for Regional Senior Organizations.
- Conducted Senior Leadership Trainings.
- Funded Legal Services Region Wide.
- Started Linkage An Information and Access Line for Senior Citizens.
- Conducted a Region Wide Needs Assessment on Senior Issues.

There are two program areas within the Physical Resource Development Program: Transportation and Land Management. The following provides a brief description of each program for Fiscal Year 1992.

Transportation

The SRDC has a working partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Through this partnership, MnDOT provides financial and technical assistance to the SRDC. In turn, the SRDC provides technical assistance to the local units of government in the Region and assists the state with studies and reports mandated by both the state and federal government.

The SRDC has an eleven member Transportation Advisory Committee whose make-up consists of at least one Representative from each County. In addition, all County Engineers serve as advisors to the Committee.

The Committee met on five occasions during FY 1992, and discussed or recommended action on the following topics: 1992 - 1997 Highway Programs; Identification and submittal of Candidate Road Projects in the Region; the region's Aeronautics Plan; action on Federal and State Legislation; development of the SRDC Legislative Agenda; conduct of Highway Accessibility Study; distribution of 1990 Average Daily Traffic Count Map; development of SRDC Transportation Policies and Goals; development of 1993 Transportation Work Program; Road Restriction Map; Prevailing Wage rate impacts; identification of Historical Bridges in the region; State Maintenance Reduction impact; review of Section 16 (b)(2) Applications; attendance at the Northstar Workshop; beginning to develop the region's Functional Classification Study; Overall Economic Development Plan; 1992 Proposed Construction in the Region; and the impact of Federal Surface Transportation Act.

The Transportation Program also coordinated with the Southwest Area Agency on Aging in the area of Transit. By working together, the SRDC and the SWAAA has accomplished the following: technical assistance to Transportation Coordination Projects (Section 18) through regional meetings with the County Transit Coordinators to further regional coordination, testimony to the Senate Transportation Committee, and a Regional Transit Provider Brochure update.

In addition, the SRDC provided technical assistance to Section 18 and Section 16 (b)(2) grant applicants; reviewed four Section 16 (b)(2) applications and eight Section 18 applications; and served on the statewide Section 16 (b)(2) Review Committee.

Current and emerging transportation issues, problems and concerns include the following: the need for transit and its coordination in rural areas, relaxing restrictions regarding use of public transit vehicles when crossing state lines, continued funding assistance for transit systems; deterioration and maintenance of roads, bridges, and rail lines; stable sources of transportation funding; use of ethanol as an alternative fuel; and Economic Development and it relation to the road networks; redistricting; coordination of transportation activities with bordering states; upgrade of regional rail lines; and the distribution of Federal transportation funds.

SRDC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE			
Loren Carlson, Committee Chairman			
Barb DeBates	Lyon County		
John Feda	Lyon_County		
Claire Gerber	Nobles County		
Eloise Hauschild	Lincoln County		
Jim Lewis			
Marlowe Nelsen	Cottonwood County		
Lennen Nelson	Murray County		
Darold Neperman	Redwood County		
Merten Petersen	Rock County		
Joseph Stepanek	Pipestone County		

Land Management

The Land Management work area was restructured during 1992 to combine the Land Use and Environmental Committees into a Land Management Committee. The objective of this work area is to assist local units of government in physical resource planning with regards to environmental issues, growth management policies, and comprehensive planning.

Over the past year, the SRDC has accomplished the following: continued staff and technical assistance to the Southwest Regional Solid Waste Task Force and the Southwest Solid Waste Administrators; authored draft floodplain and/or shoreland ordinance revisions for the Cities of Lake Benton, Windom, Cottonwood, Hendricks, and the Counties of Redwood, Lincoln, and Lyon; completed the County Solid Waste Management Plans for Nobles, Pipestone and Murray Counties; and began authoring of a Solid Waste Management Ordinance for Lincoln County. In addition to these major projects, responses to numerous technical assistance requests were completed.

Other planning and zoning activities that were accomplished in FY 1992 were conducted through the Community Development work area.

SRDC LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ron Bourassa	Nobles County
Abner Brandt	Jackson County
James Derickson	Cottonwood County
Carl Hauschild, Committee Chairman	Lincoln County
Coralee Krueger	Cottonwood County
Dave Leversedge	Lyon County
Jim Lewis	
Darold Neperman	Redwood County
Joe Stepanek	Pipestone County
James Veenhuis, Sr.	

AREA LEGISLATORS

SE	ENA	TO	RS

Senator David J. Frederickson, Murdock	District 20
Senator Dennis R. Frederickson, New Ulm	District 23
Senator Gary DeCramer, Ghent	District 27
Senator Jim Vickerman, Tracy	District 28

REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Ray Welker, Montevideo	District 20B
Representative Steve Sviggum, Kenyon	
Representative James Girard, Lynd	District 27A
Representative Andy Steensma, Luverne	
Representative Ted Winter, Fulda	
Representative Katy Olson, Sherburn	District 28B

SRDC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Jackson County
Lincoln County
Rock County
Aging Advisory Council, Pipestone County
Lyon County
Lyon County
Murray County
Redwood County