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Randy L. Jorgenson, AICP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Attached to this correspondence you will find a description of the services provided by the Southwest Regional Development Commission. Many of you have used these services in the past and benefited as a result. The Commission staff stands ready to assist you in meeting your future needs and hopes you find these descriptions useful. Also, you will find a copy of the Commission's Fiscal Year 1998 Annual Report which highlights some of the accomplishments of the staff of this organization during the course of last twelve months. As you can see, the accomplishments are many.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Commissioners for the leadership they have provided this organization through the course of this past year and to the staff for their dedication and devotion.

On behalf of the Southwest Regional Development Commission,

Marlowe D. Nelsen, Chairman

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Southwest Regional Development Commission



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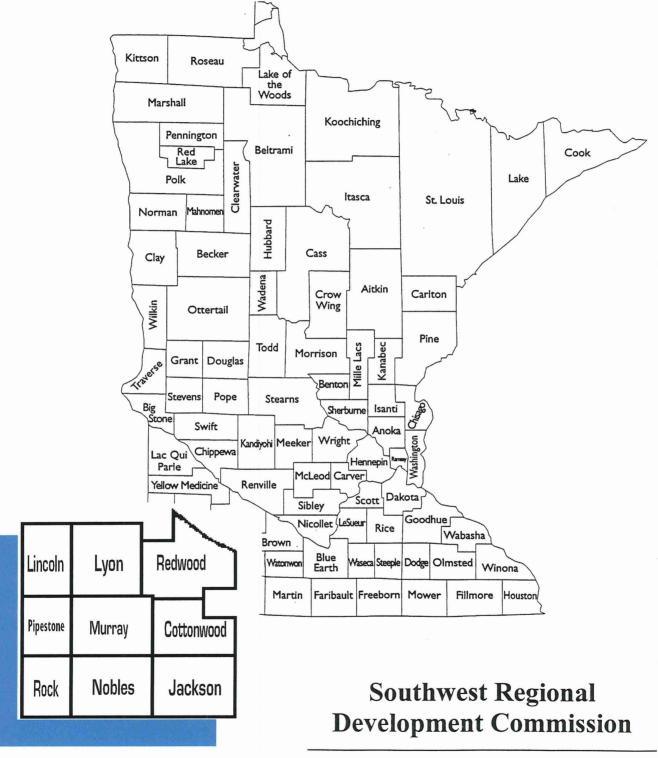
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Service Area



2401 Broadway Avenue Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172-1142

Phone (507) 836-8547 / FAX (507) 836-8866

Local Governments Served

CITIES IN REGION 8

Cottonwood County

Bingham Lake Comfrey Jeffers Mountain Lake Storden Westbrook Windom

Jackson County

Alpha Heron Lake Jackson Lakefield Okabena Wilder

Lincoln County

Arco Hendricks Ivanhoe Lake Benton Tyler

Lyon County

Balaton Cottonwood Florence Garvin Ghent Lynd Marshall Minneota Russell Taunton Tracy

Murray County

Avoca Chandler Currie Dovray Fulda Hadley Iona Lake Wilson Slayton

Nobles County

Adrian
Bigelow
Brewster
Dundee
Ellsworth
Kinbrae
Lismore
Round Lake
Rushmore
Wilmont
Worthington

Pipestone County

Edgerton
Hatfield
Holland
Ihlen
Jasper
Pipestone
Ruthton
Trosky
Woodstock

Redwood County

Belview

Clements
Delhi
Lamberton
Lucan
Milroy
Morgan
North Redwood
Redwood Falls
Revere
Sanborn
Seaforth
Vesta
Wabasso
Walnut Grove
Wanda

Rock County

Beaver Creek Hardwick Hills Kenneth Luverne Magnolia Steen

Southwest Regional Development Commission

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Local Governments Served

TOWNSHIPS IN REGION 8

Cottonwood County

Amboy Amo Ann Carson Dale Delton Germantown Great Bend Highwater

Mountain Lake

Lakeside

Midway

Rosehill Selma Southbrook Springfield Storden Westbrook

Jackson County

Alba Belmont Christiania Delafield Des Moines Enterprise Ewington Heron Lake Hunter Kimball LaCrosse Middletown Minneota Petersburg Rost

West Heron Lake Wisconsin

Weimer

Round Lake

Sioux Valley

Lincoln County

Alta Vista Ash Lake Diamond Lake Drammen Hansonville Hendricks (continued)

Lincoln County

(continued) Hope Lake Benton Lake Stav Limestone Marble Marshfield Roval Shaokatan Verdi

Lyon County

Amiret Clifton Coon Creek Custer Eidsvold Fairview Grandview Island Lake Lake Marshall

Lucas Lynd Lyons Monroe Nordland Rock Lake Shelburne Sodus Stanley Vallers Westerheim

Murray County

Belfast Bondin Cameron Chanarambie Des Moines River Dovray Ellsborough Fenton Holly Iona Lake Sarah Leeds

Lime Lake.

Lowville

(continued)

Murray County

(continued) Mason Moulton Murray Shetek Skandia Slavton

Nobles County

Bigelow Bloom Dewald Elk Graham Lake

Grand Prairie Hersey Indian Lake Larking Leota Lismore Little Rock Lorain Olney Ransom Seward Summit Lake Westside

Pipestone County

Worthington

Wilmont

Aetna

Altona Burke Eden Elmer Fountain Prairie Grange Gray Osborne Rock Sweet Troy

Redwood County

Brookville Charleston Delhi Gales Granite Honner Johnsonville Kintire Lamberton Morgan New Avon North Hero Paxton Redwood Falls Sheridan

Sherman Springdale Sundown Swedes Forest Three Lakes Underwood Vail Vesta Waterbury Westline

Rock County

Willow Lake

Battle Plain Beaver Creek Clinton Denver Kanaranzi Luverne Magnolia Martin Mound Rose Dell Springwater Vienna

Southwest Regional **Development Commission**

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Solid Waste

- The Southwest Solid Waste Commission was awarded a grant for \$11,230 by the Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance (OEA) to conduct the Municipal Coordination Project. The SRDC provides principal staffing to the project. The project will work to build communication between counties and cities as it relates to solid waste management.
- The SRDC provided support to the District 8 Solid Waste Administrators.
- The SRDC participated in the OEA's Prevention, Reduction, and Recycling Advisory Committee.
- SRDC staff prepared County Solid Waste Plans for Pipestone and Lincoln counties.
- Assistance was provided to the Solid Waste Commission on significant legislative issues, including increasing financial assurance obligations at landfills and applying the solid waste excise tax to farmers and residential self-haulers at the residential rate.

Solid Waste

The Southwest Regional Development Commission provides staff support to the Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission who's goal is to foster an integrated approach to solid waste management in the region and to follow the order and preference of waste management stategies identified in the Minnesota Waste Management Act which are:

- 1. Reduce and Reuse
- 2. Recycle
- 3. Compost Organics
- 4. Resource Recovery
- 5. Landfilling

Staff support to the Solid Waste Commission includes correspondence, grant writing administration, and substansive planning through study, plan, and solid waste ordinance development.

The Commission coordinates regional efforts to encourage conservation of resources.

Infrastructure

- Technical assistance for infrastructure improvements provided to Trosky, Woodstock, Iona, Lake Wilson, Bigelow, Delft, Seaforth, Revere, Delhi, Okabena, and Hardwick. The communities received grant and loan information on a variety of programs which include the Minnesota Trade and Economic Development Small Cities Development Program, Rural Development Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program, Public Facilities authority Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program and Public Facilities Authority Wastewater Loan Program.
- Staff provided technical assistance on disaster relief programs resulting from the devastating 1998 tornadoes to Cottonwood County and Nobles County residents.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Lakes Area Sewer and Water District which is part of the Lake Shetek Watershed District.
- A sewer district request was made to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of the Leota Sewer District.

Infrastructure

The Southwest Regional Development Commission works with communities to identify their infrastructure needs and funding sources to satisfy those needs. Examples of community development public facilities projects include:

- ♦ Water treatment.
- ♦ Water storage.
- ♦ Water distribution.
- · Sewer collection.
- ♦ Sewer treatment.
- ♦ Individual sewer systems.
- ♦ Storm sewers.
- ♦ Streets.
- ♦ Fire halls.

Development Services

WIND ENERGY PROGRAMS

Southwest Wind Energy Assessment Program (SWEAP)

The SRDC and the State of Minnesota are jointly implementing a project to enhance wind monitoring activities in Southwest Minnesota. The project will involve the installation of approximately 8 wind monitoring stations within the region. Four stations will be mounted on existing communications towers, and four will be installed using tilt up towers, which will be relocated to new sites yearly for three years.

- Two tilt up tower monitors were installed, one in Murray County near Current Lake and the other in Lincoln County north of Ivanhoe. Data is being collected.
- Two more land sites located in Rock and Nobles County were identified and scheduled for tilt tower installation.
- Two communication towers have been identified for use. Lease agreements are being negotiated.
- A year in summary report was submitted to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

Other Activities:

- Staff provided support to the Southwest Minnesota Ridge Counties Task Force.
- Attended Sustainable Energy for Economic Development presented regions views.

♦ HERON LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER (PRAIRIE ECOLOGY BUS CENTER)

- SRDC staff participated in the HLELC's executive director hiring process.
- Assisted in the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources grant process.
- A grant proposal to LCMR was approved with a \$200,000 award level.
- SRDC staff assisted HLELC in revising LCMR grant budget and work plan.

Development Services

The Southwest Regional Development Commission is committed to a continuous process of sustainable development planning and assistance to the Region's customers, primarily local units of government, business, industry, and non-profits. The planning and assistance of sustainable development activities encompasses three major categories within development:

- ♦ Economic development,
- Local government infrastructure development, and
- ◆ Land management.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission will work with the public and private sectors to provide assistance which will enhance development across the Region.

Agency & Legislative Advocacy

The SRDC Legislative Committee traveled to St. Paul to visit and present the SRDC's 1998 legislative agenda to our area legislators.

During the 1998 Legislative Session the State Legislature reviewed significant bonding requests from the SRDC Region.

- The Prairie Expo project received a \$3,000,000 award.
- Southwest Minnesota Regional Fire Training Center was awarded \$880,000 for construction purposes.
- The Smart Connection Center, a proposed 36,000 square foot state-of-the-art technology facility to be located on Worthington's campus of Minnesota West Community College was not awarded.
- The Southwest Minnesota Regional Performance Center project was introduced to the Legislature.

Legislative issues:

- 1) Levy authority for Regional Development Commissions discretionary increase of 3% per year granted,
- 2) planning grant to SRDC's in the amount of \$20,000 from the Office of Strategic and Long Term Planning awarded,
- 3) community-based planning act recommendations developed,
- 4) the bureaucracy control act, and
- 5) limiting certain animal feedlots and feedlot practices.
- Sought resolution of issues and/or concerns between local units of government and state department and agencies.
- Received Design and Innovation Awards for the ninth consecutive year from the National Association of Development Organization.
- Sought and received an Economic Development Administration planning and technical assistance grant to research and develop strategies for the livestock industry.

Agency & Legislative Advocacy

The Southwest Regional Development Commission lends assistance and provides legislative advocacy to other local and regional agencies.

Policy Formation

The Commission solicits local input and assesses the needs within the Region. Following analysis, alternatives to current direction are identified and pursued to provide the greatest benefit to southwestern Minnesota through useful policy formation at the state, region, and local level.

Program Development

The Commission establishes and assists programs that provide additional service within the region. Examples include, but are not limited to the following:

- Southwest Area Agency on Aging
- Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Prairieland Economic Development Corporation
- Heron Lake Environmental Learning Center

Pursuit of Projects Important to the Region

By being informed and involved, the Commission attains funds for projects that are important to the region.

The Commission has a project development process local units of government can participate in or adhere to. This process enables those interested to have an advantage in funding pursuits and provides a needed assessment of project potential. All facets of project development are addressed in the process providing innumerable benefits to the project proponents.

Transportation

♦ TRANSIT

- Grant application reviews and project reviews were conducted on the Section 5310 and 5311 grant requests, staff served on the District 7 Section 5310 grant review committees.
- Fulfilled the Section 5310 monitoring contract with the Office of Transit, including review of quarterly reports, and on-site visits to review the vehicle use and its condition. There were 14 Section 5310 Organizations in the Region, and 21 vehicles.
- Facilitated Regional Transit Coordinator meetings.
- Assisted with the acquisition of vehicles through the Section 5310 program, Office of Transit, or the ATP process.
- Assisted in the development of draft Transportation Standards for the Area Agencies on Aging.
- The SRDC provided assistance to three transit projects in the Region: City of Marshall and Western Community Action merger, Coordination with the City and County of Pipestone, and Coordination with the City of Worthington and Nobles County.

GENERAL TECHNICAL/CENSUS ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTATION

- Assisted local units of government in regard to MnDOT and County highway projects, traffic counts on roadways, status of roads
 and construction; additionally, City Officials were assisted with the development of Capital Improvement Programs; Township
 Officials were also provided with expertise on area bridge projects.
- Provided technical expertise to Redwood Falls and Lyon County on the Surface Road Functional Classification system.
- Monitored State & Federal Legislative issues that affected transportation.
- Served as a Technical Advisory Committee member for Redwood Falls, Pipestone, and Marshall Community Transportation Plans.

◆ AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATP)

- Staff assistance to ATP Districts 7 and 8.
- Regional Significance ratings were completed for each project submitted for federal ISTEA funds in Region 8.
- Participated in the development of Regional Significance criteria for transit capital projects.
- Sponsored Public Meetings to review the Draft Transportation Improvement Plans.
- Provided coordination between the two ATP's on issues and projects in the Willmar and Mankato ATP's.
- Presented the positions of local units of government and the general public to the Area Transportation Partnerships.

♦ CURRENT AND EMERGING TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, PROBLEMS, AND CONCERNS

- Funding and concerns include the impact of Transportation Efficiency Act 21 and the resulting distribution of the federal funds.
- Rail improvements, transit coordination, resource collaboration, continued funding assistance for transit systems, welfare reform, capital requests, and interstate transit system use.

Transportation

The Southwest Regional Development Commission coordinates with the Minnesota Department of Transportation in the planning and development of a comprehensive transportation system in southwest Minnesota.

There is a Transportation Committee that reviews, comments, and makes recommendations on local, regional, district, and statewide transportation issues, plans and programming.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission also:

- Participates with and has a membership to the Area Transportation Partnerships 7 and 8 to impact intermodal investments within the Southwest Region.
- Provides professional assistance to local units of government on local and regional transportation issues by:
 - Disseminating information.
 - Assisting with functional re-classification requests.
 - Collecting information relating to specific transportation projects and their status.
 - Assisting enhancement applicants with the proposal process.
- ◆ Reviews plans, policies, or studies undertaken by Minnesota Department of Transportation (or others) that impact transportation in the Region.
- ♦ Facilitates transportation coordination efforts in the Region.
- ♦ Conducts long range transportation planning to promote a seamless transportation network within southwest Minnesota.

Community Driven Planning

♦ Lyon County Township Association Feedlot Task Force

During the Lyon County Township Association meeting, township officials discussed the County's regulation of feedlots with County officials. Townships had not historically provided input to the County on issues. As a result the Township Association set up a Feedlot Task Force to provide specific recommendations to the County on the regulation of feedlots. SRDC were asked to assist in providing support and facilitation of the process. The Task Force has met five times and discussed the issues of setbacks, odor and definitions.

♦ AMC District 8 Land Use and Environment Advisory Task Force

A Feedlot Zoning Education Grant from the Minnesota Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation provided funds for the AMC District 8 Land Use and Environment Advisory Task Force to explore solutions to odor and manure management issues. This project was initiated by the SRDC and provides for uniformity amongst local units of government on feedlot issues.

♦ Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan

SRDC staff are currently working on completing demographic analysis for the Lincoln County Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. Additional elements being conducted by the SRDC include: economic development strategies, transportation, and fiscal host services. Other project partners are seeking to do specific land use and resource inventories this summer.

♦ Bingham Lake Land Use and Zoning Ordinance

The City of Bingham Lake is in the process of updating their Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Staff has worked with the community over the past two years with new language to both documents that address current and future issues.

♦ Westbrook Ordinance Update

Staff has been working with the City of Westbrook to review all the ordinances on their books, recommend repeal or revisions. The outcome will be ordinances that reflect current policies and activities and will be packaged for ease of use.

♦ Tracy Community Land Use Plan

The Commission is updating the City's Land Use Plan. The Community requested assistance in updating sections where information was antiquated and change necessitated revision.

- Successfully completed visual identification of Buffalo Ridge program.
- ♦ Fiscal Agent Work was completed for the SM MN Housing Partnership, the Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corporation, the Murray County Youth and Family Task Force, the Murray County Christmas project, the Buffalo Ridge/County Wind Task Force, the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan, the Alliance for MN Microenterprise and the Small Cities projects for the Cities of Beaver Creek, Adrian, Balaton, Ihlen, Jasper, Redwood Falls, Wanda and Wilmont.

Community Driven Planning

The Southwest Regional Development Commission operates Community Driven Planning to provide staff assistance to its customers. Customers contract for specific services identified in the contract work program. Some of the Community Based Planning services the Commission offers are:

- ◆ Conducting Comprehensive Plans, Land Use Plans, Water Plans, Solid Waste Plans, Zoning Ordinances and Updates, and Ordinance Consolidation.
- ◆ Assisting communities with Capital Improvement Plans, Surveys and Analyses.
- Providing Housing Program Support.
- ♦ Providing Prairieland Economic Development Corporation Program Support.
- Writing and administering grants.
- ♦ Conducting Housing Studies and Housing Market Analyses.
- ◆ Assisting communities with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Project Priority List, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Intended Use Plan, and the Department of Health Intended Use Plan.
- Assisting, organizing, and implementing the training and education of public officials relating to land management issues.
- Providing assistance in the development of wellhead protection planning.

Capital Resource Development

♦ PRAIRIE EXPO PROJECT

Groundbreaking Ceremonies for the Prairie Expo Project were held on Friday, June 12th in anticipation of the long awaited project commencement. Final funding for the project came through during the 1998 legislative session which will bring the project to construction during the 1998/1999 construction season. Prairie Expo has been determined to be a project with region-wide impact for Southwest Minnesota.

Prairie Expo will provide a compelling reason for travelers to stop off I-90. Prairie Expo will be a self-supporting facility through business/industry/corporate participation and built-in profit centers. Exhibitry will showcase the rich tourism attractions that exist in Southwest Minnesota. The facility will be open year round and will contain exhibits which will promote the cultural, natural and commercial history of Southwest Minnesota. The facility will entice visitors to travel throughout the region. Traveler research showed an untapped resource of visitor dollars and a strong interest in stopping at an attraction such as Prairie Expo.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Since the capitalization of the SRDC Revolving Loan fund in 1995, the SRDC has made 22 loans for a total of \$2,013,750. Over \$248,500 was lent during FY98. The program has been so successful for the SRDC there is less than \$50,000 available for new projects. As repayments are made to the pool they will be relent to small businesses throughout the region. Businesses in Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Lincoln, and Lyon counties are eligible to apply.

Grant applications were submitted to the Trade and Economic Development Small Cities Program for Leota Township, the City of Pipestone and the City of Rushmore. Applications which received funding include Leota Township and Rushmore. Leota Township will be constructing a wastewater collection and treatment system and Rushmore will be constructing a new storm sewer system and owner-occupied housing rehabilitation.

♦ INFRASTRUCTURE AWARDS AND ADMINISTRATION

- A Rural Development Community Facilities Loan/Grant Application was prepared for the City of Currie. Currie received loan dollars for sanitary sewer collection improvements.
- SRDC staff prepared Drinking Water Revolving Loan Applications for the City of Adrian and the City of Windom. Both communities received funds for a water treatment plant.
- The SRDC conducted grant administration for various communities that received funding for infrastructure projects. Projects included the City of Redwood Falls comprehensive public facilities improvements resulting from the 1993 flood. The City of Wanda was awarded funding for the construction of a new wastewater treatment and collection system. The City of Beaver Creek was awarded funds to make substantial improvements to their wastewater treatment lagoons. The City of Ihlen completed the construction of a wastewater treatment and collection system. The City of Vesta received funds through the Department of Trade and Economic Development resulting from the 1993 flood for an extensive ditch system improvement. The City of Adrian is completing water treatment improvements to reduce the concentration of nitrates in their drinking water system. Lastly, the City of Marshall is completing the Ditch 62 improvement.
- Fiscal Agent Work was completed for the SM MN Housing Partnership, the Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corporation, the Murray County Youth and Family Task Force, the Murray County Christmas project, the Buffalo Ridge/County Wind Task Force, the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan, the Alliance for MN Microenterprise and the Small Cities projects for the Cities of Beaver Creek, Adrian, Balaton, Ihlen, Jasper, Redwood Falls, Wanda and Wilmont.

Capital Resource Development

The Southwest Regional Development Commission will work with local government and non-profits to generate capital resources. Some of the methods the Commission uses are:

- Capitalize and lend funds through the Southwest Regional Development Commission Revolving Loan Fund.
- Assist businesses in structuring loan packages and leveraging public and private resources.
- Assist local units of government in leveraging and administering a multitude of funding programs.
- Provide outreach to communities throughout the region by working to leverage financial resources from State and Federal programs.
- Funding sources are administered by the Commission through application to different agencies. Sources include, but are not limited to:
 - Federal Economic Development Administration.
 - Federal Small Business Administration.
 - Federal Rural Development Agency.
 - Minnesota Trade and Economic Development.
 - Minnesota Public Facilities Authority.
 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
 - Minnesota Department of Health.

Area Agency on Aging

♦ LINKING PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION

- <u>The Senior Linkage Line</u> (1-800-333-2433) is an information and access line to provide access and information on services for seniors. In FY 1998 the line answered 890 calls.
- <u>Senior Linkage: Nutrition and You</u>: A taped TV show in it's second year focusing on nutrition and health. Fourteen shows were taped with copies made for use by the public. This series was broadcast on Pioneer Public TV.
- Regional Conference on Aging. "Life is But a Dream": A day long educational and entertaining forum was attended by over 200 persons. Thirty-three booths with information on senior issues were available to attendees. Keynote address was by a humorist; workshops were held on intergenerational issues, memory loss and dementia's, the aging eye, elderly foot care and alternative health care options.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Project 2030 is a statewide initiative to identify the impacts of the aging of Minnesota's population and prepare for the baby-boomer generation beginning to turn 85 in the year 2030. The SW Area Agency on Aging held a forum attended by 160 persons of diverse background to address issues on making our communities better places to live.
- Advocating for seniors by involvement with work groups such as Regional Coordinating Board 5, Office of Rural Health and Primary Care Rural Hospital Work Group, Senator Rod Grams Rural Health Advisory Group and as a board member of the Minnesota Rural Health Association and the McKnight Initiative on Welfare to Work. Issues such as the high cost of prescription drugs, consumer rights and health care access for seniors and the positive role of seniors in the community were brought to the attention of decision-makers.

PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP

- <u>Seniors Agenda for Independent Living (SAIL)</u> is Minnesota's initiative to prepare the state's long-term care system to deal with the needs of a growing elderly population. The project was expanded to Redwood County in 1998.
- Contracting for nutrition, legal and transportation services were implemented in 1998 to focus on cost savings and outcomes.
- The Health Insurance Counseling Program in 1998 trained 25 volunteers, 10 of which remain active and have donated 745 hours of assistance. Outreach was conducted in each of the nine counties with presentations made to senior centers. Twelve community sites were established. The program served nearly 500 individuals with 927 contacts. Thirty presentations were given to approximately 1,000 persons.
- Minnesota Medical Care and Anti-Fraud and Demonstration Project (Operation Restore Trust) is a two year grant with a cooperative agreement between the Administration on Aging, the Minnesota Board on Aging, Arrowhead AAA (Region 3), and Southwest AAA (Region 8). An Education and Resource Guide, video, brochures, presentation outlines, and pamphlets were materials developed for this project. Twelve volunteers were trained to educate the senior population about the benefits available under Medicare and Medicaid Programs, and the issues of fraud, waste and abuse under the programs. During the past year presentations were made to not only the senior population, but various service agencies, civic groups, and providers in the area. This project received a 1998 NADO Innovation Award. Statewide outreach will occur during the second year of this program.
- Generations in Action is a two year service project, which increased intergenerational activity of the SWAAA by working with youth and religious organizations to help elderly people remain independent and receive necessary services not currently provided by other agencies. The program operated in various ways, from a youth opportunity, where youth groups performed services directly to elderly in their communities; to working with the Parish Nurse Program as a vehicle for continuing services. A total of 134 volunteers, many of them youth, donated approximately 755 hours of service to 285 individuals with 487 contacts.

Area Agency on Aging

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging is a program of the Southwest Regional Development Commission. The agency works to build a proactive, comprehensive and coordinated system of advocacy and services that ensures rights and benefits of all older people.

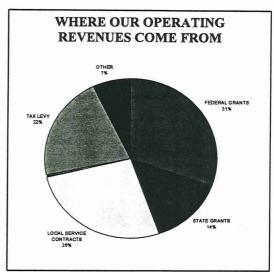
Areas of concentration within the Agency are:

- Health Insurance Counseling Program.
- ♦ Information and access through the Senior Linkage Line.
- ◆ Strengthening the communities to meet the needs of the elderly.

Management & Policy Administration

The audit for Fiscal Year 1997 of the SRDC's finance and contract compliance was completed by certified public accountants in September of 1997. Copies of that audit and all prior audits are available for review at the SRDC office. No negative findings were produced by the audit.

products of me mann	FY98	FY99
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
REVENUES		
Tax Levy	\$203,287	\$204,092
MN Board on Aging	86,079	93,447
Senior Linkage/Insurance Counsel - MBA	41,770	41,240
Dept. of Health - Insurance Counsel / MBA	37,437	37,000
ORT-Medicare Fraud	76,233	80,035
Economic Development Administration	51,000	51,000
EDA-Feedlot	0	20,000
Minnesota Department of Transportation	50,000	50,000
MN Dept. of Transportation - Section 5310	6,250	5,964
Foundation	31,182	20,554
EQB - Wind Monitoring	6,081	15,525
Office of Environmental Assistance	0	11,230
State Planning	0	20,000
Interest and Miscellaneous	31,967	22,000
Contracts	192,125	244,244
Reserves for Capital Equipment	43,084	25,000
Reserves for Landscaping/Curb	2,500	0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$858,995	\$941,331
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EXPENDITURES		
Committee Expenses	\$37,065	\$45,000
Salaries & Fringe	484,575	545,996
Staff Travel	49,407	49,500
Office Space	32,584	31,692
Postage	13,593	14,950
Communications	18,119	23,000
Printing / Publication	19,481	17,000
Supplies	9,224	9,000
Insurance	4,407	5,500
Depreciation (Non-Building)	20,744	28,145
Audits	5,800	5,500
Computer	7,727	10,750
Equipment	52,679	27,000
Housing	8,000	8,000
Other	36,141	28,710
Consultant/Contract Payments	77,132	53,004
Principal Payment	13,106	13,860
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$889,784	\$916,607
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Equipment Reserve Change	(22,340)	3,145
Operating Reserve Change	(15,659)	11,869
Landscaping Reserve Change	(2,500)	0
Building Reserve Change	9,710	9,710
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PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 1998 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 51 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 FY98, please contact the SRDC Office.

"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."

NOTE: Estimates are included for final payable and receivable amounts on revenues and expenditures in FY98.

Management & Policy Administration

The Southwest Regional Development Commission is a Management, Marketing, and Fiscal Agent service provider. The Commission handles fiduciary responsibilities for local units of government and non-profits. The Commission will work with the governing body to:

- Conduct meetings.
- Review and approve amendments to the work program and budget including the indirect cost plan, as necessary, to reflect unanticipated changes.
- Overview and approve the Annual Report.
- Overview, propose, and approve policy changes needed as a result of new legislation or audit recommendations.
- Conduct orientation meetings for new members.
- Ensure financial practices are in keeping with federal and state standards.
- Review personnel policies to ensure compliance to current employment law.
- Provide input on attraction and retention of key public personnel.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1998 ANNUAL REPORT

Strategic Planning

The Southwest Regional Development Commission provides staff support to a number of regional and state-wide committees, boards and programs. The goal of these activities is to provide long range planning strategies to the area public and private organizations. Some of the activities include:

- Transportation Coordination Advisory Committee (TCAC)
- Southwest Industry Cluster Study
- MBA Project 2030
- Economic Development Association of Minnesota
- American Planning Association Membership
- Southwest MN Housing Partnership Board of Directors
- Model Feedlot Ordinance Committee
- Southwest Solid Waste Commission
- Economic Development Professionals of SW Minnesota
- Regional Welfare To Work activities
- Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED)
- Regional School to Work Advisory Board
- Southwest Minnesota Ridge Counties Task Force
- Minnesota Community Based Planning Board, Co-chair
- Emergency Management Services Board of Director's
- Area Transportation Partnerships
- Prairie Ecology Bus Center
- Lewis & Clark Joint Powers Board
- Regional Coordinating Board Five
- Rural Health Advisory Committee
- Planning Tech Assistance Program
- County Counsel on Aging
- Land Use Access Management Committee
- Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Pipestone Public Health Services Advisory Committee (HICP)
- Access to Health Care for Rural Elderly Work Group of the Rural Healthcare Advisory Committee
- Ombudsman Advisory Committee
- Legal Services Advisory Committee
- Small hospital work group of the Rural Health Advisory Committee (RHAC)

- MN Rural Health Association
- Senior Agency for Independent Living (SAIL)
- Alzheimer's Association Advisory Council
- Senior Nutrition Project Council
- SW MN Intergenerational Task Force
- Nutrition Project 2000
- Colleges N' Caring Policy Work Group
- Contract Work Group, MBA
- Murray County Alternative Care Team
- Nobles County Senior Concerns

♦ EVENTS SPONSORED

- Rural Development Forum "Charting Our Way... SW MN in 2050"
- Workshop for Pipestone Co. Local Units of Government
- Planning Workshop for Murray County Commissioners
- Feedlot Tour of Southwest Minnesota
- Lyon County Township Association Feedlot Meeting
- Coordinated meetings of the Water Issues Task Force regarding the Lewis & Clark Project
- Co-sponsored Welfare to Work Meetings as a result of the McKnight Initiative
- Newly Elected Officials Workshop
- Held Prairie Expo Groundbreaking Ceremony
- Microenterprise Technical Assistance Conference
- Community Based Planning Workshop
- Education seminars for county officials in relation to planning and zoning for feedlot management
- Southwest Minnesota Annual Aging Conference

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The SRDC serves as the State and Federally designated Economic Development District for the Southwest Region. As a result of this designation, the SRDC is charged with the duty of providing primary staff necessary to implement the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). During this fiscal year a grant of \$51,000 from EDA for economic development planning included the following work program elements:

- SRDC works cooperatively with adjacent Development Districts to increase efficiency.
- SRDC coordinates activities with State, Federal and local agencies.
- SRDC provides technical assistance and advisory services to units of government, development agencies, and others. This includes efforts to plan and implement economic development projects to diversify the district's economy, to increase business activity, and to upgrade infrastructure within the district.
- SRDC maintains economic, demographic and site databases and make them available to public and private users.
- SRDC assists local agencies and regionwide programs in obtaining private foundation grants and assistance.
- SRDC supports a permanent economic development process capable of meeting the planning, coordinating and implementation requirements of the district.
- SRDC supplies the EDA with timely information on plant closures or prospective plant closings, as well as the number of employees affected by these actions.
- SRDC serves as a the Census Data Center.
- Assisted on the development of many loan packages, financing structures and program referrals. In conjunction with numerous funding sources including: DTED Minnesota Investment Fund, Tax Increment Financing, Federal Rural Development Agency Rural Business Enterprise Grant and the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program, Prairieland EDC 504 and IRP referrals and local development dollars.
- Conducted a resurvey of wages in area 10 which includes Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Nobles, Rock and Watonwan Counties for the purpose of comparison of prevailing wage rates from this survey to the State certified prevailing wage rates primarily for Highway/Heavy construction projects. The information compiled is to be utilized by Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. and the SRDC in continuation of our efforts to improve upon the system of determining prevailing wage rates in the State of Minnesota.

Strategic Planning

The Southwest Regional Development Commission conducts broad region-wide planning activities. Some of these activities include:

- ◆ Conducting and completing plans and studies pertaining to regional issues. Issues include changes in the Region's economy, housing market, targeted public investment, and infrastructure capacity.
- Developing model ordinances.
- Providing Long Range planning strategies for the mitigation of natural disasters that occur within the Region.
- Providing staff and analytical support to regional ad hoc committees on programs, projects, or policy matters of local importance.

Provide long range planning to area public and private organizations to determine appropriate direction and application of human resource allocations.