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Southwest Regional Development Commission

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Craig Rubis, Chairman Bob Fenske, Vice-Chairman Jack Keers, Secretary Claire Gerber, Treasurer

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 1999 Annual Report which highlights some of the accomplishments of the staff of this organization during the course of the last twelve months. As you can see, the accomplishments are many.

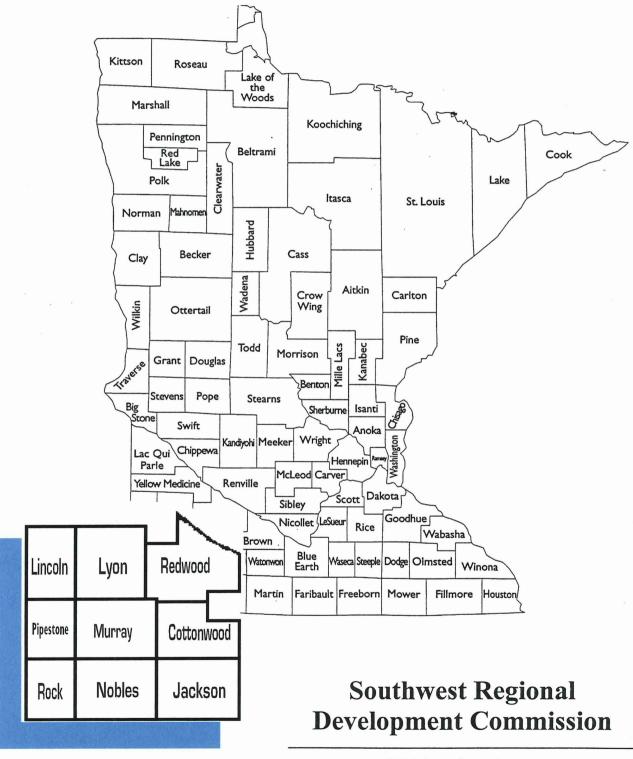
I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Commissioners for the leadership they have provided this organization the past year and to the SRDC Staff for their dedication and devotion.

On behalf of the Southwest Regional Development Commission,

Craig Kubis, Chairman

Southwest Regional Development Commission

Service Area



2401 Broadway Avenue Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172-1142

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
Redwood Falls
Revere
Sanborn
Seaforth
Vesta
Wabasso
Walnut Grove
Wanda

Rock County

Beaver Creek Hardwick Hills Kenneth Luverne Magnolia Steen

Southwest Regional Development Commission

2401 Broadway Avenue Suite 1 Slayton, MN 56172-1142

Local Governments Served

TOWNSHIPS IN REGION 8

Cottonwood Cor	
CATTANWOOD CAL	Intv

Amboy Amo Ann Carson Dale Delton Germantown Great Bend Highwater Lakeside Midway Mountain Lake Rosehill Selma Southbrook Springfield Storden

Jackson County

Westbrook

Alba Belmont Christiania Delafield Des Moines Enterprise Ewington Heron Lake Hunter Kimball LaCrosse Middletown Minneota Petersburg Rost Round Lake Sioux Valley Weimer West Heron Lake Wisconsin

Lincoln County

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

Lincoln County

(continued) Hope Lake Benton Lake Stav Limestone Marble Marshfield Royal 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 Slayton

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 Wilmont Worthington

Pipestone County 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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Southwest Regional Development Commission

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Physical Development Director	Annette Bair
Planning Generalist	Peggy Sammons
Environmental Services Officer	Barry Rhineberger
Community Development Technician	Barb Kirchner
Staff Accountant	Robyn Van Heuvelen
Office Manager	Rhonda Wynia
Program Development Specialist	Robin Weis
Financial/Grants Manager	Helen Brinks
Program Assistant	Monica Miller
Secretary II	Janet Schaeffer
Secretary	Kathy Schreiber
Secretary	Linda Tobias
Senior Employment Worker	Winnie Mettling



Southwest Regional Development Commission

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Southwest Regional Development Commission

SRDC FULL COMMISSION

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SOLID WASTE

- The Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission continues work on a grant for \$11,230 provided 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.
- 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.
- Staff developed and submitted a grant proposal to the MN Office of Environmental Assistance on behalf of the Solid Waste Commission. The grant was received by the Solid Waste Commission and will be used to develop a regional materials exchange program and markets for reusable materials and recycled content products.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

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 was provided to Balaton, Bigelow, Currie, Delhi, Ellsworth, Hadley, Heron Lake, Ihlen, Iona, Jasper, Kenneth, Kinbrae, Leota Township on behalf of the Village of Leota, Mountain Lake, Okabena, Round Lake, Trosky, Westbrook, Windom, and Woodstock. These communities received grant and loan information on a variety of programs which include the Minnesota Trade and Economic Development Small Cities Development Program (SCDP), Rural Development (RD) Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program, Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) Loan Program and Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Wastewater Loan Program.
- Grant development contracts were created for Woodstock, Trosky, Windom, Leota Township, and Balaton as a result of the technical assistance provided on the various grant and loan programs.
- Technical assistance was provided to the City of Westbrook for ambulance funding.
- The Leota Sanitary District was officially formed.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

AGENCY & LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The SRDC Legislative Committee traveled to St. Paul to visit and present the SRDC's 1999 legislative agenda to our area legislators.

The following is a list of major legislative activities that occurred this fiscal year.

- A planning grant to the SRDC in the amount of \$50,000 from the Office of Strategic and Long Term Planning was awarded.
- Sought resolution of issues and/or concerns between local units of government and state department and agencies.
- A Wind monitoring project appropriation of \$24,000 was received.
- The Westbrook Health Center received \$300,000 contingent on approval of an application to conduct hospital and clinic improvements.
- The SRDC received \$100,000 for the development of a Health Care Purchasing Alliance.
- Caldwell Packing in Windom received \$1,000,000 to assist in the expansion of the plant.
- The Marshall Fire Training Center received \$400,000.
- The Minnesota Board on Aging received an additional funding of \$100,000 each year of the biennium, for the Area Agencies on Aging providing state-funded health insurance counseling services.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The SRDC assisted numerous communities interested in establishing an EDA or reevaluating their existing EDAs. Staff provided technical assistance and developed enabling resolutions and bylaws. Communities receiving assistance included Wabasso, Okabena and Currie.

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 has involved the installation of approximately 7 wind monitoring stations within the region. Three stations have been mounted on existing communications towers, and four have been installed using tilt-up towers, which will be relocated to new sites yearly for three years.

- Three communications towers have been installed. One in Nobles County near St. Kilian, one near Wabasso in Redwood County and one near Hatfield in Pipestone County.
- Four tilt-up monitoring towers have been installed. One near Bigelow in Nobles County, one near Jeffers in Cottonwood County, one in Current Lake Township in Murray County, and one in Lincoln County near Ivanhoe.
- Data collected from the project was available to the landowners and other interested parties.
- 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 (SEED) coalition functions and presented regional views.

PRAIRIE ECOLOGY BUS CENTER

- Staff assisted in the coordination of the PEBC annual meeting.
- Staff assisted PEBC staff in submitting grant proposals to funding sources.

♦ GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)

- Using funding from the McKnight Foundation, the SRDC invested in the necessary hardware, software and training for a GIS.
- Developed a Regionwide GIS survey to examine the extent to which GIS is being used in the Region.
- Created the Community Cooperative GIS program. This program offers the GIS abilities and technology to the smaller communities in the region who cannot afford the investment of the entire system.
- Used the GIS to enhance and compliment agency presentations, applications, and reports.
- Staff provided technical assistance to the GIS Implementation Committee for Lyon County.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

CAPITAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

PRAIRIE EXPO PROJECT

Prairie Expo has been determined to be a project with region-wide impact for Southwest Minnesota. Construction at the Prairie expo site began in May, 1999 and is anticipated to reach completion by Spring 2000.

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 29 loans for a total of \$2,316,140. Over \$301,500 was lent during FY99. 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.

♦ INFRASTRUCTURE AWARDS AND ADMINISTRATION

- Grant applications were submitted to the Trade and Economic Development Small Cities Program for the Cities of Pipestone and Woodstock. Staff assisted the Southwest MN Housing Partnership in developing applications for the Cities of Westbrook, Okabena, Windom and Murray County to conduct housing rehabilitation. Applications which received funding were Westbrook and Murray County.
- 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 a Drinking Water Revolving Loan Application for the City of Trosky The community received funds for water distribution improvements.
- The SRDC conducted grant administration for various communities that received funding for infrastructure projects. The City of Wanda was awarded funding for the construction of a new wastewater treatment and collection system. The City of Rushmore was awarded funds for storm sewer construction. Leota Township received funds for the construction of a new wastewater treatment and collection system. Balaton received funds for sewer improvements. Currie received loan funds for sewer collection improvements. The City of Vesta is completing 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 Adrian, Balaton, Rushmore, Redwood Falls, Wanda and Leota.

SRDC FISCAL YEAR 1999 ANNUAL REPORT

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.

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 committee.
- 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.
- The SRDC provided assistance to two transit projects in the Region: Coordination with the City and County of Pipestone and Coordination with the City of Worthington and Nobles County.
- Assisted in the McKnight Welfare to Work Transportation Initiatives facilitation of Rideshare Coordinator meetings, the school bus initiative, and development of the child seats initiative for transit systems and volunteer drivers in the 14 county McKnight area.

♦ 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.
- Initiated a Regional Trails group to assist in the development of a Regional Trails Plan.

♦ 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 rating 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 and distribution of Transportation Efficiency Act 21 funds.
- Rail improvements, transit coordination, resource collaboration, continued funding assistance for transit systems, welfare reform, capital requests, and interstate transit system use.
- Funding of major construction project, such as Highway 60 from Worthington to the Iowa border.

♦ SOUTHWEST REGIONAL TRAILS PLAN

- A survey was sent out to all nine county boards to evaluate interest. There was high interest in some type of Regional Trails Plan.
- Southwest Regional Trails Planning Committee was established and met for the first time on June 24, 1999. The Committee is comprised of two representatives appointed by each county.
- The committee developed a vision statement to establish a network of trails in Southwest Minnesota for multiple users. This will be accomplished by identifying a variety of factors including: Trail Vision for Southwest Minnesota; List of benefits of trails; Existing trails/corridors; Trails in the process of development; Potential trail development; Types of trails, with an emphasis on non-motorized trails; Funding resources; and Timelines for development.

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

- The SRDC assisted the Lyon County Township Association Feedlot Task Force in the formulation of recommendation to the county for a feedlot ordinance.
- The SRDC assisted Heritage Village of Mountain Lake in completing a grant application to the Minnesota Humanities Commission. Heritage Village was awarded an annual grant of \$4,000.
- The SRDC assisted Nobles County in submitting an application to Minnesota Planning to conduct a Community Based Plan. The project was awarded \$100,000. In addition, staff developed an application to the Southwest Foundation for funds to conduct an issue meeting and expand the plan's involvement in housing related issues.

♦ LINCOLN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

SRDC staff completed the demographic, economic development, transportation, and housing sections for the Lincoln County Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. In addition, the SRDC is providing the fiscal host services.

♦ 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 with new language to both documents that address current and future issues.

LAND USE PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

The SRDC received a \$20,000 planning grant to develop a Geographical Information System (GIS) and a planning program that would provide financial assistance to local units of government. The following are projects which utilized the funds.

- <u>City of Westbrook Ordinance Book Update.</u> Staff completed work with the City of Westbrook to review all the ordinances on their books and recommend repeal or revisions. The outcome was ordinances that reflect current policies and activities and were packaged for ease of use.
- <u>City of Tracy Land Use Plan Update.</u> 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.
- City of Pipestone Zoning Map Update. This project updated the City's Zoning Map utilizing the GIS capabilities of the SRDC.
- <u>City of Round Lake Needs Assessment.</u> Staff assisted the City of Round Lake in prioritizing the communities needs for the future. Staff assisted the community in conducting a citywide survey that allowed the citizens to identify their perception of community needs. As a result of this project, the City is currently addressing housing needs and seeking funds for housing rehabilitation and new construction.
- <u>City of Milroy Ordinance Book Update.</u> Staff assisted the City in conducting an Ordinance Book Codification. The City Council was instrumental in identifying desirable changes or issues that they felt needed to be addressed. Staff assisted the City in creating new language that reflects current policies and activities and is readable for day-to-day usage.
- Windom Regional Housing Analysis. The SRDC in collaboration with the City of Windom, the Minnesota Housing Partnership and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership developed a housing inventory in the Windom area in anticipation of the expansion of Caldwell. The study included an inventory of Realtors, for-sale, rental, and buildable lot listings as well as a description of planned or proposed housing projects. Detailed single-family rental property information was collected for the larger communities. There is also a multi-family rental unit database for the study area. The Housing Inventory will play a key role in the development of a housing strategy for the study area to accommodate new employees as part of the Caldwell expansion.
- Pipestone County Land Use Plan and Ordinance Update. This project will encompass the update and incorporation of various plans and ordinances. Staff will be updating the Land Use Plan which is twenty years old and developing a planning document that includes the updated Land Use Plan, Solid Waste Plan, and Water Plan. Staff will also be reviewing and updating the zoning, feedlot, floodplain, shoreland, sewage and wastewater treatment, and solid waste ordinances and incorporating them into a Land Management Ordinance.
- Wabasso Capital Improvement Program. A Capital Improvement Program will be developed for the City to provide for the timely construction of essential projects at the minimum of expense. All Department Heads will identify possible projects and a financial analysis will be conducted and a five-year schedule prepared based on the analysis.

♦ 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 including a site visit to feedlot operations. This project was initiated by the SRDC and provides for uniformity amongst local units of government on feedlot issues.

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.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

♦ LINKING PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION

- The Senior Linkage Line® (1-800-333-2433); is an information, referral and assistance line that provides access and information on services for seniors. In FY99, the line answered 1,307 calls, with 2,589 contacts.
- Senior Linkage: Nutrition and You: This was the third year of taping half hour TV shows focusing on nutrition and health. In collaboration with Region 4, 6E, and 6W AAA's, fourteen shows were taped with copies made for use by the public. This series was broadcasted on Pioneer Public TV.
- Regional Conference on Aging "Hope and Health: 2000": A day long educational and entertaining forum was attended by approximately 200 persons. Twenty-eight booths with information on senior issues were available to attendees. The keynote was presented by a retired physician and workshops were held on self-esteem, Parkinsonism, Medicare, and physical therapy. The afternoon session revolved around providing songs, stories and questions that help seniors explore their feelings about growing older. Minnesota's outstanding older worker was recognized.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Regional Resources for Rural Minnesota: Convened meetings of providers, agencies and minority groups to discuss issues in the region and a committee was formed called Regional Resources for Rural Minnesota (RRRM). This group worked together to develop a data base of resources for minority outreach and has also planned a conference to be held in October of 1999.
- Assistance: Aging staff attended meetings of County Councils on Aging and Senior Concerns groups to offer assistance and information. Staff assisted in grant applications to secure funding for the Regional Conference on Aging, Dovray's Community Center, Medicare FYI and Minnesota Care Outreach. Multiple presentations about Aging were given to local organizations.
- Partners-in-Community Planning is a project where the SW Regional Development Commission, in partnership with the SW Area Agency on Aging and the SW Minnesota Housing Partnership received a grant from the SW Minnesota Foundation to conduct a process that involves all five generations in finding solutions to community issues. This process was conducted in Slayton and Westbrook. There were two community meetings as well as smaller focus groups to discuss a a particular community issue: in Slayton, "How can we make the town friendlier?" and in Westbrook, "Can the town support a teen center?". One hundred twenty-five community members provided input. The final community meetings are yet to be held to discuss an action plan to implement for each community.
 - Other similar projects that staff participated in were a Generations-to-Generations Seminar presented by the Murray County Extension Service and the implementation committee for the Intergenerational Dialogue training that was sponsored by the Marshall Area Senior Center.
- Advocating for seniors by involvement with work groups such as the Minnesota Rural Health Association, Advocates for Marketplace Options on Mainstreet, Employers Association Inc., the Southwest Health Alliance, Intergenerational Task Force 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

- Senior Agenda for Independent Living (S.A.I.L.) is Minnesota's initiative to prepare the state's long-term care system to deal with the needs of a growing elderly population. This project is located in Redwood County.
- Contracting for nutrition, legal and transportation services, rather than grant-making was implemented in order to focus on cost savings and outcomes.
- The Health Insurance Counseling Program: In FY99, 9 new volunteers were trained and a total of 20 volunteers have donated 1,179 hours in training and assistance. Outreach was conducted in each of the nine counties with presentations made to senior centers, professional organizations and community groups. Thirteen community sites are established. The program served nearly 800 individuals with 2,478 contacts. Eighty-two presentations were given to approximately 1,900 persons.
- Parish Nurse program development dollars were received by the Area Agency on Aging. These funds are to provide matching scholarships for 20 registered nurses from the nine county area to attend parish nurse education programs in 1999.
- Minnesota Medical Care and Anti-Fraud and Demonstration Project (Operation Restore Trust) was 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. Staff provided statewide training to allow expansion of the project next year.

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

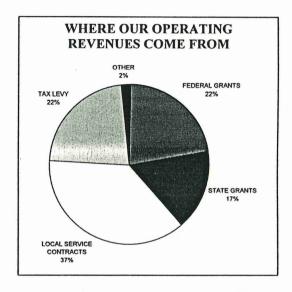
FY1999

The audit for Fiscal Year 1998 of the SRDC's finance and contract compliance was completed by certified public accountants in September of 1998. Copies of that audit and all prior audits are available for review at the SRDC office. No negative findings were

FY2000

produced by the audit.

	F 1 1999	F Y 2000
	ACTUAL	BUDGET
REVENUES		
	£206,002	¢210.000
Tax Levy	\$206,992	\$210,000
MN Board on Aging	89,892	94,796
SW MN Purchasing Alliance	0	25,000
Senior Linkage/Insurance Counsel - MBA	44,000	45,000
Dept. of Health - Insurance Counsel / MBA	37,000	37,000
ORT-Medicare Fraud	78,920	10,000
MN Care	0	65,166
Economic Development Administration	55,000	55,000
EDA-Livestock Study	18,000	1,026
Minnesota Department of Transportation	50,000	50,000
MN Dept. of Transportation - Section 5310	4,005	0
Foundation	37,342	0
EQB - Wind Monitoring	15,177	8,890
Office of Environmental Assistance	4,776	4,958
State Planning	20,000	25,000
Interest and Miscellaneous	20,128	10,000
Contracts	197,423	218,410
State Planning Contracts	8,800	40,000
Reserves for Capital Equipment	28,718	6,000
Reserves for Building	3,989	0
TOTAL REVENUES		
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ <u>920,162</u>	<u>\$906,246</u>
EXPENDITURES		
Committee Expenses	\$ 53,000	\$ 53,000
Salaries & Fringe	530,409	535,940
Staff Travel	53,000	49,500
Office Space	29,500	33,720
Postage	13,000	15,710
Communications	19,500	21,500
Printing / Publication	22,300	15,000
Supplies	10,000	10,500
Insurance	5,700	5,000
Depreciation (Non-Building)	27,848	27,700
Audits	4,500	4,400
	13,800	18,000
Computer		
Equipment	32,824	6,000
Housing	8,000	8,000
Other	34,800	16,245
Consultant/Contract Payments		
		87 627
	66,174	87,627
Principal Payment	66,174 13,860	14,658
	66,174	
Principal Payment TOTAL EXPENDITURES	66,174 13,860	14,658 \$ <u>922,500</u>
Principal Payment TOTAL EXPENDITURES Equipment Reserve Change	66,174 13,860 \$938,215 (870)	14,658 \$ <u>922,500</u> 21,700
Principal Payment TOTAL EXPENDITURES	66,174 13,860 \$ <u>938,215</u>	14,658 \$ <u>922,500</u>



PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 1999 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 42 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 FY99, 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 1: Estimates are included for final payable and receivable amounts on revenues and expenditures in FY99.

NOTE 2: 14,000 Administrative expense incurred for PEBC.

NOTE 3: Receivables of 34,350 from PEDC/PEBC.

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 1999 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)
- Economic Development Association of Minnesota
- American Planning Association Membership
- Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership Board of Directors
- Southwest Regional Solid Waste Commission
- Economic Development Professionals of Southwest Minnesota
- Regional Welfare To Work McKnight activities
- Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (SEED)
- Regional School to Work Advisory Board
- Southwest Minnesota Ridge Counties Task Force
- Emergency Management Services Board of Director's
- Area Transportation Partnerships
- Prairie Ecology Bus Center
- Lewis & Clark Joint Powers Board
- Planning Tech Assistance Program
- County Councils on Aging
- Land Use Access Management Committee
- Ombudsman Advisory Committee
- Legal Services Advisory Committee
- Minnesota Rural Health Association
- Seniors Agenda for Independent Living (SAIL)
- Alzheimer's Association Advisory Council
- Senior Nutrition Project Council
- Southwest Minnesota Intergenerational Task Force
- Nutrition Project 2000
- Colleges N' Caring Policy Work Group

- Murray County Alternative Care Team
- Nobles County Senior Concerns
- Southwest Regional Trails Planning Committee
- AMC District 8 Environmental and Land Use Task Force
- Senior Linkage Line® Work Group
- Rural Health Access Task Force (HICP)
- RSVP Advisory Council
- Murray County Hospice Board
- Minnesota Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC)
- Regional Resources for Rural Minnesota
- Southwest Minnesota Purchasing Alliance
- Solid Waste Administrators
- Planning Technical Assistance Program (PTAP)

EVENTS SPONSORED

- 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
- Microenterprise Technical Assistance Conference
- Community Based Planning Workshop
- Training events for Health Insurance Counselors
- Regional Conference on Aging
- Forums on Affordable Health Care
- Public meetings on the State Transportation Improvement Plans

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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 \$55,000 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 Regional Census Data Center.
- SRDC 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.
- SRDC offers its GIS capabilities to communities within the region through the Community Cooperative GIS Program.

The SRDC received \$20,000 from the Economic Development Administration to conduct an analysis of the Livestock Industry in Southwest Minnesota. The study incorporates an extensive analysis of the regional livestock industry as it relates to the economy, natural resources and the environment, physical and social infrastructure, and the interrelationships between the factors. This analysis identifies the current status of trends impacting and provides insight to the future directions of the industry.

SRDC received Design and Innovation Awards for the tenth consecutive year from the National Association of Development Organization.

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.