

Southwest Regional Development Commission Fiscal Year 2002



Cake presented in appreciation of the SRDC at it's Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Southwest Regional Development Commission held its annual meeting on Thursday, July 11, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at the Blue Mound Banquet and Meeting Center in Luverne.

At the annual meeting, Committee Chairs and staff reviewed what has been accomplished in the past year. SRDC staff Maddy Forsberg and Robin Weis gave an overview of the aging program. Committee Chairman Gene Short highlighted Community Development Issues and Activities. Committee Chairman Bill Sauer highlighted Physical Development Issues and Activities. Committee Chairman Marlowe Nelsen provided the year in review for the Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance. Committee Vice-Chair Bob Fenske reviewed the Revolving Loan Fund activities.

Public Interest Representatives Crystal Dunker (Prairie Ecology Bus), Carol Flesner (SW Center for Independent Living), Sandy Demuth (SW MN Private Industry Council) and David Sturrock (Southwest State University) also gave their reports.

The guest speaker for the Annual Meeting was Commissioner of Transportation Elwyn Tinklenberg, who, in addressing the lack of a transportation program at the state level, consistently made the point that transportation is not a metro or a rural issue, but an issue of statewide importance that should be addressed by the legislature. Commissioner Tinklenberg also commented that the problem was not that there was not enough funding in the metro or in Greater Minnesota, but that transportation as a whole has been under funded.

Minn。Stat。462.393 Subd。1

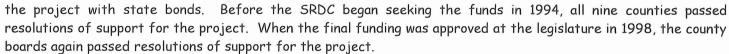
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For me, one word sums up the past year at the Southwest Regional Development Commission, Survival.

As most people know, a project that the Commission has been involved in, Prairie Expo, has dominated much of our time and energy. Prairie Expo began in the mid 1980's as a response to the farm crisis. It was thought that with all the traffic that came past us on I-90, why not stop some of those people, promote the area and have them spend some money. A group of citizens from the region got together to work on a plan.

The SRDC was asked to be part of the project because we are an organization that works with economic development in the Region. We helped facilitate the group in hiring tourism professionals to do the planning. We were also asked to help find the funding for the project.

The SRDC went to the legislature to seek funding for the Prairie Expo project. The legislature, through bi-partisan support, agreed to fund



When the project was to begin, the state said the money had to go to an organization that represented all 9 counties. That is when the SRDC agreed to be the owner of Prairie Expo. Ground breaking began in June of 1998. During the next two years, after various bidding and construction delays, Prairie Expo was completed and opened. At this point there was still plenty of support from the communities. As with many start up businesses, financial problems began to hinder Prairie Expo.

When Prairie Expo opened, it was apparent that the SRDC is an organization that does planning and should not be operating a retail business. At that point the SRDC board of directors went to the legislature to ask permission to create a non-profit to operate the Prairie Expo. The law was passed and went into effect August 1, 2001. Unfortunately the Prairie Expo closed August 3, 2001 due to financial problems. This problem greatly affected the SRDC.

After much discussion with the nine county boards and the SRDC Board of Directors, it was felt that closing the Commission would be a disaster for the communities in southwest Minnesota. The SRDC Board of Directors decided to ask the legislature to give us permission to raise our levy to cover our losses from Prairie Expo. A majority of the counties supported this idea. The legislation passed by a large margin because the legislature knew the importance of the SRDC to the region. According to the legislation, all nine counties in the region needed to approve this, which they did in June of 2002.

The levy increase has been called a Prairie Expo bailout; these dollars are not being spent to operate Prairie Expo. The tax levy increase is meant to keep the doors of the SRDC open to provide the many valuable services we provide the region.

At the present time, Prairie Discovery Inc. (PDI) is working on the possibilities for the Prairie Expo site. The SRDC is taking care of the work we do best.

On the brighter side we have accomplished many things. We have been working with the Purchasing Alliance to create affordable health insurance for our small businesses. Our revolving loan fund has been active helping to start and improve businesses in our Region. We continue to help in developing transportation systems that meet the needs of our region. We also have been assisting our communities by helping them to plan and maintain their infrastructure. These are just a few of the things we do, and with the great staff we have, we do them well.

Thank You's: Jay Trusty for taking on the big task by accepting our Director position and doing a great job to keep the commission going. County Boards for supporting the Commission through the tough year and keeping the SRDC in business. Legislators: Ted Winter and Elaine Harder for authoring the bill in the House. Jim Vickerman for helping us in the Senate. Employees: They stuck by us doing their jobs faithfully, not knowing if they had a job after July 1. We really have an excellent staff.

Again thank you all.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SPOTLIGHT ON: MURRAY CO. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COORDINATING PLANNING WITH MAPPING

Based on recommendations made by SRDC staff, Murray County leaders recognized the importance of citizen involvement in the comprehensive planning process and selected 35 individuals from within the County to form a committee that could play a vital role in plan development. The committee was

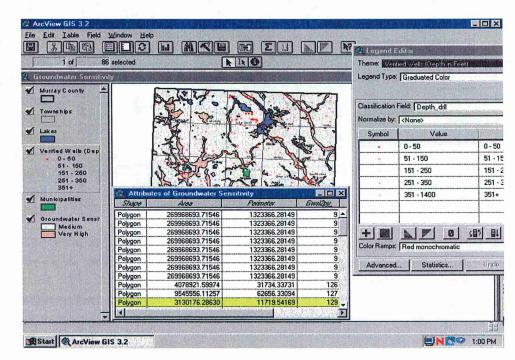
expanded to include various state departments and agencies as well.

The Plan was organized into key elements by chapter. Each chapter provided a background of its respective element then examined future development considerations and guidelines for that element. Each chapter ended with a list of goals and objectives that summarized recommendations made within the chapter and each goal was followed by policies and implementation strategies designed for achieving that goal, thereby providing direction to County decision makers as they implement the plan

The committee started the process with an important question; how would the plan stay current and effective? The data within the plan contains reasonable assumptions and projections, but they are estimates and so it should be understood that they are subject to conditions of change. Because of this, the Committee wanted the plan developed as a working document and decided that it should be examined and amended periodically. Provisions in the plan call for budgeting for the updating of the plan every two to five years. These funds are to include the reconvening of the Planning Committee, as designated by the Commissioners, in order to ensure that the goals and objectives of the plan are being met and to review the plan for areas that need to be updated.

The SRDC's GIS played a key role in the development of the comprehensive plan. Every map within the plan was created using the SRDC's GIS. Most of the data for the maps came from State departments such as MN DOT, MN DNR and MN Planning.

Data for some of the maps, such as the "Regional Trails Plan" and "Murray County Substandard Lots", were created and manipulated by staff at the SRDC. The planning process for Murray County is just beginning the development approval of the comprehensive plan. Adoption of this plan will be the first step in setting the future direction of the County, not the last. It will establish an integrated policy direction for the County identifying by strengths and weaknesses and outlining goals and objectives for planning.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

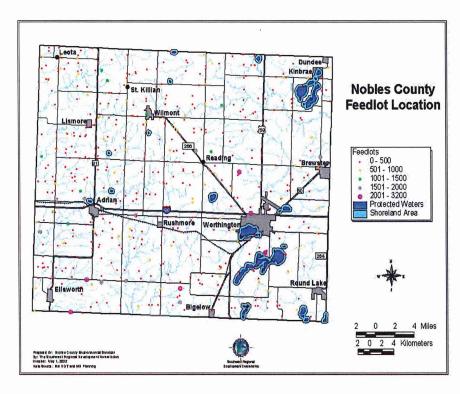
SPOTLIGHT ON: COMMUNITY COOPERATIVE GIS (Geographic Information System) PROGRAM



GIS is a geographic database program and includes the computer (hardware), software, and personnel. Such a system is capable of storing and using data <u>describing</u> places on the earth's surface, not just showing where they are. GIS does more than just make a pretty map as it can be used for mapping parcels and providing specific information about that

parcel (including photos); it can be used to show buffers, illustrate distance, and even to aid farmers in nutrient placement to further yields.

The SRDC's GIS has been used to create maps for land use plans, show project locations for different organizations, create zoning maps to accompany ordinance codifications for our region's communities, and to create maps for water plans. Recently, staff has begun to work with our region's transportation engineers to assemble a variety of transportation data including functional classifications, road restrictions (tonnage capacities), and stub routes. Once all of the data has been assembled and incorporated into our GIS, SRDC staff will be able to use that information for developing maps for comprehensive plans and economic development strategies. This data will also be available for simple and quick use by our region's transportation engineers.



The map at left was created for Nobles County Environmental Services and was included in their Comprehensive Water Plan. This map is a great example of how GIS can illustrate buffers. First, Nobles feedlot information collected by Nobles County was used to accurately display the exact location of feedlots within the County. Next, this map takes data from MN DOT and displays roads, city boundaries and County Finally, we utilized the capabilities within the GIS to create a buffer around each major water body. This data shows which feedlots (if any) are too close to the County's water bodies.

The SRDC's Community Cooperative GIS program was established to bring GIS capability and technology to small communities within our region that could otherwise not afford it. If you feel that you, your agency, your community or your county may benefit from working with the SRDC to create maps or are interested in starting a GIS of your own, we will work with you to develop a needs assessment and help you determine how GIS can best help you.

REPOSITOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

My first day with the Commission was August 7th of last year. I haven't even been here a year yet, although I've probably moved past the point where I need to put the "new" in front of Executive Director.

There have been many changes in the last year; many, if not most, related either directly or indirectly to the Prairie Expo Project.

Of course, the biggest change was the closing of the Expo facility itself, and the financial impact of this event on the SRDC. While the operations of Expo were often handled as if the Expo was a separate entity, the SRDC remained ultimately responsible. RDC reserves were spent on operating and payroll costs, severely impacting the RDC's ability to cash flow.

With the closing of Expo, the RDC was faced with paying off the debt $\underline{\text{and}}$ continuing to provide the services needed by the Region. Keep in mind that what had been happening over the past few years was that the normal operations of the SRDC had continued on what was basically a parallel

STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55155

path from Expo. The first issue that needed to be handled was the short-term liabilities. These were dealt with through the use of the money advanced to the SRDC by 8 of the 9 member counties.

The next decision was what to do with the building while we sorted everything out. We minimized costs by shutting off everything we could and basically mothballing the facility, which is how it stands today.

In order to meet the obligations of the SRDC, and in response to legal action by the City of Worthington, the RDC approached area legislators and local counties for permission to increase the SRDC's tax levy. After a long and sometimes contentious process, the RDC received this permission and is moving forward to settle past issues.

The impacts were not merely financial. As the financial picture bleakened, some staff began to search out a more stable work environment. In August, the staff accountant left for the SW Housing Partnership, and was not replaced. The finance department was stretched to its limits, but has managed to get most of its work done through some creative use of staff and hours.

Not long after this, a planning staff member left, also to take a position with the Housing Partnership. On the positive side, we were able to hire Nan Larson as the Deputy Director, and she has been able to step right in and assume economic development responsibilities such as administering the Revolving Loan Fund.

In December, an aging staff member left for greener pastures at AURI in Marshall. By shifting some personnel and reallocating responsibilities, we absorbed this loss, but it has added more stress to an already stretched staff.

We have recently lost a member of the support staff, again to the Housing Partnership. Now that it looks like the SRDC is going to survive, if should be a little easier to try and fill this position.

Where do we go from here? We've come a long way in the last year, but we aren't quite there yet. We still need to come to a final resolution on the Prairie Expo project. The SRDC needs to continue moving forward to reestablish ourselves as a thriving part of the economy and community of Southwest Minnesota by providing much needed services to the area. I took this position because I believed the SRDC to be a positive force in the development of SW Minnesota and a resource I didn't want to see lost to the Region.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the staff who have stuck with us through the lean times in hopes of better times to come. Without their determination and willingness to take on additional workload, we would not have been able to survive the low points. I look forward to continuing to work with them to make SW Minnesota a better place to live and work.

Thank you,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SPOTLIGHT ON: SW LABOR FORCE ASSESSMENT



The 2000 Minnesota State Legislators funded a pilot program administered by the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) to complete nine regional projects to identify and evaluate the underemployed workforce and the use this data to support business development and

job creation initiatives throughout the state. Other financial contributions were made by the Southwest Minnesota Foundation, Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Department of Economic Security, Alliant Energy, and member counties, cities, and local EDA's.

The SRDC was selected as the grant recipient to study the geographical area of Regions 8, 6W and 6E. The study generated the three regional reports as well as seven county reports.

There were 18 counties included in this area. The total population is 287,627 people.

The random telephone survey of 3,711 households asked employment availability and history, commuting patterns, and educational backgrounds.

Following are some of the survey results of note for the study area:

- The majority of worker's pre-tax salaries are \$20-30,000 annually
- An estimated 24,310 people are underemployed by education
- The age 55+ category has the largest number of underemployed
- The top two occupational categories of underemployment due to over education were education, training, and library fields; and public safety and protective services
- Most would require a \$1-2.00 per hour increase in wages to change jobs
- There was an overwhelming majority that indicated their willingness to retrain for better jobs and/or greater pay
- A total of 21,440 non-working residents would be willing to find work if the right opportunity was presented
- Less than 17% of part-time workers reported working part-time involuntarily due to slack work conditions
- Workers cited their top reason for working part-time was preferring part-time over full-time employment
- In Region 8, 75% of workers commute 0-15 minutes one-way to work
- In Region 8, a worker currently commuting 16-30 minutes one-way would require an additional \$2.40 per hour to induce a 31-45 minute commute. 51% would not be willing to make a longer commute regardless of an increased wage.
- 81% of all jobs in Region 8 fall into less than 25 occupational categories

The executive summaries for the studies are available on the SRDC website, www.swrdc.org or contact Nan Larson for further information.



SPOTLIGHT ON: REVOLVING LOAN FUND



The SRDC has a business revolving loan fund that was created in 1994 from a combination of federal, state, and local contributions. The purpose of the loan fund is to spur economic development by filling a gap in financing for otherwise feasible projects.

Since its inception, 55 loans have been made totaling \$3,527,450. These SRDC loan funds have leveraged private dollars in the amount of \$18,250,844, with total project costs of \$25,854,524. A total of 344 jobs have been created, with an additional 701 retained. As you can imagine, this is a huge impact on economic development in Region 8!

The average size loan is \$64,470, but amounts can range from \$5,000 to \$100,000. The interest rate is fixed, and loans typically have a longer amortization with a balloon payment. The use may be for fixed assets or working capital; start-ups, expansions, or retentions; and industrial, service, or commercial. At least half the total project cost must come from a private source.

There are limited funds presently available in the pool. If you are interested, please contact Deputy Director, Nan Larson at 507-836-8547, extension 108 for further detail.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN INFORMATION

As of 6/30/02	Cottonwood	Jackson	Lincoln	Lyon	Murray
# loans	7	4	3	13	5
total SRDC RLF	\$688,597.00	\$347,059.00	\$185,750.00	\$909,500.00	\$279,220.00
total project cost	\$9,856,597.00	\$1,439,962.00	\$536,500.00	\$7,142,450.00	\$605,862.00
average size loan	\$98,371.00	\$86,764.75	\$61,916.67	\$69,961.53	\$55,844.00
# jobs created	37	23	13	132	8
# retained	127	68	10	328	14
# created/retained	164	91	23	460	22
prvt.funds leveraged	\$8,793,000.00	\$709,903.00	\$340,750.00	\$4,066,950.00	\$321,642.00

	Nobles	Pipestone	Redwood	Rock	ALL
# loans	9	1	10	3	55
total SRDC RLF	\$469,250.00	\$100,000.00	\$374,073.91	\$174,000.00	\$3,527,449.91
total project cost	\$3,459,073.00	\$275,130.00	\$2,080,949.91	\$458,000.00	\$25,854,523.91
average size loan	\$52,138.88	\$100,000.00	\$37,407.39	\$58,000.00	\$64,470.19
# jobs created	85	1	38	7	344
# retained	69	3	79	3	701
# created/retained	154	4	117	10	1045
prvt.funds leveraged	\$2,221,323.00	\$175,130.00	\$1,350,646.00	\$271,500.00	\$18,250,844.00

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

SPOTLIGHT ON: ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

The wind power resources in Southwest Minnesota are derived from a legislative mandate to Northern States Power (now Xcel Energy) to develop wind power capacity. The SRDC provided staff assistance to the Counties who began to work together to address issues that stemmed from the development of wind power. The SRDC continues to provide staff assistance to the 11 County Energy Task Force. Over the past year, its name has evolved from the SW MN Energy Task Force to the Rural Minnesota Energy Task Force when Mower County joined. Over the past year, the focus of the Energy Task Force has expanded from primarily wind energy, to include energy transmission lines, hydrogen energy technology, bio diesel and ethanol use, waste-to-energy, and initiating communication with power companies.

Milestones for the Energy Task Force:

- Production Tax Legislation
- ♦ Soy-Based Bio Diesel Fuel Legislation
- Ethanol Legislation
- ♦ Intervener Status in the Certificate of Need for Four Transmission Lines in Southwest Minnesota
- CERTs LCMR proposal

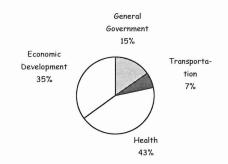
FINANCIAL

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & PRAIRIE EXPO FISCAL YEAR 2002

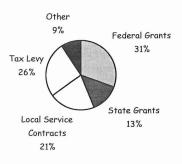
Revenues	Totals	Expenditures	Totals
Tax Levy	214,599.63	Committee Expense	45,441.28
MN Board on Aging	105,523.42	Salaries & Fringe	542,871.61
Dept.Health-Purchasing Alliance	27,760.85	Staff Travel	29,289.17
Senior Link/Health Ins	54,602.83	Office Space & Utilities/Upkeep	32,145.93
Title III-E-Senior Linkage	21,348.89	Postage	11,662.42
State LTC I&A Initiative	6,567.00	Communications	11,630.99
Operation Restore Trust (ORT)-HICP	16,024.00	Print/Publication & Advertising	24,388.22
State/CMS-Health Insurance Counsel	24,050.00	Supplies	5,295.00
Dept. Human ServLong Term Care	6,071.43	Insurance	34,228.07
Board of Innovation-Purch. Alliance	18,417.27	Depreciation (Non-building)	21,310.79
Economic Dev. Adm.	55,000.00	Audits	4,900.00
MN/DOT	50,000.00	Computer	5,556.75
Civics Mentorship	1,000.00	Equipment	-
Medicare Empowerment	2,032.47	Retail and Gift Shop Items	8,807.71
Current Contracts	231,265.60	Other	49,390.18
Department of Trade & Econ. Dev	22,660.00	Consultant/Contracted Services/Legal	68,323.06
Expo Sales	9,434.03	Misc. Expo Expenses	10,347.73
Expo Donations	8,992.14	Unemployment Paid	41,151.21
Expo Land Rent	4,552.00	Office Building Principal Payment	16,393.92
Interest Earned & Miscellaneous	15,196.36	Total Expenditures	963,134.04
Reserves used for Building	-	Balance	(68,036.12)
Reserves used for Equipment Purchases	-		
Total Revenues	895,097.92	Incr/(Decr) in Equipment Reserve	21,310.79
		Incr/(Decr) in Building Reserve	10,409.00
		Incr/(Decr) in Unrestricted Reserve	(31,719.79)
			(///)

Pass through amount for MBA/AAA subgrantees at \$861,987.

FY03 COSTS BY PROGRAM CATEGORY



FY03 REVENUE SOURCES



FISCAL YEAR 2001 AUDIT REPORT

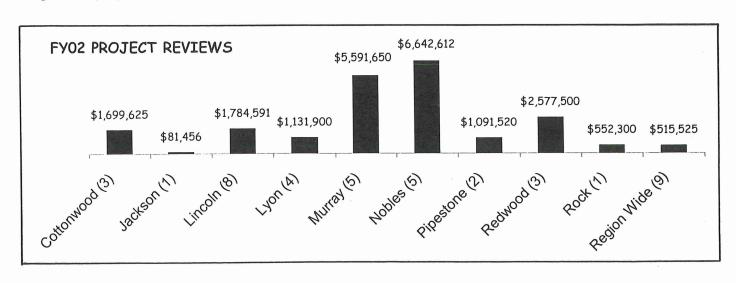
SRDC Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance All Governmental Fund Types and Discretely Presented Component Units for the Year Ended June 30, 2001

	Governmental Fund Types		Total (Memorandum Only)				Total (Memorandum Only)			
•			Special Revenue		Primary		Component			
,	Ge	neral Fund	Fund		G	overnment	Units		Reporting Entity	
Revenues:										
Local & County	\$	508,083	\$	453,056	\$	961,139	\$	64,876	\$	1,026,015
State		461,778		0		461,778		5,000		466,778
Federal		791,476		0		791,476		0		791,476
Total Revenues		1,761,337		453,056		2,214,393		69,876		2,284,269
Expenditures:										
General government		164,165		0		164,165		0		164,165
Transportation		58,824		0		58,824		0		58,824
Health		1,073,199	0		1,073,199		0			1,073,199
Econ. Development		416,292		334,900		751,192		73,856		825,048
Total Expenditures		1,712,480		334,900		2,047,380		73,856		2,121,236
Excess (deficiency) of		48,857		118,156		167,013		(3,980)		163,033
Other financing sources (uses): Operating transfers to		(205 704)				(205 704)				(205 724)
proprietary fund		(305,796)		0		(305,796)		0		(305,796)
Net other financing										
sources (uses)		(305,796)		0		(305,796)		0		(305,796)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other sources over expenditures and other uses		(256,939)		118,156		(138,783)		(3,980)		(142,763)
Fund Balance - July 1, 2000	\$	420,860	\$	79,222	\$	500,082	\$	50,408	\$	550,490
Fund Balance - June 30, 2001	\$	163,921	\$	197,378.00	\$	361,299	\$	46,428	\$	407,727
			_				_			

On August 3, 2001, Prairie Expo visitor's center was closed by the Southwest Regional Development Commission. The Commission has indicated that it does not intend to operate the facility in the future. As a result of this event, Prairie Expo has been determined to be an impaired asset, and has been valued at \$0.00. (Taken from Notes to Financial Statements-FY01 Audit.)

FY2002 PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 2002 the Southwest Regional Development Commission reviewed 41 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 FY02, please contact the SRDC office.



TRANSPORTATION

SPOTLIGHT ON: AREA TRANSPORTATION PARTNERSHIPS (ATPs)

The Minnesota transportation process for investment decisions using federal surface transportation funds uses regional partnerships whose boundaries are based on MnDOT State Aid

Districts. These partnerships, called ATP have as their members both traditional and non-traditional stakeholders. The ATPs integrate the state and local priorities within their area and recommend a three-year program for federally funded transportation investments. This three-year program is combined with a list of state funded projects and is considered a draft Area Transportation Improvement Program (ATIP). Each ATP is allowed a targeted dollar amount, based on the formula below. \$335 million in federal surface transportation funds is distributed by the formula.

TARGET FORMULA

MEASURE		FACTOR	WEIGHT		
		Bridge Area	10%		
	EM SIZE 0%	Federal Aid Lane Miles	25%		
, , , ,		Buses	5%		
USAGE 60%	Present	VMT	25%		
	riesent	HCVMT	5%		
	Future	2020 Population	30%		

The SRDC boundaries cover parts of two ATPs (7 & 8), and as such we participate in each. The common elements the SRDC does for ATPs are:

- o Convene a public meeting to review and comment on the two draft ATIPs.
- Share information between the two ATP's on issues and projects the Willmar and Mankato ATP's were involved
 in.
- Bring requests and comments from governmental units in the Region to the ATPs.
- Serve as voting member(s) on the ATP, and serve on subcommittees
- o Provide assistance to Transportation Enhancement Applicants
- Review and prioritize each road, bridge, and safety project submitted to the ATP within the boundaries of the SRDC.
- Transportation Enhancement workshops.
- ATP 7 (MANKATO). SRDC Commissioner Erickson has served as our representative during FY 2002; SRDC Commissioner Darrell Holmberg will be our new representative beginning FY 2003. The SRDC participates with one member to this ATP and serves on the following subcommittees: Transit and Transportation Enhancements. ATP 7 programs \$25 million in federally projects per year.
- ATP 8 (WILLMAR). SRDC Commissioners Keers and Fenske serve on the Willmar Area Transportation Partnership. The SRDC participates on the following subcommittees of the ATP: Transportation Enhancements and Regional Rating. ATP 8 programs \$20 million in federally funded projects per year.

SOUTHWEST AREA AGENCY ON AGING SENIOR LINKAGE LINE® 1-800-333-2433

SPOTLIGHT ON: SWAAA DIRECT SERVICES

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging (SWAAA) is dedicated to providing services to southwest Minnesota's aging population. Advisory Council members within the nine county service area are actively involved in assisting the Area Agency on Aging in making funding recommendations to the SRDC, planning the Regional Conference on Aging and participating in site and contract assessments. Advisory Council members also assist with outreach to individuals who may be interested in services provided by the Area Agency on Aging.

The Census 2000 shows the elderly population of Southwest Minnesota as follows:

• 121,717 persons in the region • 28,461 over the age of 60 (23.4%) • 4,076 over the age of 85 (3.3%)

This year the Area Agency has dedicated a large amount of time on preparing Southwest Minnesota for the rebalancing of the Long Term Care System. Staff completed the Long Term Care Gaps Analysis and Service Development Plans for the 9 Counties of SW Minnesota. Implementation meetings were held with the County Service providers and community members to ensure that the gaps identified in the plan are minimized. The SWAAA also completed a regional analysis after viewing the individual county Gaps Analysis.

The SWAAA awarded \$553,417.00 in Title III Funds for Legal Services, Respite, Information & Access, Coordinator on Aging, Peer Counseling, Senior Dining, Home Delivered Meals & Drug Medication Management.

The Southwest Area Agency on Aging facilitated or participated in the following trainings:

- Housing with Services 101
- Somali Conference
- Intergenerational Dialogues
- Parish Nurse

- Rural Summit
- Age Odyssey
- Long-Term Care Consultation
- Regional Conference on Aging

SENIOR LINKAGE LINE

Direct Services Statistics:

	Senior	LinkAge Line®	Callers	State Health Insurance assistance			
		(Region 8)		Program (SHIP) Clients (Region 8)			
Nei	w Persons	Total Persons	Contacts	New Persons	Total Persons	Contacts	
(1)	359	423	1206	259	330	752	
(2)	389	421	1193	239	254	755	
(3)	555	569	1458	350	357	919	
(4)	588	613	1499	399	410	1007	
Total	1891	2026	5356	1283	1351	3433	

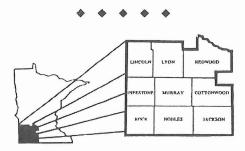
- In CY 2001, volunteer counselors contributed 1,659 hours to SHIP.
- Home visits and community appointments were available as necessary.
- Conducted two initial volunteer trainings in Region 8 and one for Region 6E and 6W.
- Biggest area of need identified by callers was Prescription Drug Assistance, Medicare & Medicare supplements, financial assistance, in-home services, housing, legal, transportation & program referrals.
- Participated in health/wellness fairs.
- Since January of 2002, 17 Senior Surf Days have been conducted serving 181 persons. Two trainings were provided to Plum Creek Library staff to assist in offering more computer training to Medicare beneficiaries.
- Collaborations with First Call for Help has taken place primarily because of 2-1-1. 2-1-1 is expected to be implemented by the end of Calendar Year 2002.



PRÁIRIE HEALTH PURCHASING ALLIANCE YEAR-IN-REVIEW

- ♦ Name change from Southwest Purchasing Alliance to Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance (PHPA)
- Funding received from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Board of Government Innovations
- ♦ The Minnesota Department of Health registered the PHPA as a Purchasing Alliance as it met the requirements of MN Statutes Chapter 62T
- ♦ The Secretary of State approved the PHPA trademark name of Prairie Health Purchasing
- \diamond The process of obtaining a 501(c)(3) status has begun
- ♦ A marketing plan has been developed and is being implemented
- Benefits committee has met several times to review draft contracts, benefit schedules, etc.
- ♦ Two meetings have taken place between Sioux Valley and Avera to discuss network issues. These issues currently exist.
- Collaboratively presented with other purchasing alliances within Minnesota at the Rural Summit in Duluth
- Coordinators from around the state have met to discuss collaborative efforts
- Grant applications have been submitted collaboratively with other purchasing alliances
- Educational meetings conducted for hospital staff, hospital boards and area providers
- ♦ An executive committee, marketing committee and benefits committee have been developed
- The debit card concept is being researched to reduce paperwork for enrollees as well as enhance reimbursement process for providers
- The Stop Loss and HMO demonstration bills were passed in the legislature which will assist the PHPA as well as other purchasing alliances being developed
- ◆ The PHPA and Rural Care Partners (Northwest Minnesota) are in the lead in terms of development of a purchasing alliance product

The last hurdle for the PHPA is to find a way to ensure accessibility to providers. Hopefully to occur in the Fall of 2002.



The Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) is a nine county planning and development agency providing services to local units of government, non-profit agencies, and various individuals and groups in both public and private sectors throughout the region. Membership is comprised of 34 representatives of townships, cities, counties, school boards, and public interest groups in the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood and Rock.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



SPOTLIGHT ON: 2001 SRDC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT



INTRODUCTION

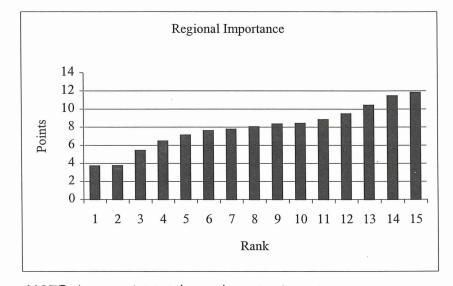
In the Fall of 2001, the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC) conducted a performance assessment as required by Minnesota Statute 462.393, Subd. 2. What follows is a summary of survey data, a review of the activities of the SRDC over the past five years, and a look at both successful and unsuccessful programs. The full performance assessment is available for review at your local county offices or may be obtained from the Center for Regional Development, 2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1, Slayton, MN 56172-1142. The performance assessment is also available as a PDF file at the SRDC's website: www.swrdc.org

SURVEY RESULTS

In November 2001, the Southwest Regional Development Commission sent a survey to SRDC members, local units of government and public interest groups in the region, asking respondents to rank program areas by order of importance. The results show that Economic and Community Development continue to be at the top of the list of issues of importance to the region.

ISSUES IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

- 1. Economic Development
- 2. Community Development
- 3. Area Agency on Aging
- 4. Environmental Quality
- 5. Business Loan Packaging
- 6. Legislative Issues
- 7. Water Resources
- 8. Transportation Planning
- 9. Land Use
- 10. Energy Policy
- 11. Housing Studies/Market Analysis
- 12. Intergovernmental Relations
- 13. Information & Referral
- 14. Regulatory Coordination
- 15. Prevailing Wage Issues



NOTE: Lower point totals equal greater importance.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to the survey, the staff of the SRDC was asked to review the accomplishments of the last five years. SRDC worked with numerous communities and produced many successes during this time period, including; an analysis of the livestock industry in southwest Minnesota, the Worthington and Nobles County Transit Collaborative, a Regional Feedlot Project, a pilot Land Use Planning Program, Welfare to Work, the Nobles County Community Based Plan, a Community Cooperative GIS Program, the SW Minnesota Regional Trails Plan, a NOAA Weather Radio System, the Revolving Loan Fund, Senior Nutrition, Regional Resources for Rural Minnesota (RRRM) and the Lincoln County Sustainable Development Plan and Development Code.

CONCLUSION

The Southwest Regional Development Commission would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those whose responses to our survey allowed us to complete our required Performance Assessment, and looks forward to a future dedicated to supporting the development needs of Southwest Minnesota.

Mission Statement

"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



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FISCAL YEAR 2002 SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERS

COWWI22ION WEWREK2
Connie Knorr Cottonwood County Municipalities
Darrell Holmberg Cottonwood County Town Boards
* Marlowe Nelsen, Past Chair Cottonwood Co Commissioners
Eric Hartman Jackson County Municipalities
*Richard Peterson Jackson County Town Boards
*Craig Rubis, Chairman Jackson County Commissioners
Erick Harper Lincoln County Municipalities
Eloise Hauschild Lincoln County Town Boards
*Larry Hansen Lincoln County Commissioners
Joanne Myrvik Lyon County Municipalities
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Robert Demuth City of Worthington
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Rafael Gonzalez Region Eight Cultural Diversity
Carol Flesner SW Center for Independent Living
Sandy Demuth SW MN Private Industry Council
David E. Sturrock Southwest State University
Katy Olson Prairie Ecology Bus Center

*Indicates Current SRDC Board Members

CURRENT SRDC STAFF MEMBERS

Jay Trusty	Executive Director
Nan Larson	Deputy Director
Maddy For:	sberg Aging Program Director
	ir Physical Development Director
	wley Finance Director
Robin Weis	Program Development Specialist
	Development Planner
	nia Office Manager
Helen Brink	ks Financial/Grants Specialist
Linda Tobio	is Program Assistant
	eiber Administrative Assistant II
Lori Sternb	oorg Administrative Assistant I