

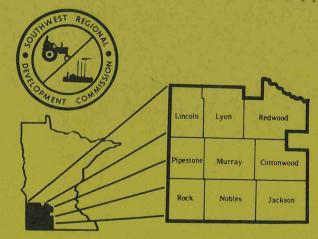




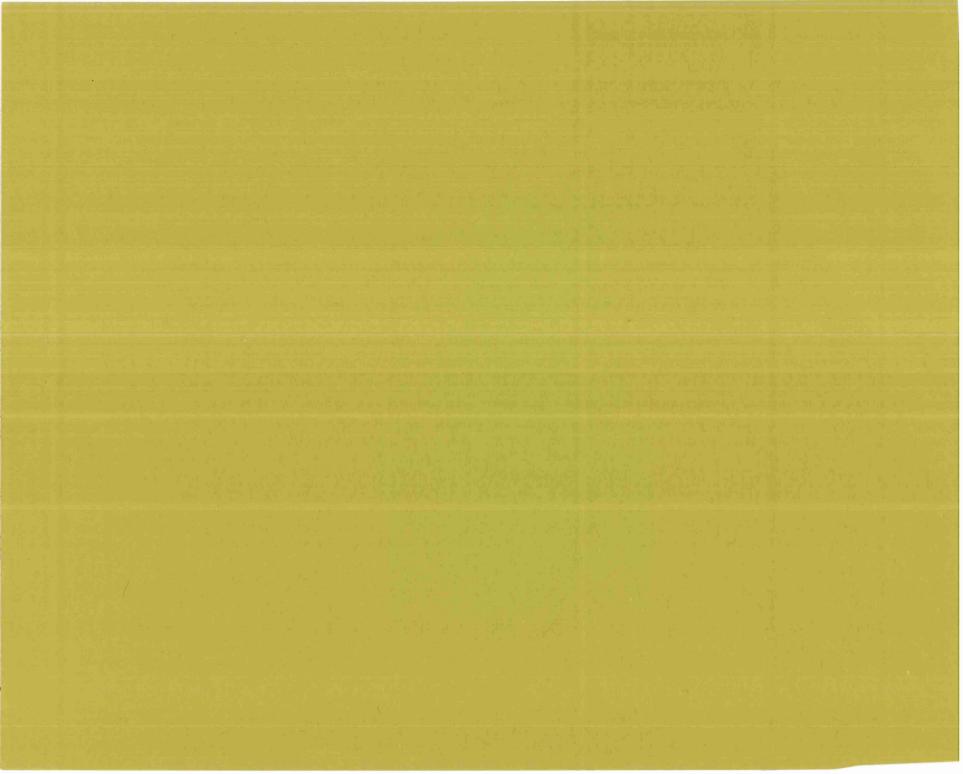
southwest regional development commission



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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

To: The Citizens of Southwestern Minnesota

From: The Chairman of the Southwest Regional Development Commission

Dear Friends:

We have really just completed our first full year of operation since the committees were organized and staff were hired and I feel that our growth has been good. Our Commission, which ranges over 5,900 square miles and nine counties, is becoming a regional community, a group that is concerned about the various problems in southwestern Minnesota.

Our efforts have been directed at getting to know the area and to begin to work together. I am a county commissioner from Windom in Cottonwood County and I had little knowledge of the problems facing city and township government until I was elected to the Regional Board of Directors. The intergovernmental cooperation shown by cities, townships, school boards and counties is an important factor in our progress.

During the next year we will expand our efforts in the fields of water resources, soils study, transportation, parks and recreation as well as public facilities planning and economic development. However, most of our effort will continue to be directed at protecting our most valuable resource — Agriculture.

Finally, I welcome and urge all citizens, especially the elected and appointed officials, to visit with us and attend a few of our meetings. Your participation and interest will be the real key to our success.

Sincerely,

F. A. Miller

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COMMISSION MEMBERS—

*F. A. "Jim" Miller, Chairman *Roland Wray Harold Schmidt, Mayor of Westbrook *Milford Gentz, Secretary Gordon Ellefson Meryl Ostwald, Mayor of Lakefield *Carl Hauschild Eugene Isfeld Don Gaeke, Mayor of Ivanhoe	Cottonwood County Commission Cottonwood County Town Boards Cottonwood County Municipalities Jackson County Commission Jackson County Town Boards Jackson County Municipalities Lincoln County Commission Lincoln County Town Boards Lincoln County Municipalities
Mrs. Ken (Kathy) Price	Region 8 School Boards
*Robert Hirmer, Councilman	City of Marshall
*Ray F. Schisler, Mayor	City of Worthington
Harold Mellenthin	Lyon County Town Boards
*Paul Knoblauch	Lyon County Commission
Father Dennis Becker, Mayor	Lyon County Municipalities
Marvin Nelson, Councilman, Slayton	Murray County Municipalities
Rimer Isder	Murray County Town Boards
*R. J. Christiansen, Treasurer	Murray County Commission
Don Berreau, Mayor, Brewster	Nobles County Municipalities
Robert L. Feeken	Nobles County Town Board
*Ralph Sanders	Nobles County Commission
Steven Pool, Mayor, Edgerton	Pipestone County Municipalities
*Joseph L. StepanekClayton Ihlen	Pipestone County Town Boards Pipestone County Commission
*John Maurer, Mayor, Westbrook	Redwood County Municipalities
Raymond Jensen	Redwood County Town Boards
*Roy Syverson	Redwood County Commission
Vance Ebert, Luverne City Councilman	Rock County Municipalities
Rasmus Tweet	Rock County Town Boards
*William J. Doherty, Vice Chairman	Rock County Commission
*Loren R. Carlson	Region 8 School Boards
George Benda	Region 8 Business Association
Rev. Daniel Jordahl	Region 8 Ecumenical Committee

STAFF MEMBERS—

Mark Atchison	Executive Director
Susan De Witt	Secretary
Gerald Chasteen	
Darryl L. Siegel	Regional Development Specialist

^{*}Indicates Board Member

Committees

ENVIRONMENTAL & DRAINAGE COMMITTEE-Gordon Ellefson Chairman Paul Knoblauch Robert Feeken Roland Wray Clayton Ihlen HOUSING COMMITTEE-Roy Syverson Harold Schmidt

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE— F. A. "Jim" Miller Chairman

Windom Wm. J. Doherty Vice Chairman Magnolia Milford Gentz Secretary Lakefield R. J. Christiansen Treasurer Slayton

BUDGET & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE-

R. J. Christiansen Chairman Slayton Milford Gentz Lakefield Ralph Sanders Ellsworth Roy Syverson Walnut Grove John Maurer Wabasso Joe Stepanek Ruthton

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE-

Carl Hauschild Chairman Minneota Robert Feeken Rushmore Joe Stepanek Ruthton Harold Mellenthin Marshall Rimer Isder Avoca Eugene Isfeld Porter Ivanhoe Don Gaeke

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE-

Wm. J. Doherty Chairman Magnolia Ralph Sanders Ellsworth Marvin Nelson Slayton Eugene Isfeld Porter Meryl Ostwald Lakefield John Maurer Wabasso Vance Ebert Luverne

Walnut Grove Westbrook Rev. Daniel Jordahl Marshall Fr. Dennis Becker Cottonwood Don Berreau Brewster

Jackson

Rushmore

Pipestone

Heron Lake

Amiret

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE—

Harold Mellenthin Chairman Marshall Ray Schisler Worthington Clayton Ihlen **Pipestone** Ray Jensen Springfield Rasmus Tweet Kerimeth Steven Pool Edgerton

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE—

Robert Hirmer Chairman Marshall R. J. Christiansen Slayton John Maurer Wabasso Don Berreau Brewster Lakefield Milford Gentz George Benda Alpha Vance Ebert Luverne

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE—

Paul Knoblauch Amiret R. J. Christiansen Slayton Kathy Price Lakefield Loren R. Carlson Heron Lake Dan Jordahl Marshall

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE-

F. A. "Jim" Miller Chairman Windom and a member from each functional committee

Southwest Region 8 Completes First Year of Operation

FY75 is the first complete year of operation so consequently some of our efforts were directed towards organizational activities. But the major administrative and organizational planned efforts are now complete. The office is located in a Murray County building, the full authorized complement of staff hired and major work program activities are in progress or complete.

In conjunction with the administrative activities, a newsletter is published by-monthly and mailed to 565 elected officials and interested persons. The newsletter is not necessarily a "PR" tool of the agency, but more a source of succinct information on local governmental happenings in the region. Much credit goes to Worthington Community College for their assistance in getting the newsletter out in a

timely manner.

Outside of the completed administration responsibilities, e.g. audits, annual reports, quarterly reports, OPDs, personnel policies and numerous public speaking engagements, the agency spent a major (28%) share of its time the first year providing technical assistance and training for local units of government. We had planned on providing planning and grantsmanship assistance based on our community problem identification survey and available resources about 12% of our staff allotted time, but Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 generated much more interest than we could have anticipated and since grantsmanship and T/A is the "bread and butter" activity of a regional commission, some regional

priorities were carried into the FY76 work plan.

Major technical assistance activities include an OEO grant to South Central Community Action for food stamp outreach with the family service centers in four counties, an Intergovernmental Personnel Act grant for a "roving" city administrator in 5 communities in Redwood county plus providing assistance in the development of 20 of 32 HUD pre-applications and assistance to the communities and/or their engineering firms in the development of 7 full applications in the region.

We have continued to provide assistance in the development of three OEDPs in Region 8. The Lincoln County PLanner and the Area Extension Service along with our staff are assisting the counties in completing their Overall Economic Development Plans.

Important reports, policies and surveys that have been developed during the last fiscal year included an inventory of county landfill sites and charges, a preliminary report on selected county personnel salaries, an annual report and synopsis of activities for the Minnesota State Legislature, city, school and township problem identification report, a preliminary report on the use of revenue sharing in southwest Minnesota, a FY76 Overall Program Design for state, federal, and local funding, an audit by Thomas Quinn, CPA, Worthington, policy statements for recreation and park development, housing, economic development, and transportation. Maps completed with overlays include: watersheds; recreation facilities; zoning; highways, by tonnage; railroads; and soils.

Seminars and workshops conducted included: Population Projections for the Region, Highway Uses in the Future, Rural Development for Area Bankers, several seminars on the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's Home Improvement Loan Program, Land Use, Comprehensive Planning, a workshop on Community Development grants, as well as, participating in the Regional Environmental Education Fair.

The Commission held a public meeting in each county to explain its role, as well as, answer questions from concerned citizens and gather input from them. Members of the Regional Commission also participated in a TV show on regional development in Minnesota. The Regional Commission also testified before several Minnesota House and Senate Committies on land use, human services, and regional activities.

Relationships have been developed with the Minnesota Highway Department, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Region E Crime Commission. In all, it has been a positive year for the Commission.

Significant opportunities that are planned for FY76 or are in progress and planned to be completed in FY76 are a Training of Local Officials grant of \$26,536 from the Kellogg Foundation, a guide for rural development for small cities, a feasibility study on rural water systems, revised OEDPs for Lincoln, Lyon and Murray Counties, a social development plan (grant pending), a rural demonstration transportation project, an inventory of all human services available in Region 8 and a housing inventory and allocation plan.

Region 8 and a housing inventory and allocation plan.

LEGISLAT.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Physical Planning

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture's importance is obvious as only about three percent of the region's land is utilized for uses other than pasture and crop cultivation. No less than four advisory (action) committies have addressed themselves to agriculture and agriculture-related problems.

Two definite courses of action have stemmed from the discussion of issues by the agriculture and environmental and drainage committees. One result has been the formulation of an environmental policy statement which will be valuable as a guide for local governmental units and the RDC to act on project proposals. Such a policy, in effect, is a statement of the RDC's position on maintaining a quality environment.

Action also arose from inadequate water quantity and quality, particularly in the southern one-third of the region. After discussing rural water systems and discovering there is a continued strong interest in such a system, the two committees requested staff support. Review of previous research indicates there is a great need for both increased quantity and better quality water in this area. Staff support has begun with the coordination of this groups efforts with three other proposed rural water systems who are in various stages of development. The staff will continue to provide technical assistance to proposed systems and in helping coordinate their involvement with the various government agencies.

Land use has received attention and the advisory committees have indicated that it would probably be most advantageous for the RDC to contract for county land use studies. If contracted out, the studies would be subject to a list of topics to be included in the study and then approval or disapproval through public hearings and review and comment by the RDC staff.

It has been the policy of the RDC to become involved in weather modification only to the point of discussing available information and attending hearings. It has been determined that too little is known about measurable results and legal aspects for the RDC to take a position.

Positive action has begun on the lack of equitably distributed nine-ton roads in the region through testimony given at transportation hearings. Without well distributed nine-ton roads, an area faces an economic barrier to the flow of agricultural products.

Future directions for the advisory committees and staff assistance, when requested may include an attempt to influence a uniform state drainage code, policy statement on the protection of prime agricultural land, and investigation of resource recovery and solid waste management projects. Awareness of the regions increasing intensive farming methods and decreasing tree acreage and cover-cropping practices may result in some sort of action by the RDC to encourage conservation practices.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recent trends indicate that economic viability has become a concern in several areas of the Region. Recently, three counties, Lincoln, Lyon and Murray, have become qualified for designation as redevelopment areas by the Economic Development Administration. To become designated and thus, eligible for grants and loans from the Economic Development Administration, an economic program has to be ratified at the federal level. The Southwest Regional Development Commission has given extensive assistance to the three eligible counties during the preparation of their respective Overall Economic

Development Programs. As soon as the qualified counties become designated, the SRDC intends to develop a "regional economic program" in an attempt to receive regional designation and make the entire region eligible for EDA grants and loans.

To coodinate these and other economic activities of the Region, the Economic Development Committee meets quarterly. The basic charge of the Economic Development Committee has been to coordinate and encourage the development of the county economic programs. Recently, the committee direction has been toward problem solving and industry securing functions. A constant liaison is maintained with the Department of Economic Development in order to adequately address the economic needs of the Region.

It is anticipated that, in the future, besides developing a Regional Economic Plan, the SRDC will work even more closely with the Department of Economic Development, local development organizations, and chambers of commerces to extensively address the challenges, opportunities and problems of an economic nature within the Region.

HOUSING

In the past year, the Housing Committee, which meets quarterly, has consistently addressed itself to the problems of inadequate, unavailable, and expensive housing in the Region. The committee has established policies and goals with which to guide itself in the area of housing. With the Housing Committee acting as an advisory element, the Commission has given technical assistance to local units of government desiring to apply for federal and state low-income housing projects. In conjunction with this, the Commission provided several community and county Housing and Redevelopment Authorities with information concerning housing programs applicable to their situation. In the area of housing rehabilitation, the Commission was instrumental in encouraging several area lending institutions to participate in the Minnesota Housing Finance

Agency's Home Improvement Program which provides low-interest loans to rehabilitate single family dwellings.

Housing planning will play more of a role in the actions of the Housing Committee in the future. A Regional Housing Allocation Plan will be developed to afford an opportunity for local input into the housing allocation decisions made at the state and federal levels. A housing profile will be developed for each county detailing the housing situation.

Efforts will also continue in the areas of technical assistance and housing program information dissemination throughout the planning process.

TRANSPORTATION

Adequate transportation has constantly been a concern in this rural area. Optimum farm to market corridors are essential in Southwestern Minnesota. To address this issue, the Transportation Committee has identified several deficiencies in the overall transportation system of the region.

Railroad abandonment has been an issue of special concern to the Region. Constant effort has been made to halt abandonment efforts in the area and encourage a complete study of the abandonment issue. Testimony by the Commission, along with several other organizations and individuals, at special Congressional hearings was instrumental in causing federal legislation concerning railroad abandonment.

In the area of highway planning and construction, the Commission has representation on the State Technical Advisory Committee on transportation. This has given the Commission an opportunity to have input into the state transportation planning process.

In the future, the Commission is proposing a transportation study for which concrete recommendations can be made to the various state and federal agencies involved with transportation planning and development.

1975 Projects Reviewed

	PROJECT			
PROJECT	COST		APPLICANT	FUNDING AGENCY
			*	
CETA Title I	\$ 7,187,978	Balance of State	Governor's Manpower Office	Department of Labor
Camden State Park	24,500		Dept. of Natural Resources	LAWCON
Summer Youth Program	1,374,870	Balance of State	Governor's Manpower Office	Department of Labor
Storm Sewer System	108,000	(Loan)	City of Sanborn	Farmers Home Administration
Recreation Area Development	47,500		City of Lucan	LAWCON
Mountain Lake County Park	28,850		Cottonwood County	LAWCON
Talcott County Park	39,875		Cottonwood County	LAWCON
Ramsey Park	110,000		City of Redwood Falls	LAWCON
Christiansen Apartments	Sec. 8		Christiansen Corp/Luverne	HRA/HUD
Lakeside Park	21,800		City of Cottonwood	LAWCON.
Plum Creek Park	78,500		Redwood County	LAWCON
Des Moines River Park	20,500		City of Windom	LAWCON
Minneota Park	22,000		City of Minneota	LAWCON
Russell Park Bridge	42,500		City of Russell	LAWCON
Stage I Buffalo Herd	56,500		City of Pipestone	LAWCON
Acquisition & Park Development	90,000		City of Jasper	LAWCON
Park Development	13,675		City of Jasper	LAWCON
Picnic Point	61,650		Lincoln County	LAWCON
Bicentennial Park	28,000		City of Ghent	LAWCON
Garvin Park	67,000		Lyon County	LAWCON
Anderson Park	43,600		City of Arco	LAWCON
Hendricks Park	29,300		City of Hendricks	LAWCON
Stoney Point	18,140		City of Tyler	LAWCON
End-O-Line Park	30,550		Murray County	LAWCON
Lime Lake Park	10,450		City of Avoca	LAWCON
Memorial Park	17,000		City of Sanborn	LAWCON
CETA TITLE II	2,527,178	Balance of State	Governor's Manpower Office	Deptartment of Labor
CETA TITLE VI	6,697,011	Balance of State	Governor's Manpower Office	Department of Labor
Wastewater Treatment Grants				
Step I Feasibility Study	42,000		City of Redwood Falls	EPA
Step III Construction	120,500		City of Taunton	EPA
Step II Engineering Study	14,500		City of Minneota	EPA
Step I Feasibility Study	6,600		City of Russell	EPA
Step I Feasibility Study	56,840		City of Lakefield	EPA
Westbrook Apartments	387,500	(Loan)	Westbrook HRA	FmHA
Windom Apartments	1,208,500	(Loan)	Windom HRA	HUD
Heron Lake Apartments	Sec. 8		Heron Lake HRA	HUD
Ivanhoe Apartments	Sec. 8		Ivanhoe HRA	HUD
Fulda Apartments	Sec. 8		Fulda HRA	HUD

PROJECT	COST		APPLICANT	FUNDING AGENCY
Retired Senior Volunteer				
Program (RSVP)	42,638		Region 8 N. Welfare Board	ACTION
CETA TITLE X	14,718,347	Balance of State	Governor's Manpower Office	Department of Labor/EDA
Lucan Apartments	193,500	(Loan)	Lucan HRA	FmHA
RSVP Nobles & Rock County	34,558		Nobles & Family Service Center	ACTION
Christiansen Subdivision			Private Developer	HUD
State Park Grants	536,850		DNR	Bureau of Ourdoor Rec. (BOR)
Blue Mounds				()
Camden				
Lake Shetek				
Split Rock Creek				
Home for Creative Living	525,000	(Loan)	Private Developer	FmHA
Regional Corrections Center	45,000		Nobles County	LEAA
Region E In-Service Training	7,350		City of Marshall	LEAA
Region E Training Seminars	17,000		City of Marshall	LEAA
Probation Officer	24,000		Nobles County	LEAA
Information & Referral	19,936		Countryside Council	Aging Council
Water and Sewer Improvements	500,000		City of Redwood Falls	FmHA/HUD
Farming Project	48,130		Pipestone AVTI	Rural Development Council
Rest-Room Project	5,000		City of Hendricks	Rural Development Council
Home Health Care	15,700		Lincoln County	Rural Development Council
Wastewater Treatment	302,000	Grant & Loan	City of North Redwood	FmHA/HUD
Municipal Water	77,800		City of Mt. Lake	HUD
Upgrading Road	30,000		City of Hardwick	HUD
Acquisition/Demolition	50,000		City of Taunton	HUD
Sewer, Rehab., Renovation	312,000		City of Lamberton	HUD
Senior Center, Apt. Development	288,000		City of Tracy	HUD
Water Mains	230,000		City of Westbrook	HUD
Community Center	80,000		City of Minneota	HUD
Ambulatory Care Center	19,081		SW Mn. Health Care	Rural Development Council
Water Treatment	186,000		City of Sanborn	HUD
Community /center	75,000		City of Wabasso	HUD
Water Systems Improvement	261,000		City of Milroy	HUD
Water Extension	50,000		City of Lucan	HUD
Acquisition and Development	38,000		City of Walnut Grove	HUD
Business Directory	4,145		Lincoln County	Rural Development Council
Rescue Equipment	8,668		City of Lake Benton	Rural Development Council
Computer Farm Project	34,310		SW & WC Educational Service	Rural Development Council
Water Main Extension	41,000		City of Jeffers	HUD
Water Systems	410,190		City of Holland	HUD
Emergency Medical Care	8,577		Tyler Hospital Corp.	Rural Development Council
Senior Citizen Center	75,000		City of Milroy	HUD
Fairgrounds Improvement	10,140		Lincoln County	Rural Development Council

PROJECT

1

REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975

FY75 State Grant \$35,0 FY75 HUD 701 Grant 5,0 FY74 Carry Over 25,5 Local Levy Received 7,9 Interest Earned 1	00 22 11*
Total Funds Received	 28
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	53

*CY75 Levy Received in FY75

EXPENDITURES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975

			Local		
	Federal	State	Levy	Other**	Total
Salaries	5,000	472	0	25,5221	30,994
Fringe	0	4,210	0	0	4,210
Consultants	0	484	0	0	484
Print/Publish	0	1,592	0	0	1,592
Office Rent	0	1,200	0	0	1,200
Postage	0	745	0	0	745
Telephone	0	2,287	0	0	2,287
Rentals (Equip.)	0	1,373	0	0	1,373
Insurance (Office)	0	378	0	0	378
Staff Travel	0	4,603	0	0	4,603
Commission Travel	0	11,922	2,158	194 ²	14,274
Consumable Supplies	0	2,326	0	0	2,326
Equipment	0	1,876	0	0	1,876
Miscellaneous	0	1,532	0	0	1,532
Total	\$5,000	\$35,000	\$2,158	\$25,716	\$67.874

**Notes:

1 FY74 Carryover from state grant

² Interest Income

ANTICIPATED REVENUES FOR FY1976

FY76 HUD 701	80,400
Kellogg Foundation-Countryside Council	. 26,536
Governor's Crime Commission	. 65,534
3	\$267,618
Less CY75 Levy Spent in FY75	2,158
	\$265,460

PLANNED EXPENDITURES FOR FY1976

	HUD 701	State	Local*	Other	Total
Salaries	10,600	42,335	3,265	0	56,200
Fringe	0	6,892	0	0	6,892
Consultants	9,520	0	0	0	9,520
Print/Publish	0	3,800	0	0	3,800
Office Rent	0	1,800	0	0	1,800
Postage	0	3,600	0	0	3,600
Telephone	0	3,600	0	0	3,600
Rentals (Equip.)	0	3,493	0	0	3,493
Office Insurance					
Bond	0	1,280	0	0	1,280
Staff Travel	0	6,600	0	0	6,600
Commission Travel	0	0	24,758	0	24,758
Consumable Supplies	0	2,400	0	0	2,400
Equipment	0	4,600	0	0	4,600
Public Officials ¹					
Training Project	0	0	0	26,536	26,536
Criminal Justice ²					
Planning	0	0	0	65,534	65,534
Others ³	0	0	44,847	0	44,847
Total	\$20,120	\$80,400	\$72,870	\$92,070	\$265,460

RDC 8 administer the grant for the Countryside Council.
 RDC 8 passes LEAA funds to Region E Crime Commission.

³ Anticipated Match \$25,000 for rural transportation grant match \$10,379 for HEW Planning Grant

\$9,468 for EDA Planning Grant Match

PLANS/PROGRAMS

FY75 Inter-Regional Transportation Program
Community Development Project Analysis

FY76 Housing Allocation Plan County Overall Economic Development Programs

FY77 Land Use Analysis Water Resources Analysis

ESTIMATED REVENUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977

State Grant					•									•		•	•	•	•	•	٠		•		\$	80,400	
Federal HUD 701				÷														•								20,000	
Local Mill Levy .		,			,		÷		,		•	٠	•	•		•			•			•				76,000	
																									_		
																									\$	177,000	
Law Enforcement	As	si	sta	an	C	9 /	٩c	t							_•.						•					66,000	
																									-		
																									\$:	243,000	

STUDIES TO BE COMPLETED IN FY76

FY76 Rural Water Systems
Human Services Directory
Socio-Economic/Employment Characteristics for Region 8
Evaluation of the Project Notification and Review
System

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977

	(Estimated)	(Approximate)
	FY1977	FY1976
Staff Costs	\$ 68,000	\$ 63,000
Consultants	50,000	10,000
Commission	18,000	26,000
Indirect Costs	29,000	31,000
Probable Match	12,000	45,000
	\$177,000	\$175,000

A PROGRAM SUMMARY FOR THE FY1977

Major Components to be included in the FY1977 Program
Water Resources Study
Comprehensive Land Use Plan
Updated Housing Allocation Plan
Technical Assistance
Regional Overall Economic Development Program
Transportation Systems Analysis Update
A-95 Project Notification and Review

COMMENTARY

It is a pleasure to provide this report to the citizens of southwest Minnesota. As you read the report you will see that we have room for improvement and areas that will need to be accelerated or changed. Probably the most remarkable achievement is the assistance provided to local government, especially the cities.

During the next year, the Commission is planning to expand its services by developing a series of functional studies which will assist counties, townships, school districts, soil conservation boards and cities in delivering services and solving problems.

Our most important concern is still agriculture and we intend on directing our efforts in helping farmers preserve prime agricultural lands. We are not experiencing a rapid urban sprawl, but some prime lands are scheduled for speculative development for commercial or recreational use. We hope that local government will look for other areas for development.

There has been much concern about a growing "big government". We share that concern, a regional Commission derives its real authority from the counties, cities, and townships it serves and in a period of our history with a complex federal, state and local government relationship, we try to make some sense of it.

Finally, I am proud to say to those who are concerned citizens that we have taken over no townships, we have relieved the counties of no powers and we have not taken any authority from the cities. We are all part of a healthy viable regional community.

Mark Atchison
Executive Director

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