

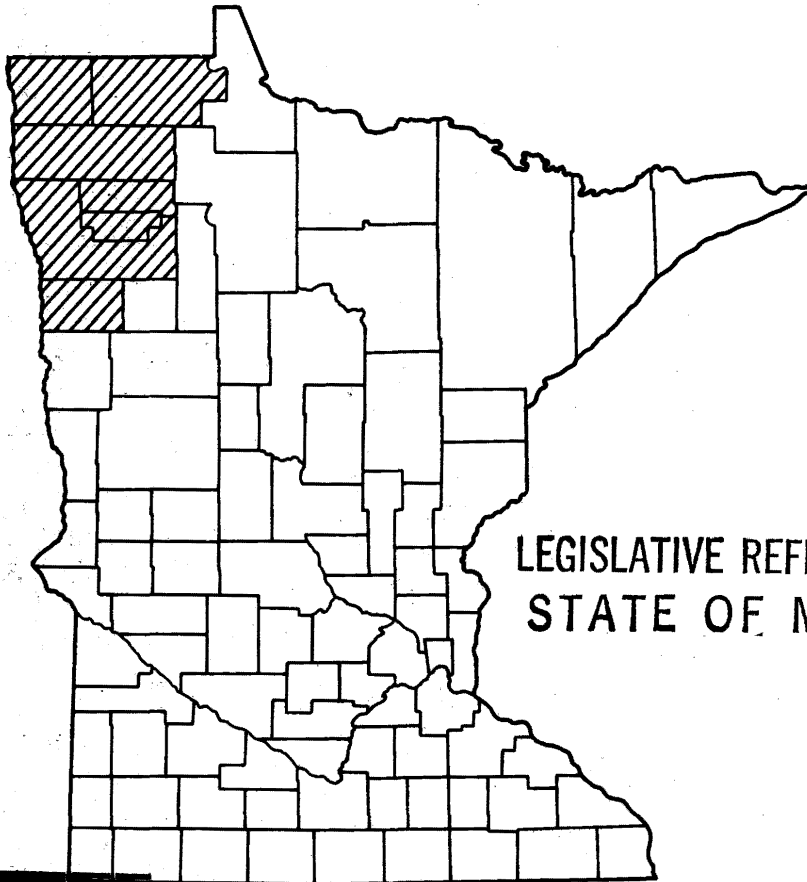


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# NWRDC

## NORTHWEST REGIONAL

## DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



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# ANNUAL REPORT 1976

# THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

The Northwest Regional Development Commission was created, February 8, 1973, by the Governor, in response to petitions from local units of government within the Region representing nearly 80% of the regional population. The Commission is organized under the Regional Development Act of 1969 which allows local units of government to petition the Governor to create a Commission within the officially designated regions.

The Northwest Region includes Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties. This Region has some 288 units of local government including 7 counties, 58 cities, 229 townships and 37 school districts. These units of government are represented on the Commission in the following way: Each county has a county commissioner representing county government, a township supervisor representing the townships in the county, a mayor or councilman representing city governments in the county and in addition there are two people representing school districts in the Region. The NWRDC has also created ten commission positions for citizens representing various public interests.

The Full Commission serves as the policy making body which determines what the role of NWRDC will be and how the statutory responsibility of the Commission will be carried out. The Board of Directors is responsible for Commission operations on a month to month basis and functions as the review board for clearinghouse activities. Planning and development activities of the Commission are carried out by committees which are organized to provide for geographic representation and to draw upon the expertise that exists within the area.

Prior to the creation of RDC's, local governments had little opportunity to participate in areawide decisions because the decision making structure was fragmented and related primarily to narrow functional programs of state or federal agencies, not local government. The Regional Development Act is the tool local governments use to expand their involvement in areawide planning, coordination of areawide programs, and research to shift the orientation of areawide decisions from a state/federal program perspective to a local perspective addressing locally identified needs and blending these areawide programs into the ongoing programs of local governments.

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*Regions*

# **NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The NWRDC currently has 23 elected members with provisions for 10 members representing public interests. Each of the county delegations select one member to represent them on the Board of Directors.

### **BOARD of DIRECTORS**

	<b>Representing</b>
Ervin Strandquist, Newfolden - *Chairman	
Vaughn Thorfinnson, Mayor Red Lake Falls - Vice Chairman	Red Lake County
Harvey Tripp, East Grand Forks, School Board - Sec'y/Treas.	Polk County
Cleighton Hastad, Mayor of Halstad	Norman County
Wayne Juhl, County Commissioner, Greenbush	Roseau County
Albert Koop, Thief River Falls, Townships	Pennington County
Dwayne Otterson, Badger, School District	Roseau County
Lawrence Sundahl, Mayor of Stephen	Marshall County

\*The Chairman has no vote on the Board of Directors

## Full Commission Membership

County	County Board	Township Board	Cities
Kittson	Floyd Sanner Lancaster	Phillip Lambert Hallock	Dr. Joe Bouvette Hallock
Marshall	Dale Zutz Warren	Ervin Strandquist Newfolden	Lawrence Sundahl Stephen
Norman	Si Strand Ada	Gerald Green Gary	Cleighton Hastad Halstad
Pennington	Odin Hanson Thief River Falls	Albert Koop Thief River Falls	Fred Sorenson Thief River Falls
Polk	Oris Moen Mentor	Loran Stortroen Climax	Harold Thomforde Crookston
Red Lake	Irving Beyer Red Lake Falls	Ralph Berg Oklee	Vaughn Thorfinnson Red Lake Falls
Roseau	Wayne Juhl Greenbush	Donald Landin Warroad	Norrell Erickson Roseau

## Public INTERESTS Groups      School DISTRICT

Soil & Water Conservation Districts - Verne Green, Newfolden	Agriculture - Vacant	Dwayne Otterson Badger	Harvey Tripp East Grand Forks
Vocational Education - Vacant	Industry - Vacant		
Low Income & Minorities - Vacant	Labor - Vacant		
Financial Institution - Vacant	Watersheds - Vacant		
Women - Vacant	Business - Vacant		

## Ex-Officio Membership

Senator Marvin Hanson, Hallock  
 Senator Roger D. Moe, Ada  
 Representative Art Braun, Greenbush  
 Representative John Corbid, Oklee  
 Representative Willis Eken, Twin Valley  
 Representative William Kelly, East Grand Forks

# **NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES**

## **work development**

This Committee is responsible for developing and recommending a program of work to the Full Commission. This work program is a description of proposed work activities, objectives and a time frame for accomplishment.

Committee members are: Norrell Erickson, Roseau County; Phillip Lambert, Kittson County; Fred Sorenson, Pennington County; Loran Stortroen, Polk County; Lawrence Sundsahl, Marshall County; Si Strand, Norman County.

## **PERSONNEL**

The Personnel Committee advises the Commission on matters relating to staff. The Committee interviews candidates for employment with the Commission, recommends salary levels and makes recommendations to the Commission on policy relating to personnel.

Committee members are: Norrell Erickson, Roseau County; Oris Moen, Polk County; Harvey Tripp, Polk County; Fred Sorenson, Pennington County; and Ervin Strandquist, Marshall County.

## **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Created to advise the Commission on all modes of transportation in the Region and to formulate a Regional Transportation Policy Plan which will address area wide transportation needs and development problems.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Joe Bouvette, Chairman	Hallock	Cities
Ralph Berg	Oklee	Township
*Howard Gilbertson	Shelly	Township
Gerald Green	Gary	Township
Odin Hanson	Thief River Falls	County
Wayne Juhl	Greenbush	County
Bernie Lieder	Crookston	Polk Co. Highway Eng.
Lawrence Sundsahl	Stephen	Cities
Harold Thomforde	Crookston	Cities

\*Members who no longer serve but who did serve during 1976.

## **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT**

Water Quality Management Planning is being done under Section "208" of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. This Committee will advise the NWRDC on the extent of water pollution problems in the Northwest Region and will recommend action to improve water quality. Committee members are:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Irving Beyer, Chairman	Red Lake Falls	County
Willard Brunelle	Crookston	Public Interest
Alvin Fore	Oklee	Farmers Union
Roland Gullekson	Fertile	Watershed
Allan Gustafson	Lancaster	Soil Conservation Service
Richard Lorenson	Strathcona	Township
Howard Lunsetter	Gatzke	National Farmer's Organization
Werner Mahlum	Gary	County
Henry Panek	Goodridge	Township
Donald Rivard	Argyle	Watershed
Stanley Roadfelt	Badger	Public Interest
Gerhard Ross	Fisher	Farm Bureau
Chester Ramberg	Mentor	Soil Conservation Service
Lee Selnes	Alvarado	City
Don Visser	Ada	City

## **NORTHWEST CITIZENS ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE UTILIZATION OF FERGUS FALLS STATE HOSPITAL**

This Task Force was created by special Legislation passed in 1975. The Task Force will terminate June 30, 1977. The purpose of the Task Force is to make recommendations to the Legislature on how the system of mental health services should be modified to better meet the needs of people in Region I. Task Force membership:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Oris Moen, Chairman	Mentor	Polk County
Emil Bagley	Crookston	Agassiz Health Council

Sanna Brovold  
 Art Christianson  
 Lee Engen  
 Don Gagner  
 Harry Hanson, Sr.  
 Ralph Hunt (Exofficio)  
 Richard Jamison  
 Wayne Juhl  
 Art Kohlhasse

Dr. Steve Levinson  
 Leon Pribula  
 Vernon Scott  
 Chuck Stephens

Roy Waters

Gully  
 Thief River Falls  
 Crookston  
 Mentor  
 Hallock  
 Thief River Falls  
 Ada  
 Roseau  
 Warren

Thief River Falls  
 Alvarado  
 Lengby  
 Red Lake Falls

Crookston

Nurses Service  
 Pennington County  
 Otter Tail Power Co.  
 Red Lake County  
 Kittson County  
 DPW Representative  
 Norman County  
 Roseau County  
 Marshall Co. Welfare  
 Department  
 Day-Nite Center  
 Marshall County  
 Mahnomen County  
 Red Lake County  
 Welfare Department  
 NW Mental Health Center

## REGIONAL ARTS TASK FORCE

The Arts Task Force was created to identify needs and opportunities for arts programming in Region I and to develop a plan to meet those needs. Task Force membership:

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Mrs. James Cameron	Red Lake Falls	Red Lake County
Mrs. Robert Dodds	Red Lake Falls	Red Lake County
Mrs. Lloyd Duffney	Ada	Norman County
Mrs. Dee Forney	Thief River Falls	Pennington County
Steve Gravseth	East Grand Forks	Polk County
Robert KaKaygeesick	Warroad	Marshall County
Dr. Tony Kuznik	Crookston	Polk County
Mrs. Kay Rosengren	Hallock	Kittson County
Mrs. Faith Rud	Warren	Marshall County
Mrs. Robert Severson	Hallock	Kittson County
Mrs. Nancy Solum	Argyle	Marshall County
Mrs. Mike Trudeau	Thief River Falls	Pennington County

### ALTERNATES

Eileen McDonald	Crookston	Polk County
Marie Scott	Red Lake Falls	Red Lake County
Marie Seeger	Red Lake Falls	Red Lake County

## STATE-WIDE MINNESOTA ARTS BOARD PLANNING COMMITTEE

Dr. Tony Kuznik	Crookston	Polk County
Bruce Larson	Fertile	Polk County

## REGIONAL MANPOWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee is responsible to advise the Commission on the allocation of Manpower Training and development funds and the evaluation of Manpower programs in Region I.

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Vaughn Thorfinnson, Chairman	Red Lake Falls	NWRDC
Ray Beauchamp	Badger	Consumer
Kenneth Benesh	Ada	General Public
Lil Bridgeford	Crookston	Agency
Agnes Carlson	Thief River Falls	General Public
Charles Cheney	Warren	General Public
Judy Christianson	Ada	Agency
Roger Eckstein	Thief River Falls	Business
Sam Gibbons	Warroad	Agency
Mary Gilbertson	Ada	Agency
Ralph Hunt	Thief River Falls	Agency
Ken Johnson	Crookston	General Public
Roy Jorgenson	Oklee	Agency
Jon Larson	Thief River Falls	Business
Dale Neppel	East Grand Forks	Agency
Walter Pederson	Roseau	General Public
Joyce Peterson	Thief River Falls	Labor
Sig Rimestad	Grygla	General Public
Earl Ryden	Kennedy	General Public
J.K. Stadum	Thief River Falls	Agency
Chester Stengrim	Greenbush	Business
Efren Tovar	East Grand Forks	Agency
Ed Williamson	Thief River Falls	Business
J.J. Womack	Thief River Falls	Business

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

This group is responsible for the planning and development of telecommunications services for rural development.

### BOARD MEMBERS

NAME	ADDRESS	AFFILIATION
*Rusty Hastad	Halstad	Commission
*Floyd Sanner	Lancaster	Commission
Fred Sorenson	Grygla	Commission
Loran Stortroen	Climax	Commission



## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

David Bakke	Newfolden	School Board
Doug Bradham	East Grand Forks	Agassiz Health Council
Stu Folland	Karlstad	Business
Ken Johnson	East Grand Forks	Area Vocational Technical Institute
Representative William Kelly	East Grand Forks	
Bill Kiewel	Crookston	Communications
Bill Marvin	Warroad	Business
Charles Potter	Crookston	Crookston School System
*Del Roelofs	Crookston	Crookston School System
Dr. Stan Sahlstrom	Crookston	University of Minnesota
Lilja Snyder	Crookston	Polk County Nursing Service
Ervin Strandquist	Newfolden	Commission
Roy Waters	Crookston	NW Mental Health Center

\*Members who no longer serve but who did serve during 1976.

## INFORMATION AND REFERRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Created to advise staff on the development of an information and referral service for Region I.  
This was a six month project.

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENTS
Cheryl Bjoin	Crookston	Library
Jeanne Dempsey	Crookston	Sr. Citizens Agency
Oscar Erickson	Warren	Law Enforcement
Reverend David Gray	Crookston	Ministerial
Harry Hanson	Hallock	Government Officials
Sally Hirsh	Crookston	Health Professionals
Nancy Janorschke	Crookston	Sr. Citizens Agency
Ray Jones	Crookston	Senior Citizens
Mary Kinkade	Crookston	Senior Citizens
Harold Olimb	Warroad	Government Officials
Reverend David Putz	Red Lake Falls	Ministerial
Norma Ross	Fisher	Human Service Users
Lee Schultz	Thief River Falls	Health Professionals

Lil Snyder  
Fred Sorenson  
Shirley Sorvig  
Al Zumach

Crookston  
Grygla  
Red Lake Falls  
Ada

Health Professionals  
Government Officials  
Human Service Users  
Social Services

## **nwrdc appointments**

### **State Transportation Advisory Committee**

Wayne Juhl, Greenbush  
Roseau County Commissioner

### **Governor's Rural Development Council**

Justus Larson, Thief River Falls  
Businessman

### **Agassiz Health Planning Council**

Donald Landin, Warroad  
Albert Koop, Thief River Falls  
Township Officials

### **Regional Environmental Education Council**

Albert Koop, Thief River Falls

### **State Outdoor Recreation Council**

Norrell Erickson, Roseau

### **Power Transmission Line Corridor Study [Roseau Co.]**

Donald Landin, Warroad

### **State Water Quality Plan Development Task Force**

Irving Beyer, Red Lake Falls  
Red Lake County Commissioner

# **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES**

## **FERGUS FALLS HOSPITAL STUDY**

In 1975 the Minnesota State Legislature authorized and funded two Citizens Advisory Task Forces to study the future utilization of Fergus Falls State Hospital. The Northwest Task Force representing the counties of Region I - Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau - and Mahnomen County, was paralleled by a similar Task Force in Region IV. Combined the two Task Forces represented the service area of Fergus Falls State Hospital. The Northwest Task Force was appointed by the Northwest Regional Development Commission and function as a committee of the Commission.

In carrying out its mandate the Northwest Task Force adopted six objectives consistent with legislative expectations. Summarized, the objectives were to:

1. Identify current chemically dependent, developmentally disabled, and mentally ill populations in the study area.
2. Project future populations in the three disability groups.
3. Determine the most appropriate manner of providing community-based services to the populations.
4. Develop innovative approaches to deinstitutionalization in addition to community-based care.
5. Develop recommendations on the funding and administration of service/treatment programs.
6. Establish recommendations on the future utilization of Fergus Falls State Hospital.

These objectives were addressed from the point of view of people, what services they need and what kind of system could respond to those needs.

Recommendations were developed for improving the mental health delivery system which focused on mental health programs/services, program funding, and on the future utilization of Fergus Falls State Hospital. These recommendations are made in the context of improving upon what the Task Force found to be an already good service delivery system.

Major problems with the in place system of mental health services were 1) fragmentation of services due primarily to categorical funding; and 2) the inability of the system to be flexible enough to be able to respond to local priorities.

In its report to the Legislature, submitted January 2, 1977, the Northwest Task Force recommended that: community based programs be expanded as an effective alternative to institutionalization. Funding should flow to the counties for purchasing non residential services for the chemically dependent, developmentally disabled and mentally ill according to local priority needs; and categorical funding for programs should be integrated at the state level and passed on to the counties in block grants for this purpose. Services should be offered on an "open market" basis with user fees covering all costs and funds following the person rather than flowing to the institution. Planning for the services and the allocation of funds should be done under the policy control of the counties consistent with a state system of standards/guidelines for services.

The Fergus Falls State Hospital has been serving the Northwest region very well. The principal problems with the state institution has been the decline in population from about 2,000 to approximately 500 at the present time. The Northwest Task Force expects that the population will continue to decline as the impact of community programs grows. However, it is expected that there will be an ongoing need for the type of service offered at the State Hospital for a small percentage of people from the Northwest region. No recommendations were made on whether or not the State Hospital should be phased out because that decision should be made by the State. However, it appears that the main problem with closing any state institution is how to find a new home for the staff, not what to do with the patients of the institution.

Recommendations were submitted to the Legislature January 2, 1977. A second report will be prepared during the first half of 1977 dealing with the data which was collected for the study.

A final report was prepared for submission to the 1977 Minnesota State Legislature in coordination with the Region IV Task Force.

In the coming year there will be legislative hearings on the report in order to complete the task of providing information to the Legislature as it considers the issues involved in providing appropriate, responsive and accountable mental health services to the citizens of Minnesota.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The NWRDC was funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration during late 1976 to begin an analysis of the economy of the Region and develop an Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). The OEDP will identify the area resources for economic development and propose a strategy for the development of those resources and the creation of new private sector jobs.

Region I has a rapidly growing labor force which appears to be growing faster than the number of new jobs created each year. If the areas resources can be tapped to increase the rate of new job development, the area will be able to avoid the tragedy of high unemployment. Persistent high unemployment is a potential problem in Region I during the mid 1980's and persistent high unemployment usually results in out migration from the rural areas. NWRDC believes the potential exists within the areas strong agricultural resource to expand the areas economy enough to utilize the great manpower resources in labor force.

The Commission assisted several local units of government in developing their economic programs (area OEDP) and projects. Most of this assistance was either information gathering or technical advice. At the request of the City of Winger for example, an economic profile was developed to assist the community in attracting outside investment to construct a Whey processing plant. Local project development activities of this nature will be emphasized in the Commission's economic planning program in the upcoming year as development priorities are determined and implementation programs are formulated.

# **REGIONAL development guide**

The NWRDC completed "Phase I" of the Regional Development Guide in July of 1976. This marked the completion of the first year of a two year program to develop the Guide which has been funded in part by a grant received from the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission.

The purpose of the Regional Development Guide is to consolidate information on current planning programs, maps, adopted policies and programs of the NWRDC into one document. The Regional Development Commission will use this document to guide its operations in implementing the Regional Development Act. Local units of government and interested citizens will be able to use the Regional Development Guide both as an information resource document and to become aware of the activities of the RDC in meeting areawide needs. It is hoped that this Guide will be helpful in making the resources of the Commission more accessible to the people and local governments of the Region.

Contained within "Phase I" of the Guide is information about the general character of the Region such as transportation, land use, housing, economic development, manpower, and natural resources. Phase II of the Guide will be completed in July of 1977 and will address physical, social and economic development priorities outlined by the Commission including policies and recommendations for programs. The Guide will be presented to local government and the general public at a public hearing prior to adoption by the NWRDC.

The Guide will be refined annually and is the document which is intended to meet the requirements of the Regional Development Act which calls for the adoption of a comprehensive development plan.

## **WATER quality**

The Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC) established the Water Quality Management (WQM) Advisory Committee on November 23, 1976, in accordance with Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. The goal of this Act is to restore all of the nation's waters, wherever feasible, to at least "fishable and swimmable" quality by 1983. Each state must work out a "plan of action" by November of 1978 which will assist that state in achieving the 1983 goal. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has been designated by the Governor as the agency charged with the responsibility of coordinating the State WQM planning effort.

The primary function of the WQM Advisory Committee is to identify Region I's water quality problems especially non-point pollution problems and recommend ways in which the pollution sources might be dealt with. In addition, the WQM Advisory Committee is responsible for establishing and maintaining mechanisms for stimulating local citizen participation during the entire State WQM planning process. The activities of the WQM Advisory Committee are part of a statewide planning program, mandated by the Federal Government, designed to clean up the nation's waters.

The structure of the Committee consists of a maximum of 21 voting members who are appointed by the NWRDC Board of Directors and ex officio members who are appointed at the discretion of the Committee. The Committee members represent a fair cross section of elected officials of Cities, Townships, Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, state and federal agencies and public interest groups from within the Region.

At this writing, the Committee is in the process of becoming formally organized with the first meeting to take place in early January, 1977. Initial areas of concentration include Committee orientation and internal organization; development of an active Citizen Participation Program and development of a work plan for 1977.

The Committee's recommendations will be used by the State Plan Development Task Force at the state level in formulating Minnesota's Water Quality Management Plan.

## housing

Region I has a shortage in the general supply of housing units; a very high percentage of old housing units and a shortage in the number of subsidized units for the low income and elderly. In addition, with traditional energy supplies diminishing and costs rising rapidly, many people are finding it difficult to afford to live in their own homes.

The NWRDC has attempted to address this situation over the past year by actively working to help make a variety of state and federal housing programs available to the residents of the Region.

The Commission has established an allocation plan to ensure an equitable distribution of home improvement grant funds within the seven counties, available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. In addition, several housing information workshops were conducted, along with extensive media coverage, in order to acquaint builders, bankers, homeowners, public officials and the general public with available resources to meet their housing needs.

The NWRDC is cooperating with several state and federal agencies that administer housing programs in developing a State Housing Allocation Plan so that programs compliment each other rather than conflict or duplicate. Hopefully this effort will result in a comprehensive approach by governmental agencies in the administration and implementation of programs. Housing programs can then be "packaged" to meet the particular housing needs of an area.

The housing planning activity of the Commission has been moving toward the development of a regional housing plan. This activity is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development "701" Program. The purpose of this plan will be to identify housing needs of the Region and available housing resources and to establish ongoing programs of action to efficiently meet housing needs in an equitable manner. This plan is scheduled for completion in June of 1977 and will be reviewed through the public hearing process prior to formal action by the Commission.

## **REGIONAL ARTS TASK FORCE**

The Northwest Regional Development Commission established a Regional Arts Task Force in cooperation with the Minnesota State Arts Board during 1976. The Arts Task Force is still in its developmental stages and will produce its first work plan early in 1977. The principle roles of the group are to facilitate local Arts development, to assess the need for various types of Arts programming in the Region, and to review and make recommendations on grant applications for Arts projects. Information gathered up to this point by the Task Force indicates that there is a great deal of interest in Arts programming within the Northwest Region. However, very little state or federal funds for the Arts are currently being spent in the Northwest Region. State and federal grants for Arts programs have traditionally gone to urban and metropolitan areas and it is hoped that this Task Force will be able to assist in getting some of those funds to flow into our rural area.

The Task Force will complete a needs assessment for Arts programming in Region I early in 1977. This will lead to the development of a plan or strategy for action to meet identified needs.

## **LAND USE**

The Regional Commission's role in land use planning is limited to an analysis of changing land use patterns, identifying competing land uses and estimating total land needed for new development. The Commission has no regulatory authority but serves as a source of information and technical assistance.

The major regional land use concerns which have been identified are the preservation and protection of agricultural land, water management which addresses drainage, flooding and water supply issues and public land management. Urban development occupies only about .4% of the land in Region I and as a result urban land use issues are generally local issues.

The Commission is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development "701" program to complete a land use plan for the Region. This plan will describe area wide land use problems within the Region and will recommend alternatives for their solution. The plan will also assess the impact of growth and development on the land. Policies to guide decision making regarding area wide land use issues will be a part of the plan which is scheduled for completion in August 1977.

## **MANPOWER PLANNING**

The NWRDC does manpower planning under a contract with the Governor's Manpower office. The purpose of this agreement is to decentralize manpower planning functions from the state to the local level. During 1976 the Regional Commission planned for the expenditure of approximately \$700,000 for Manpower needs. This funding came from the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Title I, for the purpose of training and employing people. Other funding,

(approximately \$800,000) under title II and VI of CETA also came into the region and was distributed to the counties for public service jobs.

The Commission has appointed a Regional Manpower Advisory Committee (RMAC) which serves as the planning group for manpower programs. The RMAC role is to, 1) identify and document area manpower needs, 2) recommend a system of manpower servers designed to meet local identified needs on a priority bases within the limits of available resources and 3) to monitor and evaluate on-going manpower programs.

For 1977 the RMAC has recommended that the following groups receive priority for CETA services. Veterans, minorities, female head of households, youth (14-21), older workers (55+), public offenders, and Welfare recipients. The RMAC is recommending that 87% of the CETA Title I funding be used for classroom training, on the job training, work experience and supportive services. The remaining 13% should be allocated to operate an "In School youth program" to provide work experience for economically disadvantaged youth.

In 1976 the Region I manpower program provided summer employment for 602 youth, part time work for 145 disadvantaged young people in school, and employment for disadvantaged older workers (55+) as well as training and work experiences to upgrade the skills of 1800 people in other priority categories.

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

About two years ago the Northwest Regional Development Commission and Headwaters Regional Development Commission organized a non-profit corporation, Northwest Telecommunications, to develop telecommunication services in the two Region area. Both Regions view communications as a vital link in rural development activities and established Northwest Telecom to address three basic objectives: 1) to expand commercial television coverage to those areas not now receiving American television; 2) to expand public television coverage to serve everyone in the 12 county area; 3) to establish a broadband telecommunication network as a service delivery system for health, education business, criminal justice, government and others.

It is believed that the potential impact of telecommunication services will be comparable to that of rural electrification and rural telephone, perhaps much greater.

The year 1976 saw additional progress made in the telecommunications project. A feasibility report was completed for Northwest Telecommunications, Inc. containing a summary of: the problems encountered by the service providers on the solutions that telecommunications might offer; a summary of the complimentary telecommunication facilities in place in the Project Area; a proposed telecommunications system; a projected price for the proposed system; a compilation of some promising funding sources; and a staff organizational plan for the future. The feasibility report was intended to serve as a guide and as a point-of-departure for the development of future telecommunications capabilities in the Project Area.



During the year, three new cable television systems went on the air in the 12 county Project Area: Mahnomen, Middle River, and Bagley. In addition, three more franchises are in various stages of development: Greenbush, Red Lake Falls, and Fosston.

The State Department of Transportation is experimenting with a concept that would allow current weather and road conditions to be displayed on the time-and-weather channel on the cable television systems. The system in Bemidji is the first in the Project Area to participate, but interest has been demonstrated in other cities as well.

During November, a conference on rural telecommunications was held in Washington, D.C. and was attended by Rusty Hastad from the Commission and Rod Belsheim for the Northwest Telecommunications staff. The Office of Technology Assessment (an arm of the U.S. Congress) sponsored the conference in an effort to gain more understanding of integrated telecommunications systems. An integrated system (such as the one proposed by Northwest Telecommunications) is one that is usable by more than one service agency; one that would be useful to providers in health, education, mental health, law enforcement, social services and others. Northwest Telecom could very well be the only organization in the nation that is attempting an integrated system at this time.

Planning is underway in the Project Area for participation in a demonstration in continuing medical education through the Mayo Clinic. The demonstration will involve a transmission from the Mayo Clinic to the CTS satellite and a portable Earth Station in the Project Area to receive the signal.

In 1977, considerable efforts will be extended to obtain major systems financing for public services from such sources as the Office of Telecommunications Policy, Energy Research and Development Administration, the Minnesota Energy Agency, the USDA Rural Development Service, and others.

## **THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Regional Transportation Planning Committee has been organized for two years. The Committee was created to attempt to identify transportation problems which were areawide or regional in nature and to recommend a strategy for resolving these problems.

During 1976 the Committee began to focus on five modes of transportation, rail, transit, pipeline, air and highway. The Committee set up a series of public hearings to solicit comments from the general public as well as from industry and government, on problems in each of these five modes. Testimony obtained at these hearings, as well as information gathered from a survey of business and industry, will be used in formulating testimony to the Minnesota Department of Transportation early in 1977. The Minnesota statutes creating the Department of Transportation require each Regional Development Commission to prepare a regional transportation policy plan. The NWRDC expects that a policy plan will be adopted during 1977 based upon the research and public input the Transportation Committee has completed.

The Transportation Committee is also responsible for reviewing major transportation proposals and assessing the impact other development may have on the areas transportation system.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Technical assistance or local government assistance provided by the NWRDC falls into essentially four categories, grantsmanship, planning, information and special project assistance. This assistance is available upon request within the limits of staff time.

The NWRDC role in grantsmanship is limited to assisting the applicant by providing information on state/federal grant programs, deadlines, special requirements, and in many cases, supplying application forms. NWRDC staff will assist the applicant in providing supporting data and other necessary information and will review the application for completeness. During 1976 some 80 applicants were given assistance by NWRDC.

Planning assistance is usually provided to build up local government's capacity to carry on its own planning or is available on a contract basis to local governments for short term planning projects. During 1976 Polk County contracted with NWRDC to do a four month planning study for Community Health Services. This is a study which is done to identify needs and to establish priorities for a state subsidy grant for Community Health Services. It is anticipated that four other counties will consider contracting with NWRDC to assist them in Community Health Services planning during 1977.

Other planning assistance has been in the form of short term technical assistance to communities and townships to assist them in formulating planning programs, zoning ordinances, development plans, etc. Five communities, one township and two counties were assisted during 1976.

NWRDC provides information to people in the Region upon request. Some examples of information which is frequently sought are: demographic data, names of contact people in various state or federal agencies, housing programs, statistical data on the areas economy, its labor force, etc. Information requests are a daily occurrence at NWRDC.

The fourth category of technical assistance the NWRDC gets involved with is special projects. These are short term efforts designed to assist a local government, group or even person resolve a problem with state or federal government. During 1976 NWRDC was involved in two special projects. The first was brought to the attention of NWRDC by the Northwest Regional Library which was concerned by proposed state rule and regulations.

A state agency was proposing rules which would increase the service area of regional libraries and get the state involved in administration matters relating to staff size, hours of operation and other matters. NWRDC studied the matter, developed a position paper in support of local control and assisted in getting the state agency to drop its proposed rules. Area Legislators, persons from the State Planning Agency and others participated.

The second special project involves three counties of Region I having problems in classifying and managing public lands. The counties had over the past several years been working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in classifying public lands to their highest and best use and then disposing of those lands which were agricultural. There were problems in the classification process and the counties felt they would be more successful if they tried a coordinated approach in dealing with DNR. NWRDC was contacted and agreed to assist in the effort. Legal advice was sought and NWRDC was advised that some contradictions in the existing statutes should be cleaned up as a means of resolving the counties problems. It is expected that a bill will be prepared for submission to the Legislature in 1977 to help resolve this problem.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE ACT**

### **planning study**

The Minnesota Community Health Services Act of 1976 authorized planning grants and state subsidies for the purpose of defining, developing and maintaining integrated community health services under local (county) administration. The Polk County Board of Commissioners applied for a planning grant in November, 1976, and a grant was awarded by the Minnesota Department of Health for the period of December 1, 1976, through March 31, 1977. The Polk County Board then contracted with NWRDC to administer the grant and perform the work necessary to preparation of a comprehensive county community health services plan. During December, an inventory of existing health services was begun, Advisory Committee members selected and a mailing list was compiled. During January, 1977 a series of provider and consumer questionnaires will be distributed to gather information on current and future health care needs in Polk County. Using the services inventory and the questionnaire data, the Advisory Committee will establish community health care priorities and prepare a plan to meet those priorities. If this plan is approved by the Minnesota Department of Health, Polk County will be eligible to apply for approximately \$91,000 per year in health care subsidy monies. Services eligible for state support include emergency medical services, public nursing services, and environmental and sanitation services.

### **COORDINATION**

Regional Development Commissions are granted certain review/coordination powers under M.S. 462.391 and under parts I and IV of the Federal Office of Management and Budget Circular A-95.

The general purpose of these reviews is to attempt to bring programs and services with regional impact which are funded by the State or Federal Government grants or loans into harmony with each other, to prevent duplication, and to make those programs consistent with the programs of local governments.

During 1976 NWRDC operated as a regional Clearinghouse for grant and loan review. This system is to review all applications for state and federal grants or loans to determine the extent to which a

proposed project duplicates, runs counter to, or needs coordination with other projects or programs; the extent to which it might be revised to increase its effectiveness or efficiency and to determine the program's consistency with state and federal environmental policy.

The Commission uses a project notification system for the review process in which notifications are sent out to agencies, groups or individuals who are or may have an interest in the proposed program, soliciting their comments. If there are negative comments the Clearinghouse can call a conference between the applicant and others interested in the program to attempt to resolve the problems.

This function provides for agency and public input into the development of new programs in the Region.

During 1976 the NWRDC strengthened its review function considerably by expanding the number of contacts made on projects and by conducting a more thorough analysis by Commission staff. NWRDC Clearinghouse reviewed 110 projects during 1976. The Clearinghouse can simply choose to make either a positive or a negative review on projects. NWRDC has chosen in many cases to write detailed comments which describe the findings of the Clearinghouse. Included in this report is a listing of projects reviewed. The Clearing comments are categorized as: supportive, conditionally supportive, or conditional. Projects with conditional comments are those in which the Clearinghouse has found some need for additional coordination of the project before funding.

The Clearinghouse has begun an effort to evaluate projects after they have been funded and operating to gain a better understanding of the operation of areawide programs.

# PROJECTS REVIEWED by THE NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION in 1976

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
Johnson Township	Drainage Ditch Renovation	78,700	HUD	Supportive
Badger	Sewer Collection and Treatment	560,000	FHA-HUD	Supportive
Lake Bronson	Water System Improvements	293,000	FmHA	Supportive
Columbia Township	Bridge and Culvert	31,000	HUD	Supportive
Argyle	Flood Control Study	NA	Army Corp of Engineer	Supportive
Agassiz Health Planning Council	Health Service System	174,949	HEW	Supportive
NW MN Community Dev Corp.	State Community Development Corp.	125,000	EDA	Supportive
Goodridge	Water Tower	100,000	HUD	Conditionally Supportive
Trail	Area Community Center	82,000	EDA	Supportive
Erskine	Street and Water and Sewer Improvements and Housing Rehab.	190,000	HUD	Supportive
Agassiz Health Planning Council	Emergency Medical Service System	676,770	EDA	Supportive
Oslo	Public Utility Improvements	879,000	FHA-EDA-UGLRC	Supportive
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Inc.	Rural Public Transportation Project	229,461	UMTA	Supportive
East Grand Forks	Improvement of Water Storage Facilities	1,400,000	EDA	Supportive
State of Minnesota	Balance of Manpower Funds	NA	DOL	Supportive
State of Minnesota	Bridge Replacement	73,550	DOT	Supportive
Region "A" Crime Commission	Region "A" Annual Action Program	35,189	LEAA	Conditional Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable

## PROJECTS REVIEWED 1976 CON'T.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
Warren Good Samaritan Center	Senior Citizen Bus	15,950	UMTA	Supportive
Plummer	Apartment Building	144,000	FmHA	Supportive
Erskin Community Housing Inc.	Preapplication for Rural Rental Housing (RRH) Loan	60,000	FmHA	Supportive
N.W. Regional Community Development Corp.	Start - Up of Community Development Corporation	100,000	EDA	Conditional
Pennington County	Sanitary Landfill	330,000	HUD	Supportive
Chester Township	Bridge Replacement	25,000	HUD	Supportive
Higdem-Esther Township	Levee's - Drop Structures Flood Gates	110,000	HUD	Supportive
Red Lake Falls	Recreational, Street and Drainage Improvements	806,400	HUD	Supportive
Strathcona	Central Water System	92,000	HUD	Supportive
Big Woods Township	Flood Levee System	72,000	HUD	Supportive
Spruce Valley Township	Spruce Valley Communtiy Center	110,000	HUD	Supportive
Middle River-Snake River Watershed District	Watershed Planning	NA	USDA	Supportive
R.W. Van Sickle	Proposed Postal Facility	NA	U.S. Postal Service	Supportive
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.	Senior Citizen Transportation	90,000	GCCA	Supportive
Winger	Plant Engineering Study	4,900	EDA	Supportive
N.W. Community Activity Inc.	Head Start Program	151,772	HEW	Supportive
Nimens/Espesgard	Apartment House	1,632,000	FmHA	Supportive
Riverview Hosptial Ass'n	Health in Underserved Area Program	199,525	HEW	Supportive
NW Community Action, Inc.	Work Program	98,000	OEO	Supportive
HRA - Crookston	Section 8 Housing	94,800	HUD	Supportive
HRA - Crookston	Home Improvement	62,000	MFHA	Conditionally Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable

## PROJECTS REVIEWED 1976 CON'T.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
East Polk / Red Lake County Vocational Center	Multi Co. Agric. Center	16,800	GRDC	Supportive
HRA - Crookston, Red Lake Falls, Thief River Falls	Home Improvements	369,000	HUD-MFHA	Conditional Supportive
Northwest Resource Conser- vation & Development	Conservation and Development	NA	USDA	Conditional Supportive
UMC - Crookston	MN Project Rain Gage	41,142	GRDC	Supportive
Mentor	Athletic Field and Campground	20,800	LAWCON	Supportive
Nimens Construction Co.	Apartment Houses	1,161,389	MFHA	Supportive
HRA - Norman County	Housing Assistance Plan	NA	HUD-MFHA	Supportive
King of Potatoes, Inc.	Working Capital	600,000	FmHA	Supportive
Erskine	Park Improvement	15,000	LAWCON	Supportive
Argyle	Park Development	17,375	LAWCON	Supportive
Ada	Park Development	34,000	LAWCON	Supportive
Brooks	Park Development	26,650	LAWCON	Supportive
Warroad	Park Development	300,000	LAWCON	Supportive
Badger	Park Development	210,000	LAWCON	Supportive
East Grand Forks	Park Development	165,000	LAWCON	Supportive
Pennington County	Park Development	21,400	LAWCON	Supportive
NW Area Health Board	Comunity Board Programs for Mentally Retarded	125,000	MN DPW	Supportive
NWRDC	Economic Development Planning	60,000	EDA	Supportive
Kennedy	Park Development	206,000	LAWCON	Supportive
Minnesota Highway Dept.	Public Rest Area	250,000	DOT	Supportive
NW Economic Development, Inc.	Up North Handcraft Cottage Industry	37,100	UGLRC	Supportive
NW Mental Health Center	Transportation project	280,228	HEW / MN DAC	Supportive
Hallock	Street Improvement	1,159,700	FHA	Supportive
UMC - Crookston	Retired Senior Citizens Program	30,750	GCCA	Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable

## PROJECTS REVIEWED 1976 CON'T.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
NW Community Action, Inc.	Elderly Fund Program	10,000	CSA	Supportive
Tri Valley Opportunity Council	Work Program/Budget	256,575	GCCA	Supportive
NW Community Action, Inc.	Supplemental Transportation	8,012	GCCA	Supportive
Tri Valley Opportunity Council	Nursing Home Ombudsman	20,348	GCCA	Conditional Supportive
Tri Valley Opportunity Council	Valley Chore Service Program	63,267	GCCA	Conditionally Supportive
Falls Day Activity Center	Construction of Physical Plant	340,000	EDA	Supportive
Roseau County	New Courthouse	2,000,000	EDA	Supportive
Warren	Special Program for Aging	30,000	GCCA	Supportive
Norman County	Overall Economic Development Program	NA	NA	Supportive
Norman County - Ada - Twin Valley	Joint Airport	307,225	Dept. of Aeronautic	Supportive
Pennington County	Overall Economic Development Program	NA	NA	Supportive
Mahnomen/Norman County	Community Health Service Planning	13,250	HEW	Supportive
Marshall County	Overall Economic Development Program	NA	NA	Supportive
Philip Sallberg	Dental Office Loan	25,000	FmHA	Supportive
Bemidji State University	Business Development Center			Conditionally Supportive
Plummer	Street Improvement	359,000	EDA	Supportive
Thief River Falls	Firehall Remodeling	350,000	EDA	Supportive
Hallock	Land Use Planning	22,000	SPA	Supportive
NW Mental Health Center	Staffing grant	552,488	HEW	Supportive
Norman County	Land Use Planning	24,273	SPA	Supportive
Marshall County	Courthouse Remodeling	300,000	EDA	Supportive
East Grand Forks	Land Use Planning	40,000	SPA	Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable



## PROJECTS REVIEWED 1976 CON'T.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
Polk County	Planning Community Health Services	5,510	MN Dept. of Health	Supportive
Polk County	Public Library	800,000	EDA	Supportive
Bernard Huot	Senior Citizen Rental Housing	96,000	FmHA	Supportive
Marshall County	Land Use Planning	26,100	SPA	Supportive
NW Mental Health Center	Speicalized Treatment for Criminal Offenders	61,703	LEAA	Supportive
Oklee	Renovation of City owned Buildings	106,000	EDA	Supportive
Shelly	Street Improvements	327,000	FHA	Supportive
MN Dept. of Natural Resources	Shop and Storage Building	50,000	EDA	Supportive
NW Community Action, Inc.	Senior Citizen Transportation Program	43,000	GCCA	Supportive
Red Lake County	Highway Equipment Storage Engineers Office	90,000	EDA	Supportive
Red Lake Falls	Street Improvements	805,000	EDA	Supportive
Newfolden	Public Safety Building	225,000	EDA	Supportive
MN Midwest Community Development Corp.	Budget Request	3,333,945	CSA	Supportive
Crookston TWP	Land Use Planning and Zoning	25,000	SPA	Supportive
Polk County	Sheltered Workshop Building	232,000	HUD	Supportive
Roseau Jaycees	Livestock Blood Chemistry System	2,000	GRDC	Supportive
Ada	Public Services to Elderly Housing	44,640	HUD	Supportive
Twin Valley	Community Center	600,000	HUD	Supportive
NW Community Action, Inc.	Senior Citizen Center	5,944	Ober Charitable Foundation	Supportive
MN Dept. of Transportation	Bridge and Road Improvements	NA	NA	Supportive
MN Dept. of Transportation	Road Improvements	NA	NA	Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable

## PROJECTS REVIEWED 1976 CON'T.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PROJECT COST	FUNDING AGENCY	NWRDC COMMENTS
NW Community Action, Inc.	Winterization Program	22,307	CSA	Supportive
Inter-County Community Council	Winterization Program	22,080	CSA	Supportive
Tri Valley Opportunity	Winterization Program	17,830	CSA	Supportive
Fertile	Civic Center	185,000	HUD	Supportive
Thief River Falls	Housing Rehabilitation	295,000	HUD	Supportive

\* NA - Non Applicable

## FUNDING AGENCY IDENTIFICATION

OAA - Older American Act  
 GRDC - Governor's Rural Development Council  
 OEO - Office of Economic Opportunity  
 DOT - Department of Transportation  
 URMT - Urban Mass Transit Administration  
 GCCA - Governors Citizen Council on Aging  
 HUD - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
 FmHA - U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration  
 EDA - U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration  
 LEAA - Law Enforcement Assistance Agency (Governor's Crime Commission)  
 GMO - Governor's Manpower Office  
 SPA - State Planning Agency  
 CSA - U.S. Community Services Administration  
 MHFA - Minnesota Housing Finance Agency  
 LAWCON - Land and Water Conservation  
 UGLRC - Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission

# NWRDC budget

## CALENDAR YEAR 1976

### REVENUES

Year Ending December 31, 1976

State . . . . .	\$68,546.00
Local . . . . .	29,393.71
HUD . . . . .	14,175.00
UGLRC . . . . .	25,000.00
I & R . . . . .	13,264.00
GMO . . . . .	19,777.56
EDA . . . . .	15,000.00
FFHS . . . . .	20,000.00
CETA . . . . .	13,817.04
TOTAL . . . . .	\$218,973.31

### EXPENDITURES

Year Ending December 31, 1976

Staff & Fringe . . . . .	\$104,900.65
Consultants . . . . .	13,185.74
Office Expense . . . . .	52,927.29
Transportation . . . . .	21,703.30
TOTAL . . . . .	\$192,716.98
1976 Revenues . . . . .	\$218,973.31
1976 Expenditures . . . . .	192,716.98
Balances . . . . .	26,256.33

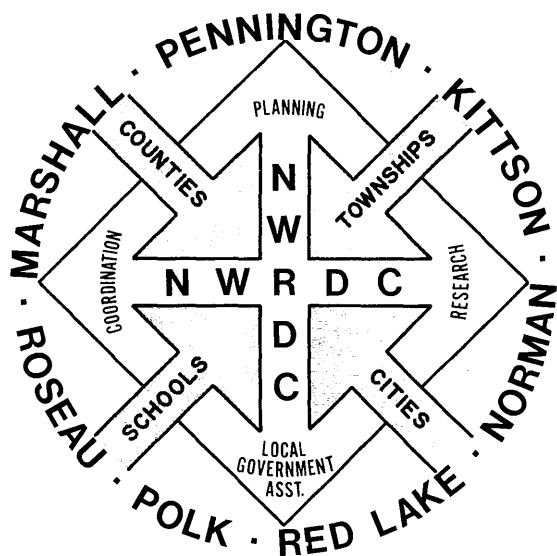
## CALENDAR YEAR 1977

### PROJECTED REVENUES\*

State . . . . .	\$68,600.00
Local . . . . .	45,000.00
HUD . . . . .	15,000.00
GMO . . . . .	25,000.00
EDA . . . . .	45,000.00
"208" . . . . .	6,000.00
Environmental Permit . . . . .	5,000.00
* Includes January, 1977 Balance	
TOTAL . . . . .	\$209,000.00

### PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

Staff & Fringe . . . . .	\$115,000.00
Consultants . . . . .	12,000.00
Office Expense . . . . .	55,000.00
Transportation . . . . .	27,000.00
TOTAL . . . . .	\$209,000.00



**NORTHWEST REGIONAL development COMMISSION**

425 Woodland Ave., Crookston, Minnesota 56716