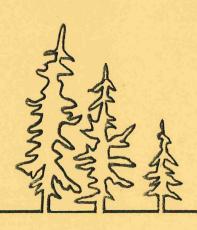
# ANNUAL REPORT 1981





# EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

HT : 393 .M62 E18a× 1981

Pursuant to Mn Stat 462.393, 42 1

due Aug 1 recd 8/10/81

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

#### Gloria Habeck, Chairman

During this past eighteen months, the commission has gone through a number of changes. Eight new members joined us this past year on the commission. This turnover has brought new ideas, new thoughts and new expectations as to what the commission is all about.

Other changes have occurred within the commission. New advisory committee members have joined us and contributed greatly to the success of the commission's activities. Five new staff have joined our efforts. Their talents and new ideas have brought added insight to solving the problems we as local officials face.

During the last few months, the commission has gone through a selfevaluation process. An outside team of four members has reviewed our activities and presented recommendations for changes to us. A full report of the evaluation results is appended to the Annual Report.

I would like to highlight some of our accomplishments over this past eighteen months. First, let me say that I have observed that the list of those using our technical assistance has grown. "The relationships between all levels of government have been improved as a result of our work." We also provided direct or indirect assistance in preparing applications for assistance that brought in over \$3 million in needed outside funding to solve problems in our communities.

We contracted with several communities for detailed planning work. The Cities of Foreston, Braham, Sandstone, Rush City and North Branch, Shafer and Pine City have utilized our assistance. "Through cooperation between our local units of government, we can save tax money and provide better service."

Cooperation with the state was expanded during the course of this last year. The Waste Management Board utilized our services to gain a better understanding of issues surrounding the siting of a hazardous waste disposal facility. "Through our efforts, the Waste Management Board held three meetings attended by over 250 people who provided input to the state decisionmaking process."

The Governor's Council on Rural Development, another state agency, had us identify rural development issues that need to be addressed. Over 50 people from the five counties participated in this process.

We met with six of our ten legislators in December and had good discussion on some key legislative issues.

Cooperation with other agencies also took place through commission member participation. The Central Minnesota Health Systems Agency, a three region agency for health planning, received input from the EC RDC through Wayne White, a commission member from Grasston. Sheldon Porter belatedly joined the Emergency Medical Services Task Force. Owen Baas represents the commission on the Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council, a group which has direct policy making input to state recreation agencies such as DNR.

As you can see, we have worked with many units of government that have an impact on East Central Minnesota. We haven't always agreed, but we have provided valuable assistance and input to decisions that make East Central Minnesota a better place to live.

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Submitted in accordance with MN Statutes 462.393 to the Minnesota Legislature East Central Regional Dev. Comm. 119 S. Lake St., Mora, MN 55051 (612) 679-4065

TERM .	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SEX	RACE	REPRESENT/OCCUPATION
11/81	Robert H. Anderson (B&P)	600 McLean Mora, MN 55051	679-2571	М	W	Public Interests/ Insurance
4/82	Owen Baas	Pease, MN 56363	369-4197	M	W	Public Interests/ Auto Sales, Service-Private Business
7/81	Charles R. Matson	Rt. 1 Sandstone, MN 55072	245-2853	М	W	School Districts/Finlayson Farmer
4/82	Barry Blomquist	726 Elm North Branch, MN 55056	674-4818W 674-7428H	M	W	Public Interests/Attorney
12/82	Ralph Bloomgren	Rt. 2 Cambridge, MN 55008	689-1811	М	W	County Board Commissioner/
4/82	Laurence Collin	Rt. 2 Isanti, MN 55040	742-5650	М	W	Public Interests/Farmer
12/82	Philip Gelhorn (B&P) Sec./Treasurer	327 SE 5th St. Braham, MN 55006	396-3774H 396-3311W	М	W	Municipalities/Management East Central Electric
12/82	Gloria Habeck (B&P) Chairman	Rt. 1, Box 140 Isle, MN 56342	676 <mark>-</mark> 8773	F	W	County Board Commissioner/ Homemaker, Farm Management
3/83	Andrew Holzemer	Rt. 1 Onamia, MN 56359	532-3296H 532-3137W	М	W	Townships/Forester, DNR
12/82	Loren Jennings	Rush C1ty, MN 55069		М	W	County Commissioner/Small Business
12/82	Dick Longworth	121 Villa Drive Mora, MN 55051	679-4677H 679-4114W	М	W	County Board Commissioner/ Realtor
12/81	Robert Mork	221 So. Union Mora, MN 55051	679-3411	М	W	Municipalities/Insuran <mark>ce</mark> Agent
3/82	Sheldon Porter	Rt. 2 Stanchfield, MN 55080	689-1088	М	W	Townships/Store Owner Small Business
3/83	Lucille Schultz	Rt. 2 Mora, MN 55051	679-1444H 679-4110W	F	W	Townships/ Farmer Small Business
12/82	Keith Selleck	815 N. 2nd Ave. Pine City, MN 55063	629-2982	M	W	Municipalities-Mayor/ Retired
7/81	David Dahlquist	401 W. Central Dr. Braham, MN 55006	396-2970	M	W	School Districts/ Braham Pine City AVTI Vocational Agricultural Instr
12/82	Sig E. Stene	Lindstrom, MN 55045	257-4401H 257-5600W		W	Municipalities-Mayor/ School Superintendent
12/82	Ray Stoeckel Vice-Chairman	Rt. 1 Zimmerman, MN 55398	856-2096	Ņ	W	Townships/Farmer
1/83	Kenneth Trimble	630 - 2nd Ave. So. Milaca, MN 56353	983-6255	М	W	Municipalities-Mayor/ State Gov't-Dept. of Rev.
3/83	James Tuttle	Rt. 1, Box 138 Willow River, MN 55795	838-3576	M	W	Townships/Farmer
12/81	Wayne White	Grasston, MN 55030	396-2137	М	W	Public Interests/Farmer
12/82	James Youngbauer	Rt. 2 Pine City, MN 55063	629-2332	М	W	County Commissioner/ Farmer

### OFFICERS

Chairman Gloria Habeck
Vice-Chairman Ray Stoeckel
Sec./Treasurer Philip Gelhorn
Exec. Director Michael Sobota

Dec. 22, 1980 - June 28, 1982
Dec. 22, 1980 - June 28, 1982
July 28, 1980 - Indefinite

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS TERMINATED DURING FY 81

	Term of	Office
	From	To
Richard L. Anderson	11/28/77	12/31/80
Thomas Dignan	12/18/78	12/ - /80
James Ertz	8/24/79	1/-/81
Edgar Hass	3/25/79	12/31/80
Robert Monson	3/ - /80	1/-/81
Gin Peterson	8/24/79	8/ - /80
Millie Price	12/17/79	12/31/80
Wallace Schulz	2/26/79	12/31/80
James Bergstrom	12/18/78	6/1/81
Herbert Sikkink	12/18/78	6/1/81

#### EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STAFF

Michael Sobota
Roger Ames
Tom Foley
Patrick Connoy
Reneee Fredericksen
Gordon Heitke
John Kontola
Phil Schroeder
Kay Schroyer
Dorothy Anderson
Doreen Holland
Arliss Krawiecki

Executive Director
Human Services Planning Director
Housing/Transportation Planner
Economic Development Planner
Employment & Training Planner
Natural Resources Planner
Local Assistance Planner
Arts/Developmental Disabilities Planner
Human Services Program Planner
Human Services Program Assistant
Bookkeeper/Secretary
Office Manager/Secretary

# EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

#### HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

The East Central Region encompasses an area of 3,450 square miles and had a 1980 population of 99,779 persons distributed throughout 5 counties, 40 cities, 88 townships, 18 school districts, and 10 special districts, for a total of 161 political subdivisions. Having grown by 31% since 1970, the East Central Region is the fastest growing region in the state.

The EC RDC is an organization made up of and controlled by local elected officials and provides a mechanism for united intergovernmental planning, policy-making, and action. It is a single agency which represents and serves the five counties through assessing needs, planning to meet those needs and setting priorities for the growth and development in the East Central Region.

The EC RDC normally meets on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at its offices located in Mora at 119 South Lake Street. In 1980, the EC RDC held a regular monthly meeting at least once in the other four counties in an attempt to be more accessible to the region's citizens and elected officials.

#### PURPOSE AND ROLE

The purpose of the EC RDC is to serve as a forum wherein local government, public and private interests and citizens can come together to plan for the orderly economic, social, physical and governmental development of the region through:

- 1. Establishing goals, policies, and strategies which identify desired conditions for citizens living in the region.
- 2. Coordinating the public and private sectors designed to avoid unnecessary duplication and improve the effectiveness of public programs.
- 3. Developing a research center for data collection, storage and information distribution for use by local governments and citizens.
- 4. Combining and decentralizing certain State and Federal programs for multi-county planning into a single regional organization so as to eliminate duplication, achieve economies of scale and to increase local decision-making capabilities.

- 5. Providing technical assistance to local units of government in the conduct of local planning and grantsmanship activities.
- 6. Supporting local, state or federal plans, policies, or programs which are consistent with EC RDC goals, policies and plans.

## ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### REGIONAL PLANNING

One of the significant events of 1980 was the adoption of the Comprehensive Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan. Required by the State Legislature, the EC RDC is the second RDC in the State to have fulfilled this requirement. An Implementation Strategy for the plan is currently being prepared.

The Comprehensive Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan was prepared in order:

- I. To provide information that will help local elected officials and citizens when they act on planning issues and problems.
- 2. To consolidate all existing EC RDC goals, policies and functional plans.
- To communicate the EC RDC's policies to federal, state and local units of government.
- 4. To comply with the comprehensive planning requirements of the Minnesota Regional Development Act. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the (A-95) review requirements of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Comprehensive Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan:

- I. Identifies local and regional problems and priorities and the organizations having responsibility for taking actions necessary to address these problems and priorities.
- 2. Establishes policy guides for use by the EC RDC and other organizations in both general and specific planning projects.
- 3. Guides EC RDC decisions when it reviews grant applications for State and Federal funding and when it reviews plans proposed for adoption by local units of government or independent boards, agencies and commissions.
- 4. Establishes funding priorities and allocation systems for use by State and Federal Agencies when they make final decisions on grant applications.
- 5. Identifies areas within the region which are experiencing rapid growth and development, and specific strategies for use in managing this growth and development.

- 6. Provide a reference source and policy guide for investment and development decisions of the public and private sectors.
- 7. Enhance local elected official and public monitoring of how effective certain programs are in meeting local needs and problems.
- 8. Identify legislative issues related to the region for our State and Federal elected officials.

The Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan should not be interpreted in any way as an ordinance, rule, or regulation, but rather as a guide that should coordinate, promote and enhance the region's physical, social and economic development toward identified goals which will make the area a better place in which to live.

The Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan could not have been prepared without the assistance of the nearly 160 interested and concerned citizens who participated on the commission's eight advisory committees.

REPORTS, STUDIES, WORK SHOPS

DIRECTORY OF SUBSIDIZED RENTAL HOUSING IN EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA (4th Edition) - The directory has been updated to list all subsidized rental housing in Region 7E as of November 1, 1980. The report is designed for use by housing authorities and human service agencies to aid people on limited incomes in locating decent housing at a modest rent.

DRAFT REPORT ON THE REGIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - The draft report contains factors that may be used in ranking proposed capital improvements for inclusion in an initial regional capital improvement program. The report also contains an inventory of all proposed capital improvements being considered for requests by local units of government in Region 7E for financial assistance to the State or Federal government.

WORKSHOP ON THE HUD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM - A workshop was held on August 21, 1980 to assist potential applicants in Region 7E to prepare grant applications.

WORKSHOP ON THE HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF HUD AND THE LAKES & PINES CAC - Sixteen people attended a workshop on October 6, 1980. HUD staff explained how their housing programs can work in rural areas such as Region 7E. The staff of Lakes and Pines CAC described their energy and housing programs and efforts they have made to coordinate with the housing assistance programs of other public agencies.

WORKSHOP ON THE FmHA RURAL RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAM - The East Central RDC sponsored a joint workshop with the Central Minnesota RDC in St. Cloud on January 20, 1981. The purpose of the workshop was to review new application procedures of the Farmers Home Administration to receive rural rental housing funds. Thirty-five people attended the workshop as representatives of private developers and non-profit organizations that were interested in submitting rental housing proposals to the Farmers Home Administration.

DRAFT WORKSHOP PAPER #1: TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND ROLE DEFINITION - The first report in a series to be used as the basis for a regional transportation plan. The report identifies forty-one transportation issues confronting East Central Minnesota. It also proposes that the East Central Regional Development Commission increase its role in setting priorities for the funding of improvements to state highways, public transit and bikeways.

RIDESHARING HANDBOOK - Community organizations and small businesses can use the handbook to establish and maintain carpooling and vanpooling programs. The ridesharing handbook was prepared for use in small cities and rural areas as in Region 7E where rider/driver matching can be accomplished with simple manual techniques. Additional ridesharing information is available.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES - The Commission conducted a series of five meetings, one in each county to identify rural development issues. The issues were then prioritized and submitted to the Governor's Council on Rural Development for consideration in their planning and decison-making.

AN ASSESSMENT OF BIOMASS ENERGY RESOURCES IN EAST CENTRAL MINNESOTA - The report assesses the land use characteristics and development patterns in the five county region related to biomass energy production. The assessment concludes that significant resources including special energy crops, traditional crop residues and municipal waste exist and will be developed as traditional energy costs increase.

PARKS AND RECREATION GRANT WORKSHOP - A workshop was held April 14, 1981 with local officials to assist them in applying for LAWCON Park Development Funds. A total of seven applications were generated from the five counties.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

About 20% of the EC RDC's staff time went towards providing technical assistance to local governments, agencies, and citizens in the region. This assistance falls into three categories and is only available when requested.

<u>PL ANNING</u> - involves working with local planning commissions, councils and boards in preparing comprehensive plans, economic development plans, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations and capital improvement programs to better enable local officials to deal with their future growth and development.

GRANTSMANSHIP - involves writing grant applications, providing information or conducting workshops which lead to the submission of a grant application.

About \$3,000,000 has been awarded to local governments in the past eighteen months which can be directly attributed to EC RDC staff grantsmanship assistance. "The EC RDC maintains close working relationships with funding agencies and local governments to target specific assistance to specific needs."

SPECIAL PROJECTS - EC RDC staff has the expertise to carry out various special studies. During the past eighteen months, the EC RDC did a trade area and downtown development study for the City of Milaca, a downtown parking study for the City of Taylors Falls, and an environmental assessment for the City of Sandstone. Other projects were completed during the last year that directly enable local governments to better manage their own resources.

# HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

#### East Central Arts Council

An advisory committee to the East Central Regional Development Commission and the Minnesota State Arts Board, the East Central Arts Council provides services to local arts organizations and artists, reviews proposals requesting funds for local/regional arts activities, and participates in direct programming efforts that encourage the growth and development of the arts in the East Central Region.

The members of the Arts Council represent various art disciplines as well as the five counties in the Region. Three times each year, the Council reviews applications for regional arts projects and makes recommendations for funding to the EC RDC based on the merit and artistic quality of the project, the applicant organizations ability to carry out the project and demonstrated need for the activity.

The EC RDC, relying on the Arts Council's recommendation, takes final action on funding the application. The EC RDC's decisions are based on the Council's adherence to the review procedures and policies outlined in the Arts Development Plan as well as the Arts and Cultural Development section of the Comprehensive Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan.

From May 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981 the EC RDC and East Central Arts Council have approved the following local and regional arts projects:

<u>Project</u>	Amount
Princeton Drama Workshop, Princeton Support of the production of Hello Dolly cast from area residents.	\$1,215
Rum River Consortium, Cambridge Joint summer theatre project for children involving a series of workshops and performances at five different cities throughout the region.	\$2,000
Rum River Keyboard Teachers, Isanti Support master piano and organ classes involving Cambridge area students and teachers.	\$415
Pine City Arts Council, Pine City Support their 4th Annual Art festival.	\$1,120
Kanabec County Museum, Mora Support of a series of folk art classes.	\$575
Isanti County Arts Guild, Cambridge Support a series of workshops and presentations in various forms of visual art.	\$690

Braham Community Theatre, Braham Support a production of the musical "My Fair Lady" by area residents.	\$1,780
Regional Dance Students, Cambridge Support a dance program featuring student dancers from throughout the Region.	\$300
Isanti County Historical Society, Cambridge Support a series of demonstrations and classes in wool spinning.	\$740
North Branch Community Education Support of a cooperative youth theatre project involving North Branch, Rush City, Cambridge and Princeton.	\$1,600
Center City Historical Society, Center City Support a workshop and production by St. Paul History Theatre.	\$840
Princeton Drama Workshop, Princeton Support the production of "Annie Get Your Gun."	\$1,200

In addition to reviewing grant requests, the Arts Council has continued to publish the <u>East Central Arts Quarterly</u>, an eight page regional arts newsletter which contains information on the Arts Council's and other programs, profiles artists in the Region, highlights resources available to artists and arts organizations, and covers unique and significant projects in the Region.

During the last summer and early fall of 1980, the Arts Council carried out an extensive needs assessment project which involved community meetings in various locations in the Region. These meetings helped to determine the artistic and cultural needs of communities in the Region. The project also helped to determine the Arts Council's role in the development of resources to meet these needs.

The results of the needs assessment were incorporated into a grant application to the Minnesota State Arts Board (MSAB), which makes arts organizations and other non-profit orgaizations eligible for the next two years for grant funds for projects and programs that contribute to the development of the arts in their communities or the Region.

This past year, the Arts Council implemented two direct programming projects:

The East Central Artist Residency Program, which in cooperation with local sponsors, brought professional artists, skilled in various media, into three different communities for a total of ten day-long residencies. Each residency involved a series of workshops, presentations, and/or performances in each host community.

The Arts Showcase Program gave local artists the opportunity to participate in their craft in their home communities. The program also exposed the community to the artists and arts resources available locally. This past year, the arts were "showcased" in Isle, Onamia, Cambridge, Mora, Pine City and North Branch.

#### Arts Council Members:

Lloyd Hackl, Center City, Chairman
Ian Dudley, Lindstrom
Maurice Boudreau, Isanti
Val Arrowsmith, Stanchfield
\*Arne Everson, Cambridge
Mildred Wahlstrom, Mora
Donna Olson, Mora
Jay Anderson, Isle
Gloria Habeck, Isle
Pat Becker, Milaca
\*Greta Wessling, Sandstone
Doug Davis, Pine City
Margaret Fait, Pine City

<sup>\*</sup>Former Member

## Region VII Area Agency on Aging

Beginning in January of 1980, the EC RDC, through a cooperative agreement with the Region 7W RDC, developed a plan by which the EC RDC would be designated as the Area Agency on Aging for the nine (9) counites served by the two RDCs. The purpose of developing this plan was to reduce the costs of administration and to utilize available funds more efficiently.

#### PURPOSE & GOAL

Formation of Area Agencies on Aging are authorized under the Older American's Act of 1965. Area Agencies on Aging are given three primary responsibilities. These are:

PL ANNING

FUNDING & COORDINATION OF NEEDED SERVICES

ADVOCACY

The overall goal of the Area Agency on Aging is...ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED SYSTEM OF COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT SERVICES WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO ENABLE ELDERLY PEOPLE - PARTICULARLY THE FRAIL AND HANDICAPPED ELDERLY - TO REMAIN IN HOME AND COMMUNITY AND TO LEAD HEALTHFUL AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

During the past eighteen months, the EC RDC has implemented this goal through:

PLANNING - The Aging Advisory Committee, working with the Region 7W Committee developed an Area Plan for programs on aging which was approved by the EC RDC and the Minnesota Board on Aging. Under this plan, priority needs of the region's elderly are identified, funding priorities are established and Area Agency work activities are outlined.

FUNDING & COORDINATION - since January of 1980, more than 19 projects providing direct services to elderly people have been planned and funded with assistance by the Area Agency. In addition to these projects, development of senior centers which are accessible to handicapped elderly and where a variety of services can be made available locally have been accomplished. These services and resources address priority needs identified in the Area Plan.

ADVOCACY - the EC RDC, serving as the Area Agency on Aging, fulfills this responsibility in part by placing great importance on involvement of its Advisory Committee in decisons pertaining to planning and funding of services. The 19 member committee meets monthly and always has near perfect attendance.

The Advisory Committee attempts to involve the region's elderly in Area Agency activities as much as possible. This has been accomplished by sponsoring a two-day seminar on advocacy in which older consumers of services as well as service providers participated, and by holding a one-day RESOURCE FAIR in November of 1980 in which more than 300 older people from throughout the

area attended. "The Advisory Council also held a regon-wide conference to allow input from elderly people and local elected officials as to local needs and issues of importance to elderly people and those responsible for provision of services." This activity was in preparation for the National White House Conference on Aging, to be held during the fall of 1981. To inform local, state and national legislators about the needs of older people and the activities of the Area Agency, the Council participated in a SENIOR PROGRAM AWARENESS DAY held May 29th, during which a number of local and state legislators, as well as U.S. Congressmen Vin Weber, participated and heard directly from area seniors about the Area Agency and its programs.

RESULTS - any program must ultimately be judged on the basis of its impact on the Region's population. The EC RDC Advisory Council on Aging believes the Area Agency on Aging (RDC) has accomplished some tangible results for the area, namely; 1) allows local elected officials and consumers of services the opportunity to identify their own needs and expend funds according to local policies, 2) allows local consumers of services the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of services in a meangingful way. " As a result of Area Agency on Aging activities, older consumers and policy makers have been directly involved in planning and funding projects which currently serve more than 15,000 older persons providing services which might not have otherwise been possible."

These include needed transportation services, legal services, in-home and community health services, nutrition services and health education services, to name a few.

#### FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT:	FEDERAL CRANT	LOCAL CONTRIBUTION AND PROJECT INCOME	TOTAL PROJECT COST
Mille Lacs County Transportation Coordinating Council	\$ 8,941	\$ 16,913	\$ 25,854
Mille Lacs County Home Health Care	24,045	19,030	43,075
Legal Advocacy For Older Americans	44,500	11,185	55,885
Second Experience Inc.	29,640	78,130	107,770
Northern Mille Lacs Senior Mental & Physical Health Program	9,384	3, 979	13,363
Stearns County Senior Services Specialist	11,120	7,414	18,534
St. Cloud Area Legal Services	40,000	10,000	50,000
Senior Citizen Resource Fair	650	1,550	2,200
Nutrition Program Outreach	7, 799	1,950	9,749
Whitney Senior Center Outreach	6,550	1,638	8,188

Sherburne County Friendly Visiting	15,278	3,820	19,098
Monticello Area Home Care Pilat Project	. 19,490	5, 423	24,913
Nutrition Centers Program Transportation	29,862	8,142	38,004
Albany Home Delivered Meals	4,420	10,530	14,950
Nutrition Centers Program Congregate Dining · (1981)	571,374 (\$87,309 - U.S.D.A.) (\$121,121 -	173, 369 state)	744,743
Nutrition Centers Program Congregate Dining - (1980)	573,672 (\$75,147 - U.S.D.A.) (\$124,560 -	177,792	751,464
Chisago County Home '81 Delivered Meals	4,364 (\$1,949 is U.S.D.A.)	8,986	13,350
'80	3,310	11,290	14,600
Sandstone Home '81 Delivered Meals	4,248 (\$1,843 (s. U.S.D.A.)	7,672	11,920
'80	2,086	9,304	11,390
Nutrition Centers Program '6 Home Delivered Meals	11 51,770 (\$8,600 is U.S.D.A.)	13,897	65,667
	80 \$42,509 (\$7,786 is U.S.D.A.)	\$ 14,968	\$ <u>57,477</u>
TOTAL	\$1,505,012	\$596,982	\$2,101,994

In addition to the above funds, the Area Agency on Aging provided \$119,793 in Federal Funds, and \$26,819 in McKnight Foundation Funds administered by the Area Agency on Aging to purchase, repair, and make accessible eleven senior centers and nutrition sites within the nine-county planning and service area.

# Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

The Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee designs and implements activities which meet the technical assistance, public information and coordination needs of agencies and consumer organizations which are involved in the delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities in the East Central Region.

A developmental disability is a chronic mental or physical disability of a person which is likely to continue indefinitely and result in substantial functional limitations in at least three of the following areas of major life activity: self-care; speech; learning; mobility; self-direction: capacity for independent living; and economic sufficiency.

Over the past eighteen months, the DD Advisory Committee has been involved in a number of projects including:

In partnership with school districts included in the Rum River Cooperative, "the DD Committee implemented a program to educate elementary students about various disabilities."

The DD Committee has sponsored workshops/presentations on:

- 1. The legal rights of persons with disabilities;
- 2. Citizen advocacy;
- 3. Epilepsy;
- 4. Transportation services for the handicapped and elderly;
- 5. Educational rights of children with disabilities.

The DD Committee acted as the local coordinating group "for activities of the United Nation's and the State of Minnesota's "International Year of Disabled Persons." Activities included:

- 1. The development of a public information package for contacts located in each County in the Region, and
- 2. Co-sponsorship of presentations on insurance, criminal justice, deinstitutionalization, and legal services.

By providing technical assistance and through their A-95 review and comment, the DD Committee has encouraged the development of:

- Sheltered workstations at Plastech Industries in Rush City;
- 2. A group home for mentally retarded adults in Cambridge; and
- 3. Respite care services in Isanti and Chisago Counties.

The DD Committee developed and submitted a grant application to the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities for continuation of its activities in public education/information, technical assistance and interagency coordination. The proposal was just recently approved for fiscal year 1982.

#### Committee Members:

Richard Revak, Grasston (Chairman)
Marlys Revak, Grasston
Betty Scharn, Mora
Bruce Bohaty, Willow River
Sandi Bohaty, Willow River
Yvonne Lind, Cambridge

Jerry Wedlund, Cambridge Alan Olson, Center City Fred Hoffman, Milaca Margaret Lindquist, Ogilvie Dawn Olson, Braham Ruby Wicklund, Braham

# PHYSICAL RESOURCE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Natural Resource and Conservation Advisory Committee

The Natural Resource and Conservation Advisory Committee is responsible for addressing issues related to the physical development of the Region concerning the natural resources and land use. "The Committee is responsible for the development of the EC RDC Physical Development Policies regarding the Region's physical environment."

The Natural Resource and Conservation Advisory Committee reviews and comments on local government and agency plans, grant and loan requests, proposed legislation, legislative studies and prepares reports concerning regional issues when needed. The Committee and the EC RDC is also involved with recreation issues at the state level. Owen Baas, public interest representative, represents the EC RDC on the State Outdoor Recreation Advisory Council (ORAC). ORAC is made up of 13 RDC representatives and advises the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, and the Minnesota Historical Society on recreation related laws, policies, plans and rules. The EC RDC is also represented by staff on the Outdoor Recreation Planning and Technical Advisory Committee which advises the state and federal governments on natural resource - based recreation issues, policies and planning processes.

Summary of the major activities of the Committee for the past year:

Technical assistance related to land use and natural resources of the Region was provided to local governments by assisting in the preparation of environmental reviews, comprehensive plans and growth management ordinances.

The physical development policies of the EC RDC were further implemented through the Committee's regional review process. Advisory reviews conducted by the Committee in the past year include:

- 7 Land Use Planning Grant Applications
- 7 Park and Recreation Grant Applications
- 1 HUD Mortgage Insurance Application
- 1 Historical Preservation Grant Application
- 4 Comprehensive Plans of Local Governments
- 8 Wastewater Facility Plans
- 2 Environmental Assessment Worksheets
- 1 Environmental Impact Statement

The Mille Lacs Lake Critical Area Evaluation, previously prepared as a committee work element, was published by the Environmental Quality Board and distributed to the general public. "Several meetings were held in the Mille Lacs Lake area to discuss the report, resource management problems and alternative management practices for the area."

The Committee reviewed and commented on the study of the local water management structure in Minnesota prepared by the State Water Planning Board. The study contained many legislative recommendations pertaining to local water management authority and responsibility.

Comments were provided by the committee to the Environmental Quality Board staff regarding issues related to uranium exploration and mining activities in the Region. This report is being prepared for the Minnesota Legislature.

The Committee met with staff of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to coordinate and formalize a review process between the MPCA and the EC RDC concerning wastewater facility plan reviews. "The Committee also made recommendations to MPCA regarding environmental concerns and cost effectiveness of the wastewater facilities construction grants program."

A solid waste planning program for the Region was initiated by the Natural Resources and Conservation Advisory Committee. This planning activity will assess the solid waste characteristics and management practices currently in existence, investigate alternative management methods, determine the feasibility of these alternatives, and "establish a siting process for the development of future landfill facilities."

A Comprehensive Plan Review Manual was developed to establish a more formalized procedure for the review of local comprehensive plans. The manual consists of criteria to evaluate plans for consistency and content. "This manual can also be utilized by local governments as a planning assistance guide, with the review criteria serving as recommedations to local governments for the preparation of plans."

The eleven member committee is comprised of individuals representing counties, townships, soil and water conservation boards, the resource conservation and development project, and public interests.

#### Committee Members:

Fred Ahlgren, Mora
Roger Bergman, Isanti
Laurence Collin, Isanti (Chrm.)
Marvin Erickson, Mora
Howard Froberg, Lindstrom
Robert Hoefert, Isle

Everette K oecher, Kerrick Richard Larson, Milaca Robert Peterson, Isanti Art Schultz, Rock Creek James Tuttle, Willow River

## Community Development Advisory Committee

The Community Development Advisory Committee's responsibilities include recommending actions needed to correct deficiencies in public facilities and to improve housing conditions for people in the predominantly rural East Central Region.

In September, 1980, the Committee published its findings on ways to improve the delivery of housing assistance to people living in small cities and rural areas of east central Minnesota.

The major task given to the Committee for the past eighteen months was to explore the possibility of preparing a regional capital improvement program (RCIP). "In the future, decisions on which capital improvements will be built will become increasingly selective as state and federal assistance for this purpose continues to diminish." In order to assist this decision-making process, the committee recommended the adoption of an RCIP that will enable the East Central RDC to maximize the economic benefits of limited state and federal resources for citizens in east central Minnesota.

The regional investment strategy is based on a set of assumptions that are a result of surveys of local capital improvement needs and an analysis of economic conditions facing the region as contained in the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) of the East Central RDC. The assumptions serve as the foundation for preparing a regional investment strategy.

Over the past year and a half, the Community Development Advisory Committee reviewed twenty-five housing and public facilities proposals under the Regional (A-95) Review Process. "Two subsidized rental housing projects were funded during this period after receiving a high priority ranking according to the Regional Housing Allocation Program." The funded projects were for the City of Cambridge - 44 elderly units and 16 family units, and for the City of Harris - 17 elderly units. Several cities also were successful in obtaining HUD Community Development Block Grants. City of Sandstone received a grant for \$1,339,200 for public facilities improvements and housing rehabilitation using strategies contained in the adopted Regional Comprehensive Plan of the East Central RDC. of Foreston received an \$86,250 HUD Grant for sanitary sewers and housing rehabilitation. The Cities of Rush City and North Branch submitted a joint application for housing rehabilitation that was funded by HUD in the amount of \$460,000. "All of these successful applicants received technical assistance from the EC RDC in developing their proposals."

Finally, several members of the EC RDC attended dedication ceremonies on two previously funded housing projects in Rush City and Milaca. In October 1980, Millie Price, representing the Chisago County Board of Commissioners and Jim Ertz, Mayor of Rush City and representing Chisago County Cities on the EC RDC, attended the dedication of Rush Oaks Apartments, a 24-unit elderly housing project in Rush City. The project was financed by the Farmers Home Administration. Mr. John Apitz, State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, spoke at the dedication that was attended by over one hundred people. An even larger gathering was held on May 3, 1981 in Milaca for the dedication of Milaca Park Apartments. Ceremonies were held in the community room with guest speakers including State Representative

Stephen Wenzel. Chairman Gloria Habeck of the EC RDC, and Mayor Kenneth Trimble of Milaca. Both Gloria Habeck and Kenneth Trimble serve on the EC RDC, representing the Mille Lacs County Board and Cities in Mille Lacs County, respectively. Over five hundred people attended the dedication and open house of Milaca Park Apartments. The project consists of 51 elderly units and 20 family units on two separate sites. The project was financed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

## Employment and Training Advisory Committee

The Regional Employment and Training Advisory Committee (RETAC) is responsible for planning and review of regional employment and training programs. The RETAC plan is 1) an index and guide to coordinated employment and training service; and 2) communication of local goals and objectives to state and national levels.

The RETAC's goals are 1) identification of natural characteristics and capacity for employment, 2) assessment of future employment needs, 3) prioritization of those most in need of temporary assistance to employment, and 4) a plan for coordinated employment and training services.

During the past eighteen months, the RETAC:

Developed and implemented the annual Employment and Training Plan which is designed as a resource and guide for local and state officials.

Increased from eleven to twenty-one members. (The membership of women is presently in direct proportion to the number of women in Region 7E or 48%.)

"Strengthened the linkage between Federal, State and local employment and training programs via increased communications."
6 Public Service Employment Projects, 4 Youth Employment and Training Projects, and 2 Private Industry Council projects were funded.

Solicited and prioritized projects designed to fill the emergency needs of regional high unemployment during 1981. Public Service Employment projects proposed twenty (20) temporary jobs.

"Will focus attention on private sector involvement to fill the long term employment needs of Region 7E in 1982."

Considered the greatest employment and training needs to be held by people that are: 1) Displaced Homemakers

- 2) Unemployed Heads of Households
- 3) Less than 12 years of education
- 4) Adults 20-44 years old
- 5) Older workers

#### Committee members:

Andy Holzemer, Chairman - Onamia Jean Tilley, Rush City Kris Bremer, Mora Becky Lynn Lanoue, Mora Claudia Bernedt, Mora

Mary Bratlie, Mora
Garland Kotek, Pine City AVTI
Jim Davis, Pine City
Luther Tenquist, Sandstone
Bill Haglund, Sandstone

Marilyn Honstrom, Green Thumb
Mary Groeschner, Job Service
Joyce Belford, CETA
Roger Canfield, Community Action Agency
Doug Schumacher, Princeton
Tom Hilson, Braham
Jeffrey Kenkel, Cambridge
Gene Reynolds, Mille Lacs Reservation
Duane Bouschee, Cambridge

Cliff Anderson, Almelund Richard Visser, Vice-Chairman, Ogilvie

\*Vivian Huenecke, North Branch

\*Steve Cahoon, Shafer

\*Linda Schlief, Bethel

\*Victor Vanacek, CETA

\*Merle Mattson, CETA

\*Erwn Geigel, Pine City AVTI

\*Clara Jorgensen, Askov

\*John Kuester, WEP

<sup>\*</sup>Former Member

# Economic Development Advisory Committee

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) is responsible for preparing and updating the region's Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) Plan. With approval by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) in early 1980, the region has received designation as an Economic Development District (EDD).

The EDAC recommends actions to the EC RDC on economic development policies, programs and projects. In June 1980, the EDAC prepared the 1980-81 Region 7E Overall Economic Development Program Update which was subsequently approved by all five counties and by the EC RDC. The EDAC will oversee staff actions in the operation of the planning grant work program. The EDAC is currently seeking methods of implementing comprehensive economic development projects which are regional is scope.

## Past Year's Highlights - FY'81

- 1) The EDAC concentrated on the updating of the Regional Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). This program was supported, through resolution, by all five counties in the region and approved by the EC RDC in May. "The document analyzes the regional economy and outlines regional and county economic development priorities."
- 2) The EDAC sponsored an energy/economic development task force to investigate the energy generation and employment potential of biomass resources in East Central Minnesota. "The EDAC prepared a final biomass resources report which was approved by the EC RDC in May."
- 3) Technical assistance provided by EC RDC staff to local communities included: Rush City: industrial park expansion; Foreston: improvement of an industrial road serving Foreston Dimension Co.; Isle, Isanti, Cambridge and Lindstrom: industrial park development; Hinckely: improvement of road serving the industrial park; Taylors Falls: downtown development; Milaca: industrial development and retail market analysis; and the preparation of Local Place Strategy documents for Lindstrom, North Branch, Rush City, Cambridge, Isanti, Isle and Foreston.
- 4) The EDAC developed a planning grant application to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund a one year economic development planning program at the EC RDC.
- 5) The EDAC is scheduling a financial seminar for September aimed at local bankers and industry leaders. "This seminar will focus on public financing programs available for economic and industrial development."

6) The EDAC sought to include Pine and Mille Lacs Counties in the State of Minnesota Revolving Loan Fund Program. "This designation would enable businesses and industry in these two counties to seek low cost loan participation by the State in business expansion projects."

Economic Development Advisory Committee Members:

\*Bruce Nelson, Sandstone James Hergert, Cambridge

\*Emmett Oien, Mora

\*Steve Odegard, Princeton Dennis Lapp, Sandstone

\*Mickey Grahek, Mora

\*Doug Henschel, Milaca

\*Barb Stecker, Isanti Patricia Peterson, Braham Darwin Bremer, Rush City

\*Denotes Former Member

Dick Longworth, Mora Roger Bergman, Isanti (Vice-Chairperson)

\*John Fredericksen, North Branch

\*Tony Scheiber, Mora
Andy Holzemer, Onamia (Chairperson)
LeRoy Nagle, Pine City

\*Marvin Gahr, Lindstrom Mike Parent, Mora John James, Taylors Falls Dave Oistad, Milaca Arild Fredericksen, Askov

## REGIONAL (A-95) REVIEW

The EC RDC was designated by the Governor of Minnesota as the "Regional non-metropolitan clearinghouse" for the five counties of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine in March 1975.

"As a regional clearinghouse, the EC RDC is required by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Circular A-95 to enocurage the coordination of state, regional and local planning and development efforts." The EC RDC is given A-95 responsibility for reviewing and commenting on project proposals for approximately 200 federal programs to see that all proposals are consistent with local and regional plans, goals and policies.

The Regional Development Act of 1969 broadened the EC RDC's review responsibility by giving it the authority to:

- 1. review and comment on long-term comprehensive plans of local governmental units within the region;
- 2. review plans of independent board and commissions and suspend such plans where potential conflict with regional plans exists; and
- 3. review all applications for federal and state grants or loans made by governmental units, independent commissions, board or agencies within the region.

The Regional (A-95) Review System is used by the EC RDC in carrying out its "clearinghouse" responsibilities. Upon receipt of a project notification, the EC RDC staff contacts agencies or individuals who may be affected by or interested in the project and requests their comments. EC RDC staff and advisory committees also submit comments after which the final EC RDC comments are made and sent to the applicant and to the funding source.

"In most cases, the Regional (A-95) Review process does not guarantee or deny the funding of a project but will inform the funding source whether the project is consistent wth existing and proposed projects and plans in the Region."

The following pages identify the 147 projects reviewed by the EC RDC and the action taken.

#### Funding Agency Acronyms

BOR - Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

DOT - Minn. Dept. of Transportation

EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

FmHA - Farmers Home Administration

MHFA - Minnesota Housing Finance Agency

LEAA - Law Enforcement Assistance Administration

MPCA - Mn. Pollution Control Agency

LAWCON - Land and Water Conservation

CSA - Community Services Administration

MBA - Minnesota Board on Aging

HECG - Higher Education Coord. Board

HHA - Dept. of Health & Human Services

DOL - Department of Labor

RDC - Rural Development Council

DOI - Department of Interior

SPA - State Planning Agency

MDH - Minnesota Dept. of Health

AOA - Federal Agency on Aging

MSAB - Mn. State Arts Board

DOE - Department of Energy

HUD - Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

USDA - United States Department of Agriculture

MHS - Minnesota Historical Society

EC RDC - East Central Regional Development Commission

DED - Department of Economic Development

UGLRC - Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission

# CHISAGO COUNTY

		GRANT	FUNDING	AMOUNT	EC RDC*	AMOUNT*
APPLICANT	TITLE	OR LOAD	N AGENCY	REQUESTED	ACTION	FUNDED
Taylors Falls School	Energy Conservation Measures	G	DOE	\$46,250	Positive	
Dist.						
Chisago County	Mini Bus Program	G	US DOT	\$12,000	Positive	\$12,000
Lake Hills Estates	Schilling Construction	L	HUD		Positive	0
City of Rush City	Rush City Ordinance Revisions	G	SPA		Positive	0
David H. Berndt	Pinewood Elderly Housing Project	L	FmHA	\$330,000	Positive	\$446,400
City of Schafer	Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan	Plan	MPCA	·	Positive	
City of Lindstrom	Industrial Park Development	G	EDA	\$1,199,400	No Action	Pending
City of Chisago City	Water Tower, Water & Sewer Extensions	G & L	FmHA	\$1,185,000	Positive	Pending
City of Chisago City	Purchase Fire Truck	L	FmHA	\$110,000	Positive	\$110,000
City of Stacy	Stacy Comprehensive Plan	Plan	NA		Positive	Adopted
North Branch & Rush City	y Housing Rehabilitation	G	HUD	\$460,000	Positive	\$460,000
City of Sharer	Shafer Land Use Planning Grant	G	SPA		Positive	0
City of Rush City	Municipal Well and Pumphouse	L	FmHA	\$200,000	Positive	\$200,000
City of Rush City	Land Use Planning Grant	G	SPA		Positive	0
Kush Riverview	O.D. Partnership	L	HUD-MHFA	\$942,000	Positive	Pending
City of Stacy	Stacy Wastewater Treatment - Step I	Plan	MPCA	1.45 (Car.)	Positive	Pending
Chisago Co. Welfare Dep	Chisago County Respite Care Program	G	MnSPA	\$5,499.6	4 Positive	Pending
Wyoming Township	Chisago Lakes Cable T.V.	Plan	MN Cable Communi	₩ WOY STATE	Positive	Pending
			cations Board		w/comments	
City of Rush City	Rush City Industrial Development Project	G	U.S. HUD	\$400,000	Positive	Pending
Cities of Branch/N Branch	Outdoor Winter Recreation Activities Area	G	OLUA-DED	\$39,600	Positive	Pending
Chisago County	Checkerboard County Park	G	OLUA-DED	\$28,725	Positive	Pending

# ISANTI COUNTY

		GRANT	FUNDING	AMOUNT	EC RDC*	AMOUNT*
APPLICANT	TITLE	OR LOAN	AGENCY	REQUESTED	ACTION	FUNDED
	. Purchase Equipment for Plant in Cambrid	ge L	FmHA	\$460,000	Positive	
Company Soderberg Construction	Wildwood HUD File No. 4063	L	HUD	0	Positive	Funded
Braham Community Hosp. Assn.	Braham Gardens	L	HUD	\$26,000	Negative w/comments	. 0
City of Isanti	Unity Park	G	SPA LAWCON/LCMD	\$27,500	No action	0
City of Isanti	New Fire Station & City Offices for Isan	nti L	FmHA	\$410,350	Positive	Pending
New Home Construction	Townsedge Manor - #4096	L	HUD	0	Positive w/comments	Funded
Bergstad Const. Co.	Cambridge Seniors and Cambridge Townhouse	es L	MHFA \$	2,304,426	Positive	\$2,375,653
Isanti County Histori- cal Society	Isanti County School Dist. Building		MN Hist. Soc.	\$955	Positive	Funded
City of Cambridge	Cambridge Step I Wastewater Treatment Plan	Plan	MPCA		Positive	Pending
Residential Alterna- tive, Inc.	Isanti County Group Home	› L	Dept. of Public Welfare	2	Positive	\$125,700
City of Braham	Braham Comprehensive Plan	Plan	N/A		Positive w/comments	Adopted
Braham Step I	Wastewater Facilities Plan	Plan	MPCA		Positive	Pending
	Respite Care/Isanti County Community Supp	ort G	MnSPA	\$24,340	Positive	Pending
Isanti County	Bridge Replacement	G	MN/DOT		No Comment	Pending
Bradford Township	Bradford Recreation Park	G	OLUA/DED	\$8,250	Positive	Pending
City of Braham	Braham Softball/Hockey Park	G	OLUA/DED	\$7,152.5	0 Positive	Pending

# KANABEC COUNTY

		GRANT	FUNDING	AMOUNT	EC RDC*	AMOUNT*
APPLICANT	TITLE	OR LOAN	AGENCY	REQUESTED	ACTION	FUNDED
Ogilvie Public Schools	Energy Conservation Project Measures	G	DOE	\$78,005	Positive	
City of Ogilvie	Ogilvie Community Recreation Area	G	SPA	\$50,000	Positive	
			LAWCON/LCMR		w/comments	
Kanabec County	Bridge Replacement	G	MN/DOT	\$245,000	Positive	Pending
City of Mora	Mora Urban Service Area Plan	G	SPA		Positive	\$7,500
Brighter Day	Work Unit in Factory Setting for Handi-	G	DES	\$22,599	Positive	\$22,600
Achievement Center, Inc.	. capped					
City of Quamba	Quamba Wastewater Facility - Step I	Plan	MN/PCA		Positive	Pending
Barthel Realty	Ogilvie Housing	L	FmHA	\$505,400	Positive	Withdrawn
City of Quamba	Quamba Wastewater Facility - Step II	G	MN/PCA	\$37,780	Positive	Pending
City of Mora	Mora Jaycee Community Park	G	OLUA/DED	\$29,983	Positive	Pending
City of Ogilvie	Ogilvie Community Recreation Area	G	OLUA/DED	\$9,000	Positive	Pending

# MILLE LACS

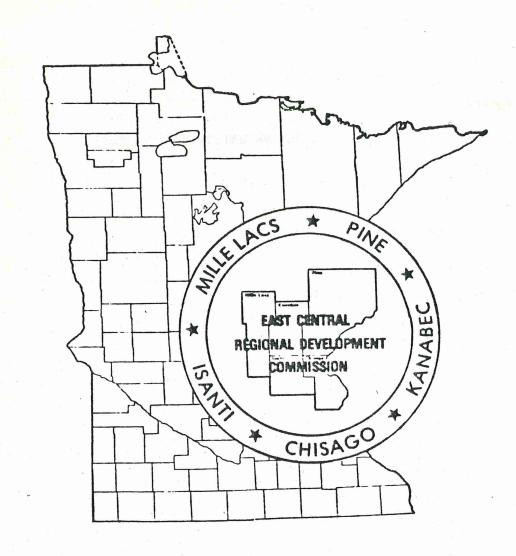
		GRANT	FUNDING	AMOUNT	EC RDC*	AMOUNT*
APPLICANT	TITLE	OR LOAN	AGENCY	REQUESTED	ACTION	FUNDED
George Sanford	Oakwood Estates HUD File No. 4008	L	HUD	0	Positive	Funded
Bullick, Inc.	Spruce Haven Estates	L	HUD	<b>O</b>	Positive	Funded
City of Isle	Isle Bikeway	G	MN/DOT	\$43,513	Positive	Funded
Martin McGowan	Princeton Cable T.V.	Plan	MN CABLE COMM. BOARD	0	Positive	Pending
City of Princeton	Princeton Mall	G G	HUD	\$600,000	Positive w/comments	Funded
City of Pease	Pease City Park	G	SPA-LAWCON		Positive w/comments	. 0
Dennis Sternquist	Den-Hei Estates HUD No. 4120	L	HUD	0	Positive	Funded
M.L. Co. Trans. Coord. Council, Inc.	Purchase Mini-Bus	G	US-DOT	\$19,488	Positive	0
City of Onamia	Onamia Step - I	P1an	MPCA		Positive	Pending
City of Milaca	Milaca Comprehensive Plan	Plan			Positive	Adopted
City of Foreston	Foreston Small Cities Grant	G	HUD	\$180,000	Positive	\$86,250
City of Onamia	Onamia Small Cities Grant	G	HUD	\$941,700	Positive	0
City of Milaca	Milaca Small Cities Grant	G	HUD	\$526,000	Positive	0
City of Foreston	Foreston Land Use Planning Grant	G	SPA	\$6,000	Positive Ranked-1	\$6,000
City of Milaca	Milaca Water & Sanitary Sewer Improvements	G & L	FmHA	\$643,000	Positive	Pending
City of Foreston	9 Ton Road	G	FmHA	\$55,650	Positive	\$55,650
Marvin George Builders	Isle Family Housing	L	FmHA	\$324,000	Positive	0
City of Princeton	UDAG Purchase & Lease of Industrial Equipme	ent G	HUD	\$130,000	Positive	\$130,000
City of Onamia	Wastewater Treatment Step II	G	MPCA	\$60,579	Positive	Pending
City of Isle	Isle Mgnt. Pol. & Devel. Ordinance	Plan			No Action	Adopted
City of Milaca	Milaca Warminghouse Construction	G	OLUA/DED	\$10,000	Positive	Pending
City of Princeton	UDAG Energy Recovery System From Waste	G.	HUD	\$130,000	Positive	Pending

		GRANT	FUNDING	AMOUNT	EC RDC*	AMOUNT*
APPLICANT	TITLE	OR LOAN	AGENCY	REQUESTED	ACTION	FUNDED
City of Hinckley	Water & Sewer	G	EDA .	\$244,250	Positive	Funded
City of Willow River	Water & Waste Water Disposal System	G & L	FmHA	\$150,000	Positive	Pending
Pine Co. Family Health	Rural Health Initiative	G	HEW	\$195,000	Negative	J
Windmere Pines Dev. Cnt.	Windmere Pines Addition HUD File 4034	L	HUD	0	Positive	
City of Sandstone	Gunntown Neighborhood Improvements 1st ye	ear G	HUD	\$480,000	Positive	\$480,000
City of Moose Lake	Windmere Sanitary Sewer D		MPCA	NA	Positive	Pending
	Facilities Plan - Step I					
Pine Tech. Institute	Support Equipment	G	UGLRC	\$33,477	Positive	
Pine County Highway	Bridge Replacement	G	MN/DOT		Positive	Pending
Dept.						
Finlayson Township	Land Use Planning Grant	G	OLUA		Positive	Withdrawn
City of Askov	Askov Land Use Planning Grant	G	OLUA		Positive	\$5,625
Pine County Nursing	Home Care	G	DOH	\$5,200		0
Service						
City of Sandstone	Wastewater Treatment Facility Plan - Ste	p Plan	EPA	0	Positive	Pending
	I		MPCA			
City of Hinckley	Hinckley Fire Station Expansion	$\mathbf{L}_{-j}$	FmHA	\$110,000	Positive	Funded
Pine County Highway	Road Improvements	G	US DOT	\$369,000	Positive	Pending
Dept.	and the second s	-àc				
Pine County Family	Supplemental Food Programs for Women,	G	D.O.H.	\$25,310.48	No Action	\$23,417
Health Center (WIC)	Infants & Children					
Sandstone Properties	Malisow Addition	L	HUD	0	Positive	
Pine County Family	Rural Health Insentive Project Initiative	G	DHHS	\$213,825	No Action	\$213,825
Health Center, INC				405 050		
Bethlehem Lutheran	Bethlehem Lutheran Church	G	MN Hist.	\$25,050	Positive	Pending
Church			Society	0-10-000		
Marvin George, Bldrs.	Hinckley Family Housing	L	FmHA	\$540,000	Positive	0
	Pine City Pretreatment Program	G	MPCA	\$11,250	Positive	Pending
Consulting Engineers		0	(EPA)			D 11
Pine County	Bridge Funds Request	G	MN/DOT		No Comment	Pending
Pine County	Highway Construction Programs	G	MN/DOT		No Comment	Pending
City of Brook Park	Brook Park Wastewater Treatment &	Plan	774 /4704		Positive	
	Collection System Plan - Step I		EPA/MPCA	¢505 200	w/comments	\$505 200
City of Sandstone	Gunntown Neighborhood Improvements 2nd ye	ear G	U.S.	\$595,200	Positive	\$595,200
			HUD			

# MULTI-COUNTY

APPLICANT	TITLE	GRANT OR LOAN	FUNDING AGENCY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	EC RDC*	AMOUNT* FUNDED
Dept. of Corrections	Incest Offender Treatment Program	G	LEAA	\$153,285	Negative	TONDED
Dept. of Corrections	Technical Assistant Unit for MN Jail	G	LEAA	\$131,000	Positive	
	System	Ü		, ,	-00162,0	
DNR	Police Training Programs - DNR Division	G	LEAA		No Comment	
	of Training	Ü			110 COMMICTIO	
Nexus Inc.	Nexus Mobile Assessment & Referral Servic	e G	LEAA	\$35,106	Negative	
MN State Bar Asso.	MN Family Violence Prevention, Treatment	G	LEAA	\$72,000	Negative	
	& Training Project	Ü		1,2,000	1,0845110	
County Attorney's	Resource and Research Asst.	G	LEAA	\$66,002	Positive	
Council		u		700,002		
MN Supreme Court	S.J.I.S. Juvenile Subsystem	G	LEAA	\$78,507,40	No Comment	
MN Supreme Court	Omnibus Training Grant	G	LEAA	\$41,822	No Comment	
Crime Control Planning	Research and Evaluation Unit	G	LEAA	\$315,300	Negative	
Board		G		7323,300		
MN Supreme Court	Court Community Education Project	G ·	LEAA	\$39,600	Positive	
	Statewide Implementation of Violent	G	LEAA	\$39,618	Negative	
	Partners Program	G		100,000		
Mpls. Community College	Evaluation of Community College Law	G	LEAA	\$30,375,66	No Comment	
11	Enforce. Training	J		+30,373.00		
Office of Attorney	Interdisciplinary Training for Police	G	LEAA	\$7,200	Positive	
General	Officers	J		473200		
MN Board of Peace	Continuing Education/Training for Police	G	LEAA	\$57,221	Positive	147
Officer, Standards &	Officers	G		737,221		
Training						
	Criminal Intelligance Analysis Project	G	LEAA	\$107,361	Positive	
	Correctional Industries Joint Venture	G	LEAA	\$162,933	Negative	
in. 20pc. of collections	Expansion	Ü		1202,700		
MN Dept. of Corrections	Coordination of Chemical Dependency Service	ces G	LEAA	\$40,180	No Comment	
	Inmate Health Education Program	G	LEAA	\$37,689	No Comment	
Lakes & Pines CAC	Head Start	G	HEW	\$247,091	Positive	\$247,091
		J		, - , , , , - , ,		, ,

APPLICANT	TITLE	GRANT OR LOAN	FUNDING AGENCY	AMOUNT REQUESTED	EC RDC* ACTION	AMOUNT * FUNDED
Lakes & Pines CAC	Summer Youth Recreation Program	G	CSA	\$5,809	Positive	\$5,809
MN/DOT	State Transportation Plan	Plan	MN/DOT		Positive	Funded
EC RDC Dev. Dis.	Reg. Coordination/Technical	G	SPA	\$15,625	Positive	\$15,625
Committee	Ass. Grant					7,23,023
Synergistic V CDC	CDC Program	G	DED	\$155,782.56	Negative	Refused
Synergistic V CDC	Revolving Loan Fund	L	DED	50,000	Positive	Refused
MN Dept. of Economic	MN Balance of State Comprehensive	G	DOL	\$18,672	Positive	\$18,672
Security	Employment & Training Plan		,			1-0,00-
EC RDC	EDA - 301(b)	G	EDA	\$50,000	Positive	\$50,000
MN CAP Ass., Inc.	Statewide Assistance to MN CAPS	G	CSA	\$27,500	No Comment	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Twin Cities Natural	Family Planning Special Projects	G	HHS	\$30,567	Negative	\$27,600
Family Planning Center						1-1,000
Inc.						
Tri-CAP Family Planning	Family Planning Special Projects	G	Dept. of	\$20,470	Positive	\$15,475
Center			Health			,
MN CAP Ass.	Citizens Energy Coalition	G -	CSA	\$235,882	No Action	
Legal Rights Center	Coalition for Protection of Youth's Rights	G G	LEAA	\$278,880	Negative	
Dept. Economic Security		G	DOE	\$9,094,000	Positive	\$9,094,000
Five County	5 County Work Education Council	G	MN/DES	\$33,000	Positive	Refused
	CETA/Chemical Dependency Training Project		DES	\$23,915	Negative	
Lakes & Pines CAC	Energy Crisis Intervention Program	G	US Comm. Ser	v. \$108,000	Negative	\$108,000
			Admin.		w/comments	
MN State Dept. of Education	Agricultural Development of Cut-over Timber & Marginal Lands	G	UGLRDC	\$55,496	Positive	Funded
Central MN Health Systems Agency	Designation as Health Systems Agency for Central MN	G	Dept. of Health and	\$245,000	Negative	\$245,000
			Human Service			
Isanti County	Multi-County Jail Feasibility Study	G	LEAA	\$4,930	Positive	\$4,930
Central MN Emergency Med. Services Council	Implementation Grant for Emergency Medical Services	G	DHHS	\$372,000	Positive	\$325,000
EC RDC	Regional Investment Strategy - Phase III	G	FmHA	\$30,000	Positive	0
Lakes & Pines CAC	Head Start	G	DHHS	\$335,000	Positive	\$335,000
					w/comments	
Lakes & Pines CAC	Community Action: Local Initiative	G	CSA	\$134,000	Positive	\$134,000
Green Thumb Inc.	Employment Senior Comm. Program		DOL			
EC RDC/Development Disabilities Advisory	Reg. Coord./T.A. Grant D.D. Committee	G	MN/SPA	\$15,625	Positive	\$15,625
MN Dept. of  Transportation	DOT State Highway Construction Program	G	DOT		Positive w/comments	Funded



AN EVALUATION OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

JUNE 1981

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## INTRODUCTION

Evaluations of governmental activities are becoming increasingly important. As the need for governmental services increases in an era of dwindling governmental resources, it is essential that the effectiveness of all governmental activities be constantly monitored. It was in this spirit that the 1980 Minnesota Legislature mandated that all Regional Development Commissions should evaluate their effectiveness in serving the public interest and meeting the objectives of the Regional Development Act.

Taking the mandate seriously, the East Central Regional Development Commission (EC RDC) appointed a Self evaluation steering committee to look into the various methods of carrying out a thorough evaluation of EC RDC functions. During the Fall of 1980, this committee chaired by Barry Blomquist of North Branch, met several times to determine evaluation objectives and the best method of conducting a fair and thorough evaluation. Other members of the Steering Committee included Jim Tuttle, Pine County Township Official & Keith Selleck, Mayor of Pine City. The decision was made to put together an outside evaluation team. The outside team would study EC RDC activities through the use of a survey and follow-up interviews of the various constituencies of the EC RDC.

The Outside Team consisted of the following members:

- 1) Warren Youngdahl, Township official and Chairman of the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission
- 2) James Wallin, City Councilman, Brainerd, MN
- 3) Calvin Clark, Banker, Pine City, MN
- 4) Brandt Richardson, Planner for the MN Water Planning Board, St. Paul, MN

The outside team met with the Steering Committee on March 22, 1981 and was presented with the evaluation objectives established by the EC RDC. The objectives of the evaluation consisted of the following:

- 1. The evaluation should be based on objectives determined in the Regional Development Act.
  - A. Mandatory provisions of the law and how well the commission has met them.
    - 1) The comprehensive planning requirement.

The evaluation should not concentrate on the comprehensive plan content but rather its effectiveness and suggest changes at the end of the evaluation.

2) Review requirements of local comprehensive plans

Review of local plans and the procedure for evaluating local plans should be assessed.

# 3) A-95 review requirement

The evaluation should include an assessment of project reviews and the effectiveness of the review comments. A-95 review procedures should be assessed.

# 4) Annual reports

Annual reports to local units of government and the legislature should be evaluated for content and readability.

5) Financial receipts and disbursements

Financial management should be reviewed by evaluating reports of the state auditor.

B. Optional provisions of the Regional Development Act

The Commission should review the following optional programs and identify their relevance to the needs of east central Minnesota.

- 1) Urban and rural research and demonstration projects.
- 2) Data and information collection and storage.
- 3) Service and technical assistance provided by local governments for local planning and development activities.

# C. Advisory committees

Because the advisory committee structure is an integral part of the policy making and decision making process of the commission, it should be evaluated. The evaluation should concentrate on the purpose or charge of each advisory committee and whether the functional planning areas (i.e., land use, housing, human services), are being properly addressed by the advisory committee structure.

#### D. Public relations

The methods of information dissemination to both public and press should be evaluated for its effectiveness. As with all organizations, communications are a very important function.

The outside team then reviewed surveys to be sent to the following constituency groups:

- 1. All commission members
- 2. All advisory committee members
- 3. All multi-county jurisdictions
- 4. Agencies seeking funding from the EC RDC
- 5. Agencies placed on a priority listing by the EC RDC
- 6. Local units, organizations and persons receiving technical assistance from the EC RDC

- 7. Funding sources
- 8. Agencies, board and commissions whose plans have been reviewed
- 9. RDC staff
- 10. Townships having contact with the EC RDC
- 11. Media
- 12. State Legislators in the Region
- 13. Projects submitted for A-95 review

A total of 354 surveys were sent with a response of over 170 returned. From the 170 responses, 31 were selected for in-depth confidential interviews by the outside team. Those interviewed represented the following constituency groups:

- 8 Commission Members
- 11 Advisory Committee Members
  - 3 Recipients of Technical Assistance
- 2 Project Proposers whose projects were Reviewed Through the A-95 Process
- 2 Non-profit groups seeking funding (aging & arts)
- 2 Local governments whose projects were ranked by the EC RDC
- 1 Township Official who Received Technical Assistance
- 1 Media Representative
- 1 State Legislator

After the interviews were conducted with the constituency groups, the outside team drafted their initial findings individually. The team then interviewed commission planning staff. After the staff interviews, the outside team put together a report on their overall findings, conclusions and recommendations. The following represents their report to the EC RDC.

#### General Observations

The outside evaluation team is favorably impressed by the overall operating structure of the EC RDC. The relatively high rate of return on the surveys sent out (almost 50%) and the overall good comments received during our personal interviews indicate a broad base of support for EC RDC activities. The balance of representation both on the commission and on the advisory committees show us a very strong grass roots decisionmaking system.

Our conclusions, however, lead us to believe that the EC RDC is at a crossroads that should be recognized by the commission. Several factors contribute to this. First are the radical changes taking place in the intergovernmental system. The decreasing availability of federal and state assistance for traditional planning activities will have a decided impact on traditional EC RDC operations. We see a need for the commission to explore the full impacts of declining outside assistance on EC RDC programs. Second is a result of the commission's own initiative, primarily brought about by the adoption of the EC RDC Comprehensive Plan. Our experience indicates that the adoption of a plan should be looked upon as a first step in an ongoing process. At this point in time, the Commission must clearly use the adoption of its plan as a foundation for future activity. It is the feeling of the outside team that the Commission should clearly restate its mission, and its relationship to the Comprehensive Plan. A strong issue - oriented, positive approach to focusing and defining its role in resolving regional issues would build greatly on the strengths we found.

Third, we have noticed the recent high turnover in commission membership. The commission should look at this factor in a positive way and ensure that the new members of the commission have an opportunity to become oriented to commission activities rapidly and contribute to policy decisions. A more detailed analysis of our findings follows.

# Comprehensive Planning

The EC RDC should be commended for having adopted a Comprehensive Plan for the Region. From what we can determine, it appears to meet the requirements of the Regional Development Act.

The surveys and interviews suggest to us there is a need to simplify the plan in order to gain more understanding of its contents. There were several comments that commission members, especially newly appointed or elected members, should be briefed on the contents, policies and intended use of the plan. There were also several suggestions to separate the policies in the plan from the data in order to promote increased readability. We also found that commission members have differing viewpoints on the use of the plan. Some feel it should be used as a guide only and may be followed too closely. Others feel it is not followed as closely as it should be and should be used as a more concrete statement for future directions of growth and development. Accepting the different views leads us to believe that the plan should serve as a focus for discussion of policy issues. The plan should also serve as a foundation from which the commission further defines its role in resolving regional problems and issues. The purpose of the plan must constantly be emphasized.

#### Review Procedures

The A-95 Review process and review of local plans are mandated responsibilities of the Commission. Our survey and interviews lead us to believe that some changes in the review process are in order. The present review procedures were adopted several years ago and should be reviewed in light of changes in commission operations. The adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and policies should be considered as a major factor in the need for new procedures. We find a need for more concrete guidelines. There was some criticism that the present review system prevented the EC RDC from working with other agencies properly, especially human service agencies. At least one member of the team feels strongly that the commission should consider delegating some or all of the review functions to staff or a sub committee of the commission. There were some criticisms that the commission may employ inconsistent criteria and that the reviews concerned too much detail. Other comments were related to the personal bias of some commission members. A possible action for the commission to consider is to identify specific criteria for which projects are to be reviewed by the full commission and which projects could be delegated. This could be more easily handled if the commission more clearly defined its role and mission in relation to its review process.

A problem area where we find some inconsistency is in the link between the advisory committees and EC RDC in the A-95 Review Process. Some advisory committees are chaired by commission members which allows for a reporting to the commission of background discussion leading to the advisory committee recommendation. Other advisory committees are chaired by non commission members or do not have a commission member on them. We also find that some projects in for A-95 review are not referred to an advisory committee for recommendations. The commission

should look at the A-95 review procedures in terms of consistency of the process used and study changes that would improve the process. A more consistent process would be helpful in improving the commission's credibility.

Another issue the EC RDC should consider relevant to A-95 is the cutbacks in federal and state aid programs in general. With fewer applications for assistance likely, the relative impact gained by the EC RDC through A-95 reviews may be reduced. Several comments in the surveys indicated an interest in reviewing only those projects where the funding agency has considered the EC RDC comments, rather than review all applications. Others thought the EC RDC should be more involved in generating and ranking applications and becoming more involved in funding agency program decisions. The Commission should resolve these questions.

The Commission's review of local and special district plans has not received much attention by the Commission. Our survey of commission and advisory committee members indicated that they felt local and special district plans would be improved when reviewed by the commission. Others felt that the commission should be doing more plans for local units, thereby decreasing the need for commission review. Through our interviews, we find that the overwhelming majority of local governments that have been acquainted with the commission's work have high respect for the commission. Therefore, the EC RDC should build on this respect when carrying out the review of local plans.

# Research & Data

The research and data capabilities available to local units of government through the commission are highly respected by those who have used them. The majority of commission members and others surveyed indicates satisfaction with these activities. A few indicated an interest in increasing the EC RDC's efforts in these areas. Staff indicated a need to organize the information already available in the office to be of more use. Generally, we see a need to perhaps make local units more aware of the data and research capabilities of the commission. The commission can fill a need in acting as a clearinghouse for information available to the local units of government in the Region.

# Technical Assistance

Our surveys and interviews with those having utilized EC RDC services indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the assistance provided by the Commission. Almost one half of the commission members surveyed indicated an interest in increasing technical assistance activities. A majority of advisory committee members surveyed on technical assistance indicated interest in expanding activities in this area. Some members of the outside team feel the provision of technical assistance is one of the EC RDC's strongest points and may be "undersold" at the present time. One member of the team feels that one of the real challenges for the EC RDC in the near future will be aggressively marketing the assistance it provides to the local governments in the Region. We have found also that a majority of recipients receiving assistance indicated their unwillingness or inability to pay for the services rendered. The commission should consider this when reviewing their technical assistance fee schedule.

Overall, many compliments were noted that praised RDC staff as being very helpful, knowledgeable and professional. In many cases, we find those receiving assistance have established an understanding of the types of assistance the EC RDC can provide. In other words, the commission should recognize to a greater degree the importance that local units of government place on using the EC RDC staff as a resource.

# Decisionmaking Process

During the initial orientation of the outside evaluation team, we were given a strong indication that the commission wanted a thorough review of its decision-making process. The commission directed us to look at the advisory committee structure and process in particular. We have found through our assessment of the decisionmaking process that there is a very strong grass-roots input and decision-making system in place. There is broad based and balanced representation throughout. We are impressed generally and would wish to point out some areas of interest to the commission where improvements should be considered. One finding is that the advisory committees in operation at the present time cover most functional areas. However, in the area of human services there appears to be some fragmentation.

There were several comments from the surveys as well as the interviews that indicated a feeling that personal biases were being enforced towards or against human service programs. There were some comments as well indicating that there was some question on how well the commission adhered to its own criteria set forth in the regional plan. These comments again were mainly noted related to human services programs. The commission may wish to examine how human services issues and programs are addressed. A review of the Human Service Policies in the Comprehensive Plan to ensure they reflect the attitudes of the commission might be one suggestion.

One item we would like the commission to be aware of is the changing intergovernmental system. As everyone knows, traditional funding sources are being changed radically. What impact this will have on the commission decisionmaking process should be carefully reviewed. The number of advisory committees now in place may be an administrative commitment beyond what the RDC's mission might lend itself to in the coming years. The possibility of consolidating existing committees or forming "ad hoc" groups might be considered as a long range option.

Another general observation of the committee structure relates to advisory committee operating procedures. There is widespread general satisfaction with the operations of advisory committees but some questions have been raised. We find that: a) Accountability to the commission should be studied and whether

- it is necessary to establish a more formal reporting structure to the commission. We have found that some advisory committee reports at commission meetings are given by commission members, others by staff. The commission should be aware of this in consistency and recognize that staff giving advisory committee reports may be put in an uncomfortable position of reporting advisory committee recommendations. As mentioned earlier, the membership on advisory committees by commission members is inconsistent. In some cases noncommission members chair committees, and in one case (D.D. Committee) no commission members sit on the committee at all.
- b) Advisory Committee Bylaws should be reviewed and perhaps be modified to reflect more uniform system.
- c) The commission should recognize the value of advisory committee members time and efforts from time to time. It would also help if the advisory committees purpose and direction are more clearly defined and/or reinforced from time to time. These two points would help the commission keep active and interested citizens involved in the decisionmaking process.

- d) Although a minor point, several concerns were raised over the use made of advisory committee recommendations and what impact they had on the final decisions. This may be more related to state and federal decisions that the advisory committee members are supposed to be impacting through the EC RDC. However, some advisory committee members were aware of several instances where the commission did not follow the advisory committee recommendation. The Commission should consider formalizing the feedback mechanism especially in those cases where advisory committee recommendations are not followed. In other cases, there was a desired feedback from state and federal agencies on what impacts the advisory committee and ultimately commission had on the final decisions. The commission may attempt to obtain more feedback from state agencies.
- e) Several advisory committee members noted that the process has broken down at times with the focus on important issues clouded. The feeling was expressed that there has been, at least "great debate over small points and little discussion over some big decisions." We recognize this as a problem but find no easy solutions, other than making the commission more aware of the problem.
- f) There is satisfaction with the ability to impact EC RDC policies or procedures. Several of those we interviewed could site specific cases where changes were made and improvements in the process were made.
- g) Orientation for new advisory committee and commission members should be increased. Several of those interviewed, especially felt the need for strong orientation sessions for citizens where professional agency staff also sit on advisory committees. This area seems to be earmarked for improvement and tasks already undertaken. It is essential that all new or unfamiliar members of advisory committees and commission to be oriented and educated as soon as possible to help promote interest and obtain earlier participation by those involved.

Again, we wish to emphasize the positive feelings we have for what we see as a very good grassroots decision-making process. The EC RDC is successful as a forum in which to view issues from a regional perspective. Most respondents, including funding agencies and citizens were positive about the role the EC RDC has carried out.

# Communications

As with all organizations, we find communications to be an important function. We find that there is a need to keep channels of communication open both internally and externally. Internal communications among staff was noted as in need of some improvement. Several staff perceived the need for more formalized staff interaction. Staff meetings between the various divisions could help obtain better internal coordination. Sharing of information within the office should be helped with the central filing system now commenced. The building of a "team spirit" among the staff would payoff in terms of better work products and more coordination. Efforts should be undertaken to promote team building.

Good communications with the public is an important way of obtaining more support for EC RDC programs. There appears to be a lack of public awareness by some cities, counties and the average "man on the street." Although this might be an indication of general apathy on the part of average citizens, we think more could be accomplished in developing good p.r. to acquaint local units of government as to what the purpose, goals, capabilities and restrictions are of the EC RDC. This could be accomplished by more personal contact by the Director and/or staff. Commission members should also consider their role in keeping constituents informed on commission activities. The Commission has many accomplishments which should be made known to more of the local constituency.

Relationships with the media could also be improved. We were aware of the common criticism that excessive use of jargon and complicated language were disincentives to media coverage. Also, the readibility of publications for general distribution should be monitored to ensure understanding by the target groups. We would suggest that more localized press coverage be kept in mind. Staff familiar with a project of general interest to a local area should be available to discuss the project and its impacts with local officials and media. The positive results of what the EC RDC has and can accomplish and how it affects a particular area should be related back to the local area so as to provide a more positive and helpful attitude towards what the EC RDC can and does provide. Local advisory committee members or commission members involved in the project or local issue should be looked at as a resource to localize p.r. efforts. Another suggestion we have is that when the Commission meetings are held in different counties, efforts should be made to have local items on the agenda and invite local officials from that county.

# Staffing

Overall, we heard and found quite favorable comments about the quality, dedication, performance, and helpfulness of the commission's staff. A few believed that staff were occasionally too aggressive and interfered in the decision-making process. But, overall, the staff seems to have respected the fine line between "informing" and "persuading." There was an especially high degree of respect for each staff in their functional area. Orientation for new staff was found to have improved. The relationship between staff and advisory committees was found to be strong, only a minority comment that staff tend to lead. The staff, in order to keep perspective on local issues, should perhaps have more contact with local governing bodies. A final comment would be to note the generally high quality of products produced by commission staff that we found.

#### Conclusions

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize the positive points we learned in our evaluation of commission activities. Overall, the EC RDC can be a very integral part of the development, improvement and implementation of many progressive projects within the Region. We see the Commission at a crossroads. The past accomplishments are many - including the completion and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. However, in order to continue momentum in to the 80's, it is essential that the commission clearly define its mission. It must take into account the changing role of the federal and state governments. The reduction in grant in aids leads us to believe that more emphasis should be placed on building relationships with local units of government. During this era

of diminishing resources, the Commission must clearly state what it feels can be accomplished in the foreseeable future and map a clear, issue oriented positive plan of actions to resolve those issues. A strong, positive approach is needed to overcome the RDC's occasionally obscure image and could also inhibit preoccupation with irrelevant or trivial ideological issues. The awareness of persons, both on a local and county level, is a necessity for the survival and implementation of all EC RDC programs.

Therefore, a strong statement of mission, combined with the appropriate amount of public information about the role of the Commission, will lead to much success in solving areawide problems within the Region. The Commission should take advantage of its accomplishments and strengths and set its priorities for the future growth and development activitives within the east central Region.

# DRAFT EC RDC BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 1982

MN State Planning Agency FY 81 Carryover

> Rural Dev. Council Waste Management Board

MN Dept. of Transportation

MN Dept. of Econ. Security Contracts Local Govt.

OLUA - Transit U.S.D.A. - FmHA MN State Arts Board

MN Board on Aging

EC RDC Tax

Legislative Appropriations

Env. Planning - Crit. Areas

Developmental Disabilities

MN Pollution Control Agency (Solid Waste)

Econ. Dev. Admn. (EDA) (Through Dec. 1981)

Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. 701 - R.P.

Dept. of Housing & Urban Dev. 107 - T.A.

1				
RECEIPTS				
Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year 1982			
\$ -	\$ <b>-</b>			
64,715	64,597			
12,893	-			
12,000	4,000			
-	-			
2,500	-			
2,500	-			
13,130	15,625			
10,000	-			
20,250	0			
13,349	14,083			
2,000	4,000			
57,359	60,999			
-	16,000			
31,720	27,720			
17,250	9,750			
14,341	39,371			

31,000

287,145

		EXPENDITURES Fiscal Year Fiscal Year	
		1981	1982
Staff Salaries		\$189,247	162,447
Staff Benefits		29,498	28,559
Advisory Committees		6,300	4,300
EC RDC Per Diem & Expense		7,000	8,000
Empl. Dev. & Recruit.		500	500
Membership & Subscriptions		1,165	1,500
Telephone		7,716	9,000
Postage		4,930	6,000
Legal Notices		250	250
Printing & Publication		6,565	3,500
Library Services & Research		300	300
Reproduction		6,143	8,000
Audit		4,840	3,200
Vehicle Maintenance		250	250
Insurance & Bonds		900	900
Puchase of Equipment		1,200	1,500
Office Supplies		3,391	3,500
Maintenance of Equipment		822	800
Staff Travel/Vehicle Lease		12,133	14,500
Conferences		1,934	2,500
Rent		14,851	15,500
Services by Technical Consultants		9,411	8,139
Contracts With Others		3,952	4,000
Contingency		2,376	-0-
	Total	\$315,674	287,145

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