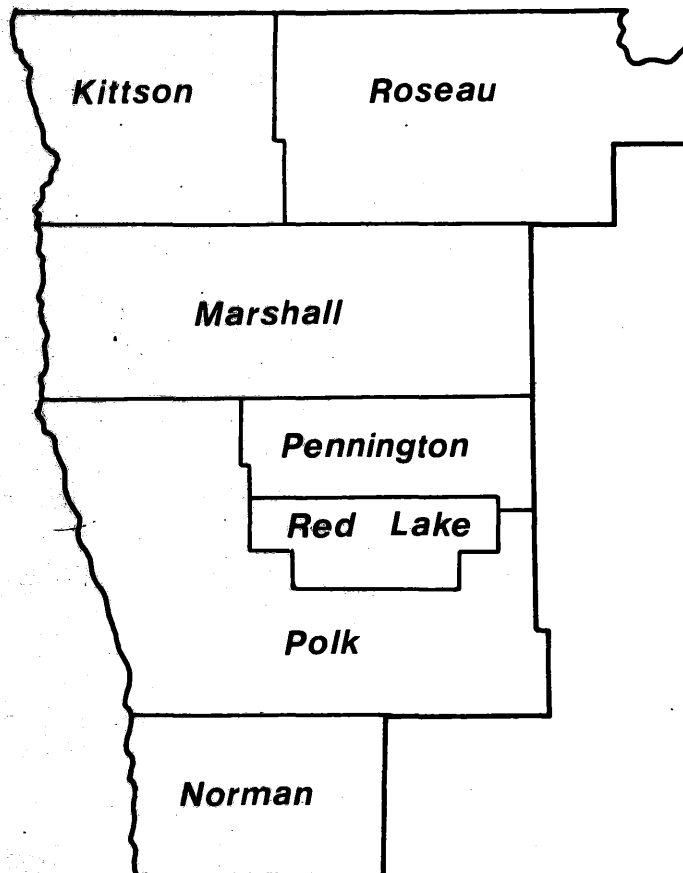


NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



Fiscal Year 1984

Annual Report

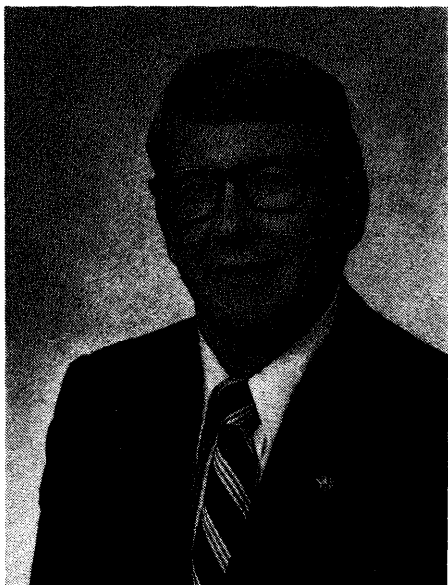
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Chairman's Letter

It is again my honor to present to legislators, local officials and esteemed citizens the Annual Report to the Northwest Regional Development Commission. The past year was one in which the Commission's diverse efforts contributed to significant progress in enhancing the quality of life in our seven county areas. I am proud of these accomplishments and look forward to meeting new challenges in the coming year.

I want to take special note of a few projects in which the Commission played a leading role during the year. First, the Commission, acting on behalf of and in concert with the counties, successfully pursued the designation of Northwest Minnesota as a Service Delivery Area under the Job Training Partnership Act. Subsequent to that designation a Private Industry Council was formed in the Region and the NWRDC was asked to provide administrative and staff services to that Council. The Region now has a locally governed program to provide job training services that benefit residents in need of help in becoming gainfully employed and employers in need of trained employees. Second, we have seen some significant gains in economic development for our area, with projects and expanding tools meeting the considerable challenges of expanding our job base. The funding of



projects in East Grand Forks and Warroad by the Economic Development Administration and the designation of Enterprise Zones in Thief River Falls and East Grand Forks were important steps in fostering employment opportunities for the area. Third, our continuing efforts to enhance the capacity of our area transportation system to meet the needs of our agricultural industry have paid further dividends, as improvements to our highways and improvements to the area rail networks take place. Finally, the Commission's efforts in human services have helped to address the needs of senior citizens, the handicapped, and persons needing foster care, as well as enhancing the artistic and cultural development of the area.

During the course of the year, the Commission has had opportunity to work with many community leaders in their efforts to better their communities. The Commission is pleased to be of assistance in these important efforts and wants to commend those leaders who have striven to make their communities better places to live and work.

I want to thank my fellow Commissioners for their efforts, my fellow local officials for their support and counsel and many others who share a vision for our mutual progress. I especially want to thank two special groups of people, the members of the Commission's committees and our staff, for their counsel, dedication and inspiration.

The future will bring new challenges that can be shaped into opportunities and then into realities through the cooperative application of skill, labor and imagination. We stand proud of our accomplishments and ready to meet those new challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Sjulson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Harry Sjulson
Chairman

Executive Director's Report

The eleventh year of the Northwest Regional Development Commission has passed by quickly on a path marked by many significant activities and events. The funding uncertainties that were characteristics of the two preceeding years in many of our projects areas, became somewhat less critical in Fiscal Year 1984. The improvement in this area helped to refocus efforts again in the direction of the longer term objectives of building a better future for Northwest Minnesota.



While our area economy remains depressed due to the difficult conditions facing our major industry, agriculture, some hopeful signs of resurgence have come into evidence. Most notable in relation to the Commission's work are the increasing number of economic development projects and opportunities being advanced throughout the Region. The interest being shown by the private sector in investing in new and expanding industry is reflective of growing optimism in future economic activity. Another positive sign for the future is the growing interest and activities in many of our communities oriented toward systematically organizing to foster economic development. The Commission is pleased to lend support and expertise to these efforts.

The Commission continued to vigorously pursue its efforts in support of a stronger transportation network for the movement of agricultural products and supplies during the year. The second phase of our Commodity Movements Study, which is identifying the economic importance of our major highway and rail systems, got underway and will soon reach completion. This project, funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, has been an important task for the Commission's very active Transportation Advisory Committee. The Commission's transportation efforts are paying dividends in the form of numerous critical improvements in our highway systems and in the likely upgrading of one of the most important of the Region's branch rail lines.

As we look to the future, there are undoubtedly many new opportunities that will emerge during the new year. I want to highlight but one that we feel can make important contributions in coming years, namely the development of alternative energies. Recent experience with stable, sometimes declining traditional energy costs has diminished the concern of the average man on the street about what only a short time ago was labelled a "crisis". The inevitable facts are, however, that we can look forward to rising energy costs in the future, that our area is a large consumer of energy for both residential and industrial, including agricultural purposes, and that our geographic location is not a favorable one in the main in relation to traditional energy sources. Consequently, the Commission in conjunction with a variety of other groups, has increasingly become involved in fostering the development of energy alternatives, particularly fiber fuels and wind energy. We believe that the potential for producing a significant portion of the energy that our area consumers through the cultivation of special energy crops and harnessing our substantial wind resource. We look toward the direction of increased efforts in fostering the realization of that potential for the benefit of Northwest Minnesota.

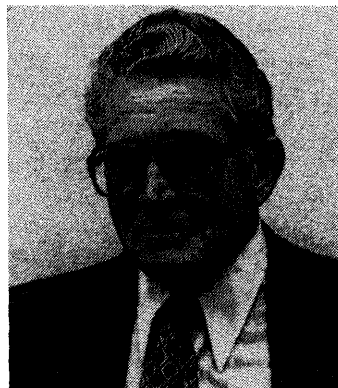
I would like to thank Chairman Harry Sjulson, the members of the Commission, the Board of Directors and members of our Advisory Committees for their support, dedication and leadership during the year. I also want to thank our dedicated, hard working staff for their skill, perseverance and imagination so critical to our success.

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name 'Thomas' is clearly legible, followed by a middle initial 'B.' and the last name 'Jorgensen'. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

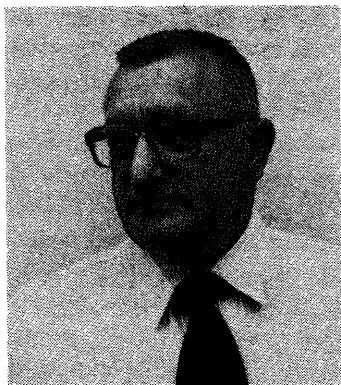
Board of Directors



Cleo Cleveland
East Grand Forks



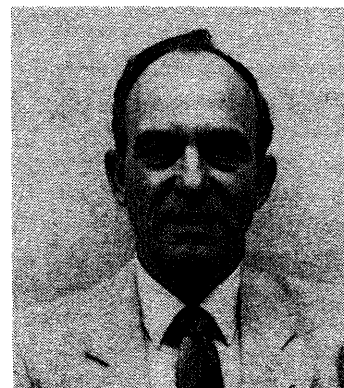
William Gatheridge
Humboldt



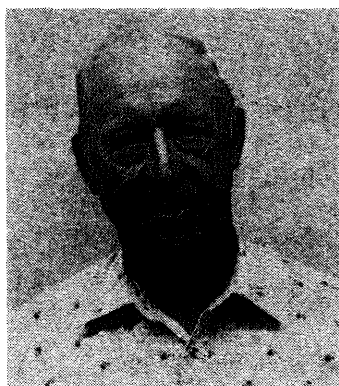
Floyd Hovland
Ada



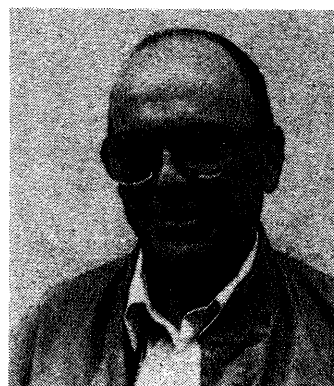
Wayne Juhl
Greenbush



Kenneth Price
Stephen



Willard Purath
Red Lake Falls



Ambrose Wysoski
Thief River Falls

Commission Membership

County	County Board	Township Board	Cities
Kittson	Randy Swenson Lancaster	*William Gatheridge Humboldt	Dr. Joe Bouvette Hallock
Marshall	*Kenneth Price Stephen	Ervin Strandquist Newfolden	Glenn Halvorson Warren
Norman	John Storsved Hendrum	Cary Sip Ada	*Floyd Hovland Ada
Pennington	Donald Grabanski Thief River Falls	Kermit Finstad Thief River Falls	*Ambrose Wysoski Thief River Falls
Polk	Donald Bakken Fertile	Gary Letnes Crookston	Duane Knutson Fertile
Red Lake	*Willard Purath Red Lake Falls	Ralph Berg Brooks	Vaughn Thorfinnson Red Lake Falls
Roseau	*Wayne Juhl Greenbush	Joe Jacobson Wannaska	Gary Hendrickson Warroad

School District Representatives

*Cleo Cleveland
East Grand Forks

*Harry Sjulson, Chairman
St. Hilaire

Public Interest Groups

Agriculture

Marville Magnusson, Argyle

Business

Harold Thomforde, Crookston

Financial Institutions

Fred Sorensen, Gryla

Industry

Jerome Sandstrom, Thief River Falls

Labor

George Wikstrom, Jr., Karlstad

Low Income

Lowell Enerson, Oklee

Soil & Water Conservation

Verne Green, Newfolden

Vocational Schools

Norma Hanson, Goodridge

Watershed Districts

Rudee Anderson, Greenbush

Women

Betty Walton, Thief River Falls

*Member of Board of Directors

Advisory Committees

Aging

Advisory Committee

Michael Ackley, Halstad
Orville Anderson, Karlstad
R.L. Edwards, McIntosh
William Gatheridge, Humboldt
Verne Green, Newfolden
Lloyd Hovelson, Gary
Calvin Melgard, Warren
John Nowacki, Warren
Ernest Pederson, (Chairperson), Plummer
Linda Rethemeler, Crookston
Wayne Rusten, Hallock
Lilja Snyder, Crookston
John Spina, Roseau
Otto Stenberg, Thief River Falls
Ambrose Wysoski, Thief River Falls

Arts

Advisory Committee

Ruth Anderson, Greenbush
Helen Chervestad, Oklee
Cleo Cleveland, East Grand Forks
Carol Hallan, Warroad
Bob Kinkade, Ada
Tony Kuznik, Crookston
Marilyn Lingen, Stephen
Deborah Matero, Thief River Falls
Evangeline Myhre, (Chairperson), Warren
Andy Nelson, McIntosh
Margaret Saetre, Thief River Falls
Mil Sahlstrom, Crookston
Marie Scott, Red Lake Falls
Ric Sorenson, Fosston
Luanne Visser, Ada

Northwest Private Industry Council

Maryl Anderson, Thief River Falls
Donald Bakken, Fertile
Rollin Bergman, Ada
Robert Block, Thief River Falls
Gary Erickson, Thief River Falls
Ellef Erlien, Twin Valley
Marcella Gonworowski, Newfolden
Bill Huggett, Crookston
Anne Jaeger, Plummer
Alvin Jensen, Oklee
John Johnson, Thief River Falls
Joyce Magner, Newfolden
Elworth Maki, Newfolden
Dawn Newton, Crookston
Claudia Nielsen, Lancaster
Robert Novotny, Greenbush
Tom Papin, Roseau
Jack Quinlivan, Thief River Falls
Stanley Roadfeldt, Badger
JoAnn Saylor, East Grand Forks
Roger Shaffer, Thief River Falls
Robert Smith, Crookston
John Storsved, Hendrum
Randal Swenson, Lancaster
Gary Thibert, Red Lake Falls
Betty Walton, Thief River Falls
George Wikstrom, Jr., (Chairperson), Karlstad
Robert C. Wittenstrom, Crookston
Lloyd Wold, Trail

Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

David Bertils, Ada
Tessie Dahlman, Hallock
Renae Dalen, Thief River Falls
Kermit Finstad, Thief River Falls
Donna Fournier, Thief River Falls
Donna Gort, Crookston
Verne Green, Newfolden
Karen Hagen, Roseau
Don Huot, Red Lake Falls
Robert Johnson, Shelly
Mrs. Alvin Pearson, East Grand Forks
Willard Purath, Red Lake Falls
Gloria Skrutvold, Roseau
Harry Sutherland, Hallock
Pat Thorson, (Chairperson), Warren

Economic And Community Development Committee

Cecil Anderson, Thief River Falls
Milton Arneson, Sr., Roseau
John Carpenter, Hallock
Harlan Charon, Hallock
Arvid Clementson, Fosston
Cleo Cleveland, East Grand Forks
Steve Gorman, East Grand Forks
Duane Knutson, Fertile
Robert Maas, Crookston
Kenneth Redland, Ada
Omar Rood, Crookston
Wayne Ruud, Karlstad
Jerry Sandstrom, Thief River Falls
Ken Schuster, Argyle
Fred Sorensen, (Chairperson), Grygla
Ray Tunheim, Newfolden
Betty Walton, Thief River Falls

Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Charles Anderson, Crookston
Rudee Anderson Greenbush
Rudy Applequist, Crookston
Irving Beyer, Red Lake Falls
Terry Courneya, Thief River Falls
John Gaukerud, Badger
Marcella Gonsorowski, Newfolden
Verne Green, Newfolden
Alan Gustafson, Hallock
Wendall Johnson, Crookston
Earl Radi, Crookston
Leonard Skaar, Thief River Falls
Dan Svedarsky, Crookston
Ken Wieland, Red Lake Falls
Terry Wolfe, Crookston
Dean Younggren, Hallock

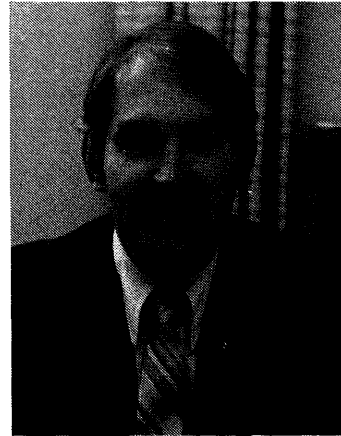
Transportation Advisory Committee

Harlan Almen, Red Lake Falls
Ralph Berg, Brooks
Troy Dagen, Kennedy
Captain Daniels, Thief River Falls
Donald Grabanski, Thief River Falls
Marvin Hutchinson, Thief River Falls
Richard Jorde, Thief River Falls
Wayne Juhl, Greenbush
Delray Larson, Gatzke
Bernie Lieders, Crookston
Cary Sip, Ada
Ralph Stoffel, Thief River Falls
Harold Thomforde, (Chairperson), Crookston
Gene Wagar, Halstad

Physical Planning



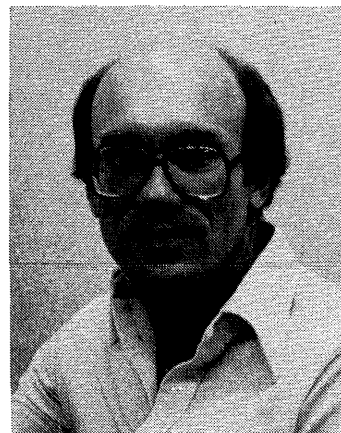
Judi Bruggeman



Wayne Faust



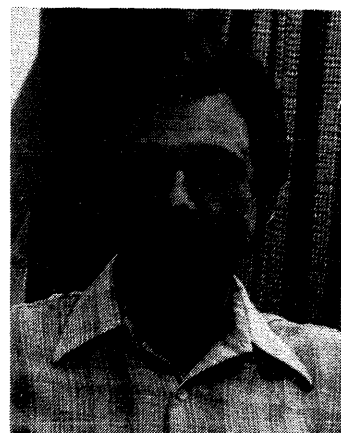
Wayne Goeken



Leon Heath

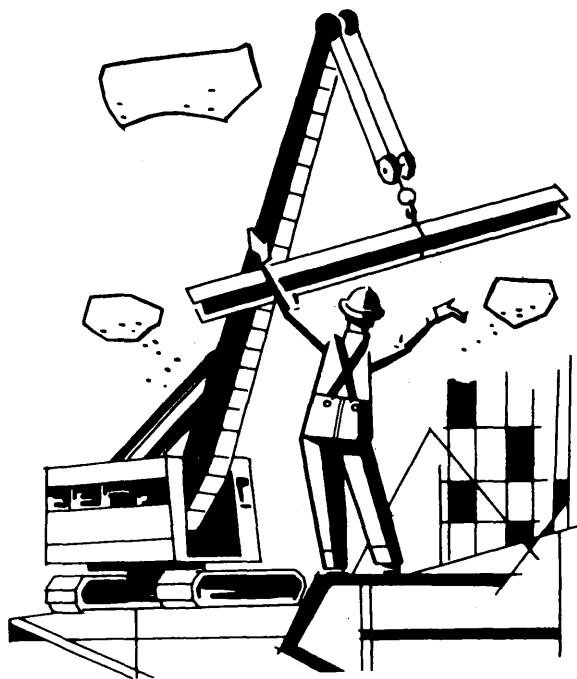


Helen Jurchen



Delore Zimmerman

Community Development



Highlights:

- * The Cities of East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls worked with NWRDC in applying for Enterprises Zone designation; both were successful.
- * The City of Warroad worked with Community Development staff in getting funds to upgrade their water system to accommodate a manufacturing firm's expansion which has already added over 200 of 500 planned jobs.
- * NWRDC assisted eight communities in doing a needs analysis using the "Nominal Group Technique" which necessitates citizens involvement.
- * Fifteen communities in Region I applied for Small Cities Development Program Grant funds, most of the applicants received some assistance from NWRDC and three were written by NWRDC staff. Five communities received funding (2 being 2nd year projects) for a total of \$2,093,853.

Recognizing that most job development in Region I will come from small businesses expanding within the Region, NWRDC has been working with a number of communities to build their capacity to deal with these efforts.

The City of Hallock is working with NWRDC staff in preparing a Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) economic development project relating to the energy field. Also the City of Fosston is working with NWRDC on several projects for a community development program application.

NWRDC is working with the Communities of Roseau and Warroad, both of which are major job centers, on expansion opportunities, and community development and upgrading their infrastructure. NWRDC is also looking at the tourism aspects of northern Minnesota.

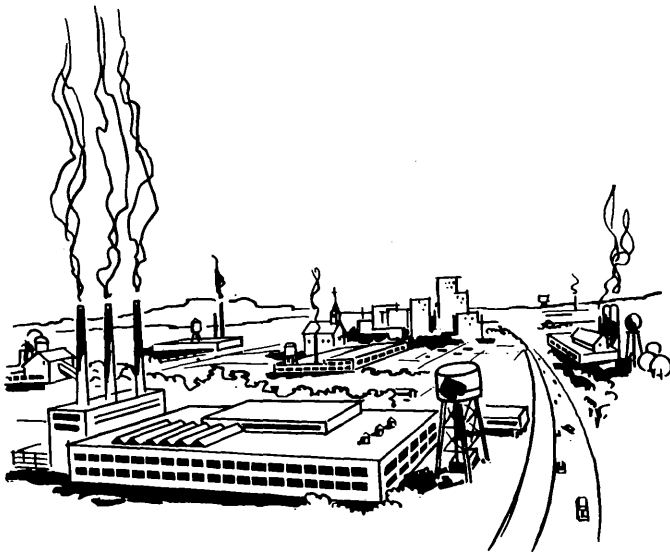
NWRDC has worked closely with the City of Crookston and their 3 year Comprehensive SCDP grant for downtown revitalization. The extensive planning and strategy efforts put forth over the past three years is beginning to pay off for Crookston. They also received a \$600,000 SCDP grant for housing rehab and will be able to upgrade a portion of their housing stock.

Another community on the move is the City of Fertile which is in the process of annexing an industrial area into its City. Fertile was successful in its SCDP application of \$1 million + funds to do downtown revitalization, housing rehabilitation and public works. They will also receive funds from the Environmental Protection Agency to construct a sewage system.

St. Vincent Township used the NWRDC to write an application for an International Flood Control project for Noyes, Minnesota and Emerson, Manitoba to protect lives and property within their borders from annual flooding. St. Vincent will use the funds to purchase the land and the Canadian and U.S. Government will construct the levees.

NWRDC has contracted with St. Vincent Township to handle the financial management of the Grant and is also managing the three year comprehensive housing rehab, infrastructure grant for the City of Red Lake Falls.

Economic Development



Highlights:

- * Sixty-three clients joined the Small Business Assistance Program during this fiscal year.
- * Development of potential energy crop begins in the Region.
- * The City of Thief River Falls received the designation as an Enterprise Zone based on an application prepared with the assistance of the NWRDC.
- * NWRDC assisted three communities which decided to reactivate or expand the activities of their local development corporations to create and/or retain jobs.
- * Eight cities were assisted with the preparation of grant applications to fund economic development projects.
- * Held regional Economic Development Conference and provided information and ideas to 52 persons.
- * Almost \$1 million granted by EDA to the Cities of East Grand Forks and Warroad to assist business expansions.

Energy Crop Development

In a continuing effort to effect crop diversification, value added to agricultural products, and decrease our dependence on imported energy, the NWRDC has

joined with several state and federal agencies in developing an energy crop. In a cooperative effort with the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, a field experiment is being undertaken to develop the potential for hybrid poplar trees primarily as an energy crop.

Some experts have forecast that the energy potential from these hybrids is very good. For example, it has been estimated that 15 acres of this strain of poplar tree could provide fuel for heating an average public school. Success with this project could mean two things. First, more viable farms based on crop diversification and perhaps lowered rates of soil erosion. Second, reduced energy costs in the Region.

EDA Technical Assistance

One the major activities in the area of economic development by the NWRDC is to maintain the District's designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) as an Economic Development District and thereby maintain the Region's eligibility for securing EDA and other state and federal grants. Grants of slightly more than \$450,000 each were awarded to the Cities of East Grand Forks and Warroad. An industrial park project is underway in East Grand Forks to permit the expansion of a number of local businesses. A new water tower and water system improvements are being built in Warroad to provide adequate water service to the community and to the large expansion of Marvin Windows involving some 500,000 square feet of manufacturing space and the hiring of approximately 500 persons.

The economic development section of the annual Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) and the ongoing Economic Development Addendum of the SCDP, offered the opportunity to a number of communities in the Region to seek low interest loans and other benefits for business development. The NWRDC gave extensive assistance to eight cities in their pursuit of business projects to create and/or retain jobs. Four of the SCDP grant applications are now in the process of being submitted to the State Department of Energy and Economic Development (DEED). Economic Development Addendum applications are being submitted for projects in Argyle, Fosston, Hallock, and New Folds. DEED designated the City of Thief River Falls as an Enterprise Zone based on an application

prepared with the assistance of the NWRDC. This designation provides a variety of tax incentives for businesses to expand in or into the Enterprise Zone. Unfortunately, not all competitive applications can be winners. The applications for economic development projects in the Cities of Roseau, Strathcona, and Warroad were not funded.

Small Business Assistance Program

The Small Business Assistance Program (SBAP) in Region 1 was designed to be and was a direct service program. In addition, a video program entitled "Steps To Starting Or Buying A Business" was completed and distributed to selected schools throughout the Region to be available on demand. The funding of the SBAP by the Governor's Council On Rural Development ended as planned on April 30, 1984.

Over the course of this two year program, 112 clients were provided with technical assistance. Approximately 272 contacts occurred with clients and persons seeking information and/or advice who chose not to become clients. Clients were referred to other technical assistance providers for supplemental help. The other TA providers included among others, the Small Business Development Centers at the State Universities in Bemidji and Moorhead.

There were clients from each of the seven counties in the Region and they included by category of business: agricultural, automotive, business-computer sales, construction, food, home services and supplies, manufacturing, media-newspaper, personal services, professional services, real estate, recreation and transportation. Of the 112 clients, one was a minority person, three were handicapped males and 18 were women. Other client characteristics show that 41 wanted to start or buy a business, 14 wanted to expand existing businesses, and 53 wanted various management advice.

Job Creation and Retention Efforts

The Cities of Crookston, Fosston, and Hallock reactivated or expanded the activities of their local development corporations. Assistance has been provided to meet the unique opportunities and challenges of these three different communities. The level and detail of NWRDC staff involvement is matched to these

unique needs. The City of Crookston responded to the accelerating loss of jobs in the area by creating a public/private partnership between business, the City, and the County to financially support an Economic Development Professional (EDP). The EDP is working to use creative financing to retain an agricultural processor involving approximately 20 jobs. In addition, a business development survey is underway which will be useful in the City's application for designation as an Enterprise Zone and a Star City. The survey will also be useful in attracting businesses to Crookston as well as identifying potentials for import substitution, among other purposes.

The Cities of Fosston and Hallock have reactivated their local development corporations with the explicit purpose of doing everything possible to encourage job creation. They are also seeking to take advantage of local opportunities to retain jobs and assist existing businesses to expand.

Economic Development Conference

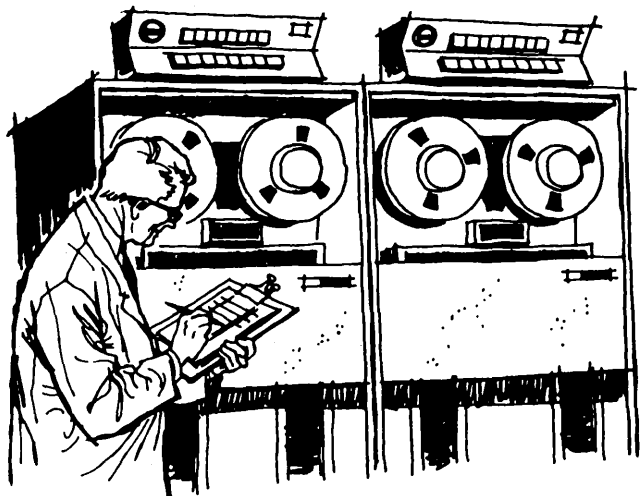
An economic development conference was held in the City of Thief River Falls. It was designed to provide information on state and federal economic development tools. In addition, it was structured and handout materials provided so that the existing economic development network would be strengthened. Attendees included financial professionals, elected public officials and staff, local developers and business people (52 persons attended).

Economic Development Strategy

The Economic and Community Development Committee comprised of 18 persons as an advisory group to the NWRDC, offer important information and insight to the Economic Development Strategy section of the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). The OEDP is a required document, updated at least once per year, to permit the Region to retain its designation by the Economic Development Administration as an Economic Development District. The OEDP and included Strategy was adopted by each of the counties in Region I.

The thirteen major elements of the Strategy are interrelated and form the basis for a holistic approach to economic development in Northwestern Minnesota.

Data Management

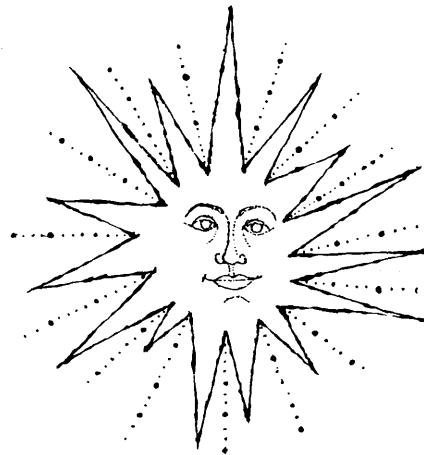


The Data Management Program is intended to provide a central location for the collection and dissemination of many types of information which are necessary for both the Commission's own operation and for assisting local units of government, service agencies, business, and individuals with their data needs. The emphasis during the past year has been on maintaining the basic data items and planning the implementation of computer applications to enhance the capacity to access and disseminate information.

During the year we have answered numerous data requests and conducted special analyses as requested. As part of our continued participation in the State Data Center Program, NWRDC staff attended the regional 1990 census planning meetings held in Minneapolis. Representatives from 25 states, as well as the major U.S. Census divisions, were in attendance at these meetings, which were designed to facilitate local input into the design of proposed enumeration strategies for future censuses.

The upcoming year's activities will focus on implementing computer applications for planning functions, establishing the ability to access automated data bases via telecommunications systems, and develop regional profiles and trend analyses of regional data items.

Natural Resources Planning

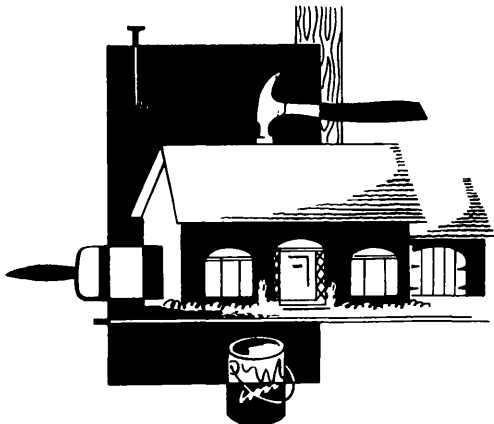


Continuing work in support of area concerns regarding the proposed hazardous waste disposal site in Marshall County and participation in several areawide conferences dealing with water issues highlighted a year of modest activity in the natural resources area.

The Commission provided technical advice and staff support to the Marshall County Local Project Review Committee in its effort to ensure that area concerns, questions and viewpoints were considered in the Minnesota Waste Management Board's planning and siting processes for hazardous waste. First, we reviewed the draft Hazardous Waste Management Plan developed by the Board and worked with the Local Project Review Committee to develop testimony that was presented to the Board at a fall public hearing in Newfolden. Secondly, Commission staff assisted the Committee in framing questions and concerns to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement process scheduled to be completed prior to final site selection. This effort concluded in mid-stream when the Legislature enacted amendments to the Waste Management Act suspending the site selection process until additional planning steps are completed to ensure that all alternatives to land disposal are carefully considered and implemented. The Marshall County site remains under consideration, but further activity is stalled until 1986.

The Commission also participated in the Red River Valley International Water Summit Conference in Grand Forks and the Emerging Groundwater Issues Conference in Thief River Falls. These conferences addressed issues relating to flood control and to groundwater contamination respectively.

Red Lake Falls Community Development Block Grant

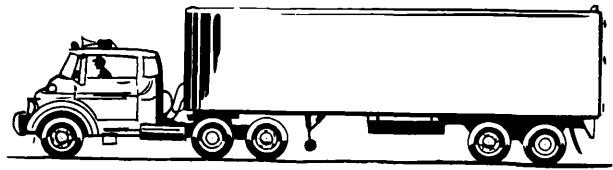


The Commission entered a new area of Community Development in Fiscal Year 84 by agreeing to assist the City of Red Lake Falls in implementing a Community Development Block Grant. Commission staff had been deeply involved in the preparation of the grant application and it seemed a natural transition to just keep right on working with the project by administering the grant. The City was allocated \$1,131,699 over a two year period to do housing rehabilitation, housing acquisition, street-sewer/water repairs, economic development and community planning. The first year of the grant proceeded nicely with 25 low/moderate income homes targeted for structural and energy improvements, 9 dilapidated houses acquired for removal, a million dollar public facilities project set underway, the Lincoln Hotel completely remodeled and a small revolving business loan fund established. Additional Community Planning efforts also had a direct effect on the City receiving a \$117,000 grant to fund a \$232,000 library and an \$11,000 grant to help fund a \$27,000 parks improvement project.

During the grants second year much of the actual construction on projects will be taking place as well as many new activities. The Red Lake County Bank has announced construction of a new bank building on Main Street. The State will be rebuilding a bridge in town, an energy savings program will be started for homeowners and a number of business expansion projects are being examined. The level of activity in Red Lake Falls will be at a fever level when more housing rehabilitation and street paving get underway.

Commission staff, City staff and City officials all feel good about working on these projects and seeing the results of their efforts being built for the Community.

Transportation



1983-84 Highlights:

- * The need for economical movement of agricultural commodities continued to gain recognition as the NWRDC undertook a second year study of effectively managing the present transportation system to promote efficient ag commodity movements.
- * Rail preservation became a growing concern as the NWRDC assisted in the formation of the Northwest Rail Shippers Corporation whose purpose is to maintain and improve rail conditions and service on the Warroad through Red Lake Falls rail line.
- * An update of the multi-modal Regional Transportation Plan was completed, including a priority list of trunk highway projects for maintenance.

Recognizing the importance of a healthy agricultural economy, the major focus of the NWRDC Transportation Program continued to be provision of a sound multi-modal transportation network to allow for efficient movement of agricultural commodities.

Commodity Movements Management Study

Recognizing that highway maintenance and construction needs will continue to exceed financial resources to meet these needs, the NWRDC is examining non-construction roadway management techniques to maximize the efficient movement of commodities while minimizing road damage and hence maintenance costs. Practices such as increased use of testing programs to accurately determine a road's strength which will allow more flexibility in posting roads for weight restrictions are encouraged. A system of providing reliable information regarding timing of weight restrictions from the Mn/DOT District Public Information Officer is being developed. Alternative axle arrangements which allow more weight with less stress on the road have also been encouraged.

Development of 10 ton routes in the Region for efficient commodity movements was also recommended. A year-round 10 ton linkage with the Twin Cities is especially needed for movement of fertilizer into the Region during the spring road restriction period. The NWRDC Transportation Advisory Committee has been actively involved in reviewing the State's 10 ton highway network, including the State wide-long-heavy system. The condition of local roads which are needed for moving goods to and from the farm and field is becoming a growing concern.

Rail Preservation

Determining track conditions on Burlington Northern's Warroad through Red Lake Falls rail line raised concerns about its future operation. The NWRDC and Mn/DOT assisted the rail shippers along the line in forming the Northwest Rail Shippers Corporation to address the problems on the line. The NWRDC coordinated a survey of the shippers on the line to assess its future viability. According to preliminary Mn/DOT analysis the line shows good future shipping potential and is a strong candidate for inclusion in the Minnesota Rail Service Improvement Program whereby financial assistance would be available for improving track conditions. This project will continue to be closely monitored as the NWRDC recognizes the need for a viable rail system to efficiently move goods to and from this part of the Region.

Regional Transportation Plan Update

Problems encountered in the various transportation modes in the Region were identified and addressed in an update of the Regional Transportation Plan. The Plan provides a multi-modal development strategy based on the Region's perceptions of its future

transportation needs. The major transportation concern of the Region, as expressed throughout the Plan, continues to be the need to recognize the impact which the large volume of agricultural commodities moved throughout the Region has on the transportation network. This emphasis on commodity movements was a major factor in developing the priority list for maintenance of trunk highway projects in the Region.

Other Transportation Activities

Testimony was provided by the NWRDC to the State Highway Study Commission regarding their review of the size and classification of the state's highways. The NWRDC believes the county, city and township levels of government are in no position to maintain additional mileage in their systems unless the roads are in acceptable condition when they are turned back and there is a change in the present funding formula which would devote more funding to the local governments for road maintenance.

Comments were provided to Mn/DOT regarding various proposals to re-align the boundaries of the Mn/DOT District offices. The NWRDC supported retaining the present nine district structure as a productive working relationship has been established with the present District staff in Bemidji. A letter opposing a proposal to reduce the daily hours of operation at the Noyes border station was directed to the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service. Reducing the hours of operation at the Noyes port of entry will hinder economic activity in the Region as this is the most frequently used port in northwestern Minnesota.

Assistance was provided in the formation of a private charter bus service out of Thief River Falls. Such a service will compliment existing public transit services in the Region by providing groups in the Region an opportunity to attend special meetings or schedule groups activities. Potential for rail passenger service from Grand Forks, North Dakota to Winnipeg, Canada via Crookston and the trunk highway 75 corridor is also being explored.

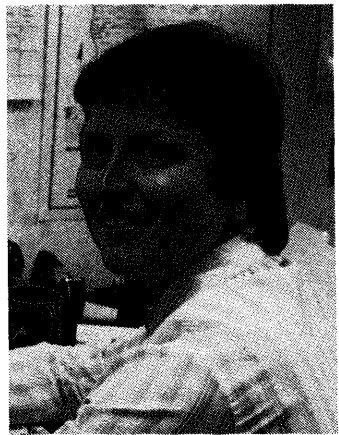
Human Resources Planning



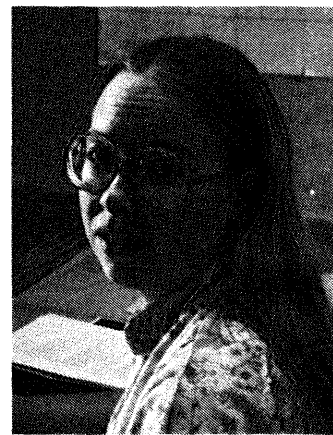
Gail Butenhoff



Mary Jo Crystal



Diane Markel



Donna Myhrer



Pat Rood

Adult Foster Care



To serve others can create unexpected rewards. Helping a vulnerable adult maintain his/her independence by allowing a family-like atmosphere is just one service foster home caregivers provide. Adult Foster Care is a two-way street, allowing provider and resident to gain from the experience.

A grant proposal to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) (formerly Department of Public Welfare) was written for one more year of funding to ensure continuance of the multi-level Adult Foster Care Project. On the local level, ongoing recruitment, training and public education are provided through the efforts of the project director and the social worker-consultant. Counties involved this year (Polk, Roseau, Kittson, Red Lake and Norman) receive technical assistance, training of the social work staff and actual assistance with recruitment and the home certification process. Working with an Advisory Committee of Social Service Directors, the planning, coordination and local "ownership" are possible. Thus, on this level, the goal is to increase the number and usage of the adult foster homes. At the time of this report, only four full months have elapsed. Work is progressing.

On the state level, the NWRDC contracted to provide materials for state-wide distribution by DHS. Thus, the Recruitment Package is nearing completion, with the addition of a professional slide show for rural counties. DHS will make this available to all rural counties in the state. In addition, the Training Manual developed in "rough draft" form last year is being updated, re-written and improved with input from a number of individuals. This, with the addition of a Social Worker's Facilitator Guide, is being written for all the counties in the state. Another area in which DHS is interested is a manual for the Adult Foster Care Social Worker in every county. This is moving along on schedule and will be an asset, since the developer is an experienced county social worker.

The final phase of this contract year will be the research project conducted in time for DHS to take results to the 1985 legislature. We will look at costs, types of recruitment, what kinds of people benefit from adult foster homes, and what are some of the problems and obstacles involved.

"I just treated them like part of the family...it's good to have an interest and know you're doing something useful...There have been some hard times, but mainly it's been a tremendous satisfaction." An Adult Foster Care Provider.

Job Training

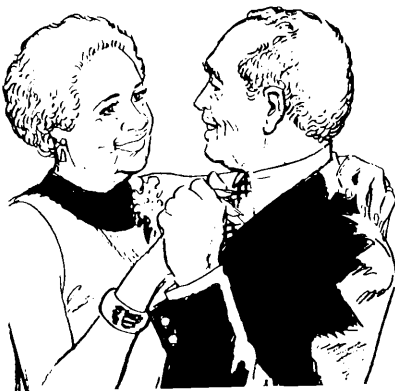


The Job Training Program started out with a bang in Fiscal Year 1984 when the Governor announced the creation of the Northwest Service Delivery Area (NWSDA) covering the seven counties of Economic Development Region One. This Service Delivery Area is one of the twelve in the State and establishes an area which will have local control over the direction of programs funded by the Federal Job Training Partnership Act. This is a major change in these programs and reflects part of the movement towards more local involvement in decision making.

During the year the task of organizing the structure of the new SDA and at the same time keeping the existing programs operating proceeded at a sometimes frantic pace. The FY'84 (Oct. 83 - June 84) Plan had to be completed with relatively no time, a Private Industry Council had to be created, and a multitude of decisions had to be made before the PY'84 (July 84 - June 85) Plan could be completed and the actual transition to a operating NWSDA started. The NWRDC Board of Directors, as the representative appointed by the seven counties, worked with the newly created Northwest Private Industry Council (NWPIC) to form the public sector/private sector partnership which the Job Training Partnership Act requires. These two groups must jointly develop the overall policies and oversee all operations.

Major decisions for the new SDA included designation of the NWRDC as the Administrative Entity and Grant Recipient and the selection of the Department of Economic Security, the Region One Career Center and Inter-County Community Council as the three major Program Operators to actually deliver services. The SDA has been given an initial allocation of \$945,391 and several special projects have been funded including an Older Workers Project and a Dislocated Workers Project. The NWPIC and the NWRDC will be taking the lead role in developing a Job training system which is responsive to the needs of the area and the individual communities. NWPIC members will play an especially important role in this process as they will be the eyes and ears out in the Region. Everyone involved in Job Training Programs is looking forward to settling down and training people for jobs and helping them develop a positive attitude toward the world of work.

Aging Program



The Aging Program has as its foundation the federal Older American Act. This Act, as amended, places primary emphasis on efforts to secure and to maintain maximum independence and dignity in a home environment for older persons capable of self-care with supportive services. With this as its charge, the Region 1 Aging Program directs its efforts in four main areas 1) Planning and data development, 2) Administration of Title III funds, 3) Coordination and 4) Education and information dissemination.

Planning and data development are necessary in order to assess the needs and available resources, determine the gaps in service and direct the program's regrant funds.

The Aging Advisory Committee reviews data and conducts public meetings to assess available programs and needs. Committee recommendations resulted in the development of funding and work priorities for the 1984 Area Plan for Programs on Aging.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission, through recommendations made by the Aging Advisory Committee, awards and administers Title III Older American Act funds. The following projects were funded in FY'84.

Access

Kittson County Senior Transportation Program	\$3,350
Roseau Transit Service	\$10,775

Advocacy

Northwest Minnesota Legal Service	\$16,300
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In-Home Services

Inter-County Home Health Aide Maintenance Care	\$5,499
Marshall County Home Health Aide Services	\$6,662
Polk County Home Health Maintenance Program	\$4,963
Roseau County Home Health Aide Maintenance Program	\$2,906
Roseau County Chore Program	\$14,310
Valley Chore Service Program	\$37,569

Nutrition

Senior Meals & Activity Program	\$177,778
Region I Home-Delivered Meals Program	\$42,365

Self-Help Projects

Roseau Senior Center	\$1,751
Warren Senior Center	\$1,230

Senior Centers

Fosston Senior Center	\$12,527
Karlstad Senior Center	\$32,244
Plummer Senior Center	\$3,013
Roseau Senior Center	\$8,139

Arts Program



The NWRDC, serving as the Northwest Arts Council, provides a variety of services to the Northwestern arts community.

The primary services provided by the Arts program are technical assistance and funding. Technical assistance includes assistance in grant-writing, information on availability of and eligibility for regional, state, and national programs, and assistance in locating and utilizing other community resources.

The second primary service provided is funding. The NWRDC funded 14 projects in four grant rounds for a total of \$17,513. While the largest amount of grant dollars went to support the many community theatre groups in the Region, grants are available for all forms of art - dance, film, video, music, literature, visual, etc.

The Arts program also serves as a rural arts advocate, a liaison with other arts organizations, and as a source of general arts information.

Additional services were provided this year through a grant from the McKnight Foundation. The Foundation

provided funds for consultancies for individual arts organizations, a Regional Arts Council Development workshop, and capital outlays.

The individual organization consultancies were awarded on a competitive basis to four groups. The group defined their foremost area of concern and then worked with the consultant to plan a success to deal with the concern. The groups awarded consultancies were:

Fosston Community Library and Arts Association
East Grand Forks Community Performing Arts Council
Prairie Concert Association
Artists Unlimited of Lake Bronson

In addition, four groups received funding to purchase equipment:

Warroad Summer Theatre	\$183
purchase of lighting equipment	
East Grand Forks Community Performing Arts Council	\$1,289
purchase of lighting equipment	
Crookston Community Theatre	\$760
purchase of sound equipment	
Fosston Community Library and Arts Association	\$768
purchase of backdrop and pulley system and concert flats.	

Grantee	Project Name	Amount
Red Lake Falls Community Education	Cultural, Historical Fair	\$695.00
Visual Arts Information Service	ARTPAPER	\$500.00
Middle River Senior Citizens	China & Oil Painting Classes	\$1,328.00
Tri-Valley Community Corrections	Art Classes	\$902.00
East Grand Forks Community Performing Arts Council	Musical Revue "Rockin' Around the 50's"	\$1,395.00
Warroad Summer Theatre	Summer Season of Five Plays	\$3,900.00
Women's Division - RRVWS	Photography Exhibit, Art Show, Woodworking Workshop	\$314.50
Polk County Ag. Extension Service/4-H	Arts-IN	\$350.00
Artists Unlimited of Lake Bronson	Children's Arts Classes	\$527.20
UMC - Concerts & Lectures	St. Paul Chamber Orchestra	\$1,880.00
Crookston Community Theatre	"ANNIE"	\$2,585.00
Fosston Community Library and Arts Center	"My Fair Lady" and "Arsenic and Old Lace"	\$2,020.00

Developmental Disabilities



The focus of the Developmental Disabilities Program is to assist local human services organizations in the development and improvement of services for handicapped people. For several years there has been a strong trend in Minnesota to provide these services in the local communities, instead of large centralized locations. As this deinstitutionalization process takes place, two major issues have become evident. One is the difficulty in developing a continuum or "array" of services which can be appropriate for various levels of handicapping conditions. The second is the need to improve social behavior of some mentally handicapped persons to increase their acceptance by the community.

The objectives of the DD Program this year have been based on these two issues. A behavior management consultant was hired to work with staff in developmental achievement centers (DACs) and group homes to recommend and develop methods for improving the social behavior of their clients. Staff training coordination and planning was addressed through the development of staff training plans for two DACs.

The development of new less restrictive services was addressed by the preparation of a successful proposal for the regional sheltered workshops to provide job placement for their clients.

The DD Advisory Committee has taken an active part this year in the development of the counties' community Social Services Plans. Recommendations were based on a data analysis of handicapped persons and their needs.

The upcoming year will see a transition of the DD Program to a direct service pilot in Region I. Thus the Regional Development Commission's activity in this area will be terminated during the next year.

Regional Reviews

The Regional Development Commissions are charged with the responsibility of performing the regional review process on most federal and state funding requests. The purpose of this function is to provide coordination of projects and to avoid duplication of services where possible. NWRDC carries this out with the "Notification System" where local government and agencies having an interest are notified of the applicants intent to apply for funds and given the opportunity to comment on the project or program.

In its capacity as the Regional Clearinghouse, the Commission reviewed 85 proposals and plans for FY'84. Following is a breakdown of the distribution of applications.

Federal Agencies

ACTION	1,283,587
Bureau of Comm. Health Services	403,120
Dept. of Education	10,000
Economic Development Admin.	316,000
Environmental Protection Agency	5,661,864
Farmer's Home Admin.	713,450
Housing and Urban Development	1,287,900
Federal Totals	9,675,921

State Agencies

Dept. of Economic Security	10,606,253
Dept. of Energy, Planning, & Dev.	17,097,253
Dept. of Health	1,282,919
Dept. of Transportation	1,254,807
Minn. Historical Society	5,000
State Totals	30,246,444
Total Funding	39,922,365

NWRDC Publications

1984-1986 Area Plan For Programs On Aging

This Plan outlines the needs of senior citizens in Region I and their demographic characteristics. The 1984 Area Plan Amendments to the 1984-1986 Area Plan includes an update inventory of services plus revised goals and objectives.

Arts Plan For FY '84-85

This Plan includes a needs assessment which was developed to permit the Arts Advisory Committee to establish the listed priorities for the arts in Region I. Another important aspect of the Plan is that it explains the grants process and the regranting categories which is necessary information to those interested in applying for arts grants.

Directory Of Government Units & Service Agencies

The Directory was updated as an easily available resource of information on governmental agencies and services available in Region I.

The Directory contains listings of service agencies which have full time staff and governmental offices from the township level through the legislative level. It also contains a brief description of the agency or office, the phone number, and key contact person. The Directory is updated periodically to keep current with ongoing changes.

FY '84 Job Training Plan

This Job Training Plan covers the period from October 1, 1983 through June 30, 1984. The Plan includes a description of all services under the Job Training Partnership Act in the Northwest Service Delivery Area.

FY '84-85 Job Training Plan

The Job Training Plan covers a two-year period beginning July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1986. The Plan includes an administrative and program plan for the Job Training Partnership Act programs in the Northwest Service Delivery Area. This Job Training Plan is written in conjunction with the Northwest Private Industry Council.

Regional Transportation Plan

This Plan involves two primary parts: 1) an inventory of various transportation modes in the Region; and 2) goals and policies to guide transportation planning in the Region. The Plan provides a multi-model development strategy based on the Region's perceptions of its future transportation system needs -- primarily reflecting the Region's need for efficient movement of agricultural commodities. The Plan was initially developed in 1981 with an update occurring in 1983.

Overall Economic Development Program

During the year, this required document was reviewed and largely rewritten. Major sections were updated using recently available statistics released by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. In addition, the Economic and Community Development Committee reviewed and revised the "Economic Development Strategy" section of the Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP). The acceptance of the OEDP by the Economic Development Administration, following its adoption by the seven Counties in Region I and the NWRDC, is required for the Region to retain its designation as the Economic Development District.

Region 1 Developmental Disabilities Data Book

This report presents statistical information on disabled persons by age, special needs and location. Data from the 1980 Census and several statewide and regional studies is included.

Techniques For Citizen Participation In A Needs Assessment

This publication is a guide which explains how to develop a coordinated needs assessment approach. It lists the steps in several methods of using citizen participation and provides a format for written documentation of a chosen method.

FY 1983 Annual Report

The NWRDC's Annual Report for FY 1983 was prepared and distributed to the members of legislators and to local officials and citizens.

Northwestern Arts Newsletter

This publication described Arts related activities within Region I. The publications was funded by the McKnight Foundation through December 1983.

FY '85 Work Plan

The Commission's Fiscal Year 1985 Work Plan was published. The document details the goals and objectives of the Commission in each of the program and planning areas.

NWRDC Newsletter

Commission's newsletter, which is published monthly, is to keep units of government and agencies abreast of Commission happenings and funding resources.

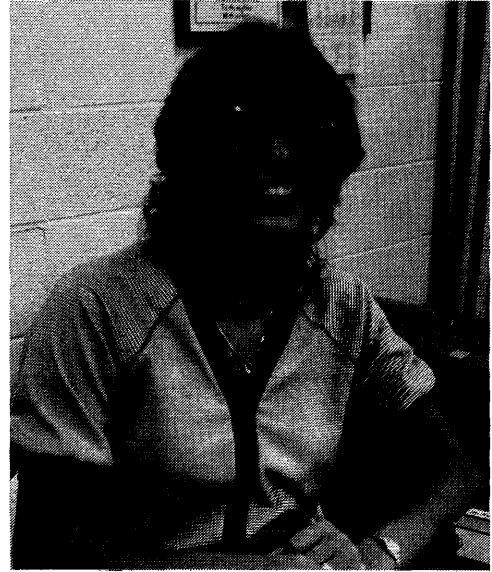
Northwest Regional Development Commission Staff

Staff	Responsibilities
Thomas Jorgens	Executive Director
Gail Butenhoff	Job Training
Donna Christianson	Accounting
Mary Jo Crystal	Aging/Grants Management/Arts
Debbie Dufault	Secretary (Part-time)
Wayne Faust	Economic Development
Wayne Goeken	Transportation
Leon Heath	Red Lake Falls SCBG/Job Training
Helen Jurchen	Community/Economic Development
Diane Markel	Adult Foster Care
Donna Myhrer	Developmental Disabilities/Regional Reviews
Marian Normandin	Secretary
Pat Rood	Aging
Carol Sorensen	Administrative Secretary/Data Processing
Delore Zimmerman	Community/Economic Development/Data Management

Support Staff



Donna Christianson



Debbie Dufault



Marian Normandin



Carol Sorensen

Commission Budget

FY'84 ACTUAL

REVENUE

State Appropriation	\$44,497
Local Tax Levy	83,000
Economic Development Administration	62,618
Community Development Block Grant	8,000
HUD 107	5,000
Special Accelerated Technical Assistance Grant	1,500
MN Department of Transportation	10,000
MN State Arts Board	14,000
Department of Economic Security	28,457
Development Disabilities Planning Office	24,887
MN Board on Aging	55,667
McKnight Foundation - Arts	3,450
McKnight Foundation - Adult Foster Care	3,750
Department of Public Welfare	16,512
Governor's Rural Development Council	12,000
City of Red Lake Falls	53,458
Commodity Movement Study	10,000
Solid Waste Planning	6,935
Marshall County	3,475
Interest	9,405
Other	2,650
TOTAL	\$459,261*

EXPENDITURES

Salaries/Fringe	\$287,336
Travel	22,021
Regional Commission Expenses and Per Diem	13,120
Committee Expenses	20,510
Office Expenses	70,107
Professional Fees	35,958
TOTAL	\$449,052*

*Unaudited Totals - Subject to Change

FY'85 BUDGET

PROJECTED REVENUE

State General Support (SPA)	\$44,398
Transportation (Mn/DOT - State)	10,000
Economic Development Administration (Federal)	49,500
State Arts Board (State)	14,723
Department of Public Welfare (Adult Foster Care - State)	36,883
Private Industry Council (Federal)	85,480
Developmental Disabilities (Federal)	5,930
Minnesota Board on Aging (Federal)	54,849
Commodity Movement Study (Mn/DOT - State)	10,000
Red Lake Falls Community Development (Federal)	70,228
Community Development (DEED - Federal)	15,000
Fiber Fuels (Dept. of Energy & Economic Dev. - Federal)	1,500
St. Vincent Township	9,900
City of Crookston	5,000
City of Fosston	1,500
McKnight Foundation - Arts (Foundation)	660
Agassiz Health Systems Agency	990
Norman County Social Services	2,769
Interest	9,000
Local Levy	91,365

TOTAL \$519,675

PROJECTED EXPENDITURES

Salaries/Fringe	\$335,418
Travel	30,598
Regional Commission Expenses and Per Diem	13,500
Committee Expenses	14,890
Office Expenses	76,098
Professional Fees	49,171

TOTAL \$519,675



ARNE H. CARLSON
STATE AUDITOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
SUITE 400
555 PARK STREET
SAINT PAUL 55103

AUDITOR'S OPINION

Mr. Harry Sjulson, Chairman
Northwest Regional Development
Commission
425 Woodland Avenue
Crookston, Minnesota 56716

We have examined the combined financial statements of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission, Crookston, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 1983, as listed in the table of contents. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the combined financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission, at June 30, 1983, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Our examination was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the combined financial statements taken as a whole. The combining and individual fund financial statements and supporting schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the combined financial statements of Region I, Northwest Regional Development Commission. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the examination of the combined financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the combined financial statements taken as a whole.

We have also examined the schedules of direct and indirect costs, included in the supplementary information referred to above, for the year ended June 30, 1983. In our opinion, these schedules are fairly presented in accordance with the Council's cost allocation plan and the provisions of the Office of Management and Budget's Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State and Local Governments".

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arne H. Carlson".

ARNE H. CARLSON
State Auditor

September 23, 1983