

ANNUAL REPORT 1984



EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (612)679-4065

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Pursuant to Mn Stat 462.393

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

GLORIA HABECK, CHAIRMAN

This past year has been a time of change, reflection and opportunity for the Commission. Changes included the addition of three new Commission members, several advisory committee members and two new staff. Of course we miss the experience of the individuals no longer with us; however, the new ideas, perspectives and interests of those joining us have added a fresh look at the many issues we face.

Changes in the way government does its business can be thought of as being very slow and unmanageable at times. Because of the changes that have occurred and are occurring, the Commission has taken time this past year to reflect on its role in development within the Region. A full day retreat was held on June 4th to re-define the Commission's purposes and identify future work activities. The Retreat was very successful and identified what we must do to respond to the ever changing needs of the citizen's of East Central Minnesota.

Problems are what the optimists call opportunities. Some of you know that my optimistic view of things makes me excited about new challenges. The work this past year of the Commission members, the dedicated advisory committee members and the staff cause me to be excited about the recent accomplishments. A brief recap of those activities is provided in the following pages. As for next year, I feel a sense of challenge and opportunity to make East Central Minnesota a better place to live.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria E. Habeck Chairman

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AS OF June 1984

NAME	ADDRESS	REPRESENT/OCCUPATION	COUNTY
Owen Baas	Pease, MN 56363	Public Interests/Auto Sales, Service-Private Business	Mille Lacs
George Ball	Askov, MN 55704	Municipalities/Realtor	Pine
Lynn Becklin	615 S. Dellwood Cambridge, MN 55008	Municipalities/Small Business Furniture Store	Isanti
Barry Blomquist	726 Elm No. Branch, MN 55056	Public Interests/Attorney at Law	Chisago
Phyllis Christianson	Route #1 Foreston, MN 56330	Municipalities/Mayor	Mille Lacs
Laurence Collin	Route #2 Isanti, MN 55040	Public Interests/Farmer	Isanti
Gloria Habeck Chairman	Rt. l, Box 140 Isle, MN 56342	County Board Commissioner/ Homemaker, Farm Management	Mille Lacs
Andrew Holzemer	Route #1 Onamia, MN 56359	Townships/Forester, DNR	Mille Lacs
Loren Jennings	Rush City, MN 55069	County Commissioner/Small Business	Chisago
Glenn E. Johnson	Rt. 1, Box 277 No. Branch, MN 55056	County Commissioner/Insurance	Isanti
Bill Miller	Box 32 Grasston, MN 55030	Municipalities/Self Employed Contractor	Kanabec
Leon "Mick" Nedegaar	d Rt. 2, Box 53 Hinckley, MN 55037	School Boards/Farmer	Pine
Gerald A. Peterson	Finlayson, MN 55735	School Boards/Retired	Pine
Sheldon Porter	Route #2 Stanchfield, MN 55080	Townships/Store Owner Small Business	Chisago
Lucille Schultz	Route #2 Mora, MN 55051	Townships/Farmer Small Business	Kanabec
Merlin Smith	436 South Union Mora, MN 5505l	County Commissioner/Realtor	Kanabec
Sig E. Stene Secretary/Treasurer	Lindstrom, MN 55045	Municipalities/Mayor School Administrator	Chisago
Ray Stoeckel Vice-Chairman	Route #1 Zimmerman, MN 55398	Townships/Farmer	Isanti
James Tuttle	Rt. 1, Box 138 Willow River, MN 55795	Townships/Farmer	Pine
Henry Winkels	Rt. l, Box 49 Hinckley, MN 550037	Public Interests/Farmer/Retired	Pine
James Youngbauer	Route #2 Pine City, MN 55063	County Commissioner/Parmer	Pine

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION STAFF

Fiscal Year 1984

Michael Sobota - Executive Director
Roger Ames - Human Services Planning Director
Tom Foley - Housing/Transportation Planner (through March, 1984)
Don Kush - Transportation/Physical Planner
Patrick Connoy - Economic Devel. Planner (through Feb., 1984)
Anne Norris - Economic Development Planner
Gordon Heitke - Natural Resources Planner
Phil Schroeder - Arts/Developmental Disabilities Planner
David Sainio - Human Services Program Planner
Dorothy Barnard - Human Services Program Assistant/Secretary
Doreen Holland - Bookkeeper/Secretary
Mary Schwartz - Office Manager

This report covers the period July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984 and is submitted in accordance with MN Statutes 462.393 to the Minnesota Legislature.

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 1984, 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 activities of the public and private sectors 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 and management assistance to local units of government in the conduct of local planning and grantsmanship activities.
- Supporting local, state or federal plans, policies, or programs which are consistent with EC RDC goals, policies and plans.

ACTIVITIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

REGIONAL PLANNING

The EC RDC serves as the comprehensive regional planning agency for the five counties of East Central Minnesota. A Comprehensive Development Plan for the Region was adopted in 1980. The Plan serves as the foundation for commission work activities. Steps will be taken in 1985 to update and revise the Plan.

The Comprehensive Regional Growth and Development Policy Plan:

- 1. 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 officials 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.

PLANS, REPORTS, STUDIES & WORKSHOPS

During 1984, the EC RDC published several plans, reports and studies. The Commission also sponsored or co-sponsored workshops for local officials on various issues and programs. Listed below is a synopsis of each.

1984 Overall Economic Development Plan

The OEDP outlines current Economic Development issues and needs of the Region. The OEDP also serves as the basis for the EC RDC Economic Development Work Program. The Commission adopted the OEDP on June 25, 1984 upon the recommendations of the 5 County Boards of Commissioners.

1984-86 Area Plan for Aging

The Plan outlines needs and funding priorities for services to the elderly. Contained in the plan and amendments are specific goals and priorities for Older American's Act funds. The plan amendments were put together by local officials and citizens from all counties in East Central Minnesota.

A Study of the Impact of Highway Jurisdictional Changes in East Central Minnesota

The Transportation Advisory Committee completed the study of the potential impacts of Highway Jurisdiction changes in the Region. The 1983 Legislature created a State Highway Study Commission to study highway jurisdiction. This report identifies impacts to local governments of proposed changes.

Draft Chisago County Comprehensive Development Plan

The County will be updating its local land use controls using the completed plan as a guide for growth in the County.

City of Mora Star Cities Plan

The plan is intended to assist the City encourage commercial and industrial growth within the city and identify policies to accomplish this goal.

Pine City Growth Management System

The publication includes a strategy for guiding the growth of the City and in implementing the City's Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

Directory of Artists in East Central Minnesota

The publication consists of a directory of artists living in the Region and available for performances and exhibitions and workshops. The intent is to make local talent more available to the community at large.

1984 Arts Development Plan for East Central Minnesota

The plan identifies needs and issues related to the development of the arts and art activities in the Region. Funding for arts groups is provided for priority projects identified in the plan.

Kroschel Township Comprehensive Plan

The Plan will assist the Town Board guide growth and regulate land uses in the Township.

Newsletters and Public Information

The EC RDC published 7 regional reports, 3 Aging newsletters, and 4 Arts Quarterly's. These special publications receive wide distribution to keep local officials and citizens informed on current issues.

Regional Training Conference on Aging

Over 300 participants attended the event. The workshops and training sessions promote discussion of issues pertaining to the elderly population.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During 1984 about 25% 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.

Planning

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 & Financial Packaging

Involves writing grant and loan applications, providing information and/or conducting workshops which lead to the submission of a grant application.

Over \$1,000,000 has been awarded to local governments in the past year 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.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The Transportation Advisory Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the EC RDC on transportation issues. This past year the Committee has focused on highway issues. A major part of the year was devoted to the study of highway ownership or "jurisdictional" issues. The Committee developed and the EC RDC approved, in January, a major study on the impacts of jurisdictional changes. A special presentation on the findings of that report was made on February 10, 1984 to the legislatively created State Highway Study Commission. The input provided by the EC RDC to the Study Commission was the only information presented on rural transportation issues.

The second half of the year the Committee has been developing more detailed fiscal information on potential highway ownership changes. The Committee is concerned that any changes in highway jurisdiction should be analyzed for cost-effectiveness. The Committee anticipates completing the fiscal study this fall.

Transportation Advisory Committee Members:

Ralph Bloomgren, Chair, Cambridge Gregory Nikodym, Mora Richard Larson, Milaca Alton Jacobson, Cambridge Dave Rholl, Pine City Douglas Differt, St. Paul Loren Jennings, Rush City Al Baxter, Princeton Donald Horsmann, Finlayson Chester Steeves, Princeton Harold Eklund, Stanchfield Dorothy Jolstad, Mora John Bloom, St. Paul Gerald Peterson, Finlayson Douglas Weiszhaar, Center City Don Hubert, MN/DOT ex-officio

NATURAL RESOURCES and CONSERVATION PLANNING

The Natural Resources 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 and implementation 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. 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.

Regional reviews conducted by the Committee in the past year included local comprehensive plans, wastewater treatment facility plans, park facility grant applications, and an environmental impact statement. A State waste management plan, State recreation funding program, and natural resource legislation was also reviewed for its implications on the East Central Region and EC RDC policy positions.

A major element of the Natural Resources and Conservation Program consists of providing technical assistance directly to local governments, agencies and organizations. Numerous requests for technical assistance were responded to this past year. These requests were for assistance in preparing comprehensive plans, preparing ordinances, assisting in administration of regulations, and identifying funding sources and preparing applications for natural resource projects.

This past year the Natural Resources and Conservation Advisory Committee monitored legislation addressing local water management, agricultural land preservation and conservation, soil erosion prevention, and solid waste. Having identified these Resource and Conservation Advisory Committee is looking forward to continuing to address these issues on a regional and statewide basis in the future.

Natural Resources & Conservation Advisory Committee members include:

Roger Bergman, Chairman, Isanti Fred Ahlgren, Mora Marvin Erickson, Mora Everette Koecher, Kerrick Robert Peterson, Isanti Jim Tuttle, Willow River Michael Barnes, Lindstrom Laurence Collin, Isanti Robert Hoefert, Isle Richard Larson, Milaca Art Schultz, Rock Creek

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The economic and community development activities of the EC RDC are primarily related to providing technical assistance to local governments and small businesses in the Region. This past year the Commission has assisted the Eastern Minnesota Economic Corporation (EMEC), an SBA certified development company. Many of the banks in the Region are actively involved in the EMEC. EMEC developed two SBA 503 loans that were approved by SBA. The projects included small business expansions in Rush City and Cambridge. Several projects are in process.

The EC RDC assisted the City of Mora and the East Central Minnesota Vegetable Producers Cooperative receive \$30,000 of McKnight Foundation funds for a cooling and marketing facility in Mora. Small farmers, through the vegetable coop, have over 120 acres of commercial vegetables under cultivation this year in the Region. The case received from the program assists small family-farmers supplement their income and produce summer jobs.

The EC RDC assisted the City of Isanti in writing a request for EDA funds for its industrial park expansion. At least 17 new jobs will be created. The application is currently up for final approval in Washington. Braham was assisted with reactivating the local development corporation and an application for small cities funds is being proposed for Dahlman Inc. which could retain and expand employment in Braham. 46 jobs were created in Onamia when the EC RDC packaged a small cities project for M. Liman Company and the City. The EC RDC wrote the environmental assessment worksheet for the Medtronic project in Milaca. This project will create new jobs in the City and the Region. City has been assisted with preliminary work on a comprehensive community development project. The cities of Ogilvie, Wahkon, and Milaca were assisted with small cities projects. Many small businesses have also been assisted with finding resources necessary for job creation. The Community Development and Economic Development Advisory Committees have assisted the EC RDC during this past year with issue and project reviews. Members include:

Economic Development
Andy Holzemer, Chair, Onamia
Roger Bergman, Isanti
Arild Frederickson, Askov
John James, Taylors Falls
LeRoy Nagle, Pine City
Patricia Peterson, Braham
Mike Parent, Mora

Community Development
Barry Blomquist, North Branch
Wallace Carlson, Lindstrom
Morris Eastlund, Mora
Bill Jokela, Sandstone
Donald Peterson, Isanti
Jim Tuttle, Willow River

REGION VII AREA AGENCY on AGING

The Aging Committee advises the EC RDC on the development of the Area Plan for elderly services and recommends funding decisions on project grants.

The primary activities and accomplishments of the Committee on Aging during this past year have included the development of a three year Area Plan for Programs on Aging. The acceptance of the Plan by the Minnesota Board on Aging in December, 1983 designates the EC RDC as the Area Agency on Aging for the counties included in Regions 7E and 7W. The Plan identifies needs of the area's elderly and establishes funding priorities. As a result of this Plan, the EC RDC has final decision making authority pertaining to the best use of approximately \$3 million in federal, state, local public and private foundation funds to provide needed services to older persons in Regions 7E and 7W.

During this past year projects approved by the EC RDC included home health care, in-home nursing services, transportation services, legal services, congregate the home delivered nutrition services and senior center/self help projects funded with foundation funds. Total older persons benefitting from these programs are approximately 12,764. Total funds approved for this past year for projects was \$823,992.

During the next three years the Area Agency on Aging has included as a work program priority in the Area Plan a focus on working with counties in the development of county long-term care plans for the elderly. This represents a commitment to serving as a resource to local agencies and units of government as they further develop their capacities to meet the needs of their population.

Advisory Committee Members:

Fred Wahlstrom, Chair, Mora
S. R. Sonnichsen - Princeton
Janice Usher - Cambridge
A A Richner - Wyoming
Pearl Olesen - Askov
Mary Anderson, Braham
Connie Strandberg - Mora
Ray Cash - Onamia
Madeline Miller - Willow River

Grace Palm - Cambridge
Richard Ebnet - Sandstone
Phyllis Christianson - Foreston
Clifford Anderson - Almelund
Stephen Olson - Milaca
Elaine Lucht - Cambridge
Ruth Nash - Willow River
Clara Marihart - Bruno

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

In 1982 the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities selected the support of day programs (Developmental Achievement Centers) as its priority area for FY'84-86. This decision had two major impacts on regional DD program: 1) The program changed from a planning technical assistance, coordination role to a more direct service role and 2) regional boundaries were abandoned in favor of applications from any governmental unit or non-profit organization.

For the past year the DD program has been working to change from a planning role to a direct service role, and at the end of this fiscal year the DD Program will be discontinued in its present format.

The primary work program for FY'84 has been to provide services to the Developmental Achievement Centers in the Region. This has been accomplished through three major assistance projects: 1) Through the Five County Mental Health Center and with a consulting behavior analyst, we have been providing mental health consultation services to mentally retarded persons currently participating in D.A.C. programs; 2) With our technical assistance we have been working with existing non-profit organizations to develop additional full and semi-independent living units; and 3) We assisted the D.A.C.s in developing a joint proposal submitted to the Governors' Council on D.D. to develop additional work opportunities in the community. Funding decisions on these applications should be announced shortly.

D.D. Committee Members Include:

Richard Revak, Chair, Grasston Bruce Bohaty, Willow River Margaret Lindquist, Ogilvie Betty Scharn, Mora Eric Erickson, Bill Miller, Grasston Marlys Revak, Wyoming Sandi Bohaty, Willow River Fred Hoffman, Milaca Yvonne Lind, Cambridge Roger Deneen, Sandstone

EAST CENTRAL ARTS COUNCIL

During the last year, the Arts Council recommended and the EC RDC approved 18 arts development grants for a total of \$18,000. Projects funded included:

Theatre productions by the Heritage Players from Pine City, Braham Community Theatre and the Mille Lacs Lake Community Theatre; Musical productions through the East Central Concert Association, the Chisago Lakes Childrens' Choir; a school residency by the Children's Theatre; a school workshop in papermaking in Isle; a series of performances at each of the regional branch libraries; visual art classes and workshops in Ogilvie and Pine City; the Milaca Arts Guild's newsletter and Art Paper; plans for a sculpture in Center City and the Kanabec County Museum's "Salute to Farm Folk."

The Arts Council has continued publishing the <u>East Central Arts Quarterly</u>, 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. This past year some changes were made to the format, the mailing list expanded to 1,000, and the editing, layout and production were taken over by a publications committee to ensure timely distribution.

The Council again received financial assistance from the McKnight Foundation for regranting, and also received \$9,300 from the Blandin Foundation for sponsor assistance grants for FY'85.

The Council also received a \$2,800 grant from the MN Humanities Commission to support a conference, "Arts and the Media." Held at the East Central Community College on May 5th, the conference featured several speakers discussing the impact and the visibility of the arts in the communities of Region 7E.

The Council is also continuing its "Arts Showcase Program" which gives local artists the opportunity to participate in arts activities in their home or area communities. This past year the arts were "showcased" in Princeton, Mora, North Branch and Cambridge.

Arts Council Members

Jay Andersen, Chair, Isle Gloria Habeck, Isle Alice Boudreau, Isanti Donna Olson, Mora Morris Engler, Rush City Linda Bergerson, North Branch Sue Thue, Sandstone Kevin Hofstad, Pine City Karen Schlenker, Milaca Mildred Wahlstrom, Mora Joanne Frank, Cambridge

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 encourage 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 boards 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, boards 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 with existing and proposed projects and plans in the Region."

A detailed listing of the projects reviewed and actions taken is available at the EC RDC office.

FISCAL YEAR 1985

RECEIPTS

	(Revised Actual)	
	Fiscal Year	Fiscal Year
	1984	1985
MN DEED		
Legislative Appropriations	\$ 43,876	\$ 44,695
Dept. of Energy & Economic Devel.	12,000	16,000
Developmental Disabilities	15,625	3,906
MN State Arts Board	15,000	16,000
MN Dept. of Transportation	20,000	20,000
MN Board on Aging	80,906	124,845
Economic Devel. Admn. (EDA)	50,000	50,000
Contracts Local Government	32,750	35,000
EC RDC Tax Levy	69,205	70,169
Interest Income	4,034	4,000
Sub-Total	\$343,396	\$384,615
Aging Direct Service (State, Federal, Priva	te) 893,674	897,250
Arts Direct Service (State Private)	18,700	24,800
TOTAL	\$1,255,770	\$1,306,665
20 May 1		

EXPENDITURES

	Fiscal Year 1984	Fiscal Year 1985
Staff Salarie	\$190,348	\$ 197,147
Staff Benefits	38,187	39,880
Advisory Committees	4,000	4,000
EC RDC Per Diem : Expense	8,500	11,250
Employee Devel. & Recruit.	100	750
Memberships & Subscriptions	2,769	1,610
Telephone	8,781	10,000
Postage	3,830	4,000
Legal Notices	100	100
Printing & Publication	3,319	4,000
Copying	6,880	6,500
Audit	5,000	7,000
Vehicle Maintenance	3,402	3,400
Insurance & Bonds	775	1,200
Purchase of Equipment	17,300	3,000
Office Supplies	4,680	4,750
Maintenance of Equipment	50 0	1,000
Staff Travel	11,900	12,750
Conferences	1,173	1,500
Rent	18,154	19,062
Services by Technical Consultants	11,937	4,280
Contracts with Others	1,761	44,795
Contingency	•	2,641
Sub-Total	\$343,396	\$384,615
Aging Direct Services Grants	893,674	897,250
Arts Direct Services Grants	18,700	24,800
	\$1,255,770	\$1,306,665