

Southwest Regional #8 Development Commission

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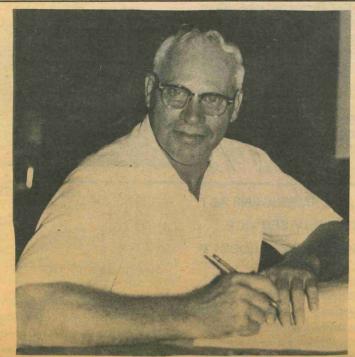
FISCAL YEAR 1985 Annual Report

PLEASE NOTE: A supplement to the annual report containing project review information for the fiscal year is available by contacting the SRDC Office, 2524 Broadway Avenue, Slayton, MN; PH:507/836-8549.

SERVING SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

What's Inside

- Administration and Budget "New Budget Process, and Solid Financial Condition"
- Legislation "A New Initiative Produces Results"
- Developmental Disabilities "Seeking Greater Independence for Persons with Disabilities"
- Southwestern Area Agency on Aging "In Touch with the Region's Elderly"
- Economic and Community Development "Developing Public/Private Partnerships for Job Creation and Community Stability"
- Rural Development Strategies "Seeking Solutions to Meet Rural Needs"
- Parks and Recrea-"Committee Initiates Involvement"
- Transportation "Impacting Regional Highway Issues"
- Land Use "Preparing Today's Region for Tomorrow"
- Solid Waste "Counties Develop New Technologies"



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Southwest Regional Development Commission is a dynamic organization which is sensitive to local needs and demands. This is because the Commission is composed of, and managed by local officials and citizens. As local concerns change the SRDC must, and has effectively responded. The SRDC's activities in 1985 are a good example of this ability to listen, and then accomodate local desires. During 1985 the SRDC undertook three major efforts in regard to its programming to satisfy emerging local needs. The Commission directed its staff to undertake new program initiatives (legislative and solid waste issues); to expand present programs (economic development and developmental disabilities); and to evaluate current program and management systems (parks & recreation, aging, and overall internal management). In each instance good progress was achieved, and results satisfactory to local governments accomplished.

The purpose of our Annual Report is to inform local residents of our activities over the year to increase their understanding of the SRDC's role and functions. The following pages highlight the most significant accomplishments realized throughout the area during the past year. In each work area, solid achievements have been accomplished which directly benefit the people of Southwest Minnesota. As Chairman of the SRDC for the past four years, I am proud to present our Annual Report, and look forward to continued progress in the future.

The SRDC exists to serve Southwest Minnesota, and I feel upon your review you'll agree we are making a difference. I praise the Commission for its leadership during 1985, and credit staff for their ability to fulfill the 1985 goals of our organization.

> Carl Hauschild SRDC Chairman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Southwest Regional Development Commission is making a difference in Southwest Minnesota. As a technical assistance, planning, and development organization managed by local officials, the SRDC has sought action and results which benefit the population of the nine county area. The accomplishments in the areas of aging, developmental disabilities, economic and community development, legislative affairs, physical development issues (transportation, parks, environmental, solid waste) and local technical assistance have been substantial over the past year. It is hoped that the new format for our Annual Report will enhance your awareness of these achievements, as well as improve your understanding of the Commission and its func-

I commend both the Commission members, and our staff for their dedication in addressing local needs and solving identified problems in SW Minnesota. And I wish to thank all the local governments and area residents for their strong support over the past year. This local commitment is the momentum behind the success of the Southwest Regional Development Commission. In the future such sustained, strong participation will remain the critical measure of the Commission's progress.

> Brian Shorten Executive Director

SRDC COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ed Quiring, Mayor of Mountain LakeCottonwood County Municipalities	
James DericksonCottonwood County Town Boards	
*F.A. "Jim" MillerCottonwood County Commissioner	
Roland Wray, Mayor of Heron LakeJackson County Municipalities	
Abner BrandtJackson County Town Boards	
*Milford Gentz, Vice-ChairmanJackson County Commissioners	
*Norman Madsen, Mayor of ArcoLincoln County Municipalities	
Ted RuppertLincoln County Town Boards	
*Carl Hauschild, ChairmanLincoln County Commissioners	
Susan Kaye BakkeLyon County Municipalities	
Ed ParadisLyon County Town Boards	
*Paul KnoblauchLyon County Commissioners	
Jill McCordMurray County Municipalities	
Leland Priebe	
*Paul Mettling, TreasurerMurray County Commissioners	
Richard Cotter, Mayor of BrewsterNobles County Municipalities	
Robert FeekenNobles County Town Boards	
*Gerald MulderNobles County Commissioners	
Steve Perkins, Mayor of PipestonePipestone County Municipalities	
Joseph StepanekPipestone County Town Boards	
*Clayton IhlenPipestone County Commissioners	
*W.F. "Woody" Kramer, Mayor of VestaRedwood County Municipalities	
Raymond Jensen Redwood County Town Boards	
*Darold Neperman	
Berdell "Bud" Bush, Mayor of HillsRock County Municipalities	
Merten PetersenRock County Town Boards	
*Dennis Roning	
*Loren Carlson	
Alvin Gruis	
Rollin Haynes	
*Dwayne PurringtonCity of Marshall	
*Harlin Owens, Secretary, Mayor of WorthingtonCity of Worthington	
Jim Veenhuis, Sr	
Charles CunninghamCountryside Council	
Michael PrescottLower Sioux Indian Community	
Karen TommeraasenMainstay, Inc.	

ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET

"New Budget Process, and Solid Financial Condition"

ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY

Sound administration and budget management are mandatory for any public agency. In 1985 the SRDC again demonstrated its ability to manage public resources and administer a wide range of human, physical, and economic development programs. Beyond its continuous fiscal monitoring operations, the SRDC in 1985 also completed a comprehensive policy and administrative review. Resulting from this review were the following accomplishments: nine by-law/personnel policy amendments were approved; a new budget and work plan process for Fiscal Year 1985 was established; the SRDC Affirmative Action Plan was updated; work on a comparable worth plan was initiated; the office computer was brought on line; the Commission changed its accounting system to an indirect cost method; and the staff evaluation process was improved. These various actions have and will improve staff, program, and Commission efficiency and effectiveness in the future.

Regarding the budget, the SRDC through sound financial management was able to limit budget amendments, maintain proper reporting requirements, incorporate previous audit recommendations into its operation, and utilize the computer as a management tool to monitor fiscal affairs. As a result of these efforts the SRDC was able to finish fiscal year 1984 under budget, with no need to increase local funding support.

The SRDC over the past year has strengthened its operation, and increased its accountability to the participating governments, and the residents of Southwest Minnesota.

BUDGET & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Loren CarlsonHeron Lake Milford GentzLakefield Alvin GruisRushmore Carl HauschildMinneota Clayton IhlenPipestone Raymond JensenSpringfield Paul KnoblauchAmiret Paul MettlingSlayton Dennis RoningHills Ted RuppertTyler

POLICY SCREENING COMMITTEE Carl Hauschild, ChairmanMinneota Berdell "Bud" BushHills Raymond JensenSpringfield Jill McCordSlayton

SRDC REVENUES

REPORTING PERIOD BUDGET (Fiscal Year 1985) Revenues by Fund

Tax Levy	\$101,405
State Appropriation	46,225
Minnesota Board on Aging	68,847
Minnesota Developmental Disabilities	39,503
Minnesota Department of Transportation	12,727
Small Cities Development	10,388
Contracts & Miscellaneous	17,671
Interest	14,942
Reserves	23,126
	and the sales of the
TOTAL	\$334,834

SRDC EXPENDITURES

REPORTING PERIOD BUDGET (Fiscal Year 1985) Actual Expenditures

Salaries and Fringe	\$204,960
Rent	
Equipment	
Telephone	
Staff Travel	
Printing	
Insurance	
Postage	
Supplies	
Committee Expenses	
Contracted Services (DD)	
Other	
Depreciation (Non Car)	
	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	TOTAL \$334,834

FISCAL YEAR 1984 AUDIT SUMMARY

The State Auditor's opinion letter stated that the SRDC's combined financial statements fairly disclosed our financial condition as of June 30, 1984. There were no significant weaknesses in our internal accounting procedures or non-compliance legal items found.

The Commission has resolved the two items stated in FY 1983's audit; namely, a tax levy and settlement record book is kept and our banks have been redesignated as official depositories.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDS BUY SERVICE FOR REGION'S ELDERLY

Through Aging its program, the SRDC awarded a total of \$632,455 in federal, state, and foundation funds during FY 85. These funds help to fill the gaps in the service system meeting the need for expanded and services. Through such supportive services, the older persons are able to remain independent longer, and avoid premature costly institutionalization.

Funding priorities are established by the Aging Advisory Council and SRDC, based on need assessments conducted throughout the Region by the Agency. If your community or agency is interested in Older Americans Act funding to meet a local need, contact Carol Bishop, Director of the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging.

PROJECT REVIEWS

During Fiscal Year 1985 the SRDC reviewed 148 projects from within the Region to avoid duplication and insure wise use of public funds. If you are interested in receiving a listing of project reviews for FY'85 please contact the SRDC Office.

DIRECT SERVICE GRANTS

FISCAL YEAR 1985 Direct Service Grants awarded during FY85

FUNDED JULY 1, 1984

Redwood County Hospice	\$25,343
Prairie Home Hospice	. 31,626
Bingham Lake Multipurpose Senior Center	
Ruthton Multipurpose Senior Center	
Tracy Multipurpose Senior Center	
Region Eight Legal Services	
WESCAP Volunteer Transportation	
	4 4 4 10
Total	\$162,047

FUNDED JANUARY 1, 1985

Total

Nobles/Rock Home Health Aide	\$ 12,767
Southwest Ombudsman Program	22,000
WESCAP (Congregate) Federal Funds	. 248,699
WESCAP (Congregate) State Funds	
WESCAP (Home Delivered) Fed. Funds	
Total	\$435,461

FUNDED APRIL 1, 1985

TOTAL DIRECT SERVICE AWARDS, FY85

Total

MCK

Murray County Transportation Pipestone County Transportation Sr. Citizens Program Developer	5,386
Total	\$10,797

\$608,315

MCKNIGHT SENIOR CENTER GRANTS

MCKNIGHT SENIOR CENTER GRANT AWARDS DURING FY85

Dovray	\$ 2,987
Edgerton	896
Garvin	1,960
Kenneth	2,605
Lismore	4,629
Lower Sioux Indian Community	3,500
Woodstock	5,041
Total	\$21,618
NIGHT SELF HELP GRANT AWARDS DURING FY85	

Dr. Schmidt Hospital, Westbrook \$ 2,522

TOTAL MCKNIGHT AWARDS \$24,140

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET REPORT

As indicated by this Annual Report, significant progress was made during 1985 in achieving the objectives of the SRDC's Work Plan. Overall, of the eighteen work objectives, all were completed, and many were surpassed. Copies of the past year's detailed work progress report are available from the SRDC. The accomplishments were achieved with no increase in staff, and through wise financial management, the Commission expects to end the fiscal year approximately 4% under budget.

The Commission initiated a new approach in preparing its Fiscal Year 1986 Work Plan and Budget by utilizing the various functional Committees' input and integrating work elements with budget considerations. The Budget & Personnel Committee organized, scrutinized, amended, and finalized the Work Plan and Budget for Board and Commission consideration. In presenting the Fiscal Year 1986 budget, Budget & Personnel Committee Chairman Harlin Owens reported that it will require no increase in local mill levy over the amount authorized back in 1984; that the past year's carryover is projected at \$5,000; that a dramatic reduction (64%) in the use of reserve funds is anticipated; that an increase of 1 FTE to accelerate the Commission's economic development efforts is planned, and that an increase in local contracts for service is anticipated. He emphasized that while the overall budget will increase, the amount required from local taxes will not, since the increase will be paid by increased federal and state assistance. On July 16, 1985 the Southwest Regional Development Commission approved the FY'86 Work Plan and Budget. Copies of either are available from the SRDC Office in Slayton.

SRDC STAFF MEMBERS

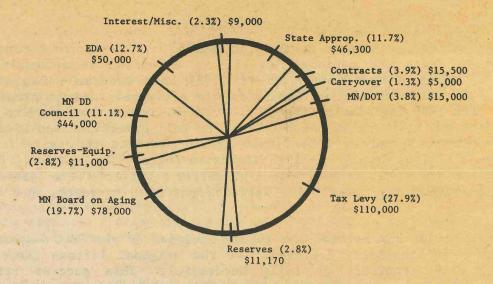


Pictured above are the SRDC Staff Members. Front row from left to right are Florence March, Rhonda Wynia, Barb Kirchner, Janet Schaeffer, and Louise Noomen. Back row from left to right are Gloria Vande Brake, Amy Bailey, Paul Ammerman, Carol Bishop, Maddy Forsberg, Dianne Crowley, and Brian Shorten.

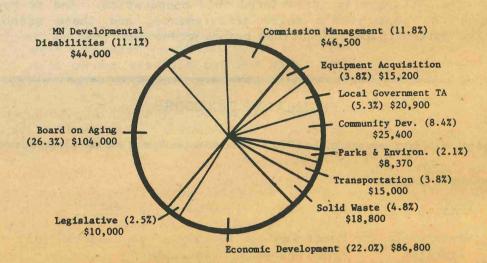
SRDC STAFF ROSTER

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arch

FISCAL YEAR 1986 REVENUES



FISCAL YEAR 1986 EXPENDITURES



DOCUMENTS, STUDIES, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED DURING FISCAL YEAR 1985

- -Fiscal Year 1985 Annual Report
- -Fiscal Year 1985 Work Program
- -Fiscal Year 1984 Audit Report
- -Economic Impacts of Spring Weight Restrictions in Southwest Minnesota
- -Pipestone Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance Update
- -SRDC's Overall Economic Development Plan
- -Highway Cost Containment Study
- -SRDC 1985 Legislative Agenda
- -General Revenue Sharing Handicapped
 Accessibility Manual
- -SRDC Affirmative Action Plan Update
- -Fiscal Year 1985 Indirect Cost Plan -Area Plan for Programs on Aging Amendments
- -City of Edgerton Needs Assessment
- -City of Adrian Needs Assessment
- -City of Hendricks Needs Assessment
- -Region 8 Medicare Prospective Payment Study

SRDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Pictured above are the SRDC Board of Directors. Front row from left to right are Loren Carlson, Gerald Mulder, Norman Madsen, Woody Kramer, Milford Gentz, and Harlin Owens. Back row from left to right are F.A. "Jim" Miller, Dwayne Purrington, Paul Mettling, Dennis Roning, Paul Knoblauch, Clayton Ihlen, Carl Hauschild, and Darold Neperman.

FINANCIAL SYSTEM UPDATED

Beginning with Fiscal Year 1984, now ended, the SRDC placed all of its financial accounting on its computer. At the same time the SRDC switched to an indirect cost allocation system. These two new features enabled have Commission to distribute its costs more equitably than in the past. The SRDC is now able more to get up-to-date and extensive financial reports which better aid the Commission in fiscal management of funds.

With the onset of the computer and the indirect cost plan, the SRDC has also updated our contracting procedures with local governments to more fairly provide services to them and to consistently charge for the work performed.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

A new initiative established by the Commission in 1985 was to become more involved in state and national legislative affairs. As a result, the Commission added a new element to its 1985 Work Program - Legislative Issues. The SRDC Legislative Committee was activated, and it prepared a fifteen item SRDC Legislative Agenda of critical issues important to local governments and agencies in the Region. The Full Commission approved this policy paper in November, 1984. This Agenda provided the basis for the Committee's actions during the 1985 Minnesota Legislative Session. During the Session numerous methods of legislative contacts were conducted: legislative luncheons, testimony, letters, personal contacts, and office visits.

Based on our year-end review, the issues included in the SRDC Legislative Agenda were substantially achieved. Of the original fifteen issues, 12 (or 80%) were partially or fully successful. This success rate is admirable; however, it could not have been accomplished without the hard work of the Legislative Committee and Commission members, and the full cooperation of our area legislators. In all instances, and during every legislative contact our legislators were courteous, interested, and helpful. The SRDC greatly appreciated this cooperation. And it hopes to build upon the past year's solid achievements, and these established legislative partnerships to continue our progress next year.

LEGISLATIVE BOX SCORE

Listed below is a brief summary of the SRDC's 1985 Legislative Agenda and the results achieved:

	TO THE POPULATION OF THE PARTY	
Issue	Topic	Action
#1	-Accelerate the Motor Vehicle Excise Transfer	Unsuccessful
#2	-Impact MN/DOT's Weight Limit Policies	Partially Successful
#3	-Oppose Highway Turnback Recommendations	Successful
#4	-Guarantee Rural Areas Share of Transit	Unsuccessful
#5	-Provide Funds for Solid Waste Measures	Successful
#6	-Assist Compliance with Landfill Liabil- ity Insurance Issues	Partially Successful
#7	-Support RDC's Fund Allocation & Retention	Successful
#8	-Provide Developmental Disability Fund for Early Intervention	Partially Successful
#9	-Provide Developmental Disability Funds for Productive Work Programs	Successful
#10	-Expand Developmental Disability Family Subsidy Program	Partially Successful
#11	-Support DEED's Economic Recovery Grant Program	Successful
#12	-Provide Tax Incentives for Value- Added Production Projects	Unsuccessful
#13	-Establish a Special Athletic Field Set Aside in LCMR	Successful
#14	-Support Southwest State University's Applied Technology Center	Successful
#15	-Reduce Hours of Polling Booths for Town- ships and Small Cities	Partially Successful

LEGISLATORS REPRESENTING REGION 8

STATE SENATORS IN REGION 8

Senator Randy Kamrath, Canby, District 20 Senator Dennis R. Frederickson, Morgan, District 23 Senator Cary DeCramer, Ghent, District 27 Senator Doran Isackson, Storden, District 28

STATE REPRESENTATIVES IN REGION 8

Representative Howard Miller, Redwood Falls, District 20B
Representative Terry Dempsey, New Ulm, District 23A
Representative Jim Boerboom, Cottonwood, District 27A
Representative Wendell Erickson, Hills, District 27B
Representative Carol Dyke, Worthington, District 28A
Representative Dennis C. Frederickson, Windom, District 28B



Pictured above is SRDC Chairman Carl Hauschild, Senator Dave

Durenberger, and SRDC Vice-Chairman Milford Gentz

SRDC VISIT WITH NATIONAL LEADERS

In February, SRDC Chairman Carl Hauschild, Vice-Chairman Milford Gentz, and Executive Director Brian Shorten journeyed to Washington, D.C. to voice the concerns of Southwest Minnesota. The Commission representatives met with Senator Dave Durenberger; Representative Vin Weber and his Chief Aide Len Swinehart; Representative James Oberstar; and Senator Rudy Boschwitz's farm expert. Hauschild and Gentz stressed the critical nature of the farm crisis in rural Minnesota, and offered suggestions on the best directions for the upcoming Farm Bill. The input was well received, and as a result of the meetings both Senators, and Representative Vin Weber later held meetings within the Region to further discuss the depressed farm situation.

Other critical issues discussed on behalf of local governments while in Washington included the importance of general revenue sharing, the need to retain the best parts of federal economic development programs such as SBA and EDA, the problems of federal mandates without funds to cover their costs, the impact of federal budget deficits on commodity exports and prices, and the problems created in small rural hospitals by the revised medicare payment system.

As requested by our Congressional delegation, the SRDC followed-up with over a dozen letters throughout the year to keep our representatives informed on crucial legislation to the Region. The SRDC's increased activity in national legislative affairs will help insure the people of Southwest Minnesota are heard when important issues affecting them is under consideration.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

"Seeking Greater Independence for Persons with Disabilities"

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SUMMARY

The Southwest Developmental Disabilities Committee, composed of 9 disabled persons and their representatives and 9 service providers and public members, directed the SRDC's DD Program. The program resulted in a number of significant accomplishments for the developmentally disabled in the Region. A brief summary of these results include:

- \$43,475.50 received from State Developmental Disabilities Office
- 65.42 hours of technical assistance to 21 agencies (developmental achievement centers, sheltered workshops, an independent living center, family service agencies and residential facilities)
- 2 workshops for staff of 9 agencies were conducted on rural employment techniques
- 42 disabled clients were placed in part-time or full-time permanent jobs
- 21 public education presentations made to county family services, state department staffs, non-profit agencies on issues affecting developmental disabilities
- 75 meetings were held with elected officials, county welfare directors, DAC directors, family service boards, state agency staff and others on issues affecting developmental disabilities

The past year's achievements will provide a solid base for future activities of the Developmental Disabilities Program.

PRESCHOOL FACILITATOR SERVICES

"We've been very pleas-County DAC. "The pro- lic relations ject has helped us or- education activities. ganize our team and start working together Through this project, served."

offered a contract to requiring county cation and welfare.

with handicapped de- the Committees.

ed with the preschool lays, determine the project" exclaimed most appropriate ser-Becky Eikmeier of Rock vices and conduct pub-

with other agencies to southwestern Minnesota ensure that children has become a statewide with delays can be model for interagency teams serving handicapped children. The In November, 1984 1985 Minnesota Legisla-Marshall E.C.S.U. ture approved a bill school the Southwest Regional districts to establish Development Commission interagency early to provide preschool learning teams and facilitator services to provide services to interagency handicapped children teams of health, edu- aged three and older by 1987. Schools in southwestern Minnesota Working with Cotton- will utilize county wood, Jackson, Murray, teams already estab-Nobles, Pipestone, Red- lished through this wood and Rock County project. Even though Interagency Teams, the this project is com-DD Planner/Preschool pleted by December 31, Facilitator helped 1985, the county organize or maintain interagency teams will the county interagency continue because of the teams of health, educa- commitment of the tion and welfare. The individual team members teams meet regularly to to this project and the identify children, aged need for the school birth through three districts to maintain

SOUTHWEST DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COMMITTEE

Ellsworth Hoversten, Chairperson, representing persons with Epilepsy Ivanhoe Shirley Reedy, Vice-Chairperson, representing DACs Fulda
Catherine Hill, Secretary, representing parents of MR adults Slayton
Duane Ahlness, representing family service agencies Windom
Roger Berg, consumer with hearing impairment Marshall
Esther Bleyenberg, consumer with mental retardation Edgerton
Ardyce Bratrud, representing parents with MR adults Jackson
Londa Carlson, representing parents with MR adults Westbrook
Antoinette Gilles, consumer with visually-impairment Slayton
Rollin Haynes, representing SRDC Slayton
Deb Hogenson, representing residential facilities Brewster
Irene Holmquist, representing sheltered workshops Worthington
Eleanor Larson, representing ARC Hadley
Donna Laue, consumer with cerebral palsy Worthington
Maydra Maas, representing public health Redwood Falls
Mildred Paulsen, representing general public Steen
Ron Sandness, consumer with cerebral palsy Marshall
Dan Zimansky, representing DVR Worthington

SUPPORTED WORK GRANTS HELP DISABLED ADULTS KEEP JOBS

"I just love to work here at City Hall," exclaimed Christine Buse. "It's a nice place to work. I vacuum the City Hall and the Library, scrub floors and clean the bathroom. I come only for a few hours in the morning but would like to work all day."

At 26 years old, Christine Buse has been a client of the Murray County Developmental Achievement Center in Fulda for four and a half years. During the past year she and other developmentally disabled adults at the DAC have been working at part-time jobs in the community.

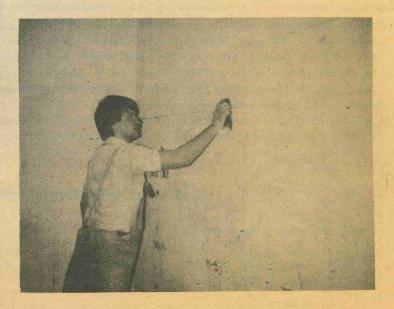
Murray County DAC is one of the nine agencies in the Region participating in the Southwest Developmental Disabilities Program at the Regional Development Commission. The other agencies include Canby DAC in Canby, Hope DAC in Ruthton, Jackson County DAC in Lakefield, Nobles County DAC in Worthington, Redwood County DAC in Redwood Falls, Swan Lake DAC in Windom, The Achievement Center in Worthington and REAL in Marshall. These agencies have committed staff time to getting at least eighteen of their clients part-time and full-time jobs in the communities.

The DD Program provides Ruthton. technical assistance and training to the agencies as well as funds reimbursing them for supported services for the clients on the job. Almost \$5,000 has been given to these agencies during the past year to pay for staff supervision and training of the clients once they are working, client fringe benefits such as workers compensation and unemployment, transportation, and other costs to Because of the commitcommunity.

director of Hope DAC in on the job.

"But we do not have the funds to pay for the supervision and training severely handicapped adults need so that they can learn the job and keep it. So we really appreciate the funds from the Southwest DD Program, and our clients working in Edgerton, Pipestone, Ruthton, and Tyler and like the opportunity to work and earn more money."

obtain and maintain ment and enthusiasm of jobs. These funds have the agencies, the been very beneficial to Southwest Developmental the adults with disabi- Disabilities Program lities so that they can has placed 42 clients keep the jobs in the in part-time or fulltime jobs during the last year. These "We are really commit- adults are being paid ted to supported work wages by their employfor our clients," ers based on their stated Cathy Nelson, level of productivity



Dale V. of Hope DAC in Ruthton enjoys working at the Tyler Locker Plant.

SOUTHWESTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING

"In Touch with the Region's Elderly"

AGING PROGRAM SUMMARY

During FY85, work continued on the three-year planning cycle for the Area Plan for Programs on Aging. The plan serves as a "blueprint" of goals and activities for the Aging Program of the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC). Goals and objectives address the areas of Advocacy, Service Development and Systems Development.

The SWAAA continues to work toward a comprehensive and coordinated system of services for older persons in the Region. Grants are awarded to help develop needed services and fill the gaps in the existing service system. Title IIIB grants totaling \$207,621 were awarded during FY85. Grants were made for such services as home health aide, transportation, legal services, hospice and program development. In addition, the SWAAA worked with the Southwestern Mental Health Center to develop a peer counseling program for the elderly which will be funded during FY86.

The Congregate Nutrition program was awarded \$248,699 in federal funds and \$99,260 in state funds during FY85. The program operates 21 mealsite throughout the Region, serving about 850 meals per day. Contributions average approximately \$1.26 per meal.

The Home Delivered Meals program was awarded \$52,735 during FY85. The program provides meals to homebound elderly in 16 communities, serving about 185 meals per day. Contributions for these meals average \$1.25 per meal.

The SWAAA received \$24,140 as part of its three-year McKnight Foundation grant program. During FY85 McKnight grants were awarded to Dovray, Edgerton, Garvin, Kenneth, Lismore, Woodstock and the Lower Sioux Indian Community.

The SWAAA sponsored its fifth annual regional conference on Aging in October, 1984. The theme for the conference was: "Never Too Old." Over 220 older persons and service providers attended this event which helped older persons become more informed about the issues which affect their lives. In addition, two workshops were held in March on Hearing Impairments & the Elderly. The workshops were designed to enhance understanding of the elderly's hearing problems, and to present techniques that can be used to deal with such problems.

In order to improve coordination of aging services in the Region, the SWAAA began holding quarterly "Aging Network" meetings. The meetings enable those who work in aging to share information, concerns, ideas and to avoid duplication of efforts through better coordination and communication. Persons representing county social service, health service, nursing homes, hospitals, and other aging service providers are invited to attend.

The SWAAA Advisory Council legislative subcommittee was established during FY85. The subcommittee worked in cooperation with other senior advocacy groups to review and comment on legislation which impacts on the lives of older persons.

The technical assistance role of the SWAAA included input in the development of CSSA and CHS plans, assisting several communities in obtaining foundation grants, providing information and assistance to independent meals on wheels providers, assisting several hospitals in examining the feasibility of home care program, and assisting in the development of respite care, counseling program and other services in the Region.

During FY85 the SWAAA Advisory Council began to examine the role of the AAA as well as its funding policies. The director of the SWAAA met with each county board to discuss the role and activities of the AAA. Since the SWAAA has "come of age" after 8 years of operation, it seem fitting that such self-evaluation should take place. During the coming year, the SWAAA will more closely examine its funding policies and role in the Region. A task force will be established to examine these issues, including the feasibility of a county allocation method of funding.



"Don't worry about growing old.

Most of the sugar is at the bottom of the cup"



SOUTHWESTERN AREA AGENCY ON AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL

1-10011 00011012
Thelma Kooiman, Chairperson Edgerton
Dave Accola Marshall
William Brakke Luverne
Russ Brewster Tracy
Everett Collin Windom
Jeanette Hauschild Ivanhoe
Mary G. Heery Redwood Falls
Mildred Jensen Lucan
Ethel Krukemeyer Brewster
Ferne Lundy Worthington
Ray Nelson Hills
Frank Robinson Pipestone
lone Tracy Mountain Lake
George Veenhuis Jackson
Roland Wray SRDC Representative
Dorothy Reker (ex-officio) RSVP
Helen Western (ex-officio) Senior Nutrition Services

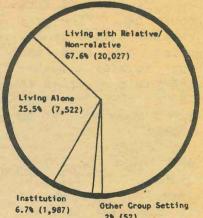
SOUTHWEST REGION LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

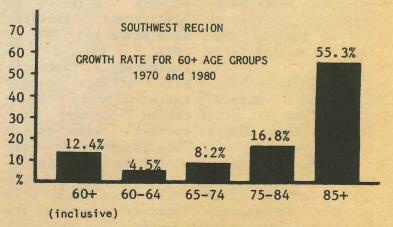
60+ Population - 1980

Total 60+ Population 29,618

*Most of the elderly in the Region (67.6%) live in households with other people.

*25.5% live alone, while 6.9% live in institutions or other groups settings.





*In the nine-county Region, the number of persons over the age of 60 increased from 26,348 in 1970 to 29,618 in 1980 (12.4%). This compares to the Minnesota State 60+ growth rate at 15%.

*The age group experiencing the largest percentage of growth in the Region was the 85+ (55.3%).

MCKNIGHT MONEY **MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

1985 marks the final year of a three year grant of McKnight Foundation funds awarded to the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging through the Minnesota Board on Aging. The funds were designated for senior citizen self-help projects and senior center renovation projects. The grant program was similar to the first McKnight senior center renovation program which ran from 1980 through 1982. Combined, the two grant programs represent a six year, \$123,531 investment by McKnight in Southwestern MN. Has it made a difference? You bet it has.

The Southwest Regional Development Commission has awarded McKnight grants to 38 different communities over the past six years. That represents more than half of the senior citizen clubs in the Region. In developing policies for awarding those grants, the SWAAA Advisory Council felt that it was important that the funds be used to help smaller towns that might not be able to meet the more restrictive requirements of federal Older Americans Act funds. Such policies enabled even tiny towns like Dovray (pop. 87) and Kenneth (pop. 95) to benefit from the foundation funds and ensure that their senior citizens have adequate facilities to gather in.

SWAAA Advisory Council has had a long standing commitment to the development and improvement of such Says facilities. Advisory Council Chairperson Thelma Kooiman of Edgerton: "A senior center is a social nucleus that brings older people together for fellowship and for activities which help them continue to grow as individuals. It provides a source of information about all kinds of services and opportunities available to them. The McKnight funds have enabled us to help many centers and touch many lives."



McKnight check received by Lower Sioux Indian Community, left to right: Carol Bishop, AAA Director; Mary Heery, AAA Advisory Council; Evelyn Prescott, Sr. Citizens President; Dottie Bluestone, Sr. Citizens Program Manager.

A good example of the difference McKnight foundation funds have made in the lives of older persons is the Lower Sioux Indian Community. During the past year, SWAAA staff have worked with Lower Sioux to develop a center and an active program for the senior citizens on the reser-The older vation. persons at Lower Sioux were interested in gathering together for activities but had no adequate meeting place. In addition, the Tribal Council was interested in pursuing a grant for Indian Tribes from the Federal Administration on Aging to develop a senior citizens program on the reservation. The center could serve as a focal point for such a program. An for application McKnight funds was developed through technical assistance from the SWAAA, and the SRDC awarded \$3,500 to Lower Sioux. The center was completed in June, 1985 and Lower Sioux was also awarded its federal funds (under Title VI of the Older Americans Act). Dottie Bluestone, senior citizens program manager, says that the center will be well utilized. It will help alleviate problems of loneliness and isolation by giving the elders a place to gather together. Transportation service is available to help seniors get to the Congregate center. meals will be prepared and served at the center and meals will also be delivered to the homebound. Visits

from the public health

nurse, legal services

and other service providers will also form part of the senior citizens program. In addition to the McKnight funds, SWAAA staff have provided assistance and resource materials in establishing the program. "We really appreciate the help of the Area Agency on Aging staff" said Evelyn Prescott, president of the senior citizens group.

McKnight funds have helped a large number groups like Lower Sioux. Through renovation/construction improve energy conservation, handicap accessibility as well as general repair, the funds have ensured that older citizens in our Region will have adequate facilities.

RESOURCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE

FREE FROM AAA.

- ** The Golden Pages
 - -A directory of resources and services for older persons.
- Consumers Guide to Nursing Homes of Southwest Minnesota
- ** Variety of films, slide/ tape programs and videotapes related to Aging
- ** Library of resource materials and publications on Aging

OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDS MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

Something's happening to the senior citizens Nobles County. Something's terrific. District 518 Community Education's senior citizen program development project. Funded under an Older Americans Act grant from the SRDC, the project has been the catalyst for a number of developments in the

The idea for the project was brought to the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging in 1984. Jerry Fiola, Director of District 518 Community Education, felt that the project would help to facilitate greater coordination and development of programs needed by older persons in the district. With technical assistance application was developed and the Southwest Regional Development awarded Commission year of the project. of senior citizen It has proven to be a through classes and very worthwhile invest- activities at the high

> One of the first orders Community Education has of business for the created a whole host of project was the crea- new course offerings to tion of a senior meet the needs and Advisory Made-up citizen representatives events have from the district, the organized through the committee helps to project, such as the identify the needs and Senior Citizen Recogniseniors. From there, Northland Mall during program shared and implemented. Finally, through joint The seniors take an input from the Senior active leadership role Citizens in this process. One Committee example of their Senior Concerns Commitinvolvement is the tee, the project is stimulus they provided to the city of Worthington in studying the existing that transit whether the city of working with the City of Worthington to make improvements on the local Community/Senior services, and whether Center. they meet the needs of local the stimulus to make a better life for older things happen." persons.

> Karen Magyar, project coordinator, is the one primarily responsible for mobilizing efforts to make things happen. Some of these things include the establishment of "Widowed Persons Service" in which widowed persons help the newly bereaved to cope with their situation. Acting upon recent legislation which gives older insurance persons discounts for taking an approved safe driving course, two sessions have been held with more planned to meet public demand. Two major "senior days" have been held with workshops as well as fun activities. The high attendance these events prove that learning is a lifelong experience and seniors continue to be interested in personal growth. Other workshops have been held such as one on Alzheimers Disease which helped older from the SWAAA, a grant persons and caregivers to learn more about coping with this sad and frustrating disease. The project has \$15,000 for the first also brought programs to the homes of seniors rises, as well as through Cable TV.

Committee. interests of seniors. of senior In addition, community interests of local tion Day held at the ideas are Older Americans Month. Advisory and the

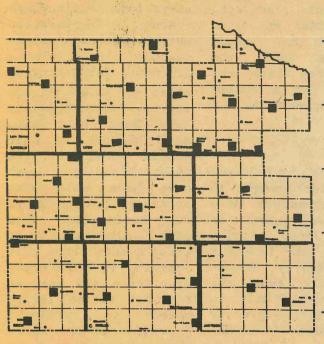
residents. These are just some of Another success of the the things happening as project was the crea- a result of the pro-tion of a "Senior ject. There are Concerns Committee" constantly new ideas, made up of local new challenges, new service providers of activities, all in the elderly. The group response to local need. meets periodically to The project serves as discuss local needs, an excellent example of improve coordination how Older Americans Act and share ideas. As funds are helping one committee member communities to meet stated "The grant was their needs and create

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

"Developing Public/Private Partnerships for Job Creation and Community Stability"

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

Substantial economic and community development progress was achieved during the year by the SRDC on behalf of local ogranizations. Highlighted below are a number of these accomplishments:



- Made over 120 economic development contacts in 37 communities covering all nine counties.
- Secured funding for 9 projects generating nearly \$7 million dollars in new investment and creating 123 new jobs and retaining 253.
- Assisted three communities in becoming Star Cities by developing local economic development capacity achieved through the active participation by citizens.
- Held a regional workshop for area municipalities explaining small city computer software available to increase local governments operational efficiency.
- Worked with agricultural related businesses affected by the Federal Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program in obtaining financial assistance through the Small Business Administration (SBA).
- Provided census and statistical information to 26 local units of government, non-profit organizations and the general public.
- Studied the impact of new Medicare Prospective Payment System on regional hospitals.
- Surveyed regional prevailing wage rates for highway construction, and presented to Dept.
 of Labor staff a request to reduce the current Davis-Bacon wage rates for county public
 work projects.
- Provided community development technical assistance to: Tracy, Round Lake, Milroy, Hendricks, Slayton, Edgerton, Chandler, Ivanhoe, Adrian, Jeffers, Garvin, Delft, Dovray, and Ruthton.

PRAIRIELAND ENTERS SECOND YEAR

Prairieland Economic Development Corporation (PEDCorp) is now in its second year of operation as an SBA 503 Certified Development Company. To date, Prairieland has generated over \$1.1 million in new investment activity and added 50 job opportunities for area residents.

Prairieland's purpose is to help communities by stimulating the growth and expansion of small businesses within the nine county area of SW Minnesota. SBA-certified development companies provide long-term, fixed asset financing. By providing this service PEDCorp. enables communities to create jobs, increase their tax base, and expand business ownership opportunities. Through this joint public/private partnership program, financing for the acquisition of land, building construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment is available to small business concerns for up to 25 years.

Prairieland members, recognizing the impact small businesses could and have had on SW Minnesota, organized a local corporation to address the financial needs of area businesses. A major problem facing small and medium size businesses today is the difficulty in securing long-term credit. Most commercial banks are predominantly short to medium-term lenders (five to ten years); most savings institutions are legally required to be residential lenders; and, the majority of insurance companies and pension funds prefer large projects of over \$1 million.

Large businesses can sell bonds (debentures), or get other types of long-term financing for factory buildings or equipment. Long-term financing for commercial or industrial property for small businesses, however, is more difficult to obtain. There are few readily available sources, particularly in distressed rural areas. Yet, small businesses need long term financing for growth and expansion purposes.

Prairieland Economic Development Corporation allows private lenders to meet these long-term credit needs through SBA supported loans, based on subordinated SBA second mortgage financings in the form of 100% SBA guaranteed debentures. Prairieland's public/private partnership program, by providing collateral substitution and increasing the collateral cushion decreases the collateral and maturity risk a lender may face. And, the low down payment requirement allows the business to allocate more funds towards the main function of the firms-inventory and receivables-where sales and profits are generated.

Prairieland Economic Development Corporation members encourage any local business in need of an affordable fixed-asset financing package to call the corporate office at (507) 836-8549 for further details.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
Susan Kay Bakke Russell
Burdell "Bud" Bush Hills
Richard Cotter Brewster
Milford Gentz, Chairman Lakefield
Woody Kramer, Vice-Chairman Vesta
Norman Madsen Arco
Paul Mettling Slayton
Chaus Donking Pinestone

MINNEOTA RETAINS LOCAL INDUSTRY

Michael Prescott Lower Sioux Community

Dwayne Purrington Marshall

Ed Quiring Mountain Lake

Karen Tommeraasen Slayton

Minneota was recently awarded \$87,000, through the MN Economic Recovery Program, to assist Superior Truss, Inc. Superior Truss is a manufacturer of wooden floor and roof trusses for residential and industrial structures. The owner of the company had previously been approached by a South Dakota city with an attractive offer to relocate there. Faced with the dilemma of losing its major industry and employer, the City called on the SRDC to assist them tailor a financial package containing the "bottom line" incentive Superior Truss needed to remain profitable in Minnesota. Along with the grant the City will loan to Superior Truss, Minneota will be using tax increment financing to assist the company in developing site improvements for their new location. In addition, private bank financing will provide \$150,000 for the construction of a new building. The State's Minnesota Fund, a financing program for small business expansion projects, will lend the company \$52,000 to purchase new machinery and equipment.

In total, the expansion represents \$310,000 in new investment for Minneota. This was welcome news to a community recovering from the loss of six businesses over the past three years. Technical assistance provided by the SRDC will allow Superior Truss to remain in Minneota, expand the size of their operation, acquire new equipment, and create/retain 34 local jobs.



BUSINESSMAN "SRDC DID ALL THE WORK FOR US"

"We were overcrowded and needed to expand our building," declared Rod Huisken, owner of Huisken Meat Center in Chandler. The SRDC really did all the work for us, so the application process to get a loan was not difficult at all."

In late summer, 1984 Chandler received \$72,000 under the Small Cities Economic Development Program to establish a revolving loan fund to assist in the expansion of Huisken Plant and purchase some equipment. The application was matched by a \$400,000 industrial revenue bond. Fifteen jobs were created with this project. Huiskens will pay back the loan over a 12½-year period. Chandler will then have funds available to assist other business endeavors. "The loan has been very beneficial to us," emphasized Rod Huisken. "Now that this project is almost done, I'm going to work on another project that we are concerned about -- the workers compensation system."

REGION RECEIVES EDA DESIGNATION

Because of the current distressed farm economy and the long-term desire to diversify the Region's economy, the SRDC office has been actively involved in securing outside funding sources to compliment on-going local economic development programs. Although the SRDC recognizes the present federal/state budget reduction trend, Commission members were determined to obtain EDA designation in order to advance their economic development efforts to local governments and private businesses. As a result of the Commission's determination, the EDA has chosen SW Minnesota as one of five new areas in the nation to become an economic district, thus allowing the Region access to several business and industrial development funding programs available through EDA.



Marshall's EDA project made improvements to the Sewage Waste Treatment Facility to increase and improve processing capabilities and eliminate the existing odor problems.

In short, the SRDC's successful effort will permit the Commission to achieve two major objectives: 1)become a designated economic development district; and 2) obtain planning funds to complete a specific, action-oriented economic development technical assistance program. By meeting these objectives, the EDA designation will positively impact the regional economy by greatly accelerating the Commission's economic development activities at a critical time - when the agricultural sector is suffering severe economic problems.

Past business development activities have been entirely funded through local resources. With the assistance from the Economic Development Administration, the SRDC will be in a position to greatly improve its ability to generate higher levels of private investment, create new jobs, diversify the Region's industrial sector, and broaden the local tax base without further straining the limited local pool of financial resources.

Presently, three counties (Lincoln, Lyon, Murray) qualify as EDA redevelopment areas. These three counties will now become eligible for a ten percent bonus over the existing 50-50% grant rate for EDA public works projects. The City of Worthington will also become eligible for EDA grant and loan assistance based on the OEDP's certification as an economic growth center in the Region.

Additional benefits will occur to the entire nine county area, if the SRDC can secure economic development planning funds through the EDA. These funds would increase the Commission's ability to address the Region's decreasing population trends; high out-migration levels; low income figures; high poverty rates; and, the depressed agricultural sector.

In the past, three EDA applications have been processed and approved for funding within the Region. Lyon County received EDA funds for a law enforcement project, and the City of Marshall was awarded grant monies for two public works projects addressing industrial park development. Marshall's most recent approved EDA project provided the City with a \$450,000 matching grant to upgrade their wastewater treatment facility. As a result a local firm remained in Marshall, expanded their operation, and generated \$4.5 million in new investment.

The Marshall experience illustrates the impact EDA assistance can have on a community. And while program participation has been weak in the past, the SRDC plans to effectively market EDA programs in a more comprehensive manner in order to inform all eligible local units of government about EDA's programs and benefits.

The SRDC fully realizes the EDA designation and the development programs associated with it are not a panacea for SW Minnesota. However, EDA programs will provide an additional economic development tool, which when used effectively, will lead toward a more diverse regional economy and provide more jobs for area residents.

LOCAL UNITS APPRECIATE SRDC ASSISTANCE

"We sure appreciated the Regional Development Commission's help," stated Lloyd Dahl of Diamond Lake Township in Lincoln "The forms County. they developed really helped us meet the Federal Revenue Sharing requirements on handicapped accessibility."

During summer and fall, 1984 the Southwest Regional Development Commission staff distributed to townships, cities and counties a summary and a model form for documenting the Federal Revenue Sharing Self-Evaluation / Transition Plans. Constructive review and comments were provided on the Plans of ten townships, thirteen cities, and 3 counties.

FEY INDUSTRIES PRAISE SRDC FOR GETTING THEIR APPLICATION MOVING

had putting together the employ an additional 52 application for us. persons. Then when the project wasn't going anywhere, the SRDC worked with the State and City to move things along so we could get the funds when our equipment arrived."

Through the Small Cities Economic Development Program, the City of Edgerton received \$130,667 to establish a revolving loan fund.

considered Fey Industries, Inc. moving to South Dakota received \$128,667 in a because we were growing low-interest loan from at a faster rate than this fund and it we anticipated," noted provided \$256,333 in Norm Fey of Fey Indus- private funds to tries, Inc., in Edger- purchase new ultraton. "We needed to violet printing equippurchase additional ment. Feys currently equipment to keep up employs roughly 150 with our printing persons in Pipestone orders. The Regional County and at the end Development Commission of this project in was very helpful in December, 1987 will



Oscar VanEssen, Mayor of Edgerton, & Norm Fey of Fey Industries examine new printing equipment.

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

With SRDC assistance the Cities of Adrian, Edgerton and Hendricks have completed a comprehensive community needs assessment. With prioritized, specific action steps were developed to address each community's respective needs.

Adrian's most pressing need is to improve their water and sewer capacity. The City will now be drawing up a program to drill two new city wells and upgrade their sewer lagoon. Edgerton's top priority is to attract a small, light manufacturers. While developing a industrial prospecting program civic leaders will also be addressing the need to encourage a unified store front theme for downtown businesses. Business retention, and job creation strategies will be critical areas for the City of Hendricks if they are to compete with border state cities.

SRDC HOUSING ACTIVITIES PROVIDE 44 MORE UNITS

several encourage the expansion areas of highest need.

Slayton, assisted a an 18-bed residential ly completed facility for severely regional FmHA review. and profoundly handi-

Regional capped adults. Prairie-Development Commission view is currently under has been involved in construction and will communities be open for residents over the past year to in mid-September, 1985.

of housing units in A local developer in Hendricks requested SRDC assistance staff doing the needs assesslocal ment for an 8-unit developer and the City Farmers Home Adminisof Slayton coordinate a tration Section 515 bond issue, and the project. The applicaappropriate permits for tion packet was recent-

> SRDC staff, also assisted the City of Adrian in revising the financing mechanism for the 18-unit Slade Hotel Rehabilitation Project.

> SRDC Economic Community Development Committee provided input in the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency's 1985 housing allocation formula.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

"Seeking Solutions to Meet Rural Needs"

Peg Michaels, Executive Director of the Governor's Council on Rural Development, spoke at the January Full Commission meeting, she encouraged the Commissioners to assess their local needs and identify specific projects that Governor's Council could fund in southwestern Minnesota.

The Commissioners decided to take Michaels at her word. submitted a grant request to conduct an assessment of the needs of southwestern Minnesota. and develop solutions or ideas to meet those needs. The grant has been funded, and the SRDC has started the Rural Development Strategies Project with additional staff assistance from Gengler Colleen of Nobles County Ag-Extension.

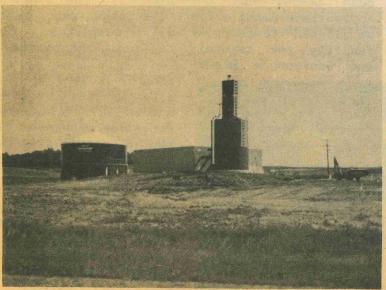
A Steering Committee has been organized, composed of representatives from agriculture, small business, bankers, non-profit organizations, Soil

Conservation Water Agricultural Board. Extension. Farmer's Administration, education and news

The Committee already held 4 meetings to assess the needs in southwestern Minnesota and identify potential solutions. A public forum was held on July 1985 to present these needs and solutions for public comment. Approximately 50 individuals attended the meeting and offered many suggestions and support for the project. According to Carl Hauschild, Chairperson of the Rural Development Strategies Committee, "the public hearing was very successful in alerting persons in southwestern Minnesota about this project and in getting their ideas."

During late summer and fall, 1985 the Steering Committee will finalize the report, and begin working writing on grants to fund those solutions.

GCRD STEERING COMMITTEE Carl Hauschild, Chairman Minneota Linda Berre Marshall Dorothy Bloemendaal Lake Wilson Wally Christensen Pipestone Gordon Ellefson Jackson Al Gruis Rushmore Wendy Johnson Luverne Jack Jungas Mountain Lake Woody Kramer Vesta Phil Larsen Luverne Walter Olson Sanborn Jerry Perkins Worthington Dennis Roning Hills Irv Sether Jackson Tim Clawson (ex-officio) Luverne Curt Corbin (ex-officio) Worthington Colleen Gengler (ex-officio) Worthington Bob Johnson (ex-officio) Marshall Jo Pertz (ex-officio) Worthington Lee Raske (ex-officio) Marshall



RED ROCK RURAL WATER: A MULTI-COUNTY EFFORT

RECIONAL ISSUES/NEEDS

An advisory committee to the Southwest Regional Development Commission composed of farmers, businesses, education, bankers, non-profit organizations, women's groups, Ag-Extension, Soil and Conservation Board, FmHA, and news media has developed the following list of regional issues/needs and potential solutions from their own expertise and contact with their constituent groups. Due to space limitations, only the highest needs and first two solutions have been listed.

STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY

Regional Issues/Needs

- Maintain family farm.
- Need new ways to diversify and market crops. Upgrade corn and bean processing to higher
- Must bring in new industry (manufacturing or ag-processing) for area labor force.

Solutions

- Develop new ag-processing plants. Establish pre-processing plants of corn soybean, livestock and dairy.
- Investigate diversification of crop production and marketing.

DIVERSIFICATION OF REGIONAL ECONOMY

- Ag-related businesses hurting because of poor Establish a venture capital pool of farm economy; need more jobs.
- Need better local development.
- Need adequate income for both male and female Promote regional and county business
- heads of households.
- Maintain existing businesses.
- Need a "Saturn" economic development program for Southwest Minnesota.
- funds to provide a percentage of funds to new or expanding businesses.
- teams composed of chambers, economic bankers, development corporations, education, SCORE, to provide financial packaging of businesses and technical assistance in management, marketing,

GOVERNMENT/LEGISLATION

- Workers comp and unemployment costs have sky-
- rocketed
- Better tax incentives should be offered for businesses.
- Need a unified Southwest Minnesota approach to legislation.
- Prioritize public dollars for business development.
- Minnesota Legislature should lower workers compensation and unemployment costs.
- State Legislature should provide tax incentives for farmers and businesses rather than disincentives.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Media should be more balanced about quality of life and services in Southwest Minnesota
- Urban people do not understand farming or rural issues.
- People need to know where to go for resources.
- Local media should be encouraged to display a more positive image of
- Southwest Minnesota. Regional brochure to attract new busi-
- nesses should be developed and distributed statewide and through surrounding states.

RED ROCK RURAL WATER: A MULTI-COUNTY EFFORT

"We need a high quality, plentiful and safe water supply" was what one Cottonwood County farmer declared almost 5 years ago. The farmer talked to his neighbors, and today this idea has grown to where the water system is in the construction stage, and will serve over 300 rural area farmers and the cities of Dovray, Garvin and Delft.

The first time the SRDC became involved in the rural water issue was at a Block Grant workshop in 1981, where questions were raised on the feasibility of starting a Rural Water System for a small area north of Windom. In other workshops in 1982, several cities showed an interest in a dependable water supply. There were several discussions with other rural water systems and with a engineer on the feasibility of a rural water system to serve an area consisting of a majority of Cottonwood County, and a portion of Watonwan, Brown, Redwood, Lyon and Murray Counties. Sign-up fees were solicited, and the multi-county Red Rock Rural Water System was underway.

The cities of Delft, Dovray and Garvin formed a joint powers agreement, and were assisted in applying for a Small Cities Development Grant by the community development specialist of the SRDC. The grant in the amount of \$505,258, was approved to pay for the cost of piping, storage, and the treatment plant to allow Red Rock Rural Water to serve these cities. Additionally the three cities provided \$12,602 to cover the cost of installing the water distribution system within each city.

The project was held up by court proceedings for about two years. An environment impact study was done and approved, the project was ordered, and the bids and specs were approved. Time and inflation caused an increase of cost for the project and additional funds were sought from FmHA to help Garvin build a booster station. Actual construction on the project started in April of 1985. Completion with no major delays, is expected before winter. The SRDC has a contract with the City of Dovray, which is the lead city, to administer the program through the construction

As you travel on Highway 30 just East of Jeffers, look south and you will see a water tower against the skyline. At first a persons tries to remember what town is over there! But it is not a town -- it is a 100,000 gallon storage tank system. The contractors have also been busy laying pipe from the well to the treatment plant, to the tower and to the homes. By October, 1985 it is expected that these three towns, and about 300 rural subscribers will be enjoying safe water for themselves and their livestock.

PARKS AND RECREATION

"Committee Initiates Involvement"

PARKS AND RECREATION SUMMARY

Over the year, the SRDC's Parks and Recreation Committee increased its emphasis on becoming more active in park and recreation issues. The SRDC monitored legislation, and contacted local legislators, to indicate their opposition regarding the Department of Natural Resources's proposed budget cuts that would have reduced or closed the functions of State parks in the Region. The Commission provided input on the DNR's Draft 1986-87 Action Program and Open Project Selection Process which is implemented through the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). In the 1986 LAWCON/LCMR Grant Cycle, the SRDC's objective is to play a major role in the development of local grant applications.

LCMR GRANT PROGRAM APPROVED

During the 1985 Legislation session, the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) proposed a new that grant program would create a special set aside for the development of athletic field facilities. The SRDC argued for and strongly supported this legislation, since it would guarantee money for outstate athletic field improvements. This was the first year of the special set aside grant program, and many applicants

applied. It is hoped that this will reduce the competition for scarce grant assistance between natural outdoor, and athletic gerton, Hardwick, Rushfield facilities.

PARK SITES VISITED

On May 28th, members of the SRDC Parks and Recreation Committee, local citizens, and SRDC strong support demonstaff conducted a re- strated by local offigional park tour with cials during the tour MN DEED representative will be helpful in se-Gretchen Blank. During curing park assistance.

the tour park sites were inspected, and the SRDC assisted in supporting each entities application for park funding. park The tours were held in: Redwood Falls, Lyon County, Pipestone, Edmore, Jackson County, Heron Lake, Mountain Lake, and Cottonwood County.

Funding for the LAWCON/ LCMR programs is very competitive, however the SRDC hopes that the

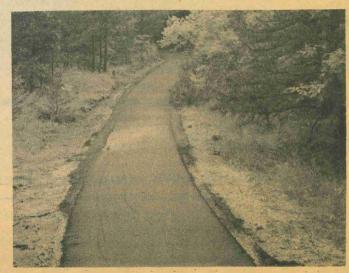
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

	Raymond Jensen, Chairman Springfield
	Roland Wray Heron Lake
	Loren Carlson Heron Lake
Ä	Ted Ruppert Tyler
	Paul Knoblauch Amiret
	Susan Bakke Russell
	Leland Priebe Hadley
	Charles Cunningham Pipestone
	James Derickson Lamberton
	Merten Peterson Hardwick

RAMSEY PARK FUNDED

In 1984, the City of Program. The Redwood trail development in Alexander Ramsey Park was approved for funding from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources door Recreation Grants State.

Redwood Falls' preli- Falls project was 1 of minary application for only 15 out state grant applications to receive approval, outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The total project was \$85,671, of which \$42,835.50 will (LCMR) Parks and Out- be provided by the



Ramsey Park Trail System Built With LCMR/LAWCON Funds and SRDC Assistance

TRANSPORTATION

"Impacting Regional Highway Issues"

TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY

The Southwest Regional Development Commission continued its coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) in the planning and development of a comprehensive transportation system in southwest Minnesota. The SRDC Transportation Committee has held meetings with both the Regional Coordinator, and the Willmar District Engineer regarding highway priorities. The Commission also completed a Highway Maintenance Cost Containment Study, and prepared two applications for MN/DOT's 16(b)(2) Elderly and Handicapped Assistance Program for Murray County DAC and Adrian, MN.

Technical assistance was provided to the Cities of Slayton, Luverne, and to Redwood County Township of Charlestown. The issues included street improvements, bike path development, and bridge replacement, respectively.

SPRING RESTRICTIONS EFFECT REGION

In its efforts to effectively serve residents of Southwest Minnesota, the SRDC has been actively involved in the issue of spring weight restrictions on the Region's highways. Weight restrictions were identified as one of the primary regional issues in the SRDC's Transportation Plan. A hearing to discuss weight impacts was held by members of the MN Senate Transportation

Subcommittee in the fall of 1984, at Marshall. The SRDC provided testimony at the hearing; which identified a number of issues relating to the economic impacts of weight restrictions in southwest Minnesota. At the request of the Senate Committee, a detailed study was completed and submitted to various state agencies to promote an expanded 10 ton road system.



Trunk Highway 264 located between Nobles and Jackson County.

CANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

THE STATE OF THE S			
Loren Carlson, Chairman Heron Lake			
Ed Quiring Mountain Lake			
Jim Miller Windom			
Carl Hauschild Minneota			
Ed Paradis Balaton			
Paul Mettling Slayton			
Rollin Haynes Stayton			
Richard Cotter Brewster			
Robert Feeken Rushmore			
Joseph Stepanek Ruthton			
Darold Neperman Lamberton			
Woody Kramer Vesta			
Merten Peterson Hardwick			

HIGHWAY PRIORITIES APPROVED

On July 16, 1985, the SRDC approved the Region's 1985 highway improvement priorities. These priorities were developed by the Transportation Committee through the application of locally determined criteria. The Committee will use the priorities to impact 'MnDOT's Five Year Work Program.

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HIGHMAY DEPROVEMENT PRIORITIES JULY 1985

TRUCK	ROAD SEGUENT AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	MN/DOT DISTRICT
60	Morthington to B. Cottonwood County Line-Continuation of improvements as scheduled	Mankato
86	Iowa Border to I-90-widen, overlay	Mankato
59	Slayton to TH 14-reconstruction	Willmer
14	TH 71 to Revere-widen, overlay	Willmar
30	W. Murray County Line to TH 71-widen, overlay to weight level	Mankato
30	TH 59 to W. Cottonwood County Line-overlay	HARRACO
	to weight level	Willmar
59	TH 16 to Marshall-reconstruction	Willmar
14	Revere to TH 59-widen, overlay	Willmar
23	Jasper to I-90-reconstruction	Mankato
67	Redwood Falls to Morgan	Willmar
266	Wilmont to Worthington-routine	Mankato
19	Marshall to Ivanhoe-upgrade to 10 ton	Willmar
86 91	I-90 to TH 60-reseal, maintenance I-90 to M. Mobles County Line-overlay,	Mankato
	maintenance	Willmar
62	Windom to Fulda-maintenance	Mankato
273	TH 19 to Belview-maintenance	Willmar
68	TH 59 to TH 71-maintenance	Willmar
270	Hills to TH 75-maintenance	Mankato
268	Edgerton to TH 75-maintenance	Willmer
269	Jasper to S.D. Line-maintenance	Mankato
267	Iona to TH 30-maintenance	Willer
271	TH 19 to S.D. Line-maintenance	Will
264	I-90 to Round Lake-upgrade to 9 ton	Mankato

LAND USE

"Preparing Today's Region for Tomorrow"

LAND USE SUMMARY

During the 1985 Fiscal Year, the SRDC continued its land use and environmental planning program. The Land Use Committee held quarterly meetings in order to discuss soil loss, ag-land preservation, and water planning issues. The SRDC worked with Lincoln County and the Department of Agriculture officials in exploring the Ag-Land Preservation Program. Slayton was provided with technical assistance regarding zoning issues. The SRDC also initiated work with Adrian, and has had preliminary contacts with the Cities of Luverne and Magnolia concerning the development of city plans. The SRDC will continue its involvement with the Region's communities to insure that future developments are environmentally sound.



ADRIAN DEVELOPS PLAN

Adrian is currently having a land use plan prepared for them by the SRDC. The plan will be utilized by the City as a guide for decision making. The scheduled completion of the plan is for the fall of 1985. Pictured to the left is Mayor Lawrence and Council Member Heitkamp.

SOLID WASTE

"Counties Develop New Technologies"

SOLID WASTE SUMMARY

During the fiscal year 1985, solid waste management became an increasingly important issue for the SRDC. With new regulations being mandated to the counties, it became evident that the SRDC should increase its technical assistance in this area. Meetings were attended at Mountain Lake and Redwood Falls to discuss the possibility of developing a waste to energy incineration facilities at nearby industries. The SRDC staff also conducted bi-annual site visits to the Region's sanitary landfills with county solid waste officers. Information was provided to the City of Balaton concerning possible recycling programs available to both the city and Lyon County. Additionally, multi-county solid waste planning and recycling programs were initiated.

MPCA MEETS WITH SRDC

The SRDC has been pursuing the solid waste management issue in many ways this past year.

First of all, when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) came out with its Draft Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Planning and Certificate of Need Rule, the SRDC saw that it was necessary to bring representatives of MPCA to our Region so that they could hear the concerns of local officials and citizens.

At the meetings, local officials brought to the attention of the MPCA representatives, the fact that many rural areas should not be on the same compliance schedule as the urban counties. By providing strong input concerning the compliance schedule for completing county solid waste plans, most counties in the Region were provided the longest compliance period (5 yrs). However, at the request of our counties work is expected to begin soon on local waste management plans and disposal alternative options.

Secondly, the SRDC provided testimony at regional MPCA meetings regarding other upcoming mandated regulations that will affect our counties. (i.e. landfill financial assurance rules, and grant and loan assistance programs).

JACKSON COUNTY SOLUTION

One of the available alternatives to landfilling is incineration. This is when the refuse is taken to a incineration facility and burned to create energy in the form of steam. This is the type of waste recovery method Jackson County and four other counties have been working on for a number of years. The other counties are: Martin, Faribault, Watonwan, and Emmet county in Iowa.



Pipestone County Landfill

LAND USE/SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE		
Carl Hauschild, Chairman Minneota		
Abner Brandt Lakefield		
Ted Ruppert Tyler		
Norman Madsen Arco		
Paul Knoblauch Amiret		
Paul Mettling Slayton		
James Veenhuis Slayton		
Gerald Mulder Rushmore		
Robert Feeken Rushmore		
Clayton Ihlen Pipestone		
Joseph Stepanek Ruthton		
Darold Neperman Lamberton		
James Derickson Lamberton		
Dennis Roning Hills		

PIPESTONE ORDINANCES AMENDED

At the end of 1984, the SRDC fulfilled its contract with the City of Pipestone. The SRDC provided assistance to the City to amend its zoning and subdivision ordinances. These amendments dealt with rezoning districts within the City.

DID YOU KNOW

Region's Land Use By Category/40 Acre Parcels

Cultivated	82,909
Pasture & Open	8,501
Forested	480
Water	1,008
Swamp/Marsh	310
Urban	1,173
Extractive	31
Transport	29
The second second	100

REGION 8 94,441



Rock Co. Solid Waste Officer Arnie Johnson discusses covering practices with Landfill Operator Arnie Vink.

The incineration facility would burn 50 to 90 tons of solid waste a day, and provide steam heat to three Fairmont manufacturing plants.

Currently, the interested counties are preparing to apply for grant assistance from the WMB Solid Waste Grant and Loan Program. The grant money would provide \$2 million towards the project. The SRDC worked diligently with the County to establish this fund.

PIPESTONE'S LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS

In the early 1980's, Pipestone County was fined by MPCA. violation was due to inadequate leachate drainage on DNR lands; and improper landfilling practices outside the property line. Since that time, the County has complied with court orders to mitigate the violation findings. These have included tree plantings, recycling, and joining with counties to resolve solid waste management. MPCA Regional Specialist Mark Jacobs stated that, "the landfill has improved greatly since the initial fine, but also improves monthly". The County has shown its ability to work together in taking control of solid waste.