



Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission

07 - 0071

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January 16, 2007

Robbie LaFleur, Director
Legislative Reference Library
ATTN: Acquisitions Department
645 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1050

Dear Mr. LaFleur:

Pursuant to Minn. Statute 462.393 Subd.2, please find enclosed a copy of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission's five-year self-evaluation report.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Paul Michaelson
Executive Director

PM:kk

Enc.

PURPOSE AND METHODS

The 2006 self-evaluation of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC) was conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statute 462.393, Subdivision 2. Every five years the regional development commission is required to review its activities and file a report on its findings.

This evaluation was conducted by means of a community survey. The survey was mailed to approximately 200 individuals and public entities representing the local units of government and citizens within Region 6W. A full copy of the survey is attached for your review.

Of those responding to specific questions:

- 55 percent of respondents viewed themselves as either very knowledgeable or knowledgeable about the Commission. Thirty-three percent were somewhat knowledgeable and 11 percent not knowledgeable.
- 80 percent had worked with the UMVRDC over the last five years.
- 55 percent felt the UMVRDC had been very responsive and 42 percent felt the UMVRDC had been responsive to their requests.
- 67 percent were completely satisfied and 33 percent somewhat satisfied with the service they received from the UMVRDC.
- 94 percent judged the overall quality of service as good to excellent, while six percent judged it as fair.
- 97 percent rated the effectiveness and professional capabilities of the UMVRDC staff to be good to excellent, while three percent judged it as fair.

Survey respondents identified economic development, community development, aging, transportation and renewable energy as issues of most importance to the region.

Overall, the UMVRDC views the results of the self-evaluation as very positive. The UMVRDC feels the report documents support for the UMVRDC and verifies that the existence of the UMVRDC is in the public's welfare and interest.

November 28, 2006

To Key Stakeholders:

The Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission (UMVRDC/Region 6W) is in the process of conducting a self-evaluation. The results will be reviewed and utilized by the UMVRDC members to insure that their constituent's needs are being met to the best of our ability. The results will also be sent to the Legislative Reference Library, Secretary of the Senate, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives as well as our local elected officials. The primary function of the evaluation is a legislative requirement to determine whether or not the UMVRDC is serving the public's best interest.

A secondary purpose is to assess the needs of the Local Units of Government (LUG) we serve and use the results to set our work program in a manner that best addresses the needs of our constituents. As an example, we have been receiving requests and/or inquiries from various LUGs on whether or not we could potentially provide staffing for shared services. Examples of specific services include: computer support technician, human resource specialist and grants writer/researcher. As part of this survey we would like to better assess the interest by LUGs to participate in the above-shared services or others that you may have an interest in. **If your unit of government does have an interest in sharing any of these services, please take the time to complete the specific questions related to the service you are interested in.** If enough folks are interested we will follow-up as needed.

We greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete the enclosed survey and return to our office no later than December 15. A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and please contact Gary at (320-289-2090) or Paul at the UMVRDC office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Gary Hendrickx
Chairman

Sincerely,



Paul Michaelson
Executive Director

**Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission
Assessment Survey**

Please assist us by taking a few minutes of your time to fill out the questions below. A self-addressed envelope is provided for your convenience in returning the survey. Thank you.

1. How knowledgeable are you of the UMRDC and its programs?
 Very Knowledgeable
 Knowledgeable
 Somewhat Knowledgeable
 Not Knowledgeable

2. Have you or your organization had an opportunity to work with the UMRDC staff over the past five years? Yes No

3. Which of the following best describes who you represent?

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> City Official |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Official |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School District | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribe |

4. In what areas have you had experience with the UMRDC staff? (Check all that apply)

| | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Census | <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Development (Trails and Parks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Revolving Loan Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical or Planning Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazard Mitigation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism (Byway, Prairie Waters, Meander) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |

5. What kind of service or assistance did you receive?

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Funding (suggestions, grants, loans) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group Facilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Report/Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Training | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

6. How responsive has the UMRDC been to your questions, needs?
 Very Responsive
 Responsive
 Unresponsive
 Very Unresponsive

7. How do you judge the overall quality of service that the UMVRDC provides?
 Excellent Poor
 Good Don't know
 Fair
8. How satisfied were you with the service you received?
 Completely Satisfied Somewhat Satisfied Not Satisfied
9. What areas do you foresee seeking assistance from the UMVRDC staff? (Check all that apply)
 Aging Human Services
 Census Natural Resources
 Community Development Recreation Development (Trails and Parks)
 Economic Development Renewable Energy
 GIS/Mapping Revolving Loan Fund
 Grants administration Technical or Planning Assistance
 Hazard Mitigation Tourism (Byway, Prairie Waters, Meander)
 Housing Transportation
10. How would you rate the effectiveness and professional capabilities of the UMVRDC staff?
 Excellent Poor
 Good Don't know
 Fair
11. From your perspective, what are the top priority issues in our region that the UMVRDC should be working on? Please rank 1, 2, or 3 according to importance; 1 = highest priority and 3 = low priority (you can assign the same number to more than one area).
 Aging Human Services
 Census Natural Resources
 Community Development Recreation Development (Trails and Parks)
 Economic Development Renewable Energy
 GIS/Mapping Revolving Loan Fund
 Grants administration Technical or Planning Assistance
 Hazard Mitigation Tourism (Byway, Prairie Waters, Meander)
 Housing Transportation
12. Are there other areas not listed above that you feel are high priority?

13. Have you or our organization chosen to consult with another agency on related services, rather than the UMVRDC during the last year? Yes No I Don't Know

If yes, was there a specific reason? _____

14. Can you offer any suggestions on how the UMVRDC can improve service to you or your organization?

15. Would you like to receive any additional information on programs from the UMVRDC? If yes, please state what kind. Please include your name and mailing address.

16. Do you have any specific problem or question that you would like to discuss with the UMVRDC staff? If so, please provide your name, address and daytime telephone number so a staff member can get in touch with you.

17. What could we do to help you?

Thank you for your time and information. Add any further comments in the space provided below or on the reverse side of this survey.

(Optional)

Name:

Organization:

Address:
