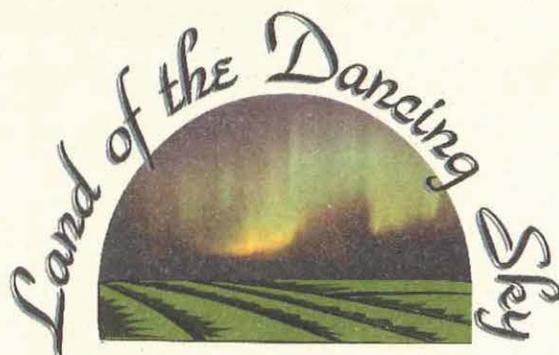




# Northwest Regional Development Commission

([www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org))

## Annual Report Calendar Year 2013



([www.visitnwminnesota.com](http://www.visitnwminnesota.com))

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## 2013 Highlights Letter

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Working for Local Units of Government in Kittson, Marshall, Norman,  
Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties

NWRDC • 109 South Minnesota Street •  
Warren, MN 56762 • 218-745-6733

Agency Web Site Address: [www.nwrdc.org](http://www.nwrdc.org)

Land of the Dancing Sky Web Site: [www.VisitNWMinnesota.com](http://www.VisitNWMinnesota.com)

# Letter from the Chairman

## Dr. Joe Bouvette



### Changes and Opportunity

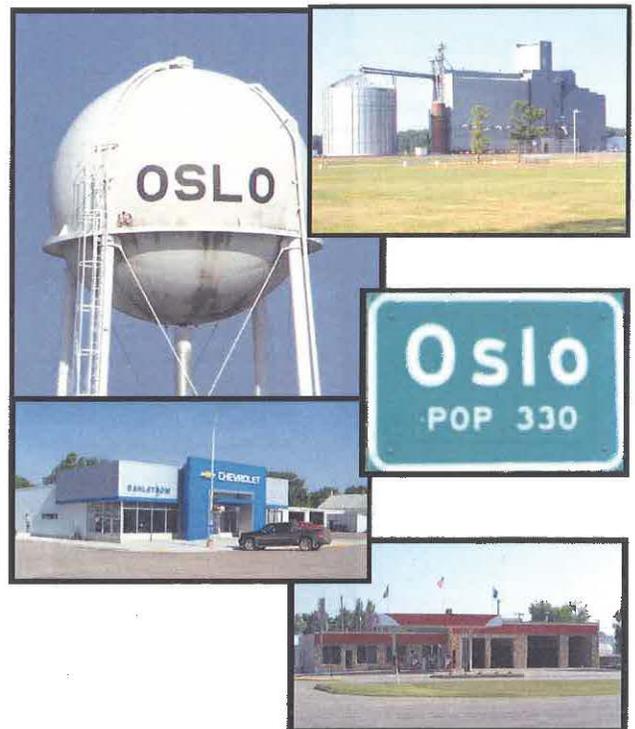
As I write this introduction to our Annual Report, it seems that I'm always mentioning something about the changes or innovations that are taking place in our region. 2013 was no different, and it serves as a reminder that change will happen whether we are ready for it or not. The past year has seen new business start-ups, several company expansions, market fluctuations in the sugarbeet industry, new residential and commercial building, new service programs, new immigrants, labor strife and resolution and many other changes to our economic situation. The beauty of all this transformation, whether it seems positive or negative, is that it also brings about opportunities. People in NW Minnesota have a unique ability to anticipate, innovate, adapt and respond accordingly to events that would otherwise seem overwhelming to others. There are thousands of examples of people in our region using "farmboy engineering" to design and build something new to fix a problem, or fill a need. The larger companies that are located in our region get most of the attention for their

innovation and ingenuity, and deservedly so; but there are many examples in Northwest Minnesota of much smaller local companies, even one-person operations that are on the cutting edge of technology in their industries. They see a need or opportunity, they innovate and adapt and they invest in themselves in order to provide world-class products for their customers. The same can be said for meeting people's needs through the variety of excellent programs offered at the NWRDC. Our Area Agency on Aging, especially, is rapidly growing to respond to State mandates and the growing Senior population as Baby Boomers retire. This necessitated making changes of our own, adding new Aging programs and more staff. We even outgrew our home, which meant moving our offices into the recently vacated hospital building in Warren, renamed the Westbridge Center. Next time you're in town, please stop in and visit us to see our recent changes and learn more about NWRDC's mission and services.



### NWRDC Comprehensive Planning

NWRDC staff conducted a successful comprehensive planning process in 2013 with the City of Oslo. Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the city teamed up to provide funding to initiate the process. The comprehensive plan is designed to encourage community participation in an effort to provide strategic direction to elected officials and give residents the opportunity to control their own destiny. A community survey, public forums and several one-on-one discussions culminated with excellent input and ideas on developing the community as a fishing and recreational destination, developing a brand for marketing to tourists, providing improvements and balance to community finances and infrastructure, and maintaining its friendly small town atmosphere. The process also helped to determine community needs and provide more interaction with potential funding partners. NWRDC was able to assist with the acquisition of a new boat dock, and also put together a large public gathering that brought more than 40 people from the government and private sector to discuss solutions for Red River flooding including: a study of river behavior, diking, raising Highway 1 and building a new bridge over the Red River.





*What The NWRDC is All About . . .*

Regional Development Commissions were created by the State Legislature through the Regional Development Act of 1969. The intent of the Act was to create an option for rural units of government to supplement existing public services and coordinate specific activities of mutual concern. Although created by the State, Regional Development Commissions were left in the hands of local representatives to insure that the final design would reflect area needs and preferences.

The Northwest Regional Development Commission was created on February 2, 1973 by the joint actions of local units of government. Programs were set up to reflect priority work items of the time, and relationships were established with the state and federal agencies that could provide assistance with local projects. Programs and work priorities have changed in response to economic

and social trends; but, the central mission of supporting efforts by cities, counties, townships, businesses and individuals to improve living, working and natural resource conditions in Northwest Minnesota has remained the same.

The Commission has worked to establish a manner of operation which reflects and compliments the independent, progressive style of Northwest Minnesota. Our services include grants, business loans, technical assistance, grant writing, planning, direct client services, new program development, fiscal agent support, information and referral, creating partnerships and filling the gaps.

Please look over our Annual Report and stop by or call if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.



*Above: Cam Fanfulik, Executive Director/Economic Development*

*Right: Carol Sorensen,  
Financial Officer*



*Left: Brenda Solberg,  
Front Office Manager/  
Financial Assistant/  
Loan Fund Contract Manager*



*Right: Betty Safranski,  
Front Office*



## *Staff Listing*

### **NWRDC Staff**

- Beth Budziszewski, Program Developer/Grant Manager
- Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge® Outreach Specialist
- Annette Chapman, Pre-Admission Specialist
- Emily Thorlacius Curry, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist
- Donza Erickson, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist
- Cameron Fanfulik, Executive Director, Loan Fund Manager/  
Economic Dev.
- Judi Frye, Aging Program Developer
- Rose Noyes, Senior LinkAge® Specialist/Technical Support
- Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations
- Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist
- Betty Safranski, Front Office
- Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist
- Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner/Comm. Dev.
- Brenda Solberg, Front Office/Financial/Loan Fund
- Carol Sorensen, Financial Officer
- Darla Waldner, Aging Program Director
- Mara Wittman, Arts Council Director

# Northwest Regional Development Commission



Above: NWRDC Board of Directors (left to right) Jim Christianson (Alternate), Gary Kiesow, Penny Aanden (Alternate), Warren Strandell, John Lerohi, Dr. Joe Bouvette, (Chairman), Kimberley Johnson and Elvera Cullen.

## Pennington County

*Elvera Cullen	TRF	Municipalities
Dave Erickson	TRF	Townships
Karan Lincoln	TRF	Minorities
Dante Steele	TRF	Minorities
Oliver Swanson	TRF	County

## Polk County

Gerald Amiot	Crookston	Labor
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Labor
Keith Sistad	Fosston	Townships
*Warren Strandell	EGF	County
Toby Strom	McIntosh	Municipalities
Kathleen Twite	EGF	Business

## Red Lake County

Kevin Harmoning	RLF	Municipalities
Catherine Johnson	Oklee	At Large
Genevieve Knott	RLF	Townships
*John Lerohi	Oklee	County
Ronald Weiss	RLF	Watershed Dist.

## COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

### Kittson County

**Dr. Joe Bouvette	Hallock	County
*Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy	Townships
Todd Truedson	Kennedy	Municipalities

### Marshall County

*Gary Kiesow	Goodridge	County
Garth Kruger	Warren	Community Group
Loran Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Richard Mosher	Grygla	Municipalities
Gail Yutzenka	Argyle	School Board

### Norman County

Penny Aanden	Fertile	Townships
Curt Johannsen	Hendrum	Municipalities
*Nathan Redland	Halstad	County

### Roseau County

Jim Christianson	Badger	School Boards
Dennis Filer	Greenbush	Municipalities
*Mark Foldesi	Greenbush	County
Debra Wiskow	Greenbush	Townships

### \*Board Members

### \*\*Chairperson

Right: Red Lake County Members at Annual Commission Meeting.



Left: Commission members, Elvera Cullen and Penny Aanden visit at Annual Commission Meeting.



Left: Kittson County Members, Dr. Joe Bouvette and Kimberley Johnson at Annual Commission Meeting.

Right: Polk County Members at Annual Commission Meeting.



Right: Marshall County Members caucus at Annual Commission Meeting.



# NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ACTUAL REVENUES CY '2013</u>	<u>PROJECTED CY '2014</u>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$56,365	\$56,365
	\$56,365	\$56,365
<b>STATE</b>		
MN/DOT	\$39,253	\$75,000
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$3,158,163	\$2,641,123
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$113,774	\$98,000
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$178,844	\$95,000
	\$3,490,034	\$2,909,123
<b>PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS</b>		
NW MN FOUNDATION	\$22,513	\$0
BLANDIN FOUNDATION	\$0	\$0
NW MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL	\$102,880	\$111,422
	\$125,393	\$111,422
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL</b>		
LOCAL LEVY	\$238,821	\$249,503
ARDC SCENIC BYWAYS	\$14,000	\$0
LOCAL PROJECT	\$3,750	
	\$256,571	\$249,503
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$544,697	\$662,623
INTEREST	\$2,934	\$5,000
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$974	\$0
	\$548,605	\$667,623
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>\$4,476,968</u>	<u>\$3,994,036</u>
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROJECTED</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>CY '2013</u>	<u>CY '2014</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
SALARY/FRINGE	\$1,042,325	\$1,007,105
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$103,476	\$107,350
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$28,397	\$42,900
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$194,589	\$149,643
OTHER EXPENSES	\$222,683	\$139,070
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	<b>\$1,591,470</b>	<b>\$1,446,068</b>
REGRANTED-AGING	\$1,992,592	\$1,569,883
REGION 4 AGING PROGRAM	\$358,085	\$358,085
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$53,570	\$20,000
BUSINESS LOANS	\$495,000	\$600,000
HAZARD MITIGATION	\$14,946	\$0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>\$4,505,663</u>	<u>\$3,994,036</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>(\$28,695)</u>	<u>\$0</u>

# *Program Highlights*



**NW Regional  
Development  
Commission**

**Program Highlights  
Calendar Year 2013**

Serving  
*Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington  
Polk, Red Lake and Roseau Counties*

# Aging

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

**Purpose:** Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging is committed to supporting the dignity and independence of older adults of Northwest and West Central Minnesota. Our services include: providing advocacy and leadership in the development and support of community based services to reduce isolation, improving access to services and to help seniors remain independent and safe in their homes for as long as possible.

**Program Funding Sources:** Older Americans Act & Discretionary Funding through the Minnesota Board on Aging - \$822,486; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$113,774; RDC Tax Levy - \$88,348; Miscellaneous - \$305; West Central Office - \$360,635.

**Regrant Funding Sources:** Older Americans Act & Discretionary Funds - \$1,402,148; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$292,667; State Nutrition Program - \$280,227; NW MN Foundation - \$10,862.

**Service Priorities:** Regrant priorities are: Nutrition, Congregate and Home Delivered Meals, Legal Services, Housekeeping, Chore, Home Modification, Transportation, Disease Prevention/Health Promotion, Early Memory Care, Medication Management, Fall Prevention, Tai-Chi, Matter of Balance, Chronic Disease Prevention, Respite Care and Caregiver Supports.

## Aging Highlights

### New Initiatives •••

It has been another exciting and busy year at the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging. We launched several major initiatives in 2013, which included the first major role change within the history of Minnesota Healthcare system. As a result of the First Contact Initiative, the Area Agencies on Aging assumed the role of Pre-admission screening for all nursing home placements on November 1, 2013. The expansion of the Return to Community Initiative was launched on January 1, 2014. Land of the Dancing Sky has increased staffing to accommodate these role changes, growing from 12 to 15 staff. Stronger partnerships with lead agencies of hospitals, nursing homes and counties have been developed as a result of these changes.

### Title III Funds •••

Throughout the last several years, Land of the Dancing Sky has seen a gradual reduction in Title III funding due to the funding formula. This places a significant concern on funding seniors in our service area. In 2013, reduction in federal and state funds of 12.51%,



*Above: Seated (left to right) Annette Chapman, Pre-Admission Specialist; Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist; Carol Bye, Senior LinkAge® Outreach Specialist and Judi Frye, Aging Program Developer.  
Standing: Rose Noyes, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist; Beth Budziszewski, Program Developer/Grant Manager; Donza Erickson, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist; Darla Waldner, Aging Program Director; Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist and Emily Thorlacious-Curry, Senior LinkAge® Line Specialist.*

or \$334,156 was managed by utilizing carry over dollars to sustain current funded services. However, nutrition had a reduction of \$70,000 and caregiver services by \$4,000. The reduced funding trend will continue in 2014. Land of the Dancing Sky continues to work closely with grantees on targeting these dollars to high risk individuals. We will continue to provide support and technical assistance to Title III grantees under the guidance of our Board of Directors as decisions are made about essential services for older adults. Developing high impact services at a low-cost continues to be the priority.

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) •••

We have committed our time and energy into supporting caregivers by participating in the evidence-based program: Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC). In 2013, two staff obtained their Master Trainer licenses which will enable them to develop and train leaders for this valuable program supporting caregivers. Tools taught in class are self care: such as exercise, relaxation, medical checkups, management of emotions (guilt, anger, depression), self-efficiency (such as increased confidence with caregiver demands) and use of community services.

## *Aging continued ...*

### **Chronic Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP) and Diabetes Self Management Program (DSMP) •••**



Land of the Dancing Sky obtained a multi-program license with Stanford School of Medicine to facilitate “train the trainer” sessions on the evidence-based curriculum Chronic

Disease Self Management Program (CDSMP), as well as leader classes for the Diabetes Self Management Program (DSMP). These programs provide older adults and caregivers with tools to manage day to day aspects of living with a chronic disease.

As Master Trainers with CDSMP, a 4-day Leader training was conducted. Recertification training for 13 current leaders was provided to comply with new and updated curriculum. Leaders will be included in our Land of the Dancing Sky multi-program license. A partnership with Sanford Medical Center (working with Rich Preussler) enables us to conduct and provide CDSMP education and training. This collaboration provided a re-certification training for additional leaders from under both Sanford and our license, and currently have plans for joint trainings in 2014. Partnerships with hospitals, Living at Home Block Nurse programs, Mahube-Otwa, Minnesota Extension, public health, Lutheran Social Services and Faith in Action programs will continue to help us expand workshops.

We have two staff trained as leaders for the Diabetes Self Management Program (DSMP). There has been one 6-week session helping older adults manage and live with Diabetes. Land of the Dancing Sky will hold another class in 2014. The leaders for Diabetes Self Management Program will become Master Trainers.

### **Matter of Balance (MOB) •••**

Land of the Dancing Sky held two “Train the Trainer” workshops. Northland Community and Technical College and Occupational Therapy students complete the course, then in turn conduct MOB classes. This program continues to expand throughout our region. Fergus Falls also had leader training with attendees from the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Experience Works, public health and an assisted living community.

### **Tai Chi “Moving for Better Balance” •••**

The Land of the Dancing Sky has five staff trained in Tai Chi: Moving for a Better Balance and has collaborated with Mahube-Otwa to provide trainings, classes and promotion. The ultimate goal for this program is to improve functional tasks of daily living

and reduce incidence and risks of falls in older adults. It transforms the movements into therapeutic training for balance and to involve motor-cognitive-sensory systems which: improve balance, strength, walking ability, reduced incidence of falls and helps with postural control. There are many classes going throughout our service area.

### **Integrated Systems •••**

Integrated Service will be completing its 3rd year. This project ties Land of the Dancing Sky to regional health care systems. Linking hospital and clinics by referring to Senior LinkAge Line® as part of the Long Term Care Consultation Expansion to our resources including: Live Well at Home and evidence based programs. Year one of the grant focused on building relationships, education and technical assistance to hospitals. The second year focused on developing specific partnerships to generate maximum impact.

The initial partnership is with RiverView Health Center, Crookston, working closely with discharge planners to screen patients 60 and older. Referrals are sent for patients indicating risk factors for hospital readmission or nursing home admission. Additionally, the clinics use Live Well at Home Rapid Screen to identify seniors at risk. Once a referral is made, Senior LinkAge Line® offers counseling on Home and Community Based services. The fax with the services discussed is placed in the patient file for follow-up at the patient’s next appointment. Completing the loop from home to clinic/hospital to home helps the hospitals support the role of Home and Community Based Services.

### **Live Well At Home Coalition •••**

Land of the Dancing Sky and the Mahnommen Health Center have developed a Live Well at Home Coalition. Bringing many diverse voices involved in supporting senior health in the White Earth/Mahnomen County area together allows for sharing of resources in a collaborate fashion. Live Well at Home Screen will become a tool



Above: Mahnommen/White Earth Senior Provider Coalition

## *Aging continued ...*

used by the community based services and the medical settings. Senior LinkAge Line® Outreach has a site at the Health Center. We also participate with RARE, a group focused on reducing readmissions. In this capacity, we can target Evidence Based Programs and other resources. This partnership focuses on integrating services in a targeted fashion, with referrals flowing between the partners.

### **Care Transitions •••**

Land of the Dancing Sky has worked closely with various Care Transition Programs. The broadest description of these programs, RARE (Reducing Avoidable Readmissions Effectively), is being implemented in a variety of fashions. In addition to Mahnomen, we are partnering with Life Care, (Roseau) on their Chronic Care Team, which identifies and flags patients with chronic conditions that need additional monitoring. St. Mary's Essentia's (in Detroit Lakes) Safe Transitions Team focuses on issues arising as patients transition from hospital to nursing home and back, in addition to discharges to home. Land of the Dancing Sky can better tailor programming development to needed homes and communities that support seniors.

### **Palliative Care •••**

Land of the Dancing Sky, in collaboration with the Bemidji Sanford Medical Center & Clinic, Gold Pine Assisted Living and University of Bemidji School of Nursing developed a Bemidji POLST initiative through a Northwest Minnesota Foundation grant. This initiative focused on assisting medically frail older adults with a chronic illness plan for end of life decisions on a POLST, (Physicians Order for Life Sustaining Treatment) document. The Bemidji Palliative Care Initiative recruited health care professionals trained in the Respecting Choices curriculum to become certified to facilitate advanced care planning conversations with chronically ill older adults and care givers. This provided an opportunity to have an increased understanding of chronic disease and determine decisions regarding care and treatment as disease progression occurs. Land of the Dancing Sky provided technical assistance for Bemidji POLST initiative stakeholders in developing a Community Service Development grant; which was selected as a grantee to expand this project. The success of this program allows for opportunities to replicate this health care model.

## *Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights*

### **Senior LinkAge Line® Calls Received •••**



In 2013, the Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists from both the Warren and Fergus Falls offices provided assistance to over 15,468 contacts with help on issues such as

Medicare Part D plans, problems with accessing services, housing options, and Long Term Options Counseling services; and more recently the Preadmission Screenings for Nursing Home placement. Over 19,606 additional contacts were made by calling prescription plans, resolving issues with insurance companies and getting connected to services. Two new Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists were hired and trained to provide assistance to our clients. Welcome to Annette Chapman and Donza Erickson.

### **Presentations •••**

Main focus again this year was providing education and awareness on increasing expenses associated with Healthcare Fraud and Abuse. Three hundred fifty-six (356) presentations, outreach events and other events were held during 2013.

### **Senior LinkAge Line® Volunteers •••**

Volunteer support remains strong with 84 volunteers. Regularly scheduled in person assistance remains at Sanford Clinic in Bemidji and Thief River Falls as an Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) location in the region. Volunteers continue to provide monthly one-to-one assistance in Baudette with expansion to Mahnomen Health Center.



*Above: Core Body Medicare Training in Detroit Lakes, MN.*

We maintain our outreach service for Medicare Open Enrollment. Seven volunteers/temporary employees were trained in Core Body of Knowledge (CBK) in Detroit Lakes for 2013 annual open enrollment work. The CBK refresher course is held each year along with quarterly updates provided to all our volunteers.

## Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights



Return to Community was initiated in December 2009 as an effort to assist nursing home resident's return to a home in the community. Individuals who have low to moderate needs, have been in the nursing home 90 days, have expressed a desire to return home and have a supportive caregiver are connected to our LDS Community Living Specialist. We have learned and experienced success beyond expectations; Land of the Dancing Sky has successfully returned 211 consumers to the community (88 in 2013, 59 in 2012, 42 in 2011, and 22 in 2010). Statistics for 2013 in our service area:

- \* 302 MDS profile consumers assisted 72 nursing home referrals
- \* 1,705 follow-up phone calls were completed
- \* 104 nursing home consumer assessments (up from 65 in 2012)
- \* Savings example per consumer:
  - \* \$6,000/month nursing home stay x 12 months = \$72,000 saved/\$2,808,000.00
  - \* \$4,000/month nursing home stay x 12 months = \$48,000 saved/\$1,872,000.00

## 2013 Aging Grantees

**Kittson County Senior Medical Travel** - Provided 502 one-way trips to 33 persons.

**Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program** - Provided 453.5 hours of chore service to 89 persons.

**Roseau County Senior Medical Travel** - Provided 1,256 one-way trips to 95 persons.

**Tri-County Community Corrections Sentencing to Service Chore Program** - Provided 472.25 hours of chore service to 157 persons.

**Valley Housekeeping Program** - Provided 1,648.5 hours of homemaker services to 68 persons.

**LSS Caregiver/Respite Program** - Provided 1,715 hours of caregiver counseling services to 135 persons and 6,001.75 hours of respite services to 64 persons.

**Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program** - Provided 253 hours of caregiver counseling services to 53 persons, and 3,117 hours of caregiver respite to 31 persons.

**Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program** - Provided 120 hours of caregiver coaching services to 30 persons, 302 hours of caregiver counseling services to 58 persons and 603.25 hours of caregiver respite services to 14 persons.

**Medication Management** - Provided 111 in-depth medication management sessions to 137 persons in Regions 1, 2 & 4.

**LifeCare Chronic Illness Workshops** - Provided 2 workshop sessions on managing chronic illness to 10 participants. Provided 1 Matter of Balance session to 7 persons.

**Legal Services** - Provided 1,145 hours of legal services to 341 persons, and provided 21 educational sessions to 326 persons in Region 1, 2 & 4.

**Clearwater Senior Transportation** - Provided 279 one-way trips to 23 persons.

**LSS Senior Nutrition Program** - Provided 296,929 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 6,679 persons.

**Mahube Relatives as Parents** - Provided 269 hours of caregiver counseling services to 62 Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.

**MN-ND Alzheimers Program** - Provided 204 hours of caregiver consultation services to 198 people and 40 education events to 433 persons.

# Arts

## NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL

**Purpose:** To promote, develop and encourage artistic growth and excellence of arts organizations and individual artists in northwestern Minnesota by conducting programs, awarding grants and providing services.

**Program Funding Sources:** NW MN Arts Council - \$102,880; RDC Tax Levy - \$5,831;

**Re-Grant Programs:** *State Funds:* Arts Project; Artist in the Schools. *McKnight Funds:* Adult Fellowship; Student Artist Grants; Small Capital; Hispanic Arts Initiative.

**Service Priorities:** Direction setting, Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibit, information including website, newsletter, training/workshops, directory.



Right: Mara Wittman,  
Arts Council Director

### Community Supported Art •••

In 2013, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this program, four new artists created 35 pieces of artwork each. Artists were Trey Everett of Crookston, Jessica Pribula of East Grand Forks, Sherrie Krueger of Badger, and Janet Johnson of Roseau. 40 boxes of art were sold to patrons. This program is funded with McKnight Foundation funding.

### Add to the River Walk Entry •••

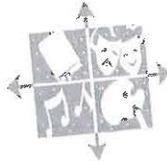
Featured artists this year are highlighted on our website in the posts section. Therese Jacobson is contracted to manage the showcase features of our Arts Council which includes running our gallery and coordinating exhibits.

### Website and Social Media •••

Our promotional efforts increased dramatically with the addition of contract staff member Maureen Regalado in December 2013. NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org website continues to grow and improve.

### New Office Space •••

Our NWRDC office moved to a new location in December 2013, one block west of our previous location in Warren. This new location doubled our space so the Arts Council can offer a resource area that includes a grant writing niche and some shared equipment available for loan.



## Arts Highlights

### Arts Council Planning, Services, and Statistics:

#### Individual Grant and Award Highlights •••

Jane Anderson of Thief River Falls was recognized with our Northwest Star Award for her lifelong efforts in performing arts. Jane received a \$5,000 award. Betsy Saurdiff of Grygla received a \$5,000.00 fellowship award to build her ceramics studio and pottery business. Caryl Turnow of Roseau received a \$5,000.00 fellowship award to build her glass fusing and stain glass business.

#### Work of Art: Business Skills for Artists Workshops

Series of 10 workshops by Springboard for the Arts (Minneapolis) staff on a variety of topics for artists who are creating a business in their art form. Twenty people attended the once a month sessions at the East Grand Forks public library.

#### Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••

Coordinated 2013 exhibit in Fosston at their public library gallery space from April 10 – 21, 2013. This year's judge was Natalia Himmiraska from Bemidji. She is pictured on this page standing in front of Rock Bakken of Hallock's first place painting of horses.

#### River Walk Artists Shop and Gallery •••

In 2013, we had a series of shows. Art and Wine walk Saturdays were popular with 1,000+ guests attending.



NW MN Art Exhibit in Fosston in April 2013.

# Community Development

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Purpose:** To assist communities in maintaining the services and infrastructure needed to support a robust economy and an attractive quality of life.

**Funding Source:** Local Tax Levy - \$51,459; and interest \$2,934; Misc. - \$661; Reserve - \$26,905. Some projects also involve U.S. EDA Funding.

**Service Priorities:** Community planning and zoning, tourism development & promotions, recreational development and GIS Mapping.



**Community and Economic Development Staff**

(left to right): Troy Schroeder, Cam Fanfulik and Jennifer Olson

## Community Development Highlights

### Roseau Flood Diversion •••

Staff provided technical and grantwriting assistance to the City of Roseau for federal EDA funding to complete the flood diversion project started several years ago. The grant proposal to the federal EDA included several partners, including the City of Roseau, federal EDA, and the State of Minnesota. The diversion channel would protect the city from flood events on the Roseau River, and save millions of dollars in damages from catastrophic rain and snowmelt. The city of 2,600 would also benefit from being out of the FEMA-designated floodplain, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in flood insurance premiums.

### Agassiz Audubon Partnership Projects with Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watershed •••

The NWRDC created maps of the Agassiz Audubon Society's "Community Nest Box Project" locations in Kittson, Marshall and Polk Counties. Over the past 2 years, Agassiz Audubon has worked with several partners to build, install and monitor 25 American Kestrel nest boxes. WAO and Hallock HS shop students constructed the boxes. Gas transmission companies (TransCanada, Viking and Enbridge) provided and monitored sites. PKM and Ottertail Power provided and installed poles. University of Minnesota, Crookston students monitored the boxes and faculty banded the birds. This year, students will construct 10 additional boxes. PKM has provided poles and Ottertail Power will install them. UMC students are recruiting and training volunteers to monitor the poles.

The NWRDC also created maps of flood control projects and other potential birding destinations along the US 75 corridor from Crookston north to Hallock and east to Roseau. These maps are part of preliminary planning for the Aspen Parkland Birding Trail - a new project sponsored by the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers

Watershed District. The goal is to use birdwatching as a way to connect projects managed by 4 watershed districts, and to encourage outdoor recreation and nature tourism. But, it's not just about birds - the goal is to celebrate the geological, human, agricultural and natural history of the region. The Audubon is recruiting volunteers to help with bird and wildlife surveys, research historical photos and post images of wildlife on the project Facebook pages. For more information, call Heidi Hughes at 218-745-5663.



Left: Kittson Central High School Students with their Nest Boxes.



Right: American Kestrel Chick

### NWRDC Mapping Projects •••

The NWRDC has done numerous mapping projects including the creation of Marshall County Water Plan maps, Kittson County highway maps, scenic byway maps and maps for the Agassiz Audubon Society. The Oslo City Comprehensive Plan also used several maps for detailing and visualization for the planning document.

## *Community Development Continued ...*

### **Computers for Our Community •••**

This project is operated by Inter County Community Council and covers three sites: Crookston, Thief River Falls and Warroad. Each site will have 4 students working at the community site 4-8 hours per week with summer hours. Project goals include:

- \* Provide work experience for economically disadvantaged or at risk youth ages 14-24. Groups include foster children, youth on court probation, youth from MFIP households, etc.
- \* Promote career pathways and skill acquisition
- \* Increase exposure to in demand jobs.
- \* Connect families to technology to enable them to enhance their education and employment opportunities.

We have had a total of 128 computers picked up by families in our nine communities:

- 2 families from Grygla
- 2 families from Middle River
- 4 families from Newfolden
- 13 families from Oklee
- 1 family from Plummer
- 22 families from Red Lake Falls
- 1 family from St. Hilaire
- 80 families from Thief River Falls
- 3 families from Warren



### **NWRDC Assisting with the Acquisition of Abandoned Rail Right of Way •••**

The NWRDC has worked with citizens from Norman County to discuss options for purchasing the abandoned railroad property from Perley to Shelly. The Fertile Snow Cruisers was originally going to purchase and maintain the trail system until a snowmobile club could be organized in western Norman County. Those efforts have passed by, and local citizens from Halstad wanted to pursue the purchase options. The NWRDC will continue to work with local residents to organize a club and take on the role and responsibility of being the trail representative. This 20-mile stretch of trail in Norman County will connect with many miles of trail systems in eastern Norman County along Highway 32 and Polk County Highway 102. Mn/DOT may also have an interest in purchasing the railroad right of way for future use of high speed rail connecting Fargo-Moorhead to Winnipeg. The NWRDC will continue to research all of these options to keep the property in public ownership for pedestrian and motorized recreation.

### **Regional Comprehensive Planning •••**

Staff assisted Oslo and Warren with the development of comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. Warren will complete this process in 2014. Requests for comprehensive plan information also came from several townships within the region dealing with subjects such as: livestock feedlots, salvage yards, rural housing developments and others.

### **Green Step Cities Program •••**

NWRDC staff assisted with providing information and referral to communities regarding best practices for energy efficiency, and decreasing the carbon footprint. The program is designed to help communities voluntarily achieve sustainability goals that meet or exceed state regulatory requirements. The program is a statewide effort to give communities maximum flexibility in developing best practices that save money and deliver a stream of environmental, social and financial benefits for residents. The program is sponsored by the State of Minnesota in conjunction with Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs).

### **Community Partnership & Regional Housing Advisory Group •••**

NWRDC staff worked with the nine members of the Community Partnership to develop housing opportunities for incoming workforce to the region. Several communities across the area are experiencing housing availability difficulties as they respond to the needs of businesses that are rapidly expanding. Entry level workers, especially, are in need of available and affordable housing opportunities to allow them to live in or near the communities in which they work. Many smaller towns that are near larger population centers are also facing demand for affordable housing.

# Economic Development

**Purpose:** Maintain and increase the population level and job base in the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota.

**Program Funding Sources:** United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) - \$56,365; RDC Tax Levy - \$61,496.

**Service Priorities:** Business Development, Labor Force Development, Renewable Energy, Promotion, Planning.

## *Economic Development Highlights*

### **Business Assistance •••**

NWRDC staff provided more than 1,300 hours of staff assistance on business and job creation/retention projects including: working with more than 75 businesses on business planning, referral, financial packaging, loan applications and workout strategies. Loan Fund activity for 2013 included approving more than half a million dollars in loans and leveraging \$6,406,645 in private investment. The businesses will create and retain 93 full-time equivalent jobs.

### **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) •••**

NWRDC staff reviewed economic development strategies in the 2013 CEDS document and updated data and statistics for the seven county region. The Enterprise Fund Committees reviewed strategies and provided input on the CEDS strategic direction. Major strategies include renewable energy development, workforce training, tourism promotion and business assistance. More emphasis was placed on workforce development and the need for affordable housing for entry-level employees across the region.



Above: Soybeans piled up at Markit Grain Terminal at Argyle, MN.

### **Workforce Housing •••**

Technical assistance and support were provided to fast-growing area companies including: available housing information in the area and participating in projects that encourage home-grown talent development for highly skilled professions in the region (Impact 20/20 and Ingenuity Frontier). NWRDC assisted several individuals with finding housing, and also provided information and referral.

### **Heating the Midwest with Biomass •••**

NWRDC staff participated in a multi-state action team planning for the second annual "Heating the Midwest with Biomass" conference in Carlton, MN. The action team consists of participants from Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Michigan. Outcomes from action team work includes the development of a capital cost calculator for small businesses or communities to assess the feasibility of installing biomass projects. A study was also done of Midwest residential heating fuel usage, estimating current use of natural gas, propane, fuel oil and electric sources.

### **NW MN Biomass & Renewable Energy •••**

Staff continue to provide information and work with area proponents of biomass use for heat and power. Subject matter includes: study of where biomass resources are in the region, what can easily be harvested and freighted to biomass burning facilities, identifying CRP and public land availability for biomass production, determining pellet fuel production and assisting entrepreneurs with pelleting processing and manufacturing options for biomass burning. A majority of the applications are in the agricultural sector, including poultry/livestock facilities and greenhouse heating and power.

### **Impact 20/20 •••**

Staff participated with area businesses, educators and government on the Education and Workforce Joint Taskforce to develop recommendations for policy advocacy and direction. The Taskforce focused on effective career exploration at an earlier age and adding emphasis to preparation for post-secondary opportunities for students in K-12. Preparation also includes soft-skill training for students.

Staff also serve on the Broadband Taskforce that focuses on increasing business utilization of broadband for marketing and information. The end goals are to increase electronic communication, develop world-wide export markets and increase commerce through use of broadband capabilities.

# Enterprise Loan Fund

**Purpose:** To strengthen and diversify the economy by providing a source of low interest financing to businesses, when credit is not otherwise available from other sources, and to ensure the successful completion of activities to be financed.

**Program Funding Sources:** Loan Interest and Loan Fees - \$49,697.

**Loan Funding Sources:** Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$495,000.

**Service Priorities:** Financing for-profit businesses which create or retain jobs, especially for the long term underemployed or unemployed.

## 2013 Loan Highlights

2013 began with an uptick in application requests and technical assistance provided to Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) clients. Northwest Minnesota's business climate continues to benefit from the impressive farm economy and the strengthening manufacturing sector. The ill effects of the national economic downturn were not experienced as heavily in Region 1 due to the performance of those two sectors. Several manufacturing companies in the region added employees and expanded their operations. However, a noticeable dropoff in loan activity began in June and lasted through the end of the year, so it will be interesting to see what 2014 brings to the RLF program.

Just under half a million dollars was approved for expanding existing businesses in manufacturing and food processing/shipping in 2013. These expansions contributed significantly to added capacity, new equipment and working capital, which in turn increased efficiencies and provided the means to meet increased demand from customers. The end of the year saw several requests for information, assistance and loan applications, so 2014 promises to be a busier year.

The following businesses were approved for loans in the region:

- PoDCo, LLC (powder coating and dye sublimation)- Lancaster
- Homark Homes, Inc. (manufactured homes)- Red Lake Falls
- Farmer's Elevator Company (grain processing and shipping) - Alvarado



(Above): Cam Fanfuk,  
Loan Fund Manager/Economic Dev.  
Left: Brenda Solberg, Loan Contract  
Manager

## Historical Loan Activity (period ending 9/30/13):

Total Loans Made:	181
Active Loans:	38
Total Amount of Loans Made:	\$12,439,673
Other Financing Leveraged:	\$68,060,781
Jobs Created/Retained:	1,459

## Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 09/30/13):

<u>County</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kittson	21	\$ 1,206,621
Marshall	37	\$ 2,493,705
Norman	17	\$ 883,533
Pennington	13	\$ 1,071,850
Polk	55	\$ 4,129,975
Red Lake	12	\$ 783,115
Roseau	26	\$ 1,915,877



Above: New chemical and equipment storage building at Farmer's Elevator Co. of Alvarado.

# Emergency Operations

**Purpose:** To aid HSEM Region 3 in the preparation, planning & implementation of activities related to regional mitigation, response & recovery and emergency management.

**Program Funding Sources:** MN Dept. of Public Safety - \$110,310; Regrant - \$68,534; Tax Levy - \$9,292.

**Service Priorities:** Utilize a specifically geared, annually evolving work program to support existing Emergency Management capabilities throughout Northwest Minnesota, as approved by Regional Emergency Management, Regional Program Coordinator & HSEM staff.



Above: Jennifer Olson, Emergency Operations Planner

## Emergency Operations Highlights

### Joint Powers Board Staff •••

Continued in partnership with HSEM Region 3 (Homeland Security & Emergency Management) in Northwest Minnesota in performing a variety of work tasks aiding in the regional progression of emergency management and mitigation strategies, projects and capabilities via a staff planning position. The NWRDC also serves as fiscal agent.

### 2013 State Homeland Security Program Grant •••

Completed and applied for the 2013 State Homeland Security Program Grant on behalf of the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board.

### Conference Attendance •••

Attended the Governor's Conference, the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference and the Upper Midwest Critical Infrastructure Protection Summit.

### THIRA Plan Update •••

Updated a Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) plan for HSEM Region 3 that incorporates a previously completed strategic plan. All 14 Counties in NW Minnesota also updated local, valid THIRA plans.

### Regional Radio Board Meeting Attendance •••

Attended regularly scheduled Regional Radio Board and Radio Advisory Committee meetings.

### CAPTAP Trainer •••

Received training to become a trainer for the Critical Asset Protection Technical Assistance Program (CAPTAP). This program helps individuals to identify and protect critical infrastructure.

### Regional Exercises •••

Aided in the creation of three exercises for Region 3 emergency response personnel that focused on regional resource location, tracking, requesting, maintenance and usage; partnership with public health personnel/liasons and the roles of an Emergency Operations Center/Command Center during an incident.

### Regional Sheltering Plan •••

Created the Regional Sheltering Plan, which details the procedures for sheltering large groups of individuals within Region 3. This process included multiple response partners. Further identification of shelters in the National Sheltering System (NSS) in coordination with the Red Cross also has occurred.

### Regional Resource Manual •••

Created a Regional Resource Manual that documents equipment and personnel-based resources that are available from multiple response partners for use in disaster situations. The database project is also available to be utilized at municipal and county levels.

### Credentialing/Badge Printing •••

Purchased a badge printer for use in the identification of emergency response personnel within Region 3. This is to ensure identification during disasters, sheltering, training or other events.



Above: Green Valley Fire - A fire that affected 7,100 acres in Hubbard, Becker and Wadena Counties.

# Transportation

**Purpose:** To insure safe and efficient movement of people and commodities in the region. Provide an ongoing forum for important transportation issues in the region. Assist Mn/DOT and provide input with its planning efforts and programs.

**Funding Sources:** MN Department of Transportation \$53,253; RDC Tax Levy - \$24,151.

**Service Priorities:** Direction setting, comprehensive regional planning, legislative advocacy, MN/DOT project coordination.



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

## Transportation Highlights

### Minnesota GO Plan

Mn/DOT Commissioner Charles Zelle met with residents of Region 1 during a tour of Digi-Key in October. The presentation given by Commissioner Zelle focused on a future transportation system that strives to achieve the vision of the 50-year MN GO Plan recently completed by MnDOT. Commissioner Zelle discussed how all the users of the system need to work together to provide an economical, safe and productive transportation system that will continue to grow as the states population grows. According to MnDOT, the 20-year State Highway Investment Plan (MnSHIP) connects the Minnesota GO 50-year vision and policies established in the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan to capital improvements on the state highway system.

"This plan is the result of extensive collaboration among MnDOT, residents, stakeholders and partners throughout Minnesota," said Charlie Zelle, "The success of Minnesota's transportation system depends on the coordinated efforts of many public and private providers. The investment priorities outlined in MnSHIP provide a framework for MnDOT's contribution to those efforts."

MnSHIP establishes priorities for spending projected

capital revenue on the state highway system, a 12,000-mile network that plays a critical role in supporting the state's economy and quality of life. MnSHIP is a fiscally constrained plan, meaning its planned expenditures must align with expected revenues, which currently totals \$18 billion. Meanwhile, projected transportation needs on the state highway system during the next 20 years total \$30 billion.

MnDOT considers many factors when setting priorities, including federal and state law, system conditions and public input. Priorities for the next 10 years balance preservation of existing roads and bridges with investments in safety, new connections for multiple modes of transportation, and other projects that advance economic development and quality of life objectives. Investments in the second 10 years focus almost exclusively on preserving existing infrastructure. Even with this focus, the number of roads and bridges in poor condition will more than double, and perhaps triple, within 20 years.

MnSHIP also outlines the targeted actions and strategies MnDOT will pursue to stretch available revenue and how MnDOT will seek to leverage available revenues to achieve multiple purposes. "MnDOT will continue to explore innovative methods to use funds efficiently," Zelle added. "With our partners, we can continue to build and maintain a multimodal transportation system that achieves the Minnesota GO Vision."

To view the final plan, visit the MnSHIP website at [mndot.gov/planning/mnship](http://mndot.gov/planning/mnship).



Above: Commissioner Zelle presenting information on transportation needs to residents of the Region after touring Digi-Key in Thief River Falls, MN.

# Special Projects

## CITY OF WARREN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$4,151.00.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik, Troy Schroeder and John Wynne

The City of Warren contracted with the NWRDC for development of a comprehensive plan and updated zoning ordinance. Two public forums were held in the fall of 2013, along with a community survey for the purpose of determining strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats within the community. The Comprehensive Plan provides a blueprint for development and a rational basis for land use, economic development, housing, recreational opportunities, transportation needs, infrastructure options and several other quality of place issues. The public process is designed to encourage community participation so that residents have an important role in determining their own destiny. The comprehensive planning process is funded partly through grant dollars from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation and matching funds from the community.



Above: (Top): Richard P. Nelson Floodway Diversion-photo courtesy of City of Warren. (Bottom): Warren Farmer's Market-photo courtesy of City of Warren.

## CITY OF OSLO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$7,500; City of Oslo - \$3,750.

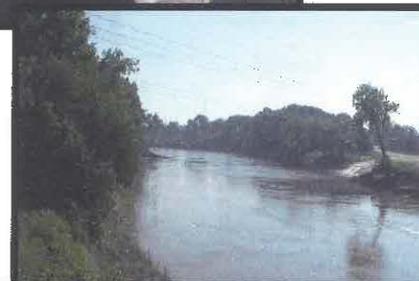
Staff: Cam Fanfulik, Troy Schroeder and John Wynne

NWRDC staff assisted the City of Oslo in the completion of the comprehensive planning process and the development of an accompanying zoning ordinance. The Comprehensive Plan provides a basis for strategic direction and implementation of economic development strategies for the community. The process helped to determine several community goals: marketing Oslo as a destination for catfishing and recreational opportunities utilizing the Red River, developing housing options for all ages and incomes, strengthening the business district through appropriate zoning and taxation balance, and maintaining the small town character and friendliness that promotes a high quality of life. Public meetings were held to garner participation from residents and the process was funded through Northwest Minnesota Foundation and the City.



Left: Oslo Flood Control Meeting.

Right: View of the Red River and Oslo Boat Landing.



Bottom: Main Street in Oslo, MN.



# Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

## Plans

**2013 Area Plan on Aging** - The Area Plan on Aging examines senior input and demographic data to establish priorities for the use of Title III Older Americans Act funds. Includes information on the unique characteristics of our region, demographics, accomplishments, program outcomes and budget information.

**CY 2013 NWRDC Work Program** - Details the goals and objectives of each of the program areas of the NWRDC including changes made to address emerging needs in the region, changes in funding levels and changes in program priorities.

**2013 CEDS** - The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the seven-county region includes a review of statistical trends, a revision of development strategies, the identification of priority projects and review of individual county development strategies. Key revisions for 2009 included an increased concern about population loss and an emphasis on renewable energy development.

**FY 2012-13 Regional Arts Plans** - Goals, strategies and work activities for State Arts Funds and McKnight Arts Funds are included in these plans.

**Revolving Loan Fund Plan** - Describes the program elements and guidelines for the loan fund.

## Publications

**Directory of Artists and Arts Organizations** - The directory contains listings of regional artists, arts organizations, school district offices and public libraries. Published at [www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org](http://www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org).

**Artists of Northwest Minnesota** - Booklet to market 34 artists in the region. 3,000 printed in 2011.

**Directory of Government Units of Service Agencies** - The directory contains listings of service agencies and governmental offices from the township level through the legislative level.

**CY 2013 Annual Report** - Information on the funding and work activities of the NWRDC over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

**Northwest Arts** - Newsletter developed for the artists, arts organizations and schools in Northwest Minnesota.

**Senior News** - Newsletter developed for the Senior Citizens and service providers of regions 1, 2 and 4 in Northwest Minnesota.

**www.nwrdc.org** - Published updates of program information changes to our agency website.

**www.visitnwminnesota.com** - Web site devoted to the services, resources and recreational opportunities of our seven counties. Includes an on-line version of the Northwest Minnesota Visitor & Recreation Guide.

**Northwest Minnesota Visitor and Recreation Guide** - A comprehensive listing of attractions and facilities which offer opportunities and services to local and outside visitors to area communities.

**www.housingnwminnesota.org** - Housing related information that is documented for the following communities: Grygla, Middle River, Newfolden, Oklee, Plummer, Red Lake Falls, St. Hilaire, Thief River Falls and Warren.

### Northwest Minnesota Tourism Promotion Groups



....one of MNRDC's Popular Publications

# NORTHWEST MINNESOTA

## VISITOR AND RECREATION GUIDE



*Northwest Minnesota offers opportunities to find quiet wilderness, fun sporting events, exciting entertainment and the bright lights of regional trade centers within a reasonable travel distance. You can plan a weekend of relaxed camping in a small town setting and yet have access to some of the Midwest's best shopping areas.*

*Wildlife preserves with moose, deer and elk are only a few miles from the finest golf courses around. The natural terrain includes lakes, rivers, forest, prairie and everything in between. You can find crowds of people in the more popular spots but there are also places where peaceful solitude is the only description.*



# Committee Membership List

## Region 1 Aging Advisory Committee

Bonnie Blacklance	Warren
* Craig Bunes	Crookston
Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Genevieve Knott	Red Lake Falls
Julie Pahlen	Roseau
Glenda Phillipe	Warroad
Nathan Redland	Halstad
Oliver Swanson	Thief River Falls
LeRoy Vonasek	Warren
Ronald Weiss	Red Lake Falls
Betty Younggren	Hallock

## Region 2 Aging Advisory Committee

Karen Ahmann	Mahnomen
Elveda Bliss	Park Rapids
Tammy Carlsrud	Mahnomen
Ann Daley	Bemidji
Wallace Eid	Mahnomen
Lloyd Engen	Clearbrook
Kathy Grell	Park Rapids
Marilyn Martin	Bemidji
* Ken Moorman	Baudette
Diane Mostad	Kelliher
John Nelson	Clearbrook
John Oren	Baudette
Marcia Schutt	Moorhead
Joe Vene	Bemidji
Nancy Wendler	Baudette

## HSEM Region 3 Joint Powers Board

Barb O'Hara	Kittson County
* Brad Athmann	Mahnomen County
Jody Beauchane	Polk County
Erik Beitel	Pennington County
Mitch Bernstein	Red Lake County
Craig Fontaine	Becker County
Bryan Green	Clay County
Brian Halbasch	Hubbard County
Holly House	Lake of the Woods County
Christina Husbands	Lake of the Woods County
Garry Johanson	Norman County
Josh Johnston	Marshall County
Ray Kuznia	Pennington County
* Chris Muller	Beltrami County
Gracia Nelson	Roseau County
Larry Olson	Clearwater County
Kathy Sebby	Roseau County
Nancy Shafer	Polk County
Beryl Wernberg	Beltrami County

## Northwest Minnesota Arts Council

Faye Auchenpaugh	Thief River Falls
Charles Erickson	Roseau
Barbara Geer	Middle River
Patricia Jacklitch	East Grand Forks
Kimberley Johnson	Kennedy
Eryn Killough	Crookston
* Dale Knotek	Crookston
Ken Kylanman	Twin Valley
Connie Nelson	Hallock
Aliza Olson	Roseau
Bruce Reeves	Red Lake Falls
Kay Rosengren	Hallock
Deanna Swendseid	Stephen

## Transportation Advisory Committee

Milton Alm	Norman County
John Anderson	Kittson County
Lon Aune	Marshall County
Kelly Bengtson	Kittson County
Sharon Bring	Marshall County
Roger Falk	Roseau County
Mike Flaagan	Pennington County
Marvin Gunderson	Norman County
* Donald Jensen	Pennington County
Brian Ketring	Roseau County
Courtney Kleven	Red Lake County
Tom Knakmuhs	Norman County
Rich Sanders	Polk County
Dave Sorensen	Red Lake County
Warren Strandell	Polk County

## Enterprise Fund Committee

### Loan Fund

Michelle Benton	Thief River Falls
Darby Boe	Warren
** Reed Engelstad	Red Lake Falls
Danielle Harless	Halstad
James Herdliska	Erskine
Shannon Mortenson	Kennedy
Todd Peterson	Roseau

### Job & Career

* Gerald Jacobson	Fertile
Loran Lusignan	Grygla
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Velma Oakland	Red Lake Falls
Jim Richter	East Grand Forks

### Promotions

Delores Adkins	Ada
Jim Birkemeyer	Ada
Pam Hetteen	Roseau
Garth Kruger	Warren
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Jim Thomasson	Mentor
Ethel Thorlacious	Stephen
Betty Younggren	Hallock

\*Chair  
\*\*Loan Chair

# 2013 Highlights

## Emergency Management

### Pet Sheltering Supply Cache •••



Completed equipment purchases for two pet sheltering supply caches that are located in Polk and Beltrami Counties. These caches consist of leash, bowl and multiple size, collapsible cages that can be deployed in events which require the sheltering of pets and other animals (usually in coordination with other sheltering operations). The federal Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act directs the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop emergency preparedness plans, and ensure that state and local emergency plans take into account the needs of individuals with pets and service animals during a major disaster or emergency.

## Aging

### First Contact Initiative •••

Land of the Dancing Sky has facilitated discussions with hospitals, nursing homes and lead agencies to prepare for the implementation of the First Contact initiative. A partnership focusing on relationship building has been identified as a key strategy for successful implementation. Training and education has been provided to Region 1, 2 and 4 social services directors, Region 1 Long Term Care supervisors, nursing homes and hospital discharge planners (including our ND partners at Sanford Health and Altru Health Systems).

Effective November 1, First Contact specialists with the Senior LinkAge Line® are performing federally mandated pre-admission screenings (PAS) for individuals entering a Medical Assistance (MA) certified nursing facility. The 2013 Minnesota Legislature eliminated a PAS exemption and redesigned how PAS activity is completed. The screening ensures that only individuals who meet the required level of care are admitted to a nursing facility. In addition, it ensures individuals with a mental illness, a developmental disability or who are under the age of 65 receive additional evaluation. Since November 1, 2013 Land of the Dancing Sky has processed 795 pre-admission screens. We want to thank our health care partners with in the clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, counties and our staff that have embraced these changes as we learn new roles.

## Economic Development

### Community Connect Forum •••

The UND Center for Community Vitality chose the City of Warren to host a region-wide forum that focused on economic sustainability, environmental stewardship and community leadership. The purpose of the forum was to have the public involved with discussion of ideas that lead to a strong quality of life, quality of place and a sustainable approach to effective government. NWRDC staff assisted with planning of the event, provided mapping and technical assistance and group facilitation. The event drew participants from Minnesota and North Dakota.

## Transportation

The NWRDC coordinated and hosted a meeting that focused on the flooding around Oslo. The audience consisted of local residents, Mn/DOT, NDDOT, MNDNR, RRWMB, Representatives from federal and state government, the watersheds, townships and several agencies that deal with water related issues. Mn/DOT is planning a rehabilitation project on the MNTH 1 bridge over the Red River next construction season.

The meeting focused on finding a solution to the flooding that results in Oslo becoming an island. The Red River needs to be modeled to consider all the factors that cause the water problems resulting in overland flooding of MNTH 1 and NDTH 54; leaving residents with the only alternative to getting into and out of town via boat or helicopter.

The Border Townships Association Group provided information on solutions they see that will fix the flooding problem; a new longer bridge over the main channel, and a new bridge or culvert system that will allow more water to flow through MNTH 1 and NDTH 54.

A committee was formed to continue researching the possibilities of the solution to this problem, and to utilize funding to model the Red River at Oslo and produce recommended alternatives.



Northwest Regional Development Commission  
109 South Minnesota Street  
Warren, MN 56762