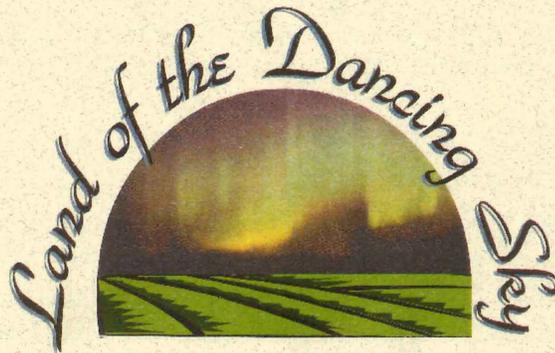




*Northwest
Regional
Development
Commission*

(www.nwrdc.org)

*Annual Report
Calendar Year 2014*



(www.visitnwminnesota.com)

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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

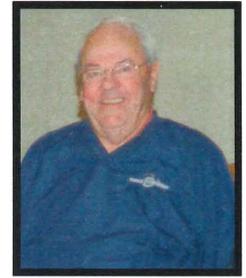
Visit NW Minnesota Website Address: www.VisitNWMinnesota.com

Land of the Dancing Sky Web Site Address: www.dancingskyaaa.org

NW MN Arts Council Website Address: www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org

Letter from the Chairman

Dr. Joe Bouvette



We want to welcome you to this 2014 Annual Report of events and activities of the NWRDC...

The end of the year is always a time for us to look back and reflect a bit on the accomplishments of the agency. We are proud of the reputation we carry with our stakeholders...we are known for working hard and getting the job done. We can attribute that to dedicated staff, involved Commission members and an engaged Board of Directors. Our expectations are high as we continue to expand to the public a variety of programs and services in 2015. For instance, we are proud that Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging brings great service to 21 counties, covering almost one-fourth of the state. Our AAA staff is well-known for providing outstanding service to the elderly population and is recognized by state and local leaders for their

performance. This reputation continues across our agency, and we look for ways to tie our programs together in unique and innovative ways so that we can provide more bang for the buck. Our Transportation, Arts, Emergency Services, Aging and Community/Economic Development Programs interact cooperatively to develop a bundle of services that encourage active lifestyles, cultural development, efficient infrastructure, business assistance and a diverse and more resilient economy. These are the things that lead to an excellent quality of life and quality of place. I hope you enjoy this report and will take this opportunity to learn more about the NWRDC as you look through it.

Regional Park and Trail Commission

The RDC is representing the region on the newly formed Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission. The Commission was established in 2013 to undertake system planning and provide recommendations to the legislature for grants funded by the parks and trails fund to counties and cities outside the seven-county metropolitan area for parks and trails of regional significance. [Minnesota Statutes, 85.536](#)

In August 2014, each of the six District Planning Committees (DPC) of the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission met. Those meetings had a few purposes:

1. To build rapport and a working relationship among the Committees.
2. To identify regional priorities for outdoor recreation development.
3. To rank and set weights for the criteria in each classification, by District.

The DPC established a classification overview which outlines the discussion trends that were identified across the District for each of the three parks and trails classifications.

1. Regional Trails classification,
2. Natural Resource-based Regional Park Classification,
3. Special Recreational Feature Regional Park Classification.

The project scores gave a ranking weight of the most favorable types of projects. The higher the score, the better the project. The commission has a review committee that scores each of the project applicant submittals and refers the highest scoring projects to the legislature for funding.

NW Regional Development Commission



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: Waiting Area in the New Office Space.

Staff Listing

NWRDC Staff

- Beth Budziszewski, Senior LinkAgeLine® Supervisor
- Carol Bye, Program Development Coordinator
- Annette Chapman, Pre-Admission Screening Specialist
- Jody Clauson, Case Aide Specialist
- Kathy Dahl, Senior LinkAgeLine® Specialist
- Debbie Eiler, Community Living Specialist
- Michelle Ehler, Community Living Specialist
- Donza Erickson, Pre-Admission Screening Specialist
- Cameron Fanfulik, Executive Director, Loan Fund Manager/
Economic Dev.
- Judi Frye, Program Developer/Grants Manager
- Val Mattison, First Contact Support Specialist
- Rose Noyes, Senior LinkAgeLine®
Specialist/Technical Support
- Jennifer Olson, Emergency Services Planning Director
- Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAgeLine® Specialist
- Danica Robson, Eldercare Dev. Program Coordinator
- Betty Safranski, Front Office Specialist
- Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist
- Troy Schroeder, Transportation Director
- Brenda Solberg, Loan Fund/Front Office/Financial
- Carol Sorensen, Finance Director/Grants Manager
- Darla Waldner, Aging Director
- Mara Wittman, Arts Council Director

*Right: Carol Sorensen,
Financial Officer*



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



*Right: Betty Safranski,
Front Office*



Northwest Regional Development Commission



Above: NWRDC Board of Directors (left to right) Elvera Cullen, Warren Strandell, Gary Kiesow, John Lerohl, Dr. Joe Bouvette, (Chairman) and Kimberley Johnson. Not Pictured: Mark Foldesi.



Left: Marshall County Members at Annual Commission Meeting.

Below: Polk County Members at Annual Commission Meeting.



COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

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

Marshall County

*Gary Kiesow	Goodridge	County
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

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 Sistasd	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 Lerohl	Oklee	County
Ronald Weiss	RLF	Watershed Dist.

Roseau County

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

*Board Members

**Chairperson



Above: Commission Members at the Annual Commission Meeting.



Above: Annual Commission Meeting in East Grand Forks.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BUDGET

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>ACTUAL REVENUES CY ' 2014</u>	<u>PROJECTED REVENUE CY ' 2015</u>
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMIN.	\$56,365	\$56,365
	\$56,365	\$56,365
STATE		
MN/DOT	\$86,512	\$75,000
MINNESOTA BOARD ON AGING	\$3,684,857	\$3,544,477
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES	\$174,540	\$178,900
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY	\$106,731	\$103,146
	\$4,052,640	\$3,901,523
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS		
NW MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL	\$116,895	\$114,074
	\$116,895	\$114,074
LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL		
LOCAL LEVY	\$238,657	\$257,534
LOCAL PROJECT	\$7,850	\$3,348
	\$246,507	\$260,882
MISCELLANEOUS		
NORTHWEST ENTERPRISE FUND	\$402,509	\$572,595
INTEREST	\$1,000	\$3,500
CONFERENCE REGIST./MISC.	\$1,412	\$0
	\$404,921	\$576,095
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$4,877,328</u>	<u>\$4,908,939</u>
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>PROJECTED</u>
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
	<u>CY ' 2014</u>	<u>CY ' 2015</u>
SALARY/FRINGE	\$1,421,699	\$1,516,544
STAFF TRAVEL & REGISTRATIONS	\$176,010	\$167,744
COMMISSION/COMMITTEE TRAVEL/PER DIEM	\$28,750	\$41,245
PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$380,946	\$42,629
OTHER EXPENSES	\$259,003	\$248,772
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	\$2,266,408	\$2,016,934
REGRANTED-AGING	\$1,858,284	\$2,012,883
WEST CENTRAL AGING OFFICE	\$403,871	\$379,122
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$7,500	\$0
BUSINESS LOANS	\$340,000	\$500,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$4,876,063</u>	<u>\$4,908,939</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) TO FUND BALANCE	<u>\$1,265</u>	<u>\$0</u>

Letter from the Executive Director

Cam Fanfulik



It has been an interesting year, beginning with the addition of several staff that necessitated a move from our existing office building over to the Westbridge Center, formerly the Warren Hospital. This has given us the space to accommodate our 23 staff (3 of who work at remote locations) and allows us to share a refitted facility that houses several other businesses and entities. Through all of the moving and construction chaos, we kept our services running at a high level of performance. The Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging continues to expand its program delivery and coordinates a wide variety of services for the elderly as it covers 21 counties, almost a fourth of the State's 87 counties. Homeland Security/Emergency Management is another of our programs that covers a larger area (14 counties) than our traditional 7 counties, and provides grantwriting, staffing and planning capacity. Our Transportation Program not only provides roads and trails planning, but is also able to provide state of the art

mapping to assist our own programs as well as local and state clients. Arts Promotion, Loan Fund and Community/Economic Development Programs consistently bring excellent service to the public, including: promotion and development of local artists and cultural activities, providing business loans and technical assistance, and delivering comprehensive planning and infrastructure grantwriting assistance. Added to all these programs are our excellent financial and secretarial staff, who prepare budgets, reports, agendas and many other duties vital to efficient program and agency operation. The NWRDC team looks forward to providing these services and more to the public. We hope you enjoy this summary of activities for 2014.

The BIG Move

2014 was a year for big changes at the Northwest Regional Development Commission, much of it brought on by steadily changing demographics. As the elderly population continued to grow in western Minnesota, State mandates for increased services necessitated the hiring of more Area Agency on Aging staff to meet the needs. Simply put, the NWRDC outgrew its building that it had occupied for the past 15 years. Coincidentally, the North Valley Health Center in Warren completed a brand new hospital building in late fall of 2013. After their move into their new building, the "old hospital" became available just as NWRDC was ramping up its hiring. Although the big move was all of one block to the west from its previous headquarters; a fair amount of reconstruction was necessary to revamp and refit the patient rooms into modern offices that now house 20 staff members. Bigger offices, more storage and more conference room capacity allows the NWRDC to continue operating from the same community with a much larger footprint in terms of building size. Now called "The Westbridge Center," many of the former patient rooms received new lighting, new carpet, new paint, desks, computer and phone infrastructure and other accoutrements necessary for a modern office building. Added to that are other businesses and organizations that occupy



Above: Newly renovated Conference Room.

office space, including the Marshall County Fair, Marshall County Health Department, Go Beyond Fitness Center, Jay Swanson Insurance Agency and an Ag Spray Equipment business that will open in 2015. The space has provided an effective re-use of a building that could have potentially fallen into disrepair, as so often happens when vacated buildings go unoccupied in the small town. Now it is a beehive of activity, housing Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging, Northwest Arts Council, Revolving Loan Fund, and planning departments in Transportation, Economic/Community Development, and Homeland Security/Emergency Management. 20 staff occupy NWRDC's portion of the building, and 3 more staff operate remotely offsite in other parts of the region. The BIG move brought about some big changes in how we operate, but the one constant that remains is our dedication and commitment to serving the public. We are looking forward to great years ahead in the Westbridge Center,

7 we invite you to stop in and visit us!

Aging

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Purpose: Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (LDSAAA) 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 - \$1,095,150; Minnesota Board on Aging EDP - \$174,540; RDC Tax Levy - \$55,478; West Central Office - \$378,741.

Regrant Funding Sources: Older Americans Act & Discretionary Funds - \$1,590,212; U.S. Department of Agriculture Nutrition Program - \$321,401; State Nutrition Program - \$299,350.

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

Care Transitions •••

The term "care transitions" refers to the movement patients make between healthcare practitioners and settings as their condition and care needs change during the course of a chronic or acute illness. With impending cuts to Medicare spending, hospitals will be motivated to develop solutions within their community as their performance (of reducing readmission rates) impacts how much they will be paid by Medicare.

We continued our partnerships with LifeCare (Roseau) and St. Mary's Essentia (Detroit Lakes) by participating on their Chronic Care and Safe Transitions Teams; designed to reduce avoidable readmissions. Long-Term Care Options Counseling (LTCOC) and person-centered support has become a priority in reducing health care costs and improving health outcomes.

Area Agencies on Aging have become the experts in the facilitation of smoother care transitions between formal and informal health care providers. We have expanded our role in bridging the gap between acute and clinical health care providers using community-based services to provide better care with follow-up, reduce health care costs and support better health of older adults.



Above: Seated (left to right) Annette Chapman, Pre-Admission Screening Specialist; Michelle Ehlert, Community Living Specialist; Darla Waldner, Aging Director; Jody Clauson, Case Aide Specialist; Debbie Eiler, Community Living Specialist. Standing: (left to right) Carol Bye, Program Development Coordinator; Kathy Dahl, Senior LinkAge Line® Specialist; Valerie Mattison, First Contact Support Specialist; Beth Budziszewski, Senior LinkAge Line® Supervisor; Donza Erickson, Pre-Admission Screening Specialist; Danica Robson, EDP Coordinator; Helen Phalen, Senior LinkAge Line Specialist; Nancy Sandahl, Community Living Specialist and Rose Noyes, Senior LinkAge Line® Specialist. Not Pictured: Judi Frye, Program Developer/Grants Manager.

Evidence Based Classes •••

- * In 2005, Minnesota had the fourth highest national fall rate.
- * Living with a chronic condition can make life difficult or can force people to give up their independence too soon.
- * 294,000 Minnesotans have diabetes and need some assistance managing this condition
- * Caregivers can be at risk of illness due to the demands of caring for family members

We offer classes that are proven to have a positive impact in addressing one of these areas. "A Matter of Balance (MOB)" emphasizes practical ways to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. The "Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)" assists participants with learning ways to cope with symptoms and set daily, manageable goals. "Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP)" provides techniques to deal with stress, fatigue, hyper/hypoglycemia and other disease symptoms. Participants learn how to work more effectively with health care providers and eat healthier meals. "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" helps improve self-care behaviors, manage emotions and increase confidence with caregiving demands.

Aging continued ...

We have facilitated four "train the trainer" workshops which include: MOB, CDSMP and one in DSMP. In addition, we have provided technical assistance to nine MOB, six CDSMP and two DSMP classes throughout our planning and service area.

Title III-D funds have been provided to Mahube-OTWA to support the development and expansion of "Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance." Two leader trainings have been provided in our planning and service area, resulting in 39 trained coaches. In addition, nine 12-week sessions have been scheduled.



Above: Tai-Ji Quan Class for Better Balance held in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Caregiver Support •••

"Elderly dependency ratio" is a calculation used to compare the prevalence of people aged 65 compared to the typical working population in an area. The average elderly dependency ratio for the State of Minnesota is 19%. Our planning and service area has an elderly dependency ratio of 27%, meaning there are fewer working people available to support the care needs of our population who are age 65 and older. Caregiver supports/services are critical links in supporting both our seniors and the people who care for them.

We provided Title III-E funding to five agencies that provide respite and caregiver support services. These agencies provided 7,820 hours of respite services to 113 caregivers. In addition, Title III-E funding supports 19 Caregiver Consultants who provided 642 hours of counseling and consulting services.

Title III-E funds also support caregivers who are raising their grandchildren. This project provided services to 45 caregivers, age 60 and older, through one-to-one home visits and support groups.

Live Well at Home •••

Developed by the Minnesota Board on Aging, Live Well at Home (LWAH) is a resource tool designed for older Minnesotans to identify their risk of a premature out-of-home placement, and develop a plan to help them remain in their own home or community.

The LWAH rapid screen can help individuals identify risks that will likely cause a premature and permanent move from home. It further looks to help individuals proactively identify the services needed to help remain at home and avoid a "crisis" situation.

We coordinated four LWAH trainings, providing information to 79 home and community based service providers. These agencies received information on the LWAH assessment and tools available online to support their efforts in educating seniors and caregivers about the service options available. Through the development of a LWAH coalition with Mahnomen and the White Earth Reservation; we were able to provide information to an additional 20 home and community based providers.

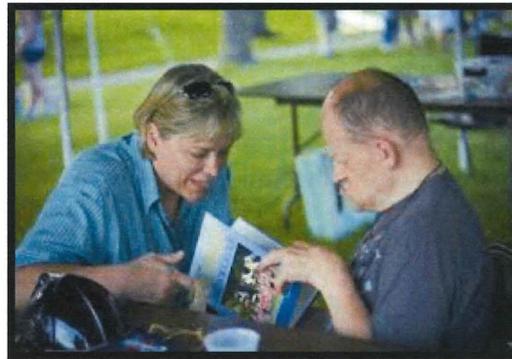
Geriatric Managed Care •••

Many older adults and caregivers are asking the same question: What is a Geriatric Care Manager? A Geriatric Care Manager (GCM) is a healthcare professional who provides a thorough assessment of an elder's diverse needs, and assists families in developing a comprehensive and manageable plan of care. Services through a GCM is individualized based on need, but can include:

- *Evaluation of senior housing options and safety in the current living situation
- *Establishing and monitoring home care services
- *Attending medical appointments and communicating information to family members
- *Coordinating activities that improve quality of life
- *Legal and financial referrals
- *Providing information on and connecting families with financial support programs (i.e. Veteran's services)

Aging continued . . .

We are thrilled to announce the development and implementation of two Geriatric Managed Care (GMC) programs within our service area. In 2013, we provided technical assistance to the Park Rapids Living at Home Block Nurse Program as they developed this service. They became the first organization in Minnesota to offer a Nationally Certified Geriatric Care Manager service. During 2014, we provided technical assistance to Northwoods Caregivers as they developed a GMC program, and were successful in receiving (Community Service/ Community Services Development) CS/SD funds to support their efforts. This program is scheduled to launch in 2015.



"Supporting Caregivers"

Senior LinkAge Line® Highlights



Senior LinkAge Line® Calls Received . . .

In 2014, Senior LinkAge Line® Specialists from the Warren and Fergus Falls offices provided assistance to over 19,539 callers. We assisted on issues that included: Medicare Part D plans, assistance accessing services, housing options, Long Term Care Options Counseling and resolving issues with insurance companies. Welcome to Kathy Dahl as our newest Senior LinkAge Line® Specialist.

Pre-Admission Screening . . .

Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) for nursing facility placement has seen continued growth since the program began in November, 2013. During 2014, we processed 5,239 Pre-Admission Screenings for people who were discharged from a hospital and needed additional care in a nursing facility. Welcome to Jody Clauson and Val Mattison as the newest staff in the PAS program.

Senior LinkAge Line® Outreach . . .

We reached 11,269 older adults during 2014 by providing 393 Outreach Presentations. Presentation topics included: New to Medicare, Medicare Savings Programs, Advance Directives, Scam Awareness and Medicare Changes. Outreach locations in Thief River Falls, Bemidji and Mahanomen provide easier access to individuals who need more assistance with insurance and other issues. Informational postcards have been developed and disseminated at senior nutrition sites, home delivered meals, clinics and other community locations as a way to share information with our seniors.



Above: Seated (left to right) Jeri Collins and Debbie Carlson. Standing (left to right) Carol Johnson, Bruce Besse, Amy Dallman, Judy Peterson and Carolyn O'Connell.

Volunteer Program . . .

Volunteers are essential to the provision of many aging related services, including our State Health Insurance Counseling Program (SHIP). Once trained, the SHIP volunteers meet with clients one-to-one in their community to compare Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, educate those new to Medicare, assist with applications for programs that help pay for health insurance & other medical costs and sort through insurance paperwork. Currently, there are 14 certified SHIP volunteers. The need for volunteers will only grow due to the rising complexities of health care, and the increasing number of seniors in our region.

2014 Aging Grantees

Kittson County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 189 one-way trips to 13 persons.

Northwest Sentence to Service Chore Program - Provided 579 hours of chore service to 77 persons.

Roseau County Senior Medical Travel - Provided 1,514 one-way trips to 107 persons.

Tri-County Community Corrections Sentence to Service Chore Program - Provided 520 hours of chore service to 133 persons.



Above: Chore service in progress.

LSS Caregiver/Respite Program - Provided 1,295 sessions of caregiver counseling services to 520 persons and 3,808 hours of caregiver respite services to 118 persons.

Northwoods Interfaith Caregiver Program - Provided 522 sessions of caregiver counseling services to 648 persons, and 3,601 hours of caregiver respite to 45 persons.

Park Rapids LAH/BNP/Interfaith Caregivers Program - Provided 317 sessions of caregiver coaching services to 70 persons, and 417 hours of caregiver respite services to 14 persons.

Lake Region Healthcare - Provided 111 in-depth medication management sessions to 108 persons.

Legal Services - Provided 618 hours of legal services to 166 persons.

Clearwater Senior Transportation - Provided 200 one-way trips to 23 persons.



Above: Meals provided to older adults.

LSS Senior Nutrition Program - Provided 183,958 Congregate and Home Delivered Meals to 5,653 persons.

Mahube Relatives as Parents - Provided 194 hours of caregiver counseling services to 145 grandparents raising grandchildren.

MN-ND Alzheimers Program - Provided 124 hours of caregiver consultation services to 122 people and 31 education events to 946 persons.

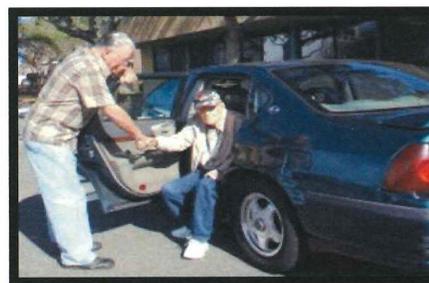
Nutrition Services, Inc. - Provided 209,000 congregate and home delivered meals to 4,269 persons.

Central MN Elder Network - Provided 318 sessions of caregiver counseling services. Provided 951 caregiver respite hours to 20 persons.

West Central Community Action - Provided 43 hours of chore service to 40 persons.

Mahube Tai-Ji Quan - Provided 530 sessions to 572 persons.

Productive Alternatives Senior Medical Travel - Provided 73,433 miles of medical travel to 105 persons.



Above: Transportation services for older adults.

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 - \$116,895.

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 and directory.



Arts Highlights

Arts Council Planning, Services and Statistics:

Individual Grant and Award Highlights •••

Lavonne Forsberg of Thief River Falls was recognized with our Northwest Star Award for her lifelong efforts in visual arts. LaVonne received a \$5,000 award. Janet Johnson of Roseau received a \$5,000.00 grant to build her ceramics studio and pottery business. Laurel Johnson of Thief River Falls was awarded \$5,000.00 to work with a recording studio and producer to create a CD of her original songs.

Northwest Minnesota Art Exhibition •••

Coordinated our annual spring exhibit in Middle River at the American Legion from April 14-27, 2014. Over 200 people attended the artist reception at the end of the showcase. The mini exhibit featured 15 artists and toured the libraries of Crookston, Climax, Hallock, Thief River Falls, Fosston, Roseau and Warren from May 2 until Dec 3.

River Walk Artists Shop and Gallery •••

The year started off with Loren Younggren's (Hallock) photography in January, East Grand Forks students in February, Sherri Kruger's (Greenbush) mosaics mixed with Lynne King's (Alvarado) photographs in March and April and Cindy Kolling's (Gully) drawings and cards in May. The last few months of 2014 featured a successful student art showcase and the annual Holiday show. Each show had a reception and attendance of about 300 people/month visiting and purchasing artwork.



Right: Mara Hanel,
Arts Council Director

Art and Wine Walk Success at Gallery •••

This year, the Art and Wine walk drew over 2,000 guests to the exhibits of Erin Nelson (teacher) and Karlee Westrem (student) of EGF showed paintings in June; Trey Everett (Crookston) showed drawings with Tom Brosseau's (TRF) woodcarving in July; Candace Osborn (Ada) showcased her paintings and felted wool animals with Brett Lynse's (Crookston) original prints and drawings in August; Chris Lane (Newfolden) displayed his photography in September; and Bruce Flaig (Fertile) showcased his photography with Janet Johnson's (Roseau) ceramic pieces in October. A very busy summer of extremely successful exhibits were coordinated by our Showcase Specialist Therese Jacobson.

Pioneer 90.1 Radio Interviews •••

Sixteen interviews done with Mara, Therese and Maureen as staff for the Arts Council. Seventeen artist interviews and ten interviews with directors of community theater and leaders in our arts organizations filled our 2014 line-up on Pioneer 90.1. Interviews were every week on Tuesday throughout the year. The podcasts are on our website at www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org.



Above: Riverwalk Gallery in East Grand Forks set up with the Holiday Exhibit.

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 - \$97,135; and interest \$1,660; Misc. - \$685. 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

Comprehensive Planning •••

NWRDC staff has been approached by several communities interested in the comprehensive planning/zoning ordinance process. The Northwest Minnesota Foundation has been instrumental in encouraging these efforts by partnering with the communities and the NWRDC to help fund the projects.

Warren - Staff assisted the City of Warren with the completion of its comprehensive plan in 2014. The process included: public meetings with residents and business owners, planning efforts that entailed zoning maps, trails development and mapping, review of community incentive programs, marketing approaches to encourage tourism, energy savings and gateway promotion through new signage. Cleanliness, safety, good schools, great park system and proximity to regional centers were major attractions for community residents.

Gary - The City of Gary began its Comprehensive Planning process with a public meeting in late fall to provide information and education for the general public. Gary's 210 residents have a strong sense of community and desire to keep the city a great place to live, work and play. As part of the comprehensive planning process, Gary will put in place implementation plans for replacement of its clean water system, road replacement and maintenance, building rehabilitation, green space/parks development and enhancement of activities for school age children.

Green Step Cities •••

NWRDC works in conjunction with the U of MN Clean Energy Resource Teams to provide information and referral to communities regarding energy efficiency best practices and decreasing the carbon footprint. Participants in the program included the cities of Red Lake Falls and Warren, who work to achieve efficiency and sustainability goals that meet or exceed state regulatory goals. The program promotes communities through its website as practitioners of energy efficiency best practices and encourages a variety of environmental, social and financial benefits.

Regional Sustainability •••

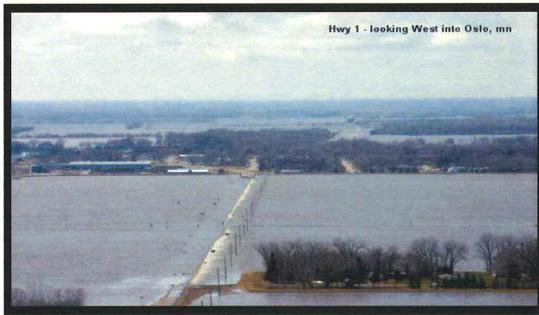
NWRDC staff participates with the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership in a working group to review and choose projects that help communities solve problems and take advantage of new opportunities in Northwest Minnesota. The project is a collaborative effort that connects communities with University of Minnesota resources, knowledge and seed funding to drive sustainability in four areas: agriculture and food systems, tourism and resilient communities, natural resources and clean energy. The projects are community identified and valued, citizen led and collaborative with a variety of resources and partners.

Community Development Continued ...

A Regional Flood Modeling Meeting was Held ...

Regional flood modeling at Oslo will provide MnDOT and the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Watershed District with alternatives to help reduce the flooding impact and closure of Minnesota Trunk Highway (MNTH) 1 east of Oslo and North Dakota Trunk Highway (NDTH) 54 west of Oslo. Both roads are closed during a major flood event. Flooding also impacts and ultimately closes I-29 and the Northern Plains Railroad.

The watershed is scheduled to receive bonding money from the legislature that is matched by MnDOT funding to hire Houston Engineering to provide several alternative actions that addresses the flooding around Oslo that often leaves the city as an island.



Above: Hwy 1 flooded leaving Oslo, MN as an island.

The Oslo Bridge was scheduled for a major rehabilitation project in 2015. Bids for the project came in two-million higher than estimated which has now placed the rehabilitation into a possible new bridge construction. Mn/DOT is reviewing options and coordinating meetings with local officials to proceed in the most cost effective manner. A new bridge construction project could potentially partner with the Great Plains Railroad to construct one large bridge for both the railroad and vehicles. A new bridge structure would have an impact on the water flows in the channel at the current location of the railroad bridge and the MNTH 1 bridge. Thus, the timing for the modeling project mentioned above is perfect in the consideration of all the different impacts of new bridge construction.

Houston Engineering will be utilizing unsteady Hydrologic Engineering Centers River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) in order to model alternatives to provide access to the City of Oslo during these flooding periods.

The existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' HEC-RAS model will be used as a starting point for the modeling. Additional detail will be added to the model from approximately 6 miles upstream to 10 miles downstream of Oslo, MN. The North Marais River will also be added to the model. The modeling will evaluate nine different alternatives. These alternatives include different combinations of altering ND State Highway 54, MN Trunk Highway 1, Interstate Highway 29, and the Northern Plains Railway. Also, cost estimates will be developed for each of the alternatives.

MNDOT Bike Plan

The NWRDC has participated with and provided input into statewide bike trails that will connect regional centers with destination centers. The west half of MnDOT District 2 is primarily agriculture based, and the development of bicycle trails is costly when right of way purchase is required. Many of the state designated trails are located on state trunk highways that have paved shoulders wide enough to accommodate a bicycle. The Statewide

Bicycle System Plan will be used to: connect the locally desired places of interest, use the existing routes to plan for future bike routes and help plan future highway design standards. The public is asked to get involved by contacting the NWRDC to provide information on desired bicycle corridors. You can also provide feedback by logging into the MNDOT webpage located at: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike>.



Above: The public provides comments to the State Bike Plan.

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; NWRDC Tax Levy - \$70,374.

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

Economic Development Highlights

Business Assistance •••

NWRDC staff provided more than 800 hours of staff assistance on business and job creation/retention projects in 2014. Staff worked with more than 70 businesses on business planning, referral, financial packaging, loan applications and workout strategies. New application activity was somewhat limited in 2014, as a general tightening of credit requests occurred in Northwest Minnesota. Pre-application activity maintained its normal pace, with many new entrepreneurs and existing businesses looking at funding options for business development.

Loan Assistance •••

A noticeable drop in loan request activity that began in mid-2013 continued on through the end of 2014. Area banks felt the same slowdown, as well as other gap financiers throughout the region. This did not seem to affect the need for technical assistance and other interest in the revolving loan fund, as the NWRDC provided assistance to more than 70 businesses in the region, along with entrepreneurs and startup companies. A total of \$340,000 in loans were closed in 2014. Farmer's Elevator Company of Alvarado used loan financing to fund a large plant and equipment expansion that will allow for faster and more efficient unit train loading of barley, corn, soybeans and wheat.

Heating the Midwest with Biomass •••

NWRDC staff participated in a multi-state action team gathering data and information to be presented at the annual Heating the Midwest with Biomass conference held in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The action team consists of educators and economic development practitioners from across a six state region in the North Central United States. The goal of the team is to promote the use of biomass as an alternative fuel source to conventional fossil fuels.

Impact 20/20 •••

Staff participates with area business leaders, educators and government on the Education and Workforce Joint Taskforce and also the Broadband Taskforce. These groups develop recommendations for policy advocacy and direction, focusing on career exploration at an early age and preparation for post-secondary opportunities for students in K-12. This includes soft-skill training for students as preparation for effective participation in the workforce. The Broadband Taskforce focuses on increasing business utilization of broadband for marketing, sales and information. Export marketing and sales continue to grow at a rapid pace among area businesses, but studies show that opportunities exist to increase business activity and commerce in much greater numbers through use of the internet and broadband capabilities.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) •••

NWRDC staff reviewed economic development strategies in the 2014 CEDS, and updated data and statistics for the seven county region. The Enterprise Fund Committee reviewed strategies and provided input on the CEDS strategic direction. Availability of workforce housing continues to be a major barrier to entry-level workers across the region. Workforce succession is beginning to become an issue as the workforce and population demographics continue to age.

Ingenuity Frontier IDEA Competition •••

IDEA (Ingenuity Drives Entrepreneur Acceleration) is a Northwest Minnesota competition that turns great ideas into great businesses. The annual competition provides training, business coaching and capital to participating entrepreneurs who want to turn an idea into a fast-growth business. NWRDC staff participates with several partners in planning activities that promote innovation, entrepreneurship and marketing of the regional IDEA competition. The competition helps to align inventive product ideas with access to resources in order to launch a successful business venture. More than \$300,000 in awards have been given out over the past five years.



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 - \$62,509.

Loan Funding Sources: Loan Repayments and Loan Interest - \$340,000.

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



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

2014 Loan Highlights

2014 brought its usual amount of requests for applications, loan monitoring responsibilities and technical assistance to businesses, but a noticeable decline in actual loan application review and processing continued from late 2013. Other Loan Fund activity included loan restructuring, loan payoffs and/or consolidations and interest rate adjustments to loan agreements. The strength of the regional economy was reflected in several businesses' strategic planning as a few made the decision to pay their loans off ahead of schedule and begin planning for business expansion, whether it was to accommodate a hiring increase of employees, plant expansion or new equipment. Entrepreneurial activity continues to be strong, as several clients have requested NWRDC technical assistance, information and referral. This includes connecting clients with agencies or programs such as Agricultural Utilization and Research Institute (AURI), Small Business Development Center (SBDC), EDA University Center, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Northwest Minnesota Foundation and Ingenuity Frontier-IDEA Competition.

Loans approved and/or closed in 2014 included:

- Farmer's Elevator Company (grain processing & shipping) - Alvarado
- Northern Woolen Mills, Inc. (wool processing) - Fosston
- DMC Motorsports, LLC (recreation tourism) - Thief River Falls
- Valley Hardware & Supply, Inc. (hardware retail) - Halstad

Historical Loan Activity (period ending 9/30/2014):

Total Loans	184
Active Loans	36
Total Loan Amount	\$12,779,673
Other Financing Leveraged	\$73,805,781
Jobs Created/Retained	1,722

Historical Loan Activity by County (period ending 9/30/2014):

<u>County</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kittson	21	\$1,206,621
Marshall	39	\$2,793,705
Norman	17	\$ 883,533
Pennington	13	\$1,071,850
Polk	56	\$4,169,975
Red Lake	12	\$ 783,115
Roseau	26	\$1,915,877



Above: Product promotion from Northern Woolen Mills in Fosston.

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 - \$99,231; Regrant - \$7,500.

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

2014 State Homeland Security Program Grant •••

Completed and applied for the 2014 State Homeland Security Program Grant on behalf of the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board.

Conference Attendance •••

Attended the Governor's Conference and the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) Conference.

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.

Regional Exercises •••

Aided in the creation of exercises for Region 3 emergency response personnel that focused on emergency operations center staffing, mass sheltering with the American Red Cross and planning for the upcoming 2014 State Homeland Security Program investments.

Regional Sheltering Plan •••

Updated 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 •••

Updated the 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 •••

Continued utilizing the regional badge printer for the identification of emergency response personnel within Region 3. This is to ensure recognition during disasters, sheltering, training or other events.

Emergency Operations Plan Template •••

Created an Emergency Support Function based Emergency Operations Plan template for use at a county level.



Above: Red Cross volunteers in Hitterdal, MN canvassing homes for home fire preparedness and checking/installing smoke alarms.

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 it's planning efforts and programs.

Funding Sources: MN Department of Transportation \$85,512; RDC Tax Levy - \$16,506.

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



Above: Troy Schroeder, Transportation Planner

Transportation Highlights

MNDOT State Rail Plan

The NWRDC Transportation Department has been taking part in MnDOT state planning efforts throughout the year. Several plans are being developed this year.

The Minnesota State Rail Plan is MnDOT's modal plan for the state's freight and passenger rail system. Its primary purpose is to establish guidance and priorities for the state transportation decisions - ensuring that efficient, competitive services are available to rail customers and that freight access to local and global markets is enhanced. Now in process for its five-year update.

In alignment with [Minnesota GO](#), the [Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan](#), the [Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan](#) and other documents, the State Rail Plan will provide an overall framework for effective use of the state's freight and passenger rail network and its future development.

The plan will identify priority rail corridors, programs and projects that offer effective improvements or expansion for passenger and freight travel in and out of Minnesota.



Above: Freight train moving product nationally.

Key tasks

*Minnesota's passenger and freight rail improvement strategy will be detailed, including Minnesota's passenger and freight rail impact on the economy, the state's ability to meet national passenger and freight rail goals and the economic factors that increase growth and competitive edge.

*An assessment of Minnesota's current rail system demand will include an overview of the current system's condition and performance (e.g. bottlenecks, performance and safety) and an evaluation of current freight transportation assets such as freight modal facilities and border crossings.

*An assessment of Minnesota's future rail system demand will forecast the state's ability to handle projected freight and passenger growth. A 20-year forecast will identify trends, needs and issues and analyze strengths and weaknesses.

*Performance-based metrics will measure performance of the overall infrastructure and evaluate the effectiveness of Minnesota's freight and passenger rail system to serve passenger and shipper needs (e.g. profiles for districts).

*Best practices in national rail planning will be used, such as: metro area coordination and issues, other states' practices, funding, long-range planning, organizational structure, data and analytical tools, private sector participation and multi-jurisdictional coordination.

MNDOT Freight Plan

The NWRDC is assisting MnDOT with the 2014-15 Statewide Freight System Plan by gathering local data on the freight system and sharing that information with freight planning staff. The plan will provide policy framework and strategies for Mn/DOT and other public and private sector freight stakeholders to guide planning and investment in various transportation modes.

Key Tasks

Task 1: Stakeholder Engagement

A variety of methods to gather feedback (e.g. one-on-one meetings, a freight summit, online survey, etc.) will be employed to allow the team to listen for physical and operational issues with respect to transportation, and to learn how MnDOT can help industries successfully address transportation issues. This outreach strategy will not only serve to enhance MnDOT's understanding of critical issues facing businesses, but will also begin the development of a prioritized needs list. Obtaining feedback from the NWRDC manufacturing and agriculture sectors will provide beneficial information used to plan for future road investments.

Task 2: Data Synthesis and Baseline Assessment

MnDOT and other state partners have expended significant efforts to develop statewide and regional plans and studies, and assess available freight data. The focus of this Minnesota Statewide Freight System Plan is to create new, useful information that builds on such efforts and enables MnDOT to move forward with freight system planning, programming, construction and operations. This task will quickly compile what is already known about Minnesota's goods movement trends, needs and issues; provide an inventory of the goods movement system based on available data; and begin to establish the economic importance of the system.

Task 3: Minnesota Freight Policy

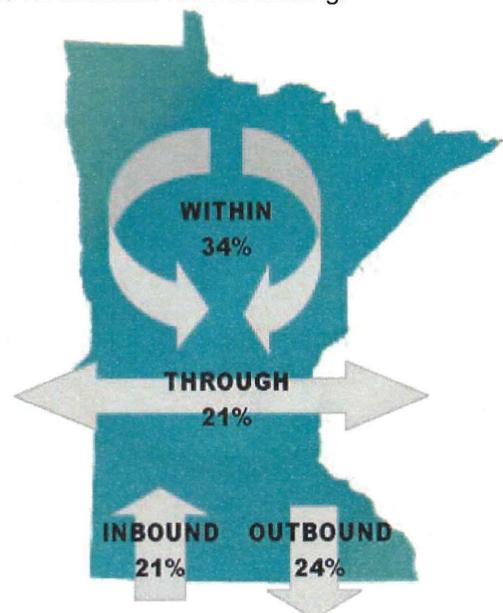
This task will establish a freight system framework and multimodal transportation goals and policies that will contribute to increasing Minnesota jobs, improving economic competitiveness and enhancing quality of life. Development of these components will be closely coordinated with Minnesota GO, the Statewide Multimodal Transportation Plan and the Minnesota State Highway Investment Plan, as well as through guidance from the Plan Advisory Committee.

Task 4: Project Development Guidance

This task identifies freight system needs, issues and opportunities and categorizes them based on mode, type, geography and other features. Compelling freight-specific performance measures developed in this task can be used to identify chokepoints and other capital investments. Operational needs will be considered in the business context. Finally, Minnesota's Primary Freight Network - the key, multimodal infrastructure elements that are conduits for the state's economy - will be defined as part of this task.

Task 5: Implementation Plan

This plan will document the value of freight transportation investments to Minnesota for MnDOT elected officials and the general public. In this task a "Freight Action Agenda" will be formed, comprising a range of strategies that MnDOT and other Minnesota freight stakeholders should act on in the near-term. The agenda will include physical, operational and policy actions. Low-cost "freight" projects & operational strategies that MnDOT can quickly pursue will be highlighted so that the responsiveness of government to business needs can be shown. This task will also position Minnesota to be eligible for available federal funding.



Above: This map illustrates freight movement within and through the state.

Special Projects

Comprehensive Planning for Area Communities

Funding Sources: NW MN Foundation - \$7,850; Tax Levy - \$164.

Staff: Cam Fanfulik, Troy Schroeder and John Wynne

A unique partnership has developed over the past two years to bring comprehensive planning services to area communities. NWRDC has teamed up with the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) to assist small communities with planning efforts to help position themselves for the future. The NMF has provided underwriting assistance to communities in order to help pay for planning services provided by NWRDC staff. The communities leverage those dollars by providing matching funds. In this way, small towns with limited budgets and staffing limitations are able to do the planning necessary to provide a blueprint for development and growth. Comprehensive plans are put together through a series of public meetings that engage the community and result in a reasonable and rational basis for development, including land use, economic development, housing, transportation needs, recreational opportunities, infrastructure options and many 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.



MN Association of Development Organizations (MADO) - Greater MN Development Strategy - DevelopMN

Staff: Cam Fanfulik, Jennifer Olson and Troy Schroeder

NWRDC staff has joined with Economic Development District peers from across Minnesota to begin the process for the development of a Greater Minnesota Development Strategy, named DevelopMN. DevelopMN is an outgrowth of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is a regional planning requirement of the US Dept of Commerce. DevelopMN will provide an economic roadmap that aligns Minnesota regional economies with State and Federal resources in order to maximize economic development, prioritize infrastructure opportunities and work inter-regionally and statewide on issues of strategic importance such as broadband, energy, housing and transportation. The statewide plan includes all areas of the state that are not part of the seven-county metropolitan planning area of the Twin Cities. DevelopMN will set forth goals and foundational objectives necessary to solve economic development problems within the State, and will clearly define metrics of success. The coordination and alignment provided through DevelopMN will leverage development opportunities and strengthen the economic diversity in the state. It will also provide a benchmark by which the state economy can evaluate opportunities with other regions and states in the national economy.



Above: Gary, MN is one of the communities undergoing Comprehensive Planning.

Plans and Publications

Prepared by NWRDC

Plans

2014 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 2014 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.

2014 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 2014-15 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

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

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

CY 2014 Annual Report - Information on the funding and work activities of the NWRDC over the past year. Published and distributed to local officials and legislators.

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

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.

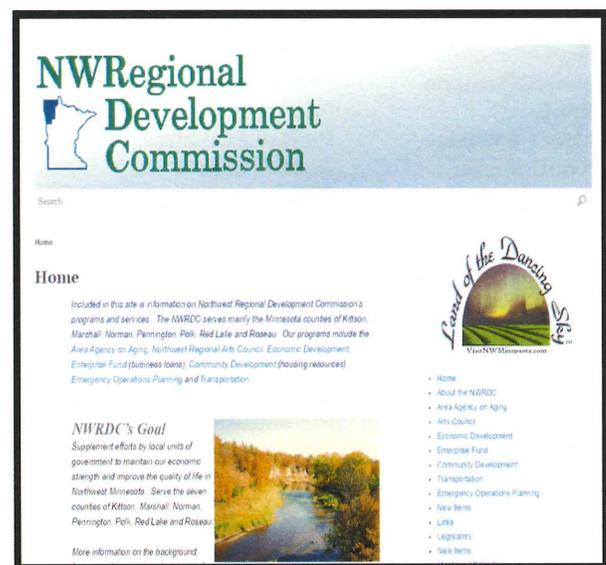
Websites

www.nwrdc.org - New format and re-design for 2014.

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. New format and re-design for 2014.

www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org - In 2014, our website featured our grant application forms and guidelines, posts on opportunities, our on-line artists directory and general information on our gallery. Posts showcasing statistics and pictures of our recent activities are on our website, our Facebook page and our Twitter account. Our e-newsletter is sent electronically to almost 1,000 people twice a month. People sign up by clicking the link on our website home page.

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.



Above: A sneak peek of the New Format for the www.nwrdc.org website.

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 Phillippe	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
Kyle DeMolee	Roseau County
Craig Fontaine	Becker County
Bryan Green	Clay County
Brian Halbasch	Hubbard County
Christina Husbands	Lake of the Woods County
Garry Johanson	Norman County
Josh Johnston	Marshall County
* Chris Muller	Beltrami County
Larry Olson	Clearwater County
Kathy Seby	Roseau County
Nancy Shafer	Polk County

Northwest Minnesota Arts Council

Faye Auchenpaugh	Thief River Falls
Jennifer Bakken	Fertile
Charles Erickson	Roseau
Barbara Geer	Middle River
Eryn Killough	Crookston
MaryAnn Laxen	East Grand Forks
Connie Nelson	Hallock
Aliza Olson	Roseau
Angie Peterson	Roseau
* Bruce Reeves	Red Lake Falls
Kay Rosengren	Hallock
Deanna Swendseid	Stephen

Transportation Advisory Committee

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
Mike Moore	Thief River Falls
Jim Thomasson	Mentor
Ethel Thorlacious	Stephen
Betty Younggren	Hallock

2014 Highlights

Aging

Return to Community Expansion •••

Return to Community was initiated in December, 2009 as an effort to assist nursing home residents in returning to their home and community. Individuals with low to moderate care needs, were in the nursing facility more than 45 days, have a support system and express a desire to return home are connected to a Community Living Specialist. A plan is developed that identifies the support services that will be necessary to assure a successful transition back to community living. The individual is responsible for purchasing and paying for the services developed in the Community Living Plan. Since 2009, we have successfully returned 339 residents to their homes and communities. Debbie Eiler and Michelle Ehlert were hired as Community Living Specialists.

The growth of Return to Community is demonstrated below:

- 2010- 22 individuals
- 2011- 42 individuals
- 2012- 59 individuals
- 2013- 88 individuals

In 2014, 128 individuals utilized this service instead of remaining in the nursing home paying out of pocket costs for care. Returning home has resulted in huge cost savings.

\$6,000/month in a nursing facility x 12 months = \$72,000 saved; which is a total savings for these 128 individuals of \$9,216,000.

\$4,000 /month in a nursing facility x 12 months = \$48,000 saved; which is a total savings for these individuals of \$6,144,000.

Emergency Management



The HSEM Region 3 Joint Powers Board in coordination with the Northern and Red River Valley Chapters of the Red

Cross held Sheltering Fundamentals Workshops in Bemidji, Moorhead, Roseau and Thief River Falls. Three of the locations also practiced opening a shelter as a second exercise in this workshop. The chosen locations for the second portion of this exercise were actual shelters utilized by Emergency Management. Specific topics of conversation include how to open, organize, operate and close shelter locations. These classes will again be held in 2015, let your Emergency Manager know if you are interested in attending!

Arts



Exciting New Promotion and Marketing Efforts •••

The Arts Council hired Mo Regalado of Karlstad as our Promotions Specialist in December of 2013. She

brought lots of institutional knowledge on social media like Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Instagram, You Tube and Word Press websites. She has a drive to learn more about technology and connecting with people that has brought new life to our radio interviews, e-newsletters and our Facebook page. This year, we partnered with Heartland Tourism to submit our entries into the status lines of the Explore Northwest Minnesota Facebook page. That partnership drove visitors to our website, our gallery and our events. Exciting growth of over 200% in people who have liked, clicked and followed our posts. Our radio program has become a great place to hear from our area arts leaders and our artists. It can be heard weekly at 3:05 p.m., Tuesdays on Pioneer 90.1. The podcast is available to listen to on our website! In 2014, our Arts Council made leaps and bounds related to social media. Our gallery in East Grand Forks continues to be very popular with over 3,000 guests visiting our exhibits annually. Our social media serves to announce these shows, document all the fun receptions and provide a place to collect photographs of artists mingling with a buying public.

Economic Development

Economic Development project activity experienced some slowdown in 2014, as the region appears to be gathering its breath after years of fast-paced new growth among several area companies. Business expansions and progress continue as small business owners and entrepreneurs are constantly looking to streamline and provide better efficiencies in their production processes. Availability and affordability of housing for entry-level workers still remains a difficult issue in the region and is causing some heartburn for both small and large employers. The regional success stories of business clusters within the seven counties is dependent upon adequate housing stock, soft skills training, access to quality of life amenities and workforce availability.

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