



Upper Minnesota Valley  
**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
Helping Communities Prosper

323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 320.289.1981 [www.umvrdc.org](http://www.umvrdc.org)

January 6, 2017

**Katie Elmore, Acquisitions Specialist**  
Minnesota Legislative Reference Library  
Acquisitions Department  
645 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1050

Dear Ms. Elmore:

Pursuant to Minn. Statute 462.393 Subd.2, please find enclosed a copy of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission's five-year self-evaluation report. This evaluation was conducted by means of an electronic community survey. The survey was emailed to 143 public officials (mayors, tribal chair, county commissioners, school board superintendents, city manager/clerks, county administrators, county engineers, RDC board members) in the region. And 50 responded (35%). A full copy of the survey is attached for your review.

Of those responding to specific questions:

- 46% of respondents viewed themselves as either very knowledgeable or knowledgeable about the Commission. 36% were somewhat knowledgeable and 18% not knowledgeable.
- 90% had worked with the UMRDC over the last five years.
- 57 % felt the UMRDC had been very responsive and 43 % felt the UMRDC had been responsive to their requests.
- 74 % were completely satisfied and 23 % somewhat satisfied with the service they received from the UMRDC.
- 94 % judged the overall quality of service as good to excellent, while 3% judged it as fair and 3% did not know.
- 100 % rated the effectiveness and professional capabilities of the UMRDC staff to be good to excellent.
- 13% described the cost for services as too high, 77% as about right, and 10% as inexpensive.

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

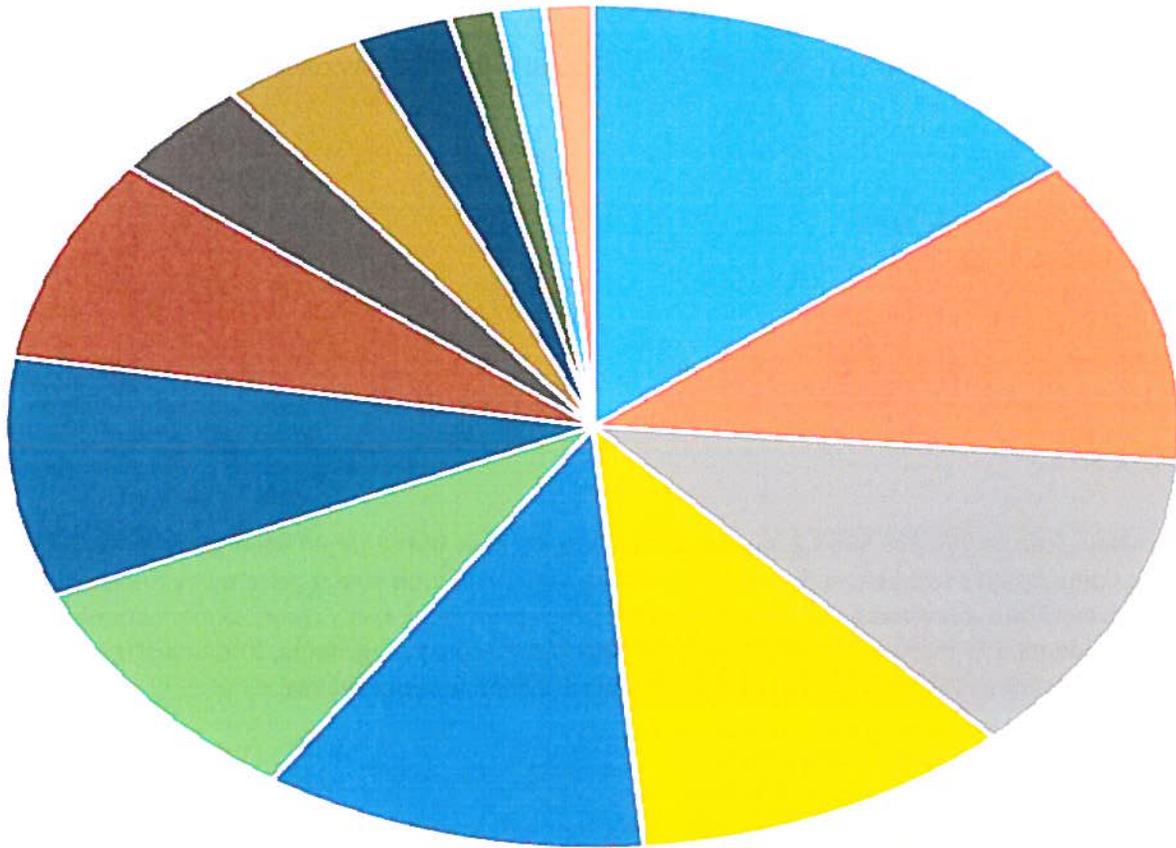
A summary chart of the issues that were identified as critical and urgent to the region is attached.

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

Sincerely,

Dawn Hegland  
UMVRDC Executive Director

## Critical & Urgent Issues for the Region

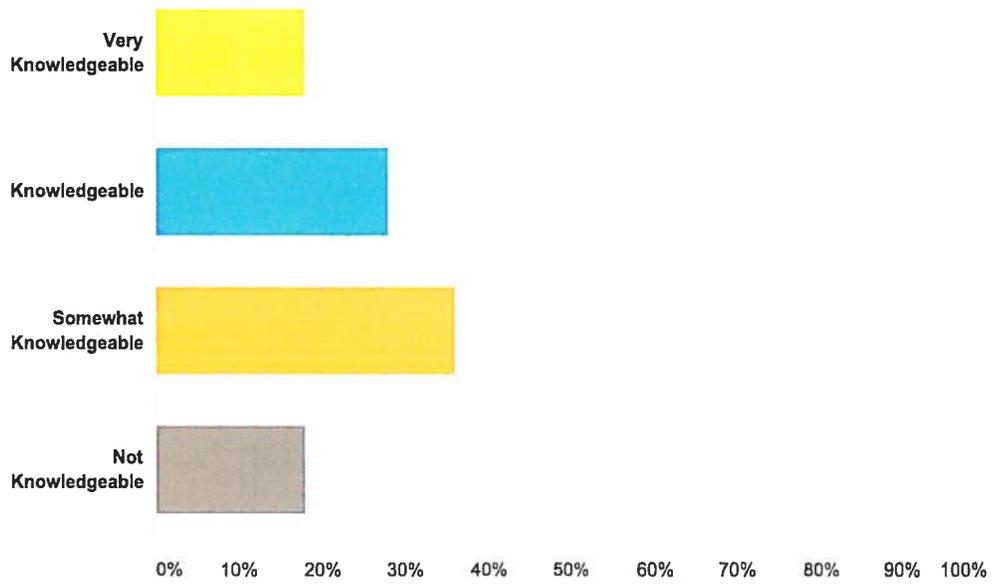


- Marketing our Community/Area to Attract New Residents, Workers or Families
- Marketing our Community/Area to Attract Visitors
- Housing Planning
- Road and Bridge Planning or Funding
- Demolition of Dilapidated Housing & Commercial Properties
- Water/Wastewater/Sewer Planning or Funding
- Commercial Building Repair and Rehabilitation
- Broadband Planning or Funding
- Trails and Parks Planning or Funding
- Providing Financing and Assistance to Businesses
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Zoning or Ordinances
- Renewable Energy Planning or Funding
- Energy Efficiency for our Public Buildings
- Changing Demographics
- Comprehensive or Strategic Planning

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q1 How knowledgeable are you of the UMVRDC and its programs and or services?**

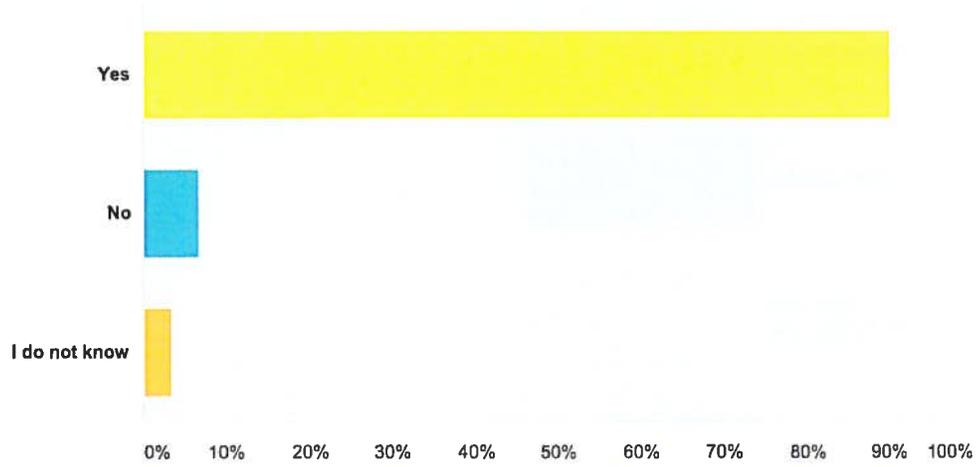
Answered: 50 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Knowledgeable	18.00%	9
Knowledgeable	28.00%	14
Somewhat Knowledgeable	36.00%	18
Not Knowledgeable	18.00%	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>

**Q2 Have you or your organization had an opportunity to work with the UMVRDC staff over the past five years?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

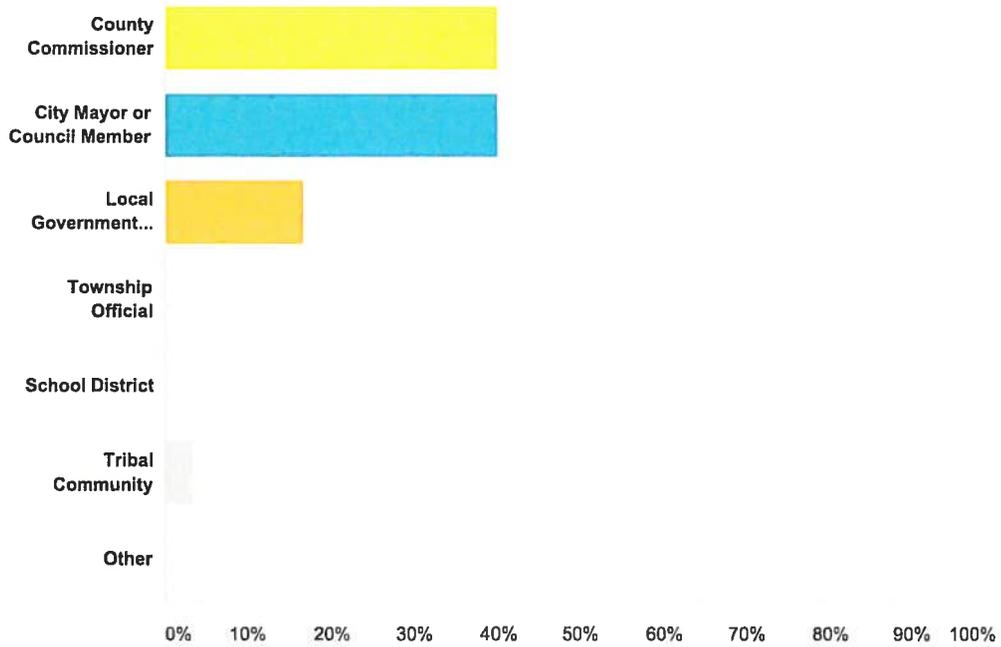


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	90.00%	27
No	6.67%	2
I do not know	3.33%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q3 Which of the following best describes what jurisdiction you represent?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

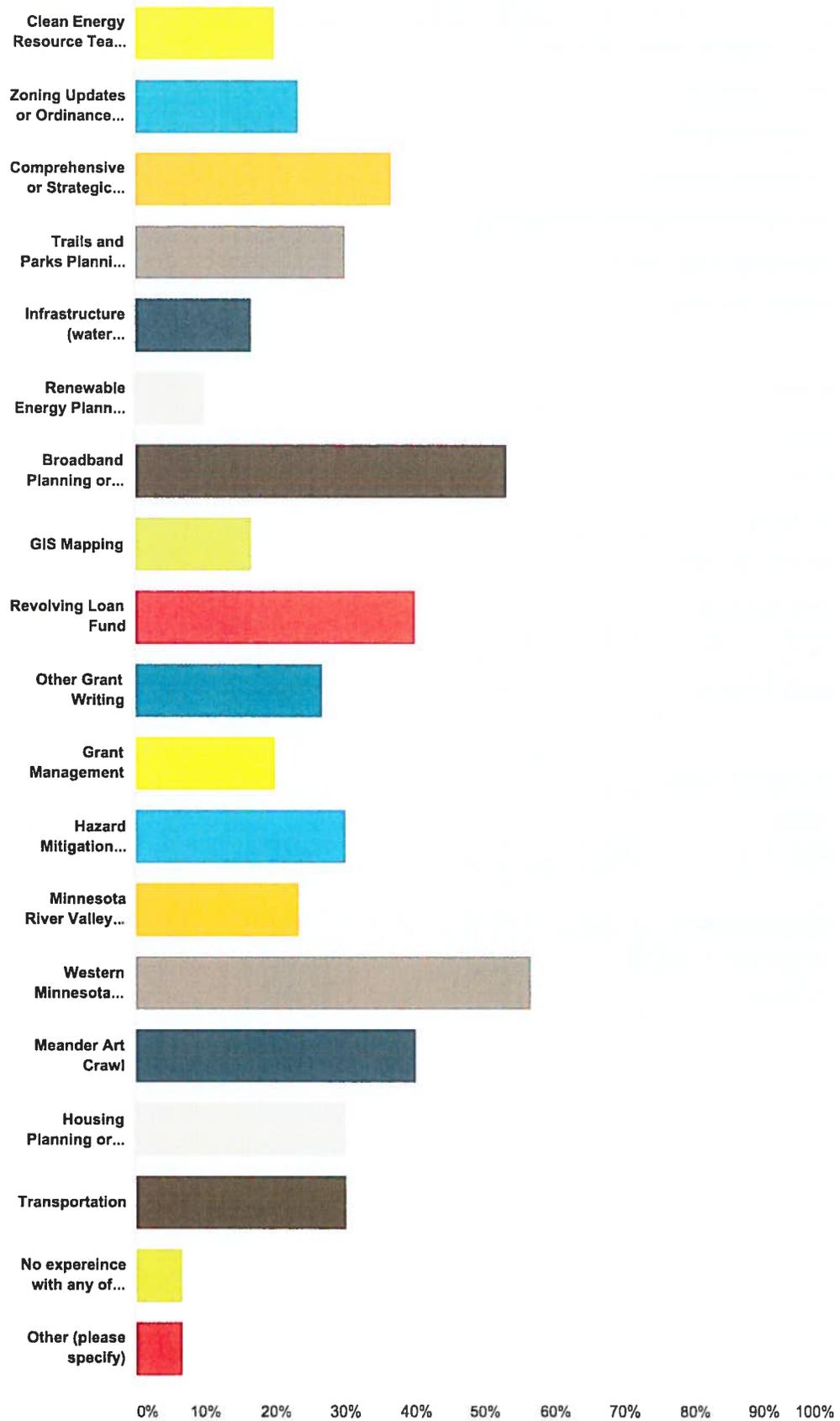


Answer Choices	Responses	
County Commissioner	40.00%	12
City Mayor or Council Member	40.00%	12
Local Government Staff	16.67%	5
Township Official	0.00%	0
School District	0.00%	0
Tribal Community	3.33%	1
Other	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

**Q4 In what areas have you had interaction with the UMVRDC staff?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

## 2016 RDC Self Assessment



## 2016 RDC Self Assessment

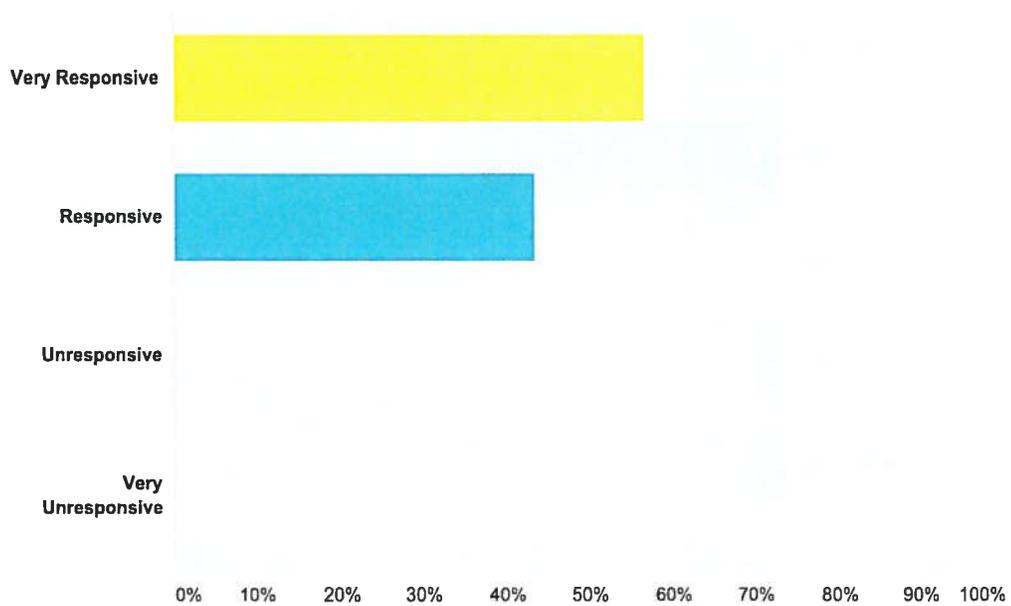
Answer Choices	Responses
Clean Energy Resource Team information or workshops	20.00% 6
Zoning Updates or Ordinance Work	23.33% 7
Comprehensive or Strategic Planning	36.67% 11
Trails and Parks Planning or Grant Writing	30.00% 9
Infrastructure (water sewere/wastewater) Planning or Grant Writing	16.67% 5
Renewable Energy Planning or Grant Writing	10.00% 3
Broadband Planning or Grant Writing	53.33% 16
GIS Mapping	16.67% 5
Revolving Loan Fund	40.00% 12
Other Grant Writing	26.67% 8
Grant Management	20.00% 6
Hazard Mitigation Planning	30.00% 9
Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway	23.33% 7
Western Minnesota Prairie Waters	56.67% 17
Meander Art Crawl	40.00% 12
Housing Planning or Grant Writing	30.00% 9
Transportation	30.00% 9
No expereince with any of these areas	6.67% 2
Other (please specify)	6.67% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 30</b>	

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	hosting UMRDC in Clara City	12/20/2016 11:47 AM
2	Arts Planning	12/19/2016 11:50 AM

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q5 How responsive has the UMVRDC been to your questions, needs, or calls?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

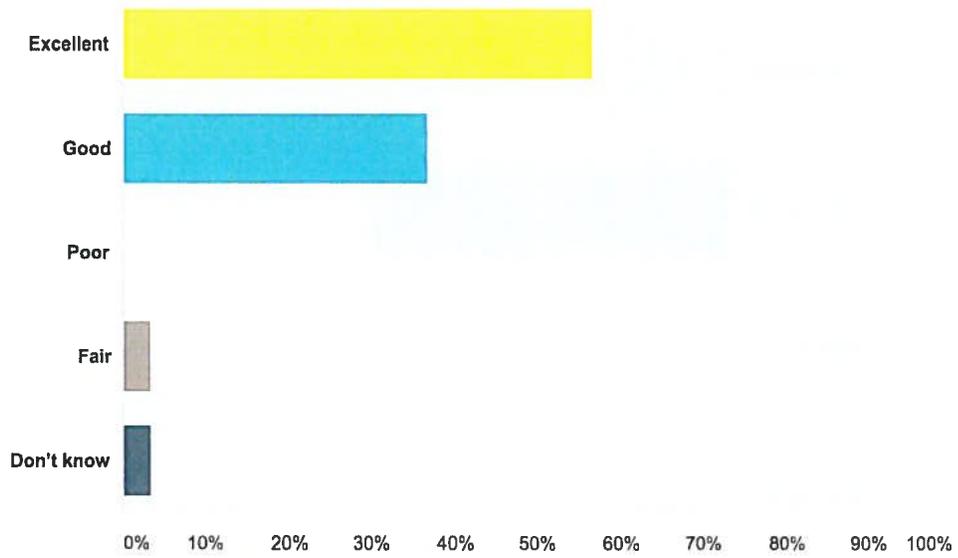


Answer Choices	Responses	
Very Responsive	56.67%	17
Responsive	43.33%	13
Unresponsive	0.00%	0
Very Unresponsive	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q6 How do you judge the overall quality of service that the UMVRDC provides?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

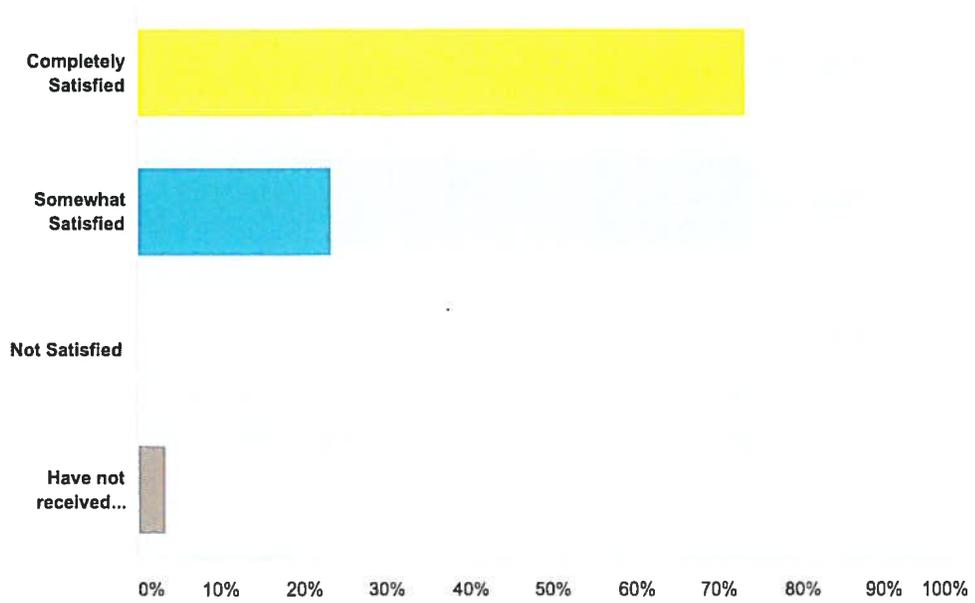


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	56.67%	17
Good	36.67%	11
Poor	0.00%	0
Fair	3.33%	1
Don't know	3.33%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q7 How satisfied were you with the service you received?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

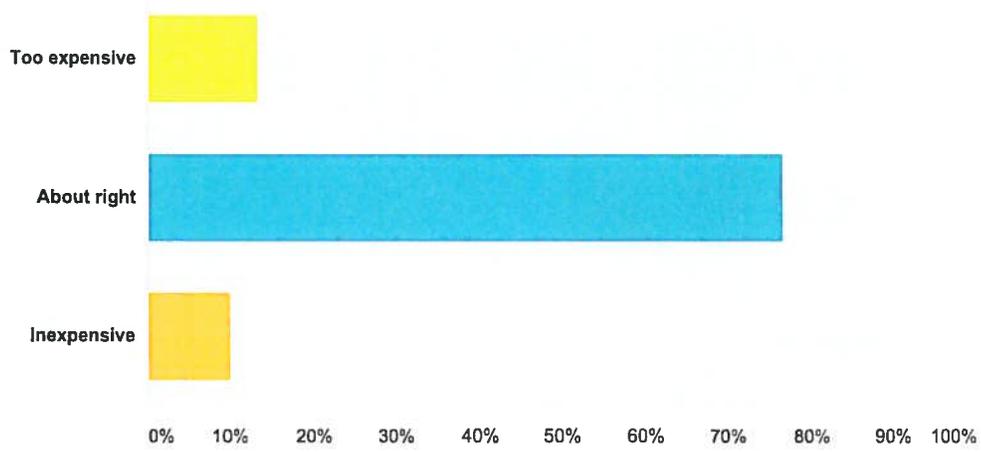


Answer Choices	Responses	
Completely Satisfied	73.33%	22
Somewhat Satisfied	23.33%	7
Not Satisfied	0.00%	0
Have not received service	3.33%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q8 How would you describe the value for the service you were provided?**

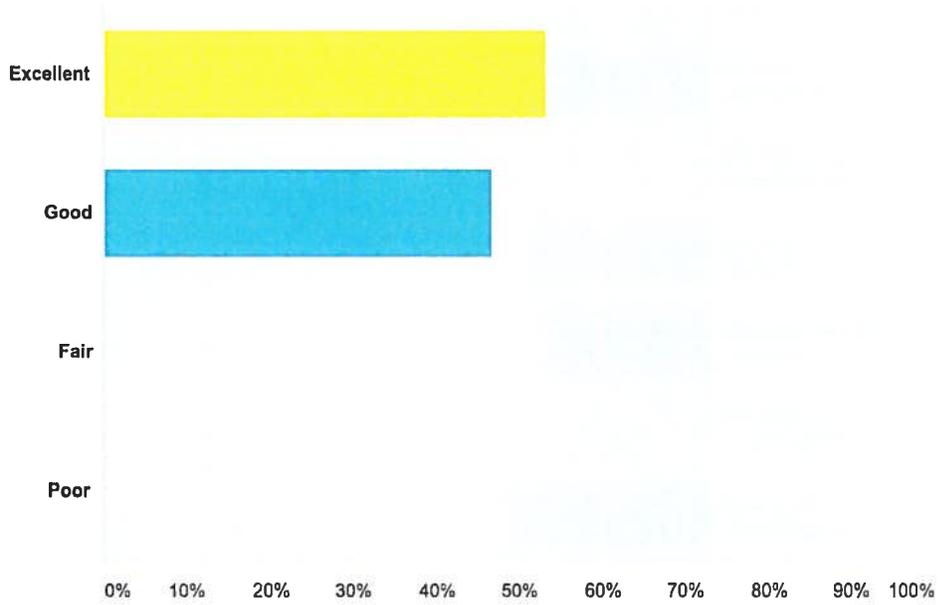
Answered: 30 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	
Too expensive	13.33%	4
About right	76.67%	23
Inexpensive	10.00%	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

**Q9 How would you rate the effectiveness and professional capabilities of the UMVRDC staff?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20

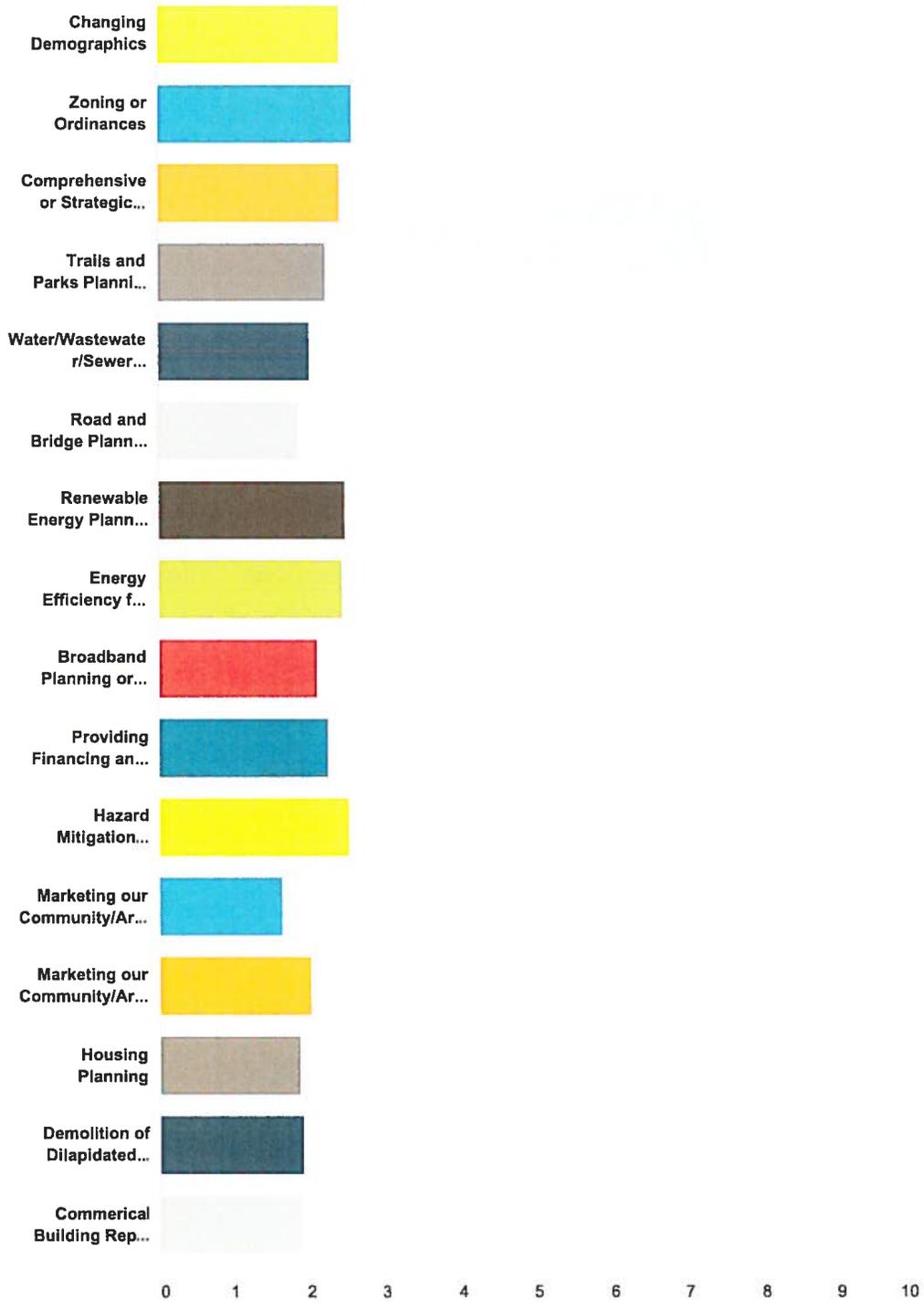


Answer Choices	Responses	
Excellent	53.33%	16
Good	46.67%	14
Fair	0.00%	0
Poor	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q10 From the below list, what are the top priority issues in your jurisdiction?**

Answered: 29 Skipped: 21



Critical/Urgent Issue    Important Issue    Unimportant Issue    Not a concern/problem for my jurisdiction    Total    Weighted Average

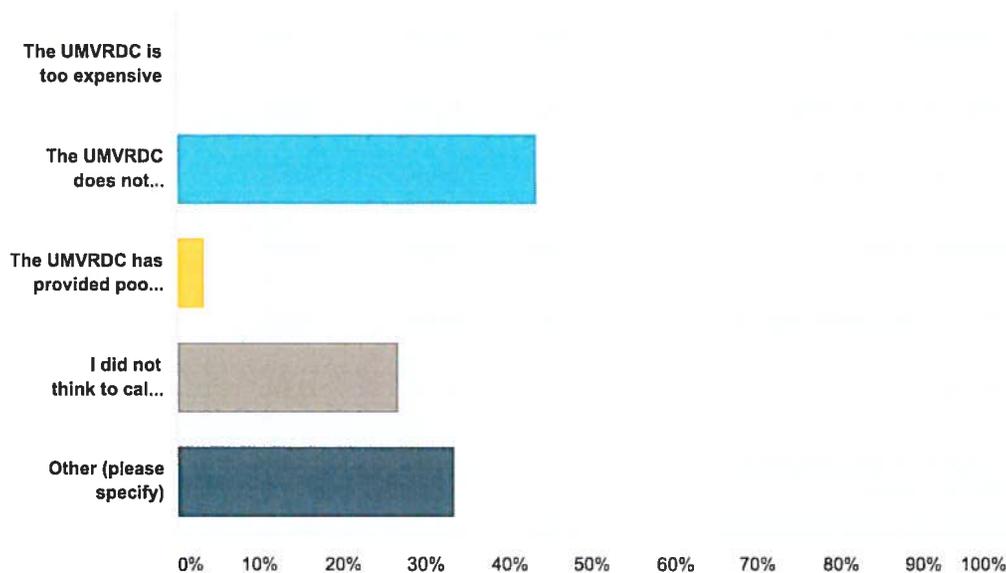
## 2016 RDC Self Assessment

Changing Demographics	0.00%	70.37%	18.52%	11.11%	3	27	2.41
	0	19	5				
Zoning or Ordinances	4.00%	52.00%	28.00%	16.00%	4	25	2.56
	1	13	7				
Comprehensive or Strategic Planning	0.00%	68.00%	24.00%	8.00%	2	25	2.40
	0	17	6				
Trails and Parks Planning or Funding	11.11%	59.26%	25.93%	3.70%	1	27	2.22
	3	16	7				
Water/Wastewater/Sewer Planning or Funding	28.00%	48.00%	20.00%	4.00%	1	25	2.00
	7	12	5				
Road and Bridge Planning or Funding	29.63%	59.26%	7.41%	3.70%	1	27	1.85
	8	16	2				
Renewable Energy Planning or Funding	3.85%	53.85%	34.62%	7.69%	2	26	2.46
	1	14	9				
Energy Efficiency for our Public Buildings	3.85%	57.69%	30.77%	7.69%	2	26	2.42
	1	15	8				
Broadband Planning or Funding	23.08%	50.00%	23.08%	3.85%	1	26	2.08
	6	13	6				
Providing Financing and Assistance to Businesses	12.00%	60.00%	20.00%	8.00%	2	25	2.24
	3	15	5				
Hazard Mitigation Planning	7.69%	42.31%	42.31%	7.69%	2	26	2.50
	2	11	11				
Marketing our Community/Area to Attract New Residents, Workers or Families	42.31%	53.85%	3.85%	0.00%	0	26	1.62
	11	14	1				
Marketing our Community/Area to Attract Visitors	34.62%	38.46%	19.23%	7.69%	2	26	2.00
	9	10	5				
Housing Planning	33.33%	48.15%	18.52%	0.00%	0	27	1.85
	9	13	5				
Demolition of Dilapidated Housing & Commercial Properties	28.57%	53.57%	17.86%	0.00%	0	28	1.89
	8	15	5				
Commerical Building Repair and Rehabilitation	26.92%	61.54%	11.54%	0.00%	0	26	1.85
	7	16	3				

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	None	12/31/2016 12:23 PM
2	Day Care	12/30/2016 8:48 PM
3	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM

**Q11 Has your jurisdiction chosen to hire a consultant, engineer or outside contractor to assist you with any of the issues in the previous question rather than the UMRDC during the last year? If so, can you please share why?**

Answered: 30 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
The UMRDC is too expensive	0.00%	0
The UMRDC does not provide the service we were looking for	43.33%	13
The UMRDC has provided poor service in the past	3.33%	1
I did not think to call the UMRDC	26.67%	8
Other (please specify)	33.33%	10

**Total Respondents: 30**

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	We have hired wold architects for building assessment	12/31/2016 6:21 PM
2	None	12/31/2016 12:23 PM
3	you didn't allow for a no answer	12/30/2016 12:46 PM
4	Building construction	12/30/2016 7:14 AM
5	just in the thinking stages	12/28/2016 1:24 AM
6	The UMRDC assisted us with our infrastructure and small housing grant in 2016 while Bollig Engineers are currently our engineering firm for our ongoing infrastructure project. Due to funding issues we halted the process with the Small cities and Infrastructure but look forward to working with the UMRDC in the coming years on the same projects as well as other areas!	12/21/2016 10:09 AM

## 2016 RDC Self Assessment

7	Don't know of our interaction with UMRDC	12/20/2016 11:47 AM
8	Assistance was provided by representatives of groups with which we currently have memberships or contracts.	12/20/2016 7:41 AM
9	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM
10	we have contacted and work with UMRVDC	12/19/2016 11:49 AM

2016 RDC Self Assessment

**Q12 What is something the UMVRDC could offer that would be helpful to your jurisdiction?**

Answered: 7 Skipped: 43

#	Responses	Date
1	Work on a regional trail for the area represented..be the lead to unify all counties in this project	12/30/2016 7:14 AM
2	We might need help with dilapidated houses in the city.	12/23/2016 9:45 AM
3	The City of Clarkfield is in need of marketing the area for economic growth and development as well as ordinance updating and grant writing	12/21/2016 10:09 AM
4	Identifying additional grant opportunities for a variety of municipal projects; Transportation advocacy; Housing improvement grants	12/20/2016 2:23 PM
5	None	12/20/2016 7:41 AM
6	open the mind of governor Dayton as to why it a good idea for the state to own the prison in Appleton. If you can do that you can do anything!	12/19/2016 3:02 PM
7	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM

## 2016 RDC Self Assessment

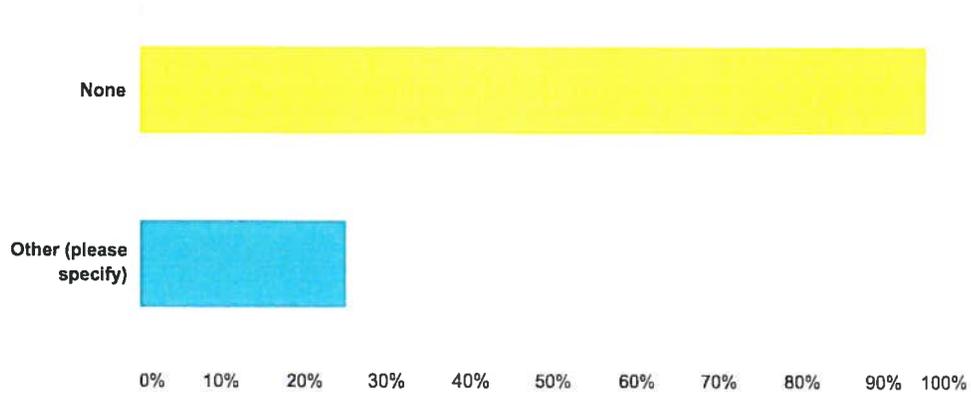
### Q13 Can you offer any suggestions on how the UMVRDC can improve services?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 42

#	Responses	Date
1	None	12/31/2016 12:23 PM
2	Be specific with goals for the year or years, umvrdc may need to reduce or eliminate some of its services to get priorities noted on questionairs started or completed	12/30/2016 7:14 AM
3	no	12/23/2016 9:45 AM
4	Services are great!	12/21/2016 10:09 AM
5	The UMVRDC does very well already!	12/20/2016 2:23 PM
6	None	12/20/2016 7:41 AM
7	you are doing a fine job now.	12/19/2016 3:02 PM
8	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM

**Q14 Can you share any specific problems or concerns about the service, staffing or expertise of the UMVRDC?**

Answered: 20 Skipped: 30



**Answer Choices**

**Responses**

None

95.00%

19

Other (please specify)

25.00%

5

**Total Respondents: 20**

#	Other (please specify)	Date
1	need to get additional staff. Not so easy to do...	12/30/2016 12:46 PM
2	Please disregard answers to #5, 8 and 9 as I was required to put down an answer even though we have not worked with UMVRDC in last 5 years, so these answers are not accurate. Thanks	12/30/2016 7:59 AM
3	Dont know	12/30/2016 7:14 AM
4	Since I haven't worked with the UMVRDC - my answers to # 7,8 & 9 aren't needed but I had to fill it in anyway.	12/23/2016 9:45 AM
5	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM

## 2016 RDC Self Assessment

### Q15 Would you like to provide any additional comments?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 45

#	Responses	Date
1	None at this time	12/31/2016 6:21 PM
2	The staff at the UMRDC is a great group to work with and the City of Clarkfield cannot wait to continue the working relationship well into the future	12/21/2016 10:09 AM
3	Thanks for all the assistance in the past. We look forward to many more opportunities to work together!	12/20/2016 2:23 PM
4	no	12/19/2016 3:02 PM
5	none	12/19/2016 2:14 PM

