

# ANNUAL REPORT

Calendar Year 2014

## MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



*Serving the People of Kandiyohi, McLeod,  
Meeker, and Renville Counties since 1974.*

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# MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

*Serving the People of Region Six East*

*To Those We Serve:*

On behalf of the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC), we respectfully submit this 2014 Annual Report. This report highlights key achievements of the Commission and its staff in carrying out the Commission's mission during the calendar year 2014. The enclosed year-end financial data is for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014).

2014 has been a year of transition for MMDC, which shall carry into 2015. Under good terms and a smooth transition period, the Commission ended its partnership role with the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, Inc. (MNRAAA) on September 30, 2014. MNRAAA's Board voted to transition into having the non-profit corporation to operate fully on its own. This action ends 33 years of affiliation with the Area Agency on Aging program, and dedicated service to seniors and caregivers in Region Six-East. Please see the article on page 11 within this Annual Report for further details.

The Commission will continue to serve a strong role in the prosperity of the Region through its assistance with community planning, economic development, and transportation planning. MMDC staff also can provide assistance in an area we call community capacity building. The Commission is willing to assist local units of government and human service organizations with special needs and issues that arise, helping to explore for solutions. The MMDC strives to take on assignments that help increase the quality of life and the quality of place within our four-county Region.

Please take some time to read through the 2014 Annual Report to gain an understanding of the variety of tasks we perform. Further information about the Commission may be found at the MMDC web site: [www.mmrhc.org](http://www.mmrhc.org). Please give us a call if there are projects that you need assistance. Please also contact us if you would like us to attend one of your meetings to either discuss a particular project need, or to receive a general update from the Commission. Through our Board's leadership, and our talented staff, we will continue to strive to make a strong positive impact on the Region. We pledge that we will not consider a job complete until the client is satisfied with the end product. Thank you for taking the time to review this report.

Respectfully yours,



*John Stahl*

John Stahl  
Chairperson

*Donn Winckler*

Donn Winckler  
Executive Director



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## 2014 Commission Members

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### ***Kandiyohi County Representatives***

DuWayne Underthun ..... Townships  
\*Charles Diederich, Vice Chair ..... Municipalities  
Rick Fagerlie ..... City of Willmar  
Doug Reese ..... County  
Idalia (Charly) Leuze ..... Public Interest  
\*Shawn Mueske, Treasurer ..... Public Interest  
Cathy Baumgartner ..... Public Interest  
Kevin Crowley ..... Public Interest  
Robert Moller ..... Public Interest

### ***McLeod County Representatives***

Alan Fredrickson ..... Townships  
Charles Warner ..... Municipalities  
Bill Arndt ..... City of Hutchinson  
Sheldon Nies ..... County  
David Nelson ..... Public Interest

### ***Renville County Representatives***

Helen Ruebel ..... Townships  
Ronald Degner, Secretary ..... Municipalities  
John Stahl, Chairperson ..... County  
James Schafer ..... Public Interest  
Francis Schweiss ..... Public Interest  
Jeff Benson ..... Public Interest

### ***Meeker County Representatives***

Dan Barka ..... Townships  
Dennis Loch ..... Municipalities  
\*\*Mike Housman, Treasurer ..... County  
\*\*Maureen Melgaard-  
Schneider, Vice Chair ..... Public Interest  
Dee Schutte ..... Public Interest  
Greg Langmo ..... Public Interest

\* Denotes office held ending June 30, 2014  
\*\* Denotes office held beginning June 30, 2014



# Economic Development

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The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission’s Economic Development Program is designed to assist local units of government and businesses in the Region with activities that create and retain full-time higher wage employment opportunities and private investments. The Commission and service area are a Federally Certified Economic Development District and as such is eligible for planning grant funding from the U. S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration. Further funding of activities and the required matching source is provided by the local tax levy.

A major portion of program staff time is devoted to providing professional technical assistance to businesses, individuals, and governmental units. Requests for assistance include, but are not limited to, business finance analysis, infrastructure improvements, tax increment financing, and grant or loan application authoring.

As part of the federal grant agreement, a ***Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*** is authored by the Commission. This document is drafted each year, after public input, to provide a plan for economic development and prioritize projects in the Region. The plan is then submitted to the Federal Economic Development administration for approval. Staff also prepared the necessary applications and reports for the operation of the Economic Development District. A Comprehensive Economic Development Committee provides input on the CEDS document.

## Activities During Calendar Year

- Staff authored a Planning Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration. The application was for a 3-year term in the amount of \$157,884. The grant requires a local match in the same amount. The grant was approved and is to be used for authoring a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the Region.
- Staff provided technical assistance to the Renville County EDA, Kandiyohi County/City of Willmar EDC.
- Staff attended the “State Economic Development Summit” in Minneapolis. Breakout sessions included “Building the Economy of the Future” and Supporting Minnesota’s Small business.
- Staff attended a two-day training seminar sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society. The seminar provided information on how to revitalize downtowns, recruit businesses, and make a downtown more user friendly.
- A Small Business Lending Seminar was hosted by the Minnesota Business Corporation. Staff made a presentation on the Commission’s Revolving Loan Fund.
- To stay in compliance with the EDA planning, staff authored performance reports and financial documentation on how the funds were being spent.
- A Business Retention and Expansion Program was conducted in Kandiyohi County. Staff volunteered to be on the Leadership Committee and perform site visit surveys to businesses.
- The State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development held statewide meetings in rural Minnesota. The meetings were cohosted by the McKnight Foundations and Minnesota Regional Development Organizations. The meeting’s main focus was to develop strategies for DEED to become more responsive to Economic Development needs in rural Minnesota. The Regional Development Commissions were responsible for inviting individuals representing private sector businesses to the meeting.
- Staff assisted in the ongoing construction of the DevelopMN plan to increase economic development in rural Minnesota. Find more details on page 12.



DEED meeting attended by many private sector businesses.



## Revolving Loan Fund Program

In 1995, MMDC received a grant from the Federal Economic Development Administration to initially create a \$1,000,000 Revolving Loan Fund Program. The grant was partially matched by the Commission, local units of government, and the Southwest Initiative Foundation. Program goals include assisting businesses with gap financing and creating employment opportunities within Region Six-East's four-county service area.

After due diligence, loans are funded for working capital, real estate purchases, and equipment purchases. The Revolving Loan Fund Committee provides lending expertise and makes recommendations of loan funding to the governing board.

The purpose of the RLF program is to strengthen and diversify the economy. This is reached 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 a project or activity. Job creation and retention are also a priority of the fund.

The RLF program was funded from a variety of sources: Federal Economic Development Administration; State of Minnesota; Southwest Initiative Foundation; Counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville; and the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission. Since 1995, there has been 19 loans approved in Kandiyohi County, 15 in McLeod County, 8 in Meeker County, and 13 in Renville County, equaling 55 loans. As of the September 30, 2014 Revolving Loan Fund Annual Semi-annual Report the loan fund had 14 outstanding active loans with a principle outstanding of \$680,766.60. Table 1 provides a breakdown of MMDC's RLF Program.

Table 1: MMDC's Summary of RLF Program

	TOTAL LOAN HISTORY	TOTAL CURRENT ACTIVE LOANS
TOTAL \$ RLF LOANED	\$3,841,496	\$1,007,327
TOTAL \$ LEVERAGED	\$27,786,379	\$8,549,673
PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS CREATED	532	30
PRIVATE SECTOR JOBS RETAINED	322	12
RLF \$ LOANED FOR FIXED ASSETS	\$3,178,377	\$982,327
RLF \$ LOANED/WORKING CAPITAL	\$563,118	\$25,000
RLF \$ LOANED STARTUP	\$1,479,000	\$420,000
RLF \$ LOANED FOR EXPANSION	\$1,611,140	\$587,327
RLF \$ LOANED FOR RETENTION	\$751,356	-0-
RLF \$ LOANED FOR INDUSTRIAL	\$950,000	\$392,327
RLF \$ LOANED FOR COMMERCIAL	\$1,171,495	\$295,000
RLF \$ LOANED FOR SERVICE	\$1,720,000	\$320,000

# Community Development and Planning

The Community Development Department assists with a wide variety of consulting and planning projects for local units of government, including cities, counties, townships, watershed districts, and school districts. This particular program area is not tied to any state or federally funded program, however, many projects are funded through competitive grants. MMDC also charges a technical assistance rate for projects, which currently is set at \$75 per hour. In addition, numerous questions are researched on a regular basis for our Region’s citizens, elected officials, businesses, and other stakeholders, without MMDC charging a fee.

The Community Development Department specializes in the following types of projects:

- **Official Plans**, including comprehensive plans, water plans, hazard mitigation plans, and other similar community development documents.
- **Official Controls**, including zoning and subdivision ordinances, ordinance codification, rules and regulations, and other similar regulatory documents.
- **Environmental Reviews**, including environmental impact statements and environmental assessment worksheets.
- **Special Projects**, including grant writing, community surveys, public facilities planning, housing studies, mapping services, and many other technical services.

As one of Minnesota’s State Data Centers, MMDC regularly provides Census and demographic data free of charge to businesses, non-profit agencies, citizens, and other interested organizations.

## Main Projects during the Calendar Year

**McLeod County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update** – MMDC finished the McLeod County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The plan was created to minimize the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and severe weather events. The main emphasis of the County’s plan is to continue efforts to mitigate flood-prone areas. Figure 1 shows how extensive flooding hit the City of Glencoe in June 2014. The need for storm shelters and replacing and/or upgrading warning sirens were also priorities in the plan. Most of the major projects will qualify for up to 75% cost-share through various Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs.

*Figure 1: Flooding in Glencoe (June 2014)*



*Figure 2: Mitigation Plans address Rail Safety*



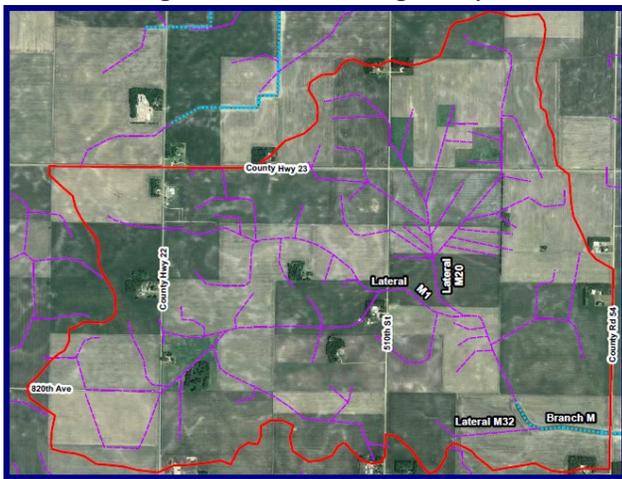
**Meeker County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update** – MMDC continued working with Meeker County on developing its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. New staff at the County Sheriff’s Office greatly enhanced stakeholder participation, with an average of 25 people attending the hazard mitigation planning meetings (mostly cities and townships). Mitigation steps include updating warning sirens, building new storm shelters, upgrading rail crossings (refer to Figure 2) and addressing stormwater flooding. County Public Health officials also identified a number of action steps dealing with infectious disease and ensuring that vulnerable populations know what to do in the event of an emergency. The new plan is expected to be approved by the County and FEMA in summer 2015.

### Buffalo Creek Watershed Overall Plan

The Community Development Department finalized work with the Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) on developing the District’s Overall Plan. By law, the watershed district must update its overall plan once every 10 years, with the plan’s list of implementation projects needing to be updated once every five years. The primary controversial issue that surfaced during the planning process was the Watershed District’s long-standing policy to limit drainage coefficients to 3/8 inch.



**Figure 3: JD 15 Drainage Study**

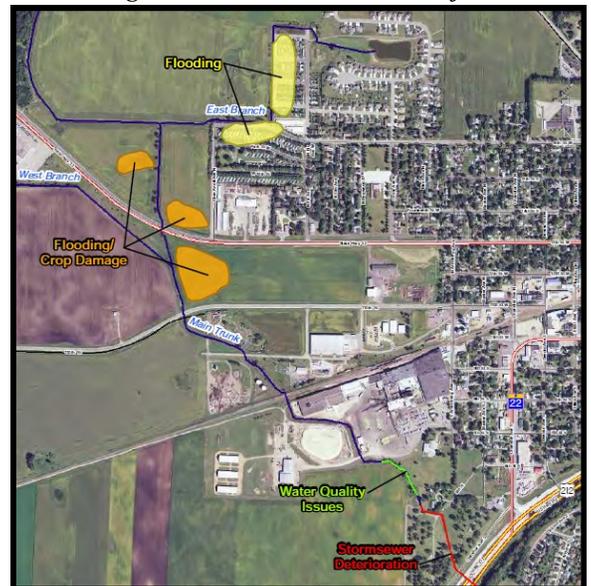


Renville County expressed concerns over the policy and requested a 1/2 inch drainage policy, which would allow stormwater to drain quicker off the land. Since the eastern half of the Watershed District frequently floods, the Watershed District opted to keep its 3/8 inch policy. The District did, however, revise their policy guideline to be more flexible if an applicant can prove the drainage system was designed to handle more water. It was shown in the JD 15 Study, however, that sometimes permitting a 3/8 inch drainage coefficient would actually exceed how the drainage system was designed. Specifically, Laterals M1, M20, and M32 of JD 15 all were designed and installed to have less than a 1/4 inch drainage coefficient. As a result, if the BCWD issued a permit for a 3/8 inch drainage coefficient for these laterals, they would be allowing 125% more water to be drained than how the system was designed.

#### **Project Spotlight: The Marsh Water Project**

BCWD has many ongoing efforts to conserve and preserve water resources within the District. One of these resources is a privately constructed and owned drainage system on the west side of the City of Glencoe, referred to as the “Marsh Ditch.” Like most drainage systems in urbanizing areas, the Marsh Ditch increasingly receives excessive loadings of total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and other pollutants which consequently are discharged into Buffalo Creek, an impaired water. The Marsh Water Project (refer to Figure 4) includes the construction of two water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). One BMP is a biofiltration basin (rain garden) which will receive and treat stormwater from a large industrial complex. The other BMP is a stormwater wetland, placed inline with the existing ditch to treat stormwater from agricultural, industrial, and residential land uses.

**Figure 4: The Marsh Water Project**



## Transportation Planning

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The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) receives an annual grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), matched with the local tax levy, to provide transportation planning services within the Region. These services primarily involve surface transportation and participants in the Southwest Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) process. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) makes recommendations to the Commission on these transportation activities.

The Commission annually participates in the Area Transportation Partnership's decision-making process of selecting which projects receive Federal funding through the State's Transportation Improvement Program. MMDC's voting members on the ATP are Sheldon Nies and John Stahl. Meeker County's Engineer Ronald Mortensen, was the Commission's County Engineer representative. The Commission holds an annual public informational meeting on the proposed Area Transportation Improvement Program. Staff provides assistance for this activity as well as serving on the ATP Committee that makes Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding recommendations. This program combined several federal programs together under the new federal Transportation Act, including the Enhancement Program, Safe Routes to School infrastructure funding, and Scenic Byway funding. Staff continues to be involved with developing application materials for this grant program. Staff has also been part of a statewide MnDOT Local Technical Team that has made recommendations on the ATP process including the TAP application process.

Staff are completing Safe Routes to School Plans (SRTS) for School Districts in Glencoe and New London for both elementary and middle schools. Staff have begun the process of preparing plans for SRTS for the BOLD School District (Cities of Olivia and Bird Island), the Hutchinson School District and the Dassel Elementary School. The SRTS program is an opportunity to make walking and bicycling to school safer for children and to increase the number of children who choose to walk or bicycle. SRTS is a nationwide program. MMDC is paid by MnDOT to provide technical assistance to school districts and cities that have successfully applied to the state to move forward in creating plans. Please see the Safe Routes to School article on page 14 of this report.



Staff assisted MnDOT with their efforts to update the functional classification of all roads within the Region. Staff worked with county engineers and state-aid city engineers to review and comment on MnDOT recommendations for roads to be classified as one of the following: principal arterials, minor arterials, major collectors, minor collectors, and local roads.

Staff assisted Dovre Township in Kandiyohi County with a transportation study. Please see the article about this project on page 9 of this report.

Commission staff was also active in the following transportation activities during the 2014 Calendar Year:

- Provided input into various MnDOT statewide plans, including the Statewide Bicycle System Plan, the Freight & Passenger Rail Plan, and the statewide Pedestrian Plan.
- Attended RDC Transportation Planners meetings during the past year. These quarterly meetings allow the planners to share information and coordinate planning efforts.

*Continued ...*

*Transportation Planning continued*

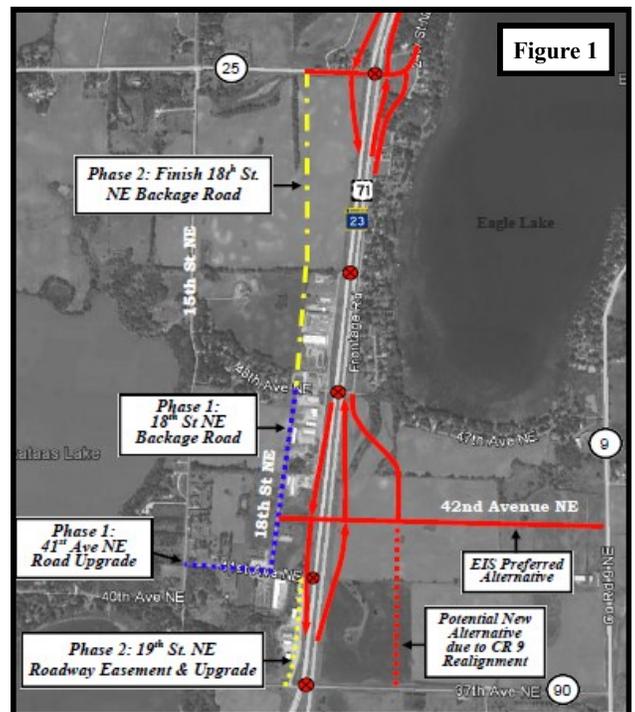
- Served on the Willmar Downtown Design Center Committees to improve transportation connections to the central business district.
- Served on a local committee set up by MnDOT in coordination between the City of Willmar and Kandiyohi County to provide feedback on the efforts to create a Highway 12 Plan for the City of Willmar.
- Staff has been part of meetings to work on applying for “Bicycle Friendly Community” status for the City of Willmar. This application process will likely take place in late 2015.
- The Commission continues to provide assistance to the Highway 15 Coalition. The Commission acts as the Coalition’s fiscal agent.
- The Commission serves as the Minnesota Valley Rail Road Coalition’s fiscal agent.
- Served as a member of the Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Forum, which was created by MnDOT to provide advice for the statewide rail plan and to recommend and coordinate projects for which MnDOT could seek Federal Railroad Administration funding.
- Attended the MnDOT District 8 Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) conference that was held in the spring. Staff is a member of the District 8 TZD Committee and has been part of county TZD committee efforts.
- Attended a two-day workshop that provided “Complete Street” training. Staff prepared a draft Complete Street policy and plans on assisting several communities in adopting such a policy in 2015.
- Communicated with various communities about trails questions, and provided information to the state on what trails they were missing from statewide trail maps.

***Dovre Township Transportation Study***

In fall 2014, Dovre Township contacted MMDC to assist them with preparing a transportation study of the U.S. Highway 71/State Highway 23 area immediately north of the City of Willmar. The study identified seven transportation-related issues in the study area, including: safety concerns; poor internal traffic flow; increased external traffic flow; the lack of a frontage road between 37<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Avenues NE; lack of pedestrian and bicycle access; uncertainty regarding the City of Willmar’s long range plan; and environmental concerns.

**Figure 1** displays a portion of the implementation map created for the transportation study. Long range planning includes closing access points and redirecting traffic to two new full intersections. The full intersections would include bridges across the highway with exit/entrance ramps. Backage roads would then run parallel to the highway by enhancing the existing roadways and creating new roadway segments.

Dovre Township intends to continue work with MMDC, MnDOT and the City of Willmar in the future to address the issues identified in the transportation study.



## Area Agency on Aging

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2014 was a year of changes for aging services in the Region. After 33 years of providing services both as Mid-Minnesota Area Agency on Aging, serving McLeod, Meeker, Kandiyohi, and Renville Counties, and later as a contractor of aging services with Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging<sup>®</sup>, Inc. (MNRAAA), MMDC made the difficult decision to cease participation in the federal aging program service. This decision was due to increasing financial requirements for matching funds. The aging services for our region continue through the Mankato Office.

Highlights of the staff's aging program activities are as follows:

- Staffed MinnesotaHelp Network sites in Benson, Canby, Dassel, Dawson, Granite Falls, Litchfield, Madison, Montevideo, Olivia, Montevideo, and Willmar.
- Represented MNRAAA at Swift County Jamboree, a meeting of service providers for Swift County.
- Provided MNRAAA information at area Health Fairs – Atwater, Granite Falls, Hutchinson, Willmar.
- Provided leadership to Willmar Area ACT on Alzheimer's Project.
- Conducted nine meal site assessments throughout nine county service area.
- Provided grant writing assistance to agencies.
- Represented MNRAAA on SHIP Advisory Committee meetings.
- Conducted three evidence-based classes (six- and eight-week classes) January through September.

MNRAAA is dedicated to helping older people in Southwest Minnesota lead comfortable, independent lives. MNRAAA is governed by a Not-for-Profit Board of Directors comprised of representatives from the 27-county planning and service area designated by the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA). MMDC along with Region Nine Development Commission and Southwest Regional Development Commission provide match funds to MNRAAA to support staffing throughout the service area. DuWayne Underthun and Maureen Melgaard-Schneider represent MMDC on the MNRAAA Board of Directors.

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission administers a contract for the Metro AAA for the ACT on Alzheimer's Action Communities in a series of various phases. During calendar year 2014, phases 1 and 2 focused on organizing the ACT Team, publicizing the grant and objectives; and assessing the community strengths and needs using the Dementia Capable Toolkit. Phase 3 focused on analyzing the community needs identified in the survey results. The results of the surveys were communicated to the public and other interested parties at a Community Forum held in Willmar on June 4. Approximately 80 people attended. Results that emerged from the survey and forum showed three priority areas 1) Increase Dementia Awareness and Knowledge in the Community; 2) Caregiver Support; and 3) Specialty Health Care Services. Action Team members met July 21 to evaluate next steps for the Phase 4 funding application. The ACT Team members work cooperatively with West Central Dementia Area Network to provide community education events semi-annually. The ACT on Alzheimer's Toolkit is used for outreach and training purposes. The Action Team project partners include 18 people from County Veterans Services, healthcare services, mental health and faith community members as well as Community Members.



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## MMDC Ends Financial Partnership with MNRAAA

On September 30, 2014, the partnership between the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging<sup>®</sup>, Inc. (MNRAAA) and the MMDC ended. The Commission, knowing that MNRAAA was being strongly encouraged by the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA) to run as a fully operating non-profit agency with their own staff, knew it was just a matter of time before the three Regional Development Commissions (RDCs) would not be part of MNRAAA's future. Our research and projections showed that the financial cost to stay to the end was too much of a financial burden for the Commission. At the Commission's Board meeting in May, a difficult decision was made to gracefully bow out of MNRAAA. This ended both MMDC's financial contributions and contract for services on September 30. The Commission left MNRAAA on very good terms with staff working to make the transition period go as smoothly as possible.

In September 2014, the MNRAAA Board unanimously voted to transition MNRAAA from its current practice of contracting with RDCs for staff to work on behalf of MNRAAA to operate fully on its own. The transition period for this to occur is estimated to be between 12 and 18 months. MNRAAA's Board is "excited to develop a new dynamic and effective agency" that will continue to serve their 27-county service area. Assurances have been given that "the three key roles of the Area Agency on Aging (administration, program development and coordination, and information and assistance) will not change, nor will the delivery of services to older adults and care givers."

The MNRAAA Board of Directors shall retain two MMDC Board members (DuWayne Underthun and Maureen Melgaard-Schneider) during the transitional period where MNRAAA will become a fully independent agency without the assistance of Regional Development Commission involvement.

The decision brings an end to MMDC's 33-year dedication to serving seniors in Region Six-East. For 25 of those years, the MMDC operated its own Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in the four counties we serve. In 2004, after a decision by the Minnesota Board on Aging to reduce the number of AAAs in the state, the four RDCs in Southwest Minnesota formed a Joint Powers Board to operate MNRAAA in the 27 counties the four RDC's served. The Upper Minnesota Valley RDC decided to end its involvement in MNRAAA at the end of 2007 and the three remaining RDCs formed MNRAAA into a non-profit agency, while continuing to provide financial support and staffing for the agency in the 27-county service area.

### MNRAAA Contact information:

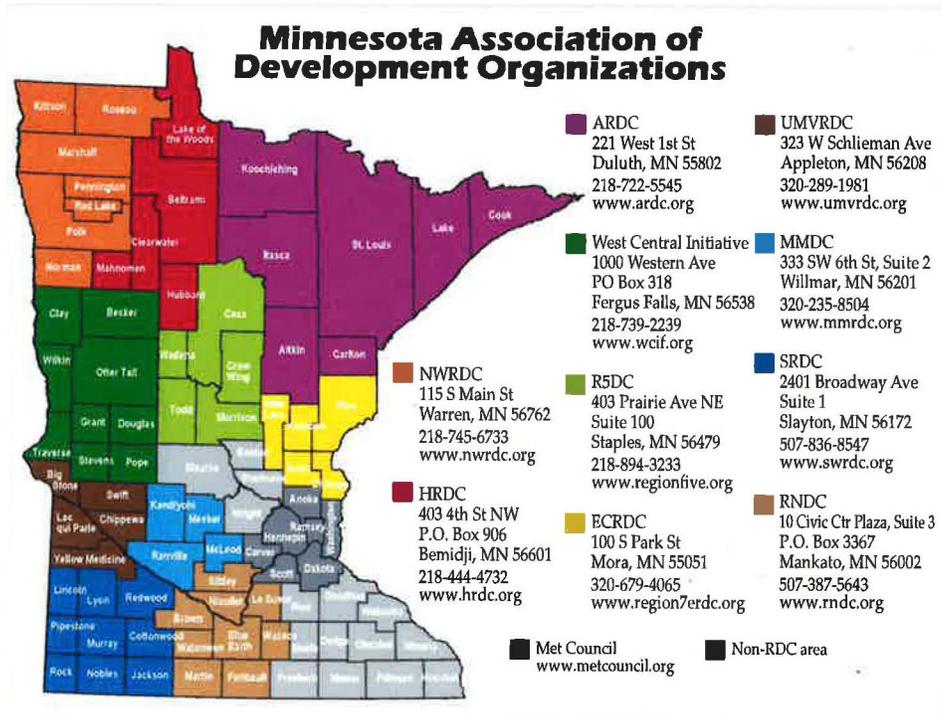
Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging<sup>®</sup>, Inc.  
10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 3  
PO Box 3323  
Mankato MN 56022

Phone: (507) 389-8879  
Fax: (507) 387-7105  
Toll Free: (800) 450-5643  
Website: [www.mnraaa.org](http://www.mnraaa.org)



# DevelopMN

The Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) will be authoring a Statewide economic development plan for rural Minnesota, titled *DevelopMN*. The main goal of the plan is to link our assets, leverage our resources and align opportunities. The main outcome is for the plan to reflect our past, build on the present, and create a road-map for our desired economic future.



The plan will have the following four main cornerstones:

1. *Human Capital*

It is clear that prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be driven by a combination of human capital and innovation. In a world that is constantly shrinking, and where knowledge and skills are very mobile and have multiple choices, growing, retaining, and attracting talent, and then maximizing its potential, are critical for Greater Minnesota.

2. *Economic Competitiveness*

Making Greater Minnesota an attractive environment for growth is critical to creating jobs, raising standards of living, and financing necessary public services. Economic prosperity requires that communities link all the assets of the community to generate new knowledge, new businesses, and transform existing businesses into thriving 21<sup>st</sup> century companies.

3. *Foundational Assets*

Greater Minnesota communities require proactive and collaborative approaches/strategies to addressing infrastructure needs in a cost effective manner. Managing the access to maintenance, replacement, and growth of these assets is key to preserving and maintaining communities as well as providing for growth opportunities. Foundational Assets include above ground and below ground infrastructure including transportation, utilities, and water.

*Continued ...*

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## Mid-Minnesota Development Commission's 40<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

MMDC opened for business on May 16, 1974. Regional Development Commissions were first authorized by the Minnesota Legislature through the Regional Development Act of 1969. In 1974, the Commission was known as the Region Six-East Regional Development Commission. The only staff person on that first day of business was Eugene Hippe, who served as Executive Director of the Commission until June, 1999. Two additional staff were hired in 1974.

Thank you to all current and previous Commissioners and staff that have provided a wide variety of services and technical assistance for the citizens of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties throughout the forty years. Thank you to the local units of government, organizations, businesses, and individuals that have utilized the services of MMDC through the 40 years.



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### *DevelopMN continued...*

#### *4. Community Resources*

Greater Minnesota communities seek to maintain our rural heritage while creating must-have amenities that in return offer sustainable populations and become defining pillars of our culture.

Stakeholders will be engaged to develop statewide strategies and prioritize areas of importance. Using the above cornerstones the plan will:

- ✓ Identify Regional Assets
- ✓ Identify a list of common goals among regions
- ✓ Identify strategies which capitalize and market regional assets to the global market
- ✓ Connect the Minnesota economy to the outside economy
- ✓ Identify opportunities for funding of common strategies

The plan will be tied to partner/stakeholder economic development plans such as Tribal Governments, Local Economic Development Plans, Workforce Investment Boards, and State Associations such as the League of Minnesota Cities and the Association of Minnesota Counties. The plan will serve as a statewide communications strategy for regional initiatives.

MADO believes the plan must be constructed to align Federal, State, and local budgets because of their limitations. Bringing alignment to regional and local economic strategies will increase both the impact and effectiveness of State programs.

Another reason for constructing the plan includes a blueprint to guide federal, state, regional, and local funding decisions and assimilate data that enhances responsible policy decisions at all levels of government.

The DevelopMN strategy is expected to be completed in late fall 2016.

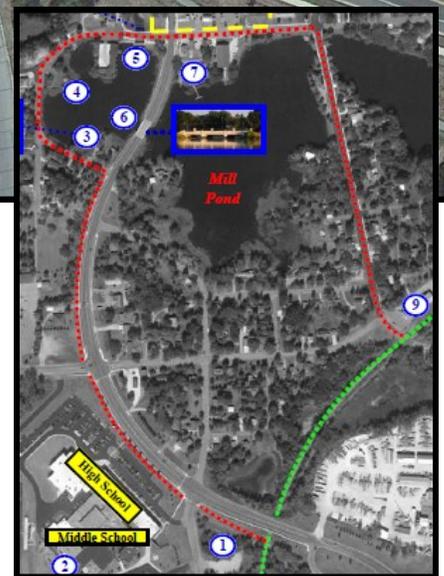
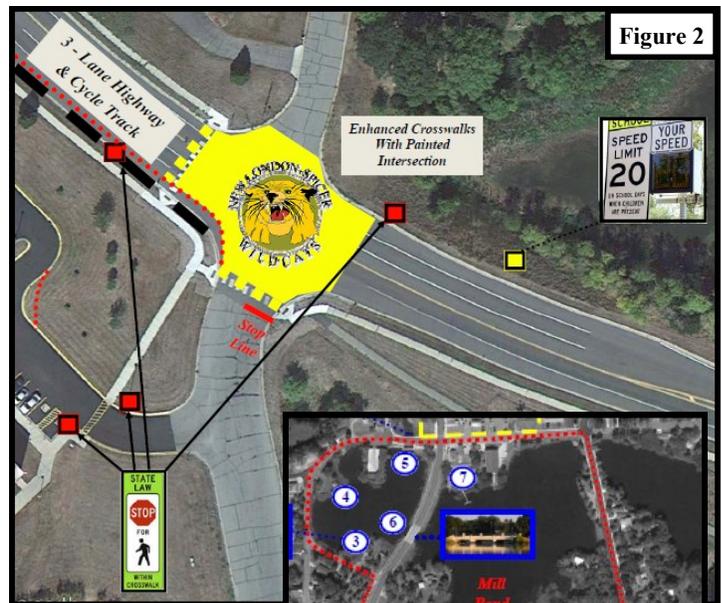
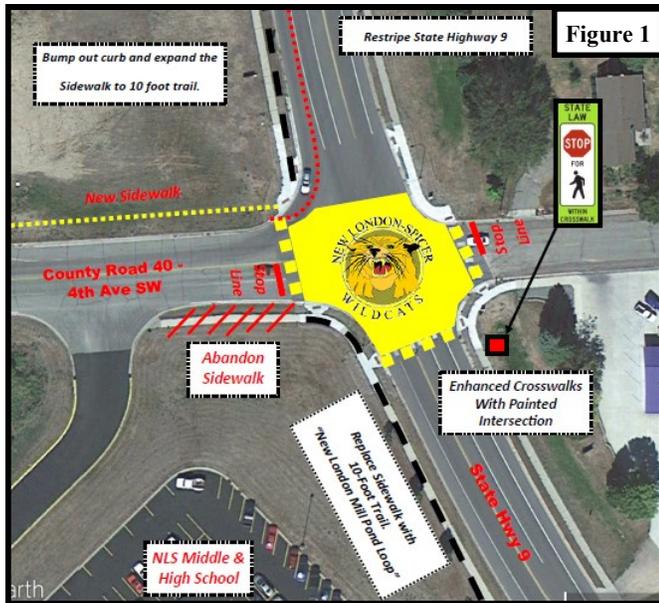
## Safe Routes to School Plans

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission received grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to create Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans for six school districts. These districts include BOLD (Bird Island, Olivia, and Lake Lillian), Dassel-Cokato, GSL (Glencoe-Silver Lake), NLS (New London-Spicer), Hutchinson, and Willmar.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plans are developed to encourage walking and biking to school by mitigating the numerous obstacles that discourage students on a daily basis. SRTS plans address five areas, referred to as the “5-E’s,” which include Engineering (infrastructure improvements), Education (why it is important), Encouragement (incentives), Evaluation (is it working?) and Enforcement (engaging local law enforcement official to help enforce pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic laws). As a result of MMDC’s SRTS efforts, NADO presented MMDC with the 2014 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award.



**The New London-Spicer SRTS Plan** addresses the difficult situation of the NLS Middle and High Schools being located adjacent to State Highway 9. In the past, the school district has not encouraged students to walk or bike to school due to the dangerous nature of crossing the highway. Once the Plan’s SRTS initiatives are implemented, walking and biking to school will be much safer (see Figures 1-3).



**Figure 1** shows a portion of the implementation map for the intersection of State Highway 9 and County Road 40. Improvements include enhanced crosswalks, new sidewalks, and replacing the sidewalk adjacent to State Highway 9 with a 10-foot trail. **Figure 2** shows a portion of the implementation map for the intersection of State Highway 9 and 75<sup>th</sup> Street NE. Improvements include enhanced crosswalks and a new digital radar speed sign that will show drivers how fast they are traveling. **Figure 3** shows the creation of a new “Mill Pond Loop” off the Glacial Lakes State Trail. The trail loop would replace the exiting sidewalk in front of the NLS High School along State Highway 9 and would loop around the Mill Pond in downtown New London.

# Financial Report

<b>Actual Figures Fiscal Year 2014</b>		<b>Original Budget Fiscal Year 2015</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>		<b>Revenues</b>	
Economic Development Admin	\$ 60,128	Economic Development Admin	\$ 52,628
Revolving Loan Fund Admin	19,690	Revolving Loan Fund Admin	24,626
HHS - MNRAAA	105,562	HHS - MNRAAA	60,534
Department of Transit	19,457	Department of Transit	55,564
<b>Total Federal Sources</b>	<b>\$ 204,837</b>	<b>Total Federal Sources</b>	<b>\$ 193,352</b>
Agricultural Credit	\$ 3,590	Agricultural Credit	\$ 3,680
Department of Transportation	75,000	Department of Transportation	75,000
HHS - MNRAAA	28,795	HHS - MNRAAA	17,967
HHS - EDP/Sail	58,513	HHS - EDP/Sail	29,257
<b>Total State Sources</b>	<b>\$ 165,898</b>	<b>Total State Sources</b>	<b>\$ 125,904</b>
Property Taxes	\$ 292,621	Property Taxes	\$ 286,320
Interest and Dividends	8,300	Interest and Dividends	6,050
Technical Assistance	82,727	Technical Assistance	55,261
Other	19,530	Other	17,691
In-kind	16,892	In-kind	9,752
<b>Total Local Sources</b>	<b>\$ 420,070</b>	<b>Total Local Sources</b>	<b>\$ 375,074</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 790,805</b>	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 694,330</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		<b>Expenditures</b>	
Personnel	\$ 423,276	Personnel	\$ 402,017
Supplies & Printing	9,572	Supplies & Printing	6,496
Communications	11,766	Communications	10,602
Capital Outlay	4,625	Capital Outlay	1,500
Services	4,817	Services	21,409
Volunteer Services/Other Uses	2,279	Volunteer Services/Other Uses	1,869
Travel & Training	32,035	Travel & Training	17,452
Commission	13,119	Commission	10,600
In-kind	16,892	In-kind	27,390
Indirect	225,852	Indirect	223,845
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 744,233</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 723,180</b>

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Financial Director/Office Manager .....	Sue Gimse
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Senior Outreach Specialist .....	Ashley Ronglien
Economic Development Director .....	Les Nelson
Community Development Director .....	Matthew Johnson
Admin.Assist./Tech Support Specialist.....	Terresa Westerman

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