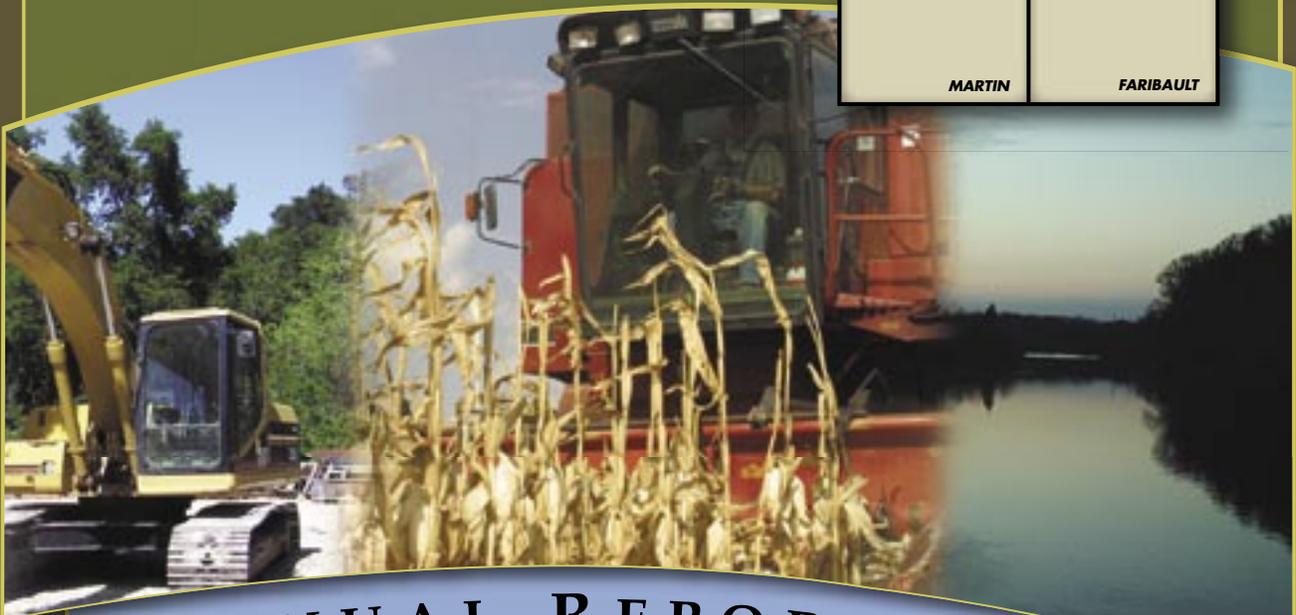


# REGION NINE

## DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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

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**YOUR REGIONAL PARTNER FOR PROGRESS**



region nine  
development commission

## Your Regional Partner For Progress

P.O. Box 3367 Mankato MN 56002-3367  
507.387.5643 800.450.5643 Fax 507.387.7105 www.rndc.org

Honorable Commissioners and Citizens of Region Nine:

On behalf of the Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC), we respectfully submit this 2006 Annual Report. The 2006 Annual Report is intended to convey the progress of RNDC in a variety of areas, as well as provide a financial overview of the fiscal year.

In the Year 2006, RNDC sought to:

- 1) Strengthen and grow its areas of core competency
- 2) Build new partnerships
- 3) Leverage its resources
- 4) Commit to quality services
- 5) Strengthen its Commission leadership
- 6) Grow strategically

One of the more notable strides made over the past year was an internal push to strengthen board leadership through restructuring, training and development, and intensifying communication among 43 Commissioners. The internal efforts have lead to external outcomes of increased partnerships, local project development opportunities, intergovernmental dialogue, and advocacy for region wide initiatives.

RNDC has progressed in its aim to better inform citizens and local leaders about what Region Nine Development Commission is working on. Many of the programs provide great public services without much public knowledge of such services being provided by Region Nine Development Commission. By consistently educating and informing local communities and the public on efforts of the organization, RNDC hopes to grow citizen understanding and government cooperation.

Ultimately, RNDC seeks a path that leads to national and global competitiveness, while maintaining a high quality of life for its local citizens. Only by working with partners will the region realize its full potential and vision for the future.

We believe efforts by the Region Nine Development Commission throughout the year 2006 has helped to ensure that citizens are able to experience and enjoy a high quality of life, provide its employees with a healthy place to work, demonstrate the value of local government cooperation across the region, and ultimately help the region to become one of the best in the nation. Thank you for your time and enjoy your review.

Respectfully yours,

James Broich  
RNDC Chair / Sleepy Eye - Mayor

Reginald Edwards  
Executive Director



Serving 9 counties, 72 cities and 147 townships since 1972.  
An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

# Area Agency on Aging



## The next chapter for Aging Services for Communities (ASC)

It has been rewarding to observe the growth and development of this non-profit organization since the doors opened in October 2004.

Aging Services for Communities (ASC) continues to be a vital resource for older adults in Le Sueur County as well as those in the surrounding counties.

ASC has become a free standing 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization governed by a board of directors. Many of the participants on the original transportation workgroup, that began meeting in 2003, now serve as board members.

In March 2007 ASC broke the 500 mark by providing 508 health and/or medical appointment rides during the month. In a county that does not have a county-wide public transportation system this volunteer driver program is filling the gap. ASC has a contract with

Le Sueur Co. Human Services to provide rides for county residents that receive medical assistance through the county. Through this contract volunteer drivers are reimbursed for their mileage and ASC receives an administration fee for their time in scheduling and coordinating the rides and the volunteers.

ASC also coordinates the Le Sueur County Senior Transportation

## **Aging Services for Communities Mission Statement:**

**Assist older persons in remaining in their own home environment for as long as possible by providing caregiver support & respite and transportation.**

program that is supported through county funding in much the same way. Older adults (62 years and over) who are unable to drive can utilize the Senior Transportation program for rides to medical appointments.

In October of 2005 ASC began offering Home Management Services to clients in Le Sueur Co. Today ASC has contracts with 3 additional counties to provide this service to waived clients.

ASC is a unique program combining a fee for service transportation and home management model with a donation based volunteer caregiver support and respite program. In 2004 ASC accessed MN Department of Human Services grant dollars for start up funding. ASC has shown a 75% decrease in its dependency on the state grant funding. ASC continues to accept donations to support their caregiver program but the ultimate goal is to no longer be dependent on the state grant funds. Because of the dedication of the staff and board of directors that goal may soon become a reality.

For more information on this and other programs see our website at [www.rndc.org](http://www.rndc.org).

# Community Development

## City of Truman Downtown Revitalization Plan

Region Nine staff has recently completed the new Truman Downtown Revitalization Plan. With much enthusiasm throughout the process, the Downtown Revitalization Plan has been based on business and residential surveys performed in 2006. Since the plan allowed a great deal of community input, residents supported all aspects of the new plan. Residents were able to design and create a downtown that they wanted for their community. A community-wide public hearing and open forum was also held to gather thoughts and comments prior to the final revisions. Forty people attended the public hearing, which is an excellent turnout for a community of Truman's size. Region Nine staff was very excited to have their input! The new plan will serve as a guide for redevelopment ideas and as a promotional tool for the community. The Truman Downtown Revitalization Plan was formally submitted to the City of Truman in April of 2007, and Region Nine staff is looking forward to seeing its ideas develop, as the city continues to undertake downtown improvements.

## City of Waldorf Zoning Ordinance

In the summer of 2006, the Waldorf Zoning Ordinance was completed by Region Nine staff, and formally adopted by the City of Waldorf. This was an exciting

occasion, since this was the first-ever zoning ordinance adopted by the City. Along with the ordinance, a large detailed zoning map was also presented to the City for use and reference for city issues and projects.

## Demographics Research

Region Nine staff works with the latest data provided via the Census and the Minnesota State Demographic Center to identify trends and current issues that are affecting the region. This can include social, physical, and economic information. Working with this data allows Region Nine to find demographic groups and geographic areas that are most in need of assistance, and allows us to tailor our programs, including community and economic development, accordingly. Staff is currently creating a section for the Region Nine website which will make this information available online.

## Hazard Mitigation Planning

Currently, Region Nine staff is in the final stages of completing the All-Hazard Mitigation Plans for most of the regional counties. When completed, the plans will identify potential human-made and natural hazards that may af-



fect the counties. Along with identifying hazards, the plans will suggest practices and strategies to reduce or eliminate negative effects of certain hazards. Lastly, the All-Hazard Mitigation Plans will serve as a supplement to existing emergency management practices at the county level.

## Downtown Coordination

Region Nine has been considering the addition of a downtown coordination (or "Main Street") staff member to their programs. The new position would help smaller communities, in the region, solve many facets of downtown development such as: physical improvements, economic and business development, and marketing the community to potential residents or business owners. Since some community downtowns are in need of such assistance, this staff member would be of great help. In order to determine if there is an adequate demand for these services, Region Nine staff is currently conducting a region-wide survey of communities.

# Economic Development

## Region Nine Progress

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is an excellent program developed by Region Nine Development Commission, the designated Economic Development District for the nine-county area. Having an approved CEDS allows Region Nine to maintain eligibility to receive continued financial assistance from the Economic Development Administration, under the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

CEDS coordinates the efforts of individuals, organizations, local governments, and private industry concerned with economic development. It helps create jobs, fosters stable and diversified economies, and enhances quality of life. The CEDS provides a positive impact in numerous ways for the following:

- Leveraging financial capital
- Expanding uses for revolving loan funds
- Value-added agriculture and new agriculture
- Providing a solid infrastructure

## Revolving Loan Fund

Region Nine's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Programs provide financial assistance for small to mid-sized businesses. It helps them have a better chance for success and makes sure they are on target for their goals. The RLF program works in partnership with local lending institutions, economic development organiza-



tions, and government agencies to help "fill the gap" between available and necessary financial resources. Since established, Region Nine's RLF program has provided 172 loans for startup and expanding businesses. It has been able to disburse \$9 million in loan funding to date, along with creating or retaining over 1,700 jobs, a very valuable contribution to the regional economy!

## Express Diagnostics, Inc.

Express Diagnostics, Inc., located in Blue Earth in Faribault County, is a great example of how the Region Nine RLF program has helped a business achieve a high level of success. Express Diagnostics, Inc. is a leading supplier of disposable drug and alcohol testing kits, including the innovative DrugCheck Test Cup, which combines the sample collection cup and drug test into one easy-to-use device. According to

Paul Johnson, Vice President of Manufacturing Operations for Express Diagnostics, Inc., Region Nine RLF played an integral role in the development of the business by loaning a significant portion of the funding package that was required to make the project happen. In the past nine months, the business has grown from four full and part-time employees to a total of 24 company-wide. Additionally, Paul is looking forward to bringing new and innovative products to market within the next year, and is already considering the possibility of expanding the existing facilities and adding more employees. Paul sees Region Nine Development Commission as an important asset to help keep small communities like Blue Earth viable and competitive and businesses and the employees and families they attract.

# South Central Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

The mission of the SBDC is to promote growth, expansion, innovation, increased productivity, and improved management for small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Region Nine area by providing managerial consulting and training seminars of existing and start-up businesses.

## Consulting

The SBDC team of professional business consultants provides one-on-one, confidential no cost

management consulting and technical assistance in the areas of:

## Finance Packaging

The SBDC does not administer loan or grant programs. However, the SBDC staff can conduct a financial analysis to determine client eligibility for loans, research various sources of capital, and package business loans.

## Information Resources

The SBDC also provides clients

with comprehensive business resource materials and database access for business research.

## Training Seminars

The SBDC also offers seminars and training programs on subjects important to business owners and entrepreneurs as well as other programs to meet the special needs of the region. Training programs and special projects are provided at no cost or a nominal fee.

## Client Spotlight: Grace Senior Services Inc.



Grace Senior Services Inc. was established in 2002. Grace is dedicated to developing and providing affordable "Housing with Services" to seniors in south central Minnesota (Region 9). Our Mission and Goal is to promote and provide, through a combination of services, an affordable continuum of care for seniors with disabilities.

The founders of Grace Senior Services first started an adult day service (Natural Surroundings) in 1997 to provide day services for seniors with disabilities.

In 2002, Grace opened a Corporate Adult Foster Care (Lillian Grace). Lillian Grace is a home in West Mankato that provides care for 4 residents with mental illness.

In May of 2004, Grace Senior Services expanded to serve clients with Memory Loss. They opened "Autumn Grace", a 24 hour facility which provides assisted living care services for 21 residents who have dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Stroke, TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), Parkinson's disease, Pics disease, and other memory related challenges.

In the design of Autumn Grace, Natural Surroundings was incorporated into the facility as an activities center. The center is designed for residents of Autumn Grace and to also continue providing Adult Day Care services

to clients in the Mankato and surrounding area.

In July of 2005, Grace continued to expand by completing the construction of an additional 20 bed assisted living facility (phase II) to Autumn Grace. At this time, Grace has the capacity to serve 41 clients with "Memory Loss" through Autumn Grace I, and II, and also 4 clients with mental illness through the Lillian Grace Corporate Foster Care. Natural Surroundings Adult Day Center currently serves 15-18 clients a day.

In November of 2005, while expanding their dedication to providing a continuum of care, Grace broke ground for its newest project in senior housing, Willow Brook Senior Cooperative. Grace Senior Services Inc. has joined with Cooperative Housing Resources, LLC to create Mankato's newest 55 and older senior cooperative. This is independent living for seniors that has additional in home health-care services provided by Grace Senior Services, Inc.

# Transportation

## General:

The Region Nine Transportation Program works with, and on behalf of, its member jurisdictions to provide the best transportation system possible for the region's citizens and businesses. This includes working with transportation agencies—state and federal transportation departments and agencies—and legislators to bring resources to the region for transportation projects, working directly with local jurisdictions, and finding innovative ways to improve the transportation infrastructure. Furthermore, the transportation program seeks to focus on the regional components of transportation, and bring a comprehensive regional voice to transportation decision-making.

## TAC:

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is charged with oversight of the transportation program and is comprised of both elected officials and technical experts. In late 2006, the TAC adopted a vision statement and identified four broad focus areas to help guide the program in the future. The vision of the Region Nine Transportation Committee is *"to promote, improve, and advance the region's transportation facilities and programs through active participation in the transportation planning process. The committee will work cooperatively with all transportation stakeholders to identify current and future needs, develop a regional voice for transportation issues, foster communication among all local government entities, and advocate for significant transportation investment in the region."* The four goals focus on regional corridor movements, transit, advocacy, and communication.

## ATP:

Region Nine serves on the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP), a committee formed to help Mn/DOT set funding priorities, disperse federal transportation funds to cities and counties, and bring public input into the planning process. In 2006, the ATP assisted in the development of the 2007-'09 State Transportation Improvement Program, which assigns projected funding to specific transportation projects.

## Enhancements and Transit:

Within the ATP, Region Nine also serves on the transit and enhancements subcommittees, which review and recommend funding options for those activities. These committees were responsible for funding four transit buses and several enhancement projects including trail construction and the historic restoration of a railroad depot in Wells.

## Highway 14:

Highway 14 was opened to traffic as a four-lane expressway between Smith's Mill and Waseca in the fall of 2006. Funding has been identified and programmed into the STIP for building a bypass of Waseca and extending the four-lane highway to Owatonna. This three-year project will begin in 2008. Region Nine continues to focus on the expansion of the highway between North Mankato and New Ulm, with current emphasis on expanding Highway 14 from Nicollet County 13 to Nicollet County 6 with an interchange at Nicollet County 41.



## Highway 15:

Highway 15 is a vital north-south artery running between Fairmont and St. Cloud, dissecting the western part of the region. As a busy two-lane highway running through several communities, safety is a primary concern. Improvements to the highway will also be a huge asset for economic development activities. In order to facilitate and accelerate upgrading of the corridor, the Highway 15 Coalition has been active in pursuing revenue and support for Highway 15 projects. In particular, Region Nine and the Coalition have requested \$1 million in federal funds to conduct a corridor study and purchase some land for right-of-way preservation.

## Functional Class:

Region Nine worked with counties, cities, and Mn/DOT (Minnesota Department of Transportation) to examine how roads are classified based on their functionality. Classification helps Mn/DOT determine guidelines for project design, access management, and right-of-way, among others.

**Regional Significance:** Region Nine annually reviews applications sent to the ATP for regional significance and provides a score to the ATP. Approximately 25 applications were reviewed in 2006.

# Regional Transit



## Coordination Plan:

In an effort between Mn/DOT, MN DHS (Minnesota Department of Human Services), Regions, and transportation stakeholders, Region Nine developed a plan to coordinate human service transportation and public transportation services. The plan was required by federal legislation and will allow local systems and new starts access to designated funding streams. The plan comprised of a public involvement process, inventory of current services, gaps

and duplication assessment, and strategies for improving and implementing a coordination structure. The plan is available for viewing on Region Nine's website ([www.rndc.org](http://www.rndc.org)).

## Mobility Management:

A significant component of the coordination plan is to implement a mobility management model into the operational functionality of transit services in the region. Mobility management serves as a clearinghouse of information about all aspects of transit options in a designated service area. The goal of mobility management is to appropriately match rides (based on level of need) to the most cost-effective provider based on the level of service necessary for that ride, and to ensure that all transit needs are identified and fulfilled.

Furthermore, the mobility manager would be responsible for developing coordination relationships, monitoring policy, and providing information services. Region Nine will be working with transportation providers in the coming year to build mobility management capabilities within the region.

## Transit Leadership Team:

A team of local business professionals, elected officials, transit providers, and educational leaders was assembled in the fall of 2006 to examine transit needs and opportunities within the region. The group identified local, regional, and interregional transit paradigms while brainstorming for the future of transit in the region. The team will continue to meet in 2007 to form its vision and advocate for greater Minnesota transit.



# Renewable Energy



Region Nine Development Commission has been serving as the co-host along with Three Rivers Resource Conservation & Development Council for the Region Nine Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) and South-Central MN Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTS). The task force is a renewable energy collaborative effort for several organizations to work together and leverage regional resources to help sustain vitality in the region. Organizational partners include University of Minnesota – Extension Services, Blue Earth County, Nicollet Coun-

ty, Gustavus Adolphus, BENCO Electric Cooperative, Watonwan County, Blue Ribbon Foundation, Minnesota State University, Minnesota Projects, Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation and others. Engaging in this initiative is important to partners and rural communities for three primary reasons including leveraging rural community resources, protecting the environment, and national interest.

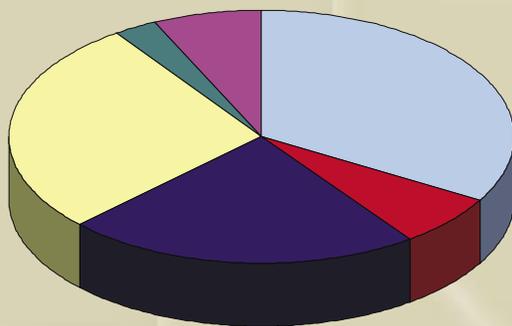
Regional partners across the region were the first to adopt resolutions to support Minnesota

moving to having 25% of its fuel supplied by renewable fuel by the year 2025. In addition to over 100 local units of government adopting the resolution in 2005 and 2006, the RETF advocated that the State of Minnesota adopt a similar policy. During the 2007 legislative session the State of Minnesota adopted such policy. Individual businesses and citizens are now being solicited to adopt such a policy or make a pledge.

# Revenues & Expenditures

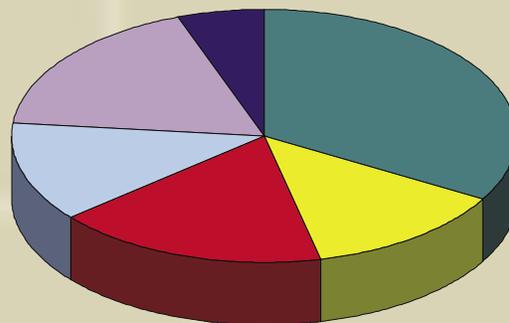
	FY '06	FY'05
General Government	47.6%	62.0%
Aging	14.2%	13.7%
Community Economic Development	12.0%	4.3%
Prevention & Healthy Communities	6.7%	10.9%
Public Information & Marketing	7.2%	0.0%
SBDC	6.5%	6.3%
Transportation	5.8%	2.7%

## Revenues by Source



- Federal (\$493,553) (33.4%)
- Other Sources & Conf fees (\$97,139) (6.6%)
- State (\$335,342) (22.7%)
- Tax Levy (\$410,243) (27.8%)
- Charges for Services (\$37,051) (2.5%)
- Interest (\$104,604) (7.1%)

## Expenditures by Department



- Area Agency on Aging (\$493,201) (33.37%)
- Community & Economic Dev (\$191,009) (12.92%)
- General Fund (\$258,131) (17.47%)
- Small Business Development Center (\$192,385) (13.02%)
- Transportation (\$259,498) (17.56%)
- Other (\$83,710) (5.66%)

1,477,934 100.00%

# FY06 Budget by Programs



## REVENUES:

FEDERAL	493,553
STATE	335,342
TAX LEVY	410,243
OTHER SOURCES	94,539
CONFERENCE REVENUE	2,600
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	37,051
INTEREST	104,604

**TOTAL REVENUES 1,477,932**

## EXPENDITURES:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING	493,201
COMMUNITY / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	191,007
TRANSPORTATION	259,498
PREVENTION & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES	338,457
SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER	192,385
GENERAL FUND	258,131
OTHER	83,710

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES 1,477,932**

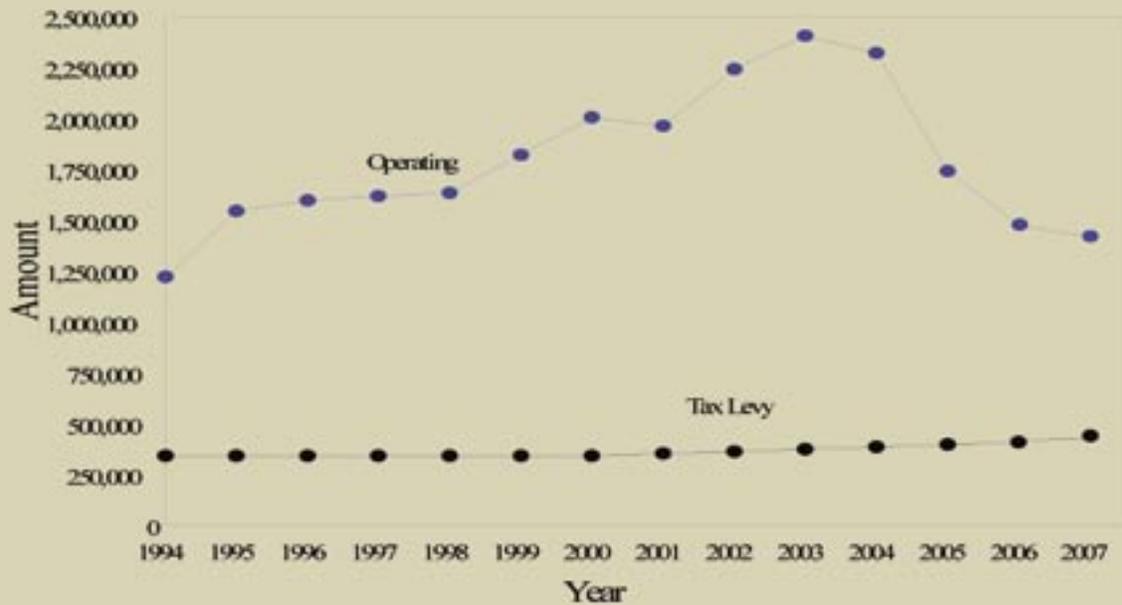
# FY06 Budget by Line Item

<b>REVENUES:</b>		
FEDERAL		493,553
STATE		335,342
TAX LEVY		410,243
OTHER SOURCES		94,539
CONFERENCE REVENUE		2,600
CHARGES FOR SERVICES		37,051
INTEREST		104,604
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>		<b>1,477,932</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>		
PERSONNEL		672,991
FRINGE		239,189
COPYING / PRINTING		27,144
PUBLIC NOTICE		3,644
POSTAGE		14,696
TELEPHONE		5,118
TRAVEL - STAFF		50,912
TRAVEL - OTHER		23,319
REGISTRATION		9,542
SUPPLIES		44,075
MEMBERSHIP / DUES		10,150
MISCELLANEOUS		526
CONSULTANT		58,732
INSURANCE		0
ERRORS & OMISSIONS INSURANCE		6,500
MAINTENANCE		300
LEGAL		2,815
AUDIT		25,731
EQUIPMENT / DEPRECIATION		210,783
STORAGE SPACE & CONFERENCE ROOMS		1,600
OFFICE SPACE		50,155
DEBT CARRYOVER		20,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,477,932</b>
<b>INDIRECT RATE</b>		<b>22.95%</b>
<b>PASS THRU</b>		<b>1,631,798</b>

# Region Nine Development Commission Levy History

Year Payable	Base	Increase Allowed	Levy Amount	Percent Increase
2007	410,243	3%	422,550	3.00%
2006	398,294	3%	410,243	3.00%
2005	386,693	3%	398,294	3.00%
2004	375,430	3%	386,693	3.00%
2003	364,495	3%	375,430	3.00%
2002	353,879	3%	364,495	3.00%
2001	343,572	3%	353,879	0.00%
2000	343,572	3%	343,572	0.00%
1999	343,572	3%	343,572	0.00%
1998			343,572	0.00%
1997			343,572	0.00%

**Total Operating Revenue vs Tax Levy**  
Actual FY 1994-2004, Budget FY 2005-06



# Region Nine Development Commission Members

## Blue Earth County

Bruender, Kip County Commissioner  
 Hurd, Charlie\* City of Mankato  
 Lynch, Brian Cities under 10,000  
 Bartsch, Maria\* Township Board  
 More, Alvis Agriculture

## Brown County

Berg, Jim County Commissioner  
 Broich, James (R9 Chair) Cities under 10,000  
 Fleischmann, Ron New Ulm City Council  
 Juni, Frederick Township Board

## Faribault County

Loveall, Tom County Commissioner  
 Young, Greg\* Township Board  
 Oldfather, Roger Cities under 10,000

## LeSueur County

Dietz, Alvin Environmental Quality  
 Holicky, Janet MN Valley Council of Governments  
 McGuire, Mick Cities under 10,000  
 Rohfling, Mary Jean School Board  
 Stangler, Bill County Commissioner  
 Stangler, James (R9 Vice Chair) Township Board

## Martin County

Gorath, Harlan Fairmont City Council  
 Hanson, Kenneth Township Board  
 Roesler, Bob Cities under 10,000  
 Boler, Jerry\* County Commissioner

## Nicollet County

Flores, Janie Minority Populations  
 Genelin, Terry Township Board  
 Strand, Tim\* Mayor, City of St. Peter  
 Norland, Diane\* City of North Mankato  
 Stenson, James County Commissioner  
 Schabert, Bob Cities Under 10,000

## Sibley County

Bauer, Leo County Commissioner  
 Kaufmann, Norbert Township Board  
 Pautsch, Brenda Cities Under 10,000  
 Steckman, Patricia Tourism & Recreation

## Waseca County

Kuhns, Dan\* County Commissioner  
 Brandenburg, Eldo Township Board  
 Fitzsimmons, Jack Transportation  
 Johansen, Matt Cities Under 10,000

## Watonwan County

Fenske, Candace Health & Human Welfare  
 Krenz, Dwayne County Commissioner  
 Mikkelson, Lance Township Board  
 Jahnz, Denny\* Cities Under 10,000

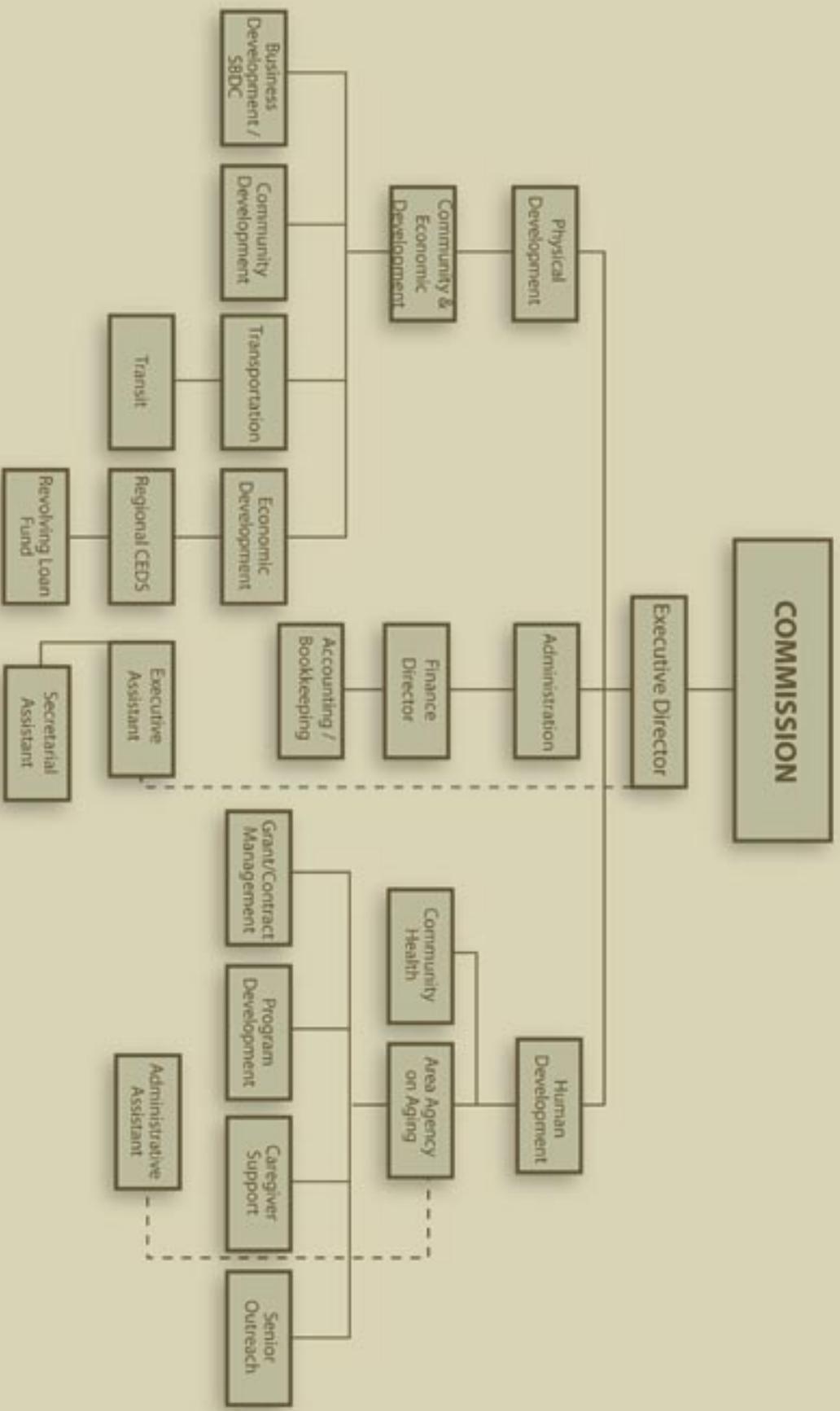
## Departing Commission Members

Wendell Armstrong Susan Devens  
 Jerry Hawbaker David Lynch  
 Lynette Martin Terri McGee  
 Dennis Nelson Dan Schmidtke

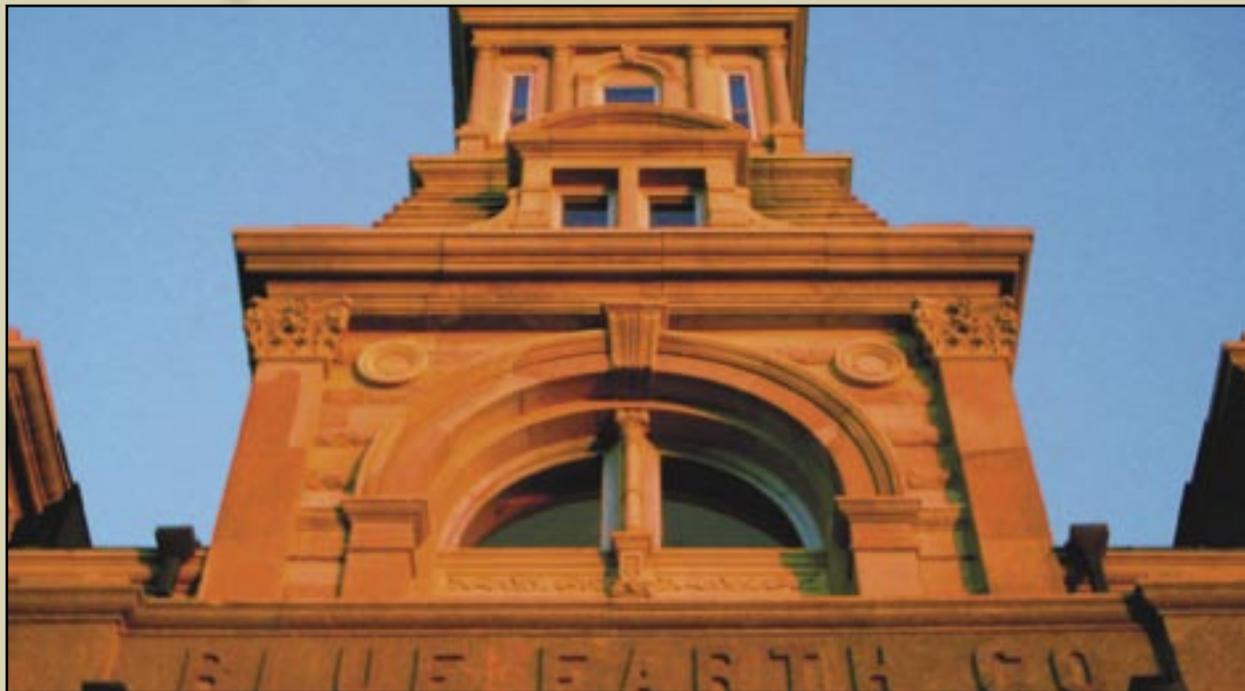
\*New Members

# Region Nine Development Commission

Organization Chart



# History



## Who are we?

- Forty-three leaders from across the region serve on the Commission; including:

- Thirty-four elected officials representing nine counties, 72 cities, 147 townships, school districts and soil and water conservation districts.

- Eight representatives of special interest groups include: agriculture, commerce, crime prevention, environmental quality, health and human welfare, minority populations, tourism and recreation and transportation. The Minnesota Valley Council of Governments is also represented.

## Where do we serve?

- Region Nine is comprised of nine south central Minnesota county areas including:

Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan. Their combined population is 222,790 of the state's 4,919,479 people according to the 2000 Census. Fairmont, North Mankato, New Ulm and Mankato are the four largest cities.

## A history in progress

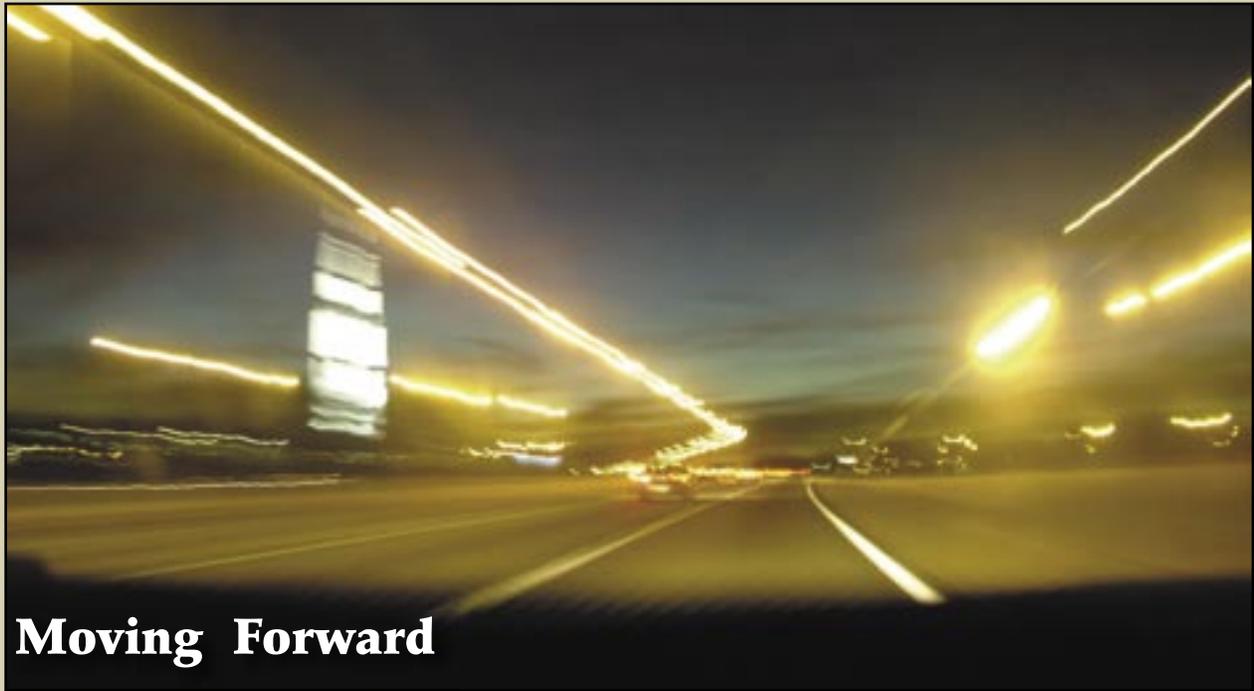
The Region Nine Development Commission was authorized by the Regional Development Act of 1969, and was organized by local officials in 1972. The purpose of regional development commissions "is to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical and govern-

mental concerns of each region of the state."

## According to state statutes,

"The legislature finds that problems of growth and development transcend the boundary lines of local government units and not a single unit can plan for their solution without affecting other units in the region; and assistance is needed to make the most effective use of local, state, federal and private programs in serving the citizens of urban and rural regions."

# Mission



Because of the strategic and collaborative approach to planning over the years, Region Nine Development Commission is well positioned to be a valuable resource for small business growth. RNDC's vision and leadership will work to ensure the economic vitality of this region well into the future.

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the RNDC is to promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning and technical assistance.

## **Vision/Goals**

We will maintain a future-oriented perspective that helps to facilitate decisions which re-

sult in healthier and more prosperous communities that are better equipped to move forward into the future.

## **Accountability**

We are accountable to the public, our funding agencies and to each other for the quality of our work, promoting development of the region and being fiscally responsible.

## **Professionalism**

We promote, encourage and provide opportunities for development, leadership and mentoring at all levels of participation within the organization. We expect professionalism to be demonstrated by our behavior, conduct and loyalty.

## **Communications**

We value timely, open and honest communication to enhance organization effectiveness.

## **Adaptability**

We embrace change and celebrate new challenges, are able to identify problems, look at the options and evaluate the consequences with a sense of purpose and future.

## **Diversity**

We value and respect the diversity of the region and of our organization.

## **Teamwork**

We support teamwork across the organization, lending knowledge and skill as needed to be successful and efficient.

# Staff

## **Area Agency on Aging**

Linda Giersdorf, Director  
Erica Gahlon, Administrative Assistant  
Rhonda Hiller Fjeldberg, Grant/Contract Manager  
Elaine Spain, Project ROSE (Reaching Out to Support Elders) & EDP  
(ElderCare Development Partnership) Planner/Transit Coordinator  
Gail Gilman Waldner, Program Developer  
Robin Thompson, Senior Outreach Specialist

## **Community & Economic Development**

Troy Bonkowske, Director  
Jon Noerenberg, Regional Development Planner

## **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)**

Bob Klanderud, Director  
Mary Oudekerk, Counselor

## **Transportation Development**

Brent O'Neil, Regional Transportation Planner

## **Administration**

Reggie Edwards, Executive Director  
Eileen Roesner, Secretarial Assistant  
Cheryl Weston, Administrative Assistant

## **Office of Finance**

LuAnn Vanderwerf, Finance Director  
Michal Clobes, Bookkeeper / RLF Assistant  
Lois Gekeler, Accountant

# Thank you

## Region Nine Advisory Council on Aging

Ahmed, Lul	At Large, Any Age
Berg, Jim	RNDC Liason
Engstrom, Jerry	60+
Fenske, Candace	RNDC Liason
Fox, Janice	60+
Leary, Robert	60+
Morgan, Scott	Public/Private Agency
Peterson, Richard "Dick"	60+
Sandmann, Cathy	County Social Service
Savick, Carl	60+
Schmiesing, Wally	60+
Solomon-Wise, Renee	Nursing Home Representative
Struck, Sylvan	60+
Stangler, Bill	RNDC Liason
Witt, Fauniee	60+

Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
Brown Co., New Ulm  
Watonswan Co. St. James  
Watonswan Co., Madelia  
Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
Le Sueur County, Le Center  
Blue Earth Co., Eagle Lake  
Sibley Co., Belle Plaine  
Blue Earth Co., Mankato  
Faribault Co., Kiester  
Brown Co., Hanska  
Nicollet Co., North Mankato  
Martin Co., Sherburn  
LeSueur Co., St. Peter  
Waseca Co., Janesville

## Region Nine Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Broich, James	Sleepy Eye
Bruender, Kip	Eagle Lake
Dietz, Alvin	New Pragu
Fitzsimmons, Jack	Waseca
Forsberg, Alan	Mankato
Genelin, Terrance	LeSueur
Haeder, Doug	Mn/DOT
Hanson, Ken	Sherburn
Kaufmann, Norbert	Belle Plain
Kuhns, Daniel	Waseca County
Krenz, Dwayne	Madelia
Loveall, Tom	Winnebago
McDonald, John	Blue Earth
Saffert, Ken	Mankato
Stevens, Wayne	New Ulm
Wagner, Mike	St. Peter

## Minnesota Department of Transportation District 7 Area Transportation Partnership

Apitz, Bob	Transit
Bigham, Lisa	Mn/DOT
Broich, Jim	Region 9
Gregg, Ron	Counties
Guggisberg, Charles	Counties
Haeder, Douglas	Mn/DOT
Holmberg, Darrell	Region 8
Koehler, Steve	Cities
Ous, Greg	Mn/DOT
Rubis, Craig	Counties
Stevens, Wayne	Counties
Swanson, Connie	Transit
Swanson, Jim	Mn/DOT

## Region Nine Transit Leadership Team

Allan, Donna	Mn/DOT
Anderson, Mark	City of Mankato
Apitz, Bob	Brown County
Bigham, Lisa	Mn/DOT
Bruender, Kip	Region Nine/Blue Earth County
Chadderdon, Sandy	MVAC, Waseca County
Clark, Carol	VINE
Davenport, Richard	MSU, M
Gunther, Bob	MN State Legislature
Klassen, Janet	Mn/DOT
Laven, Mike	City of Mankato
Morris, Henry	MSU, M
Morris, Jim	Community/Economic Development
Olson, Scott	MSU, M
Penny, Tim	Congress (former)
Rippke, Jon	Bolton & Menk
Schabert, Bob	R9 Commissioner
Shughart, Noel	Mn/DOT
Swanson, Connie	City of LeSueur
Storm, Julie	MN State Legislature (former)
Year, Pam	MRCI

## Revolving Loan Fund Review Committee

Broich, Jim	Mayor, City of Sleepy Eye
Hayden, Don	Economic Development Director, Le Center
Hansen, Jay	Nicollet County Bank
More, Jim	Easton State Bank
Pederson, Dean	City of Winthrop Community Dev. Director
Paulson, Jim	Pioneer Bank, St. James
Roesler, Bob	Sherburn City Council
Rollings, Jerry	MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal
Thompson, Larry	Roundbank Waseca

## Region Nine Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF)

Baerg, John	Watonswan County Commissioner
Boler, Gerald	Martin County Commissioner
Lemke, Dan	AURI Waseca
Marg, Gregg	MSU Biology Professor
Noerenberg, Jon	Region Nine Development Commission
Schabert, Bob	Mayor of Courtland
Schwartzkopf, Lou	MSU Physics Professor
Sunderman, Dave	BENCO Electric
Wortel, Katy	Blue Earth County Commissioner
Wyatt, Gary	U of M Extension Office
MSU Students for Sustainability	
Three Rivers RC&D	

## South Central Small Business Development Center Board of Directors

Bishop, Pam	Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Johnson, Scott	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Lynch, Brian	Region Nine Development Commission
Otto, Dean	South Central College
Zierdt, Jonathan	Greater Mankato Economic Development Corporation
Boler, Jerry	Martin County
Gramentz, Brian	City of New Ulm
Kruse, David	Pioneer Bank, St. James
Morris, Rick	Waseca County
Schultz, Denny	City of Arlington

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