

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) Serving Region Six-East

2016 Five Year Assessment of Activities

Under Minnesota State Statutes 462.393 (Subd. 2) it states that “In 2001 and every five years thereafter the commission shall review its activities and issue a report assessing its performance in fulfilling the purposes of the Regional Development Act. The report shall address whether the existence of the commission is in the public welfare and interest.”

The five-year assessment needs to be completed in 2016. The Assessment Report covers the period of time from 2012 to 2016.

MMDC’s Mission Statement:

We will administer state and federal programs, coordinate multi-jurisdictional activities, and provide technical assistance to government, businesses, and local organizations to maintain or enhance the quality of life in the Counties of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville.

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission’s Departments during the Past Five Years

During the past five years, the MMDC has operated the following Departments:

- Economic Development
- Community Development/Planning
- Transportation Planning
- Aging Services with the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. (MNRAAA) (Ceased primary operations in 2014, Commission representation on MNRAAA Board until June 30, 2016.)
- Administration

Highlight of Key Activities Performed within Each Department over the Past Five Years

The following is a brief listing of some of the key activities undertaken by each of the MMDC’s Departments during the past five years. Many smaller activities are not mentioned.

Economic Development Activities

- Staff authored a grant application to the Blandin Foundation. The successful grant provided partial funding to pay for a broadband infrastructure feasibility study for

Kandiyohi County. Staff are members of the Kandiyohi County Broadband Taskforce, and gave some assistance in preparing a Border-to-Border State Broadband Application in 2016.

- During the past several years. MMDC, along with its state counterparts as part of the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO), has prepared “DevelopMN”, which is a Greater Minnesota Economic Development Strategy. MMDC has helped reach out to various federal, state, and local partners during this process.
- From 2012 to current, the MMDC’s Revolving Loan Fund made eight business loans within the Region for a total of \$635,000, creating 98 jobs.
- Prepare and annually update the Region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In the process in 2016 for preparing a new CEDS.
- Keeping current with the necessary reports, etc. with the federal EDA’s designation as an Economic Development District.
- Assistance to the Kandiyohi County local Foods System Committee.
- Assistance with the Blandin Foundation’s Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) grant project.
- Staff serving on RLF Committees for Renville County HRA/EDA and for the Kandiyohi County EDC.
- Staff served on the Business Retention and Expansion Committee for the Kandiyohi County EDC and as an ex-officio member of their Operations Board.
- Staff spent considerable time on authoring a grant application to the Federal Economic Development Administration on behalf of the City of Willmar in 2012. If approved, the funds were to be used for infrastructure installation at the new Willmar Industrial Park. Unfortunately, the application was not funded.
- Staff continues to serve on the Renville County Revolving Loan Fund Committee, the Kandiyohi County Business Retention and Expansion Committee, and the Kandiyohi County Revolving Loan Fund Committee.
- In 2013 the Commission sponsored an Agricultural Business Resource Seminar.
- In 2014 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.

- Beginning in 2013 MMDC is participating in economic and community development portions of the Kandiyohi County Vision 2040. This visioning process will provide an outlook for what individuals would like Kandiyohi County to resemble in the year 2040. Staff continues to sit on several active committees as part of this process.
- The MMDC co-sponsored a Business Retention and Expansion workshop held in Hutchinson in 2013. This is a University of Minnesota program that surveys local businesses to determine needs and identify issues they may have.
- Assistance given to the City of Willmar Design Center, currently called Willmar Downtown Development Inc. Staff currently is a member of their Downtown Design Committee.
- Staff gave a number of presentations to area business finance seminars.

Community Development and Planning Activities

- The largest Community Development Department project during 2012 involved MMDC writing County Water Plans for Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, and Renville Counties. Local Water Plans are required by the State in order to be eligible to receive funds annually to administer local water planning priorities.
- MMDC worked with both Meeker and McLeod Counties on updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. These plans are designed to minimize the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and severe weather events. Overall, the plans each identify the County's main hazard-related needs, such as addressing flood prone areas, the need for storm shelters, and the need for replacing and/or upgrading warning sirens. The plans then develop a list of detailed action steps, referred to collectively as the Mitigation Plan, which specify the County's priority projects over the next five years. Most of the major projects would qualify for as much as 75% cost-share through various Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant programs.
- MMDC worked on the Phase One City of Willmar Parks Plan. The plan includes a complete profile of existing conditions at each of the City's 37 designated parks. The plan provides guidance in the capital investments for the parks in the upcoming years. Staff also assisted the City in preparing an application to have Robbins Island Park be designated by the State as a "Regional Park".
- MMDC assisted the Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) on developing the District's Overall Plan. Assistance was also given to the BCWD with a number of other projects, including helping write a Policy Manual and Administrative Handbook. The

BCWD's Overall Plan was amended to include the establishment of a Water Management District. The new management district will allow BCWD to partially fund the Marsh Water Project, designed to address flooding and water quality concerns along Buffalo Creek near the City of Glencoe.

- City codes updates were completed or are currently underway for the following cities: Pennock, Prinsburg, Franklin, and Lake Lillian. Assistance was also provided to the City of Plato on City Code work.
- MMDC is currently working with the City of Lester Prairie on preparing a Comprehensive Plan.
- Staff was a member of the City of Willmar's Green Step Cities Program committee.
- Staff is a member of the Greater Willmar Area 2040 Housing Committee.
- Provided assistance through meeting facilitation and conducting a survey in 2016 for the City of Willmar considering placing a local sales tax option in the upcoming election.

Transportation Planning Activities

- Participation with the Southwest Minnesota Transportation Area Partnership (ATP) which decides how federal dollars are spent in MnDOT District 8.
- Staff is annually on the ATP's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Committee and takes the Committee Chair every 3 years.
- Assistance to a number of TAP Program applicants.
- Assisted MnDOT with helping interview manufacturers as part of their District 8 Freight Study.
- Prepared the City of Willmar's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Prepared the McLeod County Trails Plan.
- Preparing the Kandiyohi County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- MMDC prepared Safe Routes to School Plans for the following School Districts during the past five years: New London-Spicer, Willmar, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Bold (Olivia & Bird Island), and Dassel.
- Currently working with Olivia, and will also be working with Bird Island in 2016, on preparing Healthy Living Transportation Plans, funded through SHIP.

- Assistance to the Highway 15 Coalition and acting as their fiscal agent.
- MMDC was the fiscal agent for the Minnesota Valley Rail Road Coalition.
- MMDC provided assistance to MnDOT with local road verification for the state's base map. Local units of government were contacted to discuss various segments of road that MnDOT had questions about.
- Member of the Highway 12 Technical Committees for the MnDOT led studies in both Willmar and Litchfield. Member of the Hutchinson Technical Committee in updating their Transportation Plan. Staff was also a member of the Willmar Downtown Parking Study Committee.
- MMDC 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.
- MMDC assisted Dovre Township in Kandiyohi County with a Transportation Study of traffic flow and service roads off of Highway 71/23 just north of Willmar.
- Staff is a member of the Minnesota Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation Forum.
- Staff served on the Passenger Rail Committee for MnDOT's Freight and Passenger Rail Plan and several other MnDOT state transportation planning advisory committees.
- Provided a means of citizen input on various transportation projects.
- Work has started for the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in 2016, replacing the Plan the MMDC prepared in 2011, that was finalized in early 2012.
- Staff served on the Willmar Downtown Design Center Committees to improve transportation connections to the central business district.
- Staff served on a committee in Willmar that prepared an application to have Willmar named a "bronze level – Bicycle Friendly Community".
- Helped prepare the City of Hutchinson's Complete Street Ordinance, and gave advice to the City of Olivia on their Complete Street Ordinance.

Area Agency on Aging Program Activities (2012 – 2014)

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) roles are designed to provide information and assistance to persons 60+; and program development assistance to agencies that serve older adults and their caregivers. Two staff positions conducted the functions of the aging program through MMDC. The positions were Program Developer and Senior Outreach Specialist.

- Participate through staffing and board members to the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. (MNRAAA). Board members served through 2016.
- Long-term care gaps & regional analysis activities.
- Provided technical assistance to organizations regarding grant writing, grant management, business development and sustainability. This included assistance to two new assisted living providers.
- Conducted Matter of Balance Leader Trainings.
- Health Insurance Counseling services including Medicare Part D Plan comparisons for numerous persons.
- Other Senior Outreach Specialist one-on-one assistance.
- Provided phone assistance by answering the Senior LinkAge Line®.
- Participated in Life Connections Expos and Senior Health Fairs.
- Provided CSSD grant writing assistance for numerous organizations.
- Facilitated Eldercare Development Partnership Long Term Care Coordinating Council.
- Continued partnership with Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) to implement Bone Builders Exercise program with physical therapist assessment component throughout Kandiyohi, McLeod County, Meeker, and Renville Counties.
- Coordinated Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes through McLeod County Public Health; Volunteer Leaders provided classes at Club Bethesda.
- Partnered with Lutheran Social Services and Compassionate Care to provide Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes throughout Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties.
- Partnered with West Central Dementia Network to promote community events and Alzheimer's Walk.

- Coordinated Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes through McLeod County Public Health and Matter of Balance classes in Renville and Willmar. Worked on expanding evidence base class promotion throughout nine-county area.
- Received ACT on Alzheimer’s pilot project grant for Willmar to complete dementia capable community survey. Provided assistance to this project.
- Assistance given to Somali Elders in Willmar.

Other Aging Activities

- Fiscal Host to ACT on Alzheimer’s Grant.
- Beginning in 2015, MMDC is the fiscal host to West Central Dementia Awareness Network (WCDAN), and provided assistance in successfully apply for the Board on Aging Dementia Grant.

Minnesota’s Regional Development Act

MN Statutes 462.383 Purpose: Government Cooperation and Coordination

Subdivision 1. **Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that problems of growth and development in urban and rural regions of the state transcend the boundary lines of local government units that no single unit can plan for their solution without affecting other units in the region; that coordination of multijurisdictional activities is essential to the development and implementation of effective policies and programs; that intergovernmental cooperation is an effective means of pooling the resources of local government to approach common problems; and that the assistance of the state is needed to make the most effective use of local, state, federal, and private programs in serving the citizens of such urban and rural regions.

Subdivision 2. **By creating regional commission.** It is the purpose of sections 462.381 to 462.398 to authorize the establishment of regional development commissions to work with and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical, and governmental concerns of each region of the state. The commissions may assist with, develop, or implement plans or programs for individual local units of government.

Assessment on MMDC's performance in fulfilling the purposes of the Regional Development Act:

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission has served the citizens of Region Six-East for 42 years. As assessments completed in 2001, 2006, and 2011 have demonstrated the Commission has fulfilled the purposes of the Regional Development Act during the first 37 years, this report will focus on the past five years. As demonstrated by the list of activities shown above, the organization has continued to meet the fulfillment of the purposes of the Regional Development Act during the past five-year timeframe. Thus, it is not the intent to relist all activities of the past five years below, but to demonstrate through selective examples that “the existence of the commission is in the public welfare and interest.”

One of the key purposes of the Regional Development Act is for RDCs to “provide coordination of multijurisdictional activities, and on behalf of local units of government to develop plans or implement programs to address economic, social, physical, and governmental concerns of each region of the state.” The following are some examples of how the MMDC has fulfilled this purpose.

MMDC's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document is required by the federal EDA as part of being designated an Economic Development District. Every five years a new CEDS must be prepared with annual updates made. The CEDS document was re-written in 2011 and a new CEDS document has just been completed in November 2016. The CEDS involves the input from a committee made up of economic development professionals, businesspersons, elected officials, higher education representatives, and work force representatives from throughout the region. One of the key responsibilities of the CEDS is to bring forward a list of economic development priorities for the region. The MMDC, as a member of the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO), has also worked with other MADO organizations to prepare a Greater Minnesota economic development strategy called *DevelopMN*.

The MMDC has assisted each of the four counties within the Region writing County Water Plans. Local Water Plans are required by the State in order to be eligible to receive funds annually to administer local water planning priorities. The MMDC has assisted Meeker and McLeod Counties on updating their Hazard Mitigation Plans. Much assistance has also been given to the Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD). The BCWD has a multi-county territory.

The MMDC has assisted MnDOT's Office of Transit convene regional transit providers and other key stakeholders to prepare the Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan in both 2007 and in 2011 and are in the process of preparing a new plan starting in late 2016 into 2017. These plans have looked for ways that transit providers may better coordinate and cooperate

with each other. The MMDC has representatives on the Southwest Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership, which guides how federal transportation dollars are spent in the twelve counties of MnDOT's District 8. The Commission has helped form and participates in the multi-county Highway 15 Coalition. MMDC serves as the Coalition's fiscal agent as well as acted as the fiscal agent for the Minnesota Valley Rail Road Coalition.

Much of the activities of MMDC's Aging Program staff are multijurisdictional in scope. The MMDC has membership on the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging®, Inc. (MnRAAA). The Commission provided staff for nine of the counties within MnRAAA's 27-county region up through 2014.

Another of the key purposes of the Regional Development Act is for RDCs to assist "with, develop, or implement plans or programs for individual local units of government." Providing assistance to the City of Lester Prairie's Comprehensive Plan, The City of Willmar Parks Plan, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District Overall Plan are a few examples of how the MMDC has fulfilled this purpose.

The MMDC has always placed a strong emphasis in providing local units of government, businesses, and organizations with needed technical assistance. A large share of the key activities of the past five years, as is highlighted above, are a variety of technical assistance activities to local units of government or to local businesses and organizations. Each MMDC Department spends much of its time and resources on providing these technical assistance activities. Examples of such activities includes the preparation of comprehensive plans, grant writing, GIS mapping, providing assistance to elderly care organizations, assistance to businesses, and providing loans to businesses that create jobs. The MMDC provides this assistance in an efficient and cost effective manner. An indication of how well the Commission does in providing technical assistance is the degree to which the same local units of government and organizations have conducted repeat business with the Commission throughout the years.

MMDC 2016 Fall Survey of Partners/Clients

The MMDC notified all local units of government, MMDC Commissioners, those who have been assisted, and a variety of other partners of a survey to give opinions on MMDC service, and what areas the Commission should be focused on. A link was given to an on-line survey that they were asked to complete by November 14, 2016. There were a total of 56 responses to the survey. There was a good mixture of returns from all four counties and those receiving a variety of assistance from the Commission. The survey findings will be utilized, not only for this report, but will help Commissioners and staff determine ways to improve and what needs to be focused on in the future.

The complete results of the survey are below:

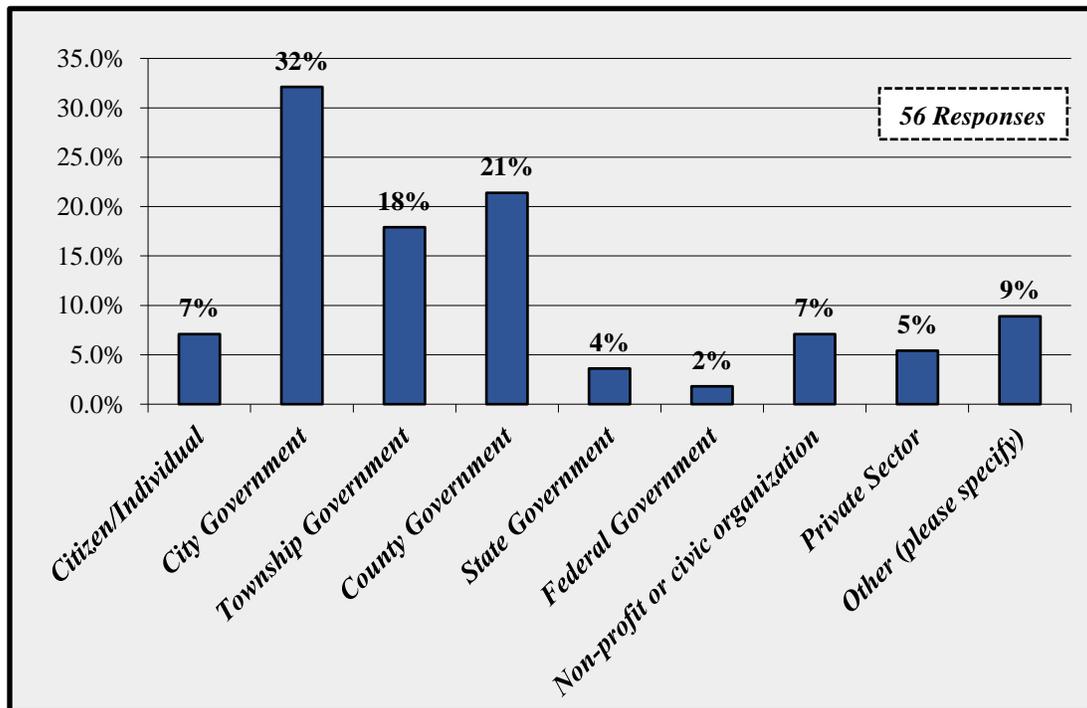
Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC)

2016 Survey Results

The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) is seeking your assistance by completing the following short survey. Your answers will remain confidential and will help MMDC to determine where to focus services in the future.

Question 1: Who do you represent?

Please check all that apply...



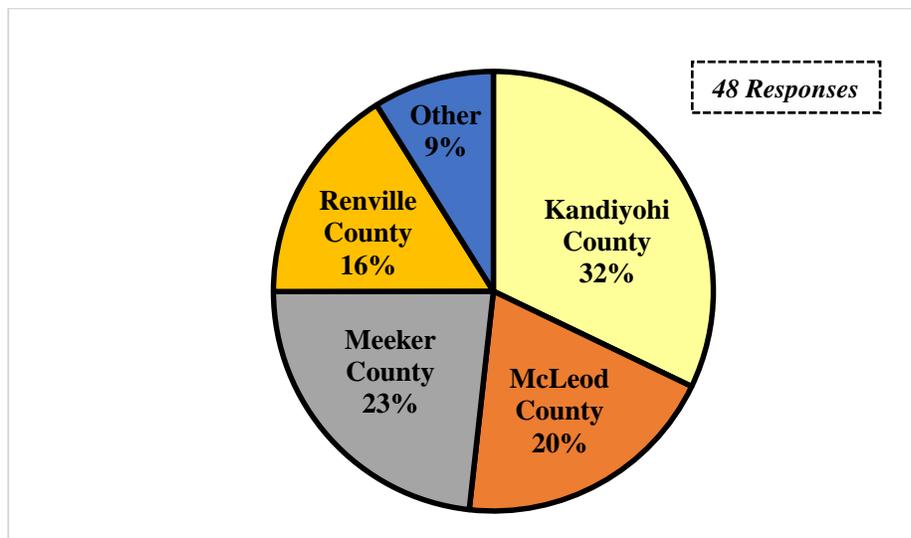
'Other' responses:

1. County and City Economic Development
2. Watershed District
3. School District (2)
4. Regional

Question 2:

Which county do you represent/reside in?

Categories:	Percent	Count
Kandiyohi County	32%	18
McLeod County	20%	11
Meeker County	23%	13
Renville County	16.0%	9
Other (please specify)	9%	5
Total	100%	48



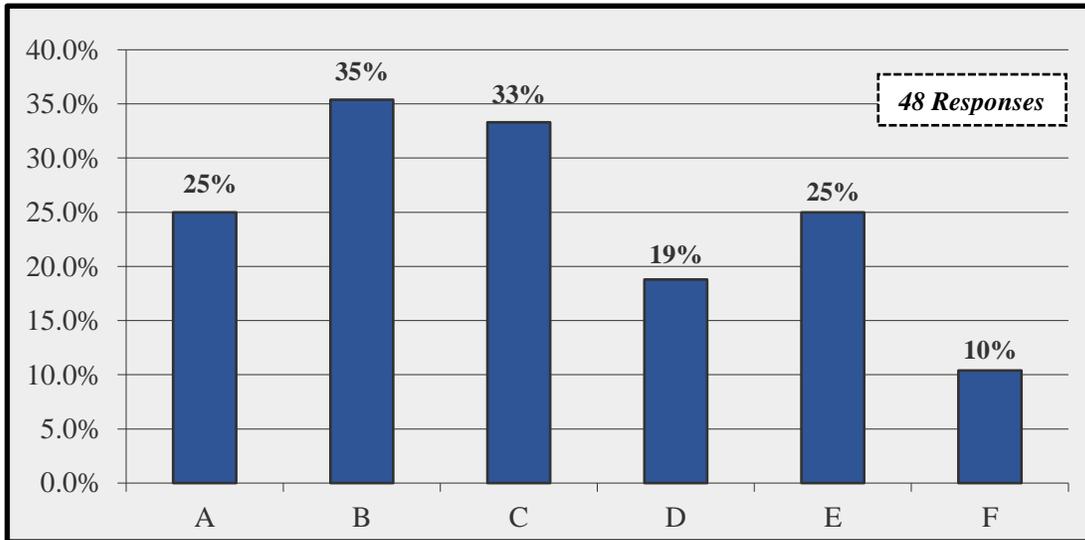
‘Other’ responses:

1. More than one
2. Statewide
3. All of the above (2)
4. Wright and Carver

Question 3:

Has MMDC assisted you in the following areas?

Please check all that apply...



Question 3 Categories:	Percent	Count
A. Community Development (plans, codes, surveys, etc.)	25%	12
B. Economic Development (grants, revolving loans, etc.)	35%	17
C. Transportation (roads, trails, pedestrian issues, etc.)	33%	16
D. Aging (senior dining, senior linkage line, etc.)	19%	9
E. MMDC has not provided assistance	25%	12
F. Other (please specify)	10%	5

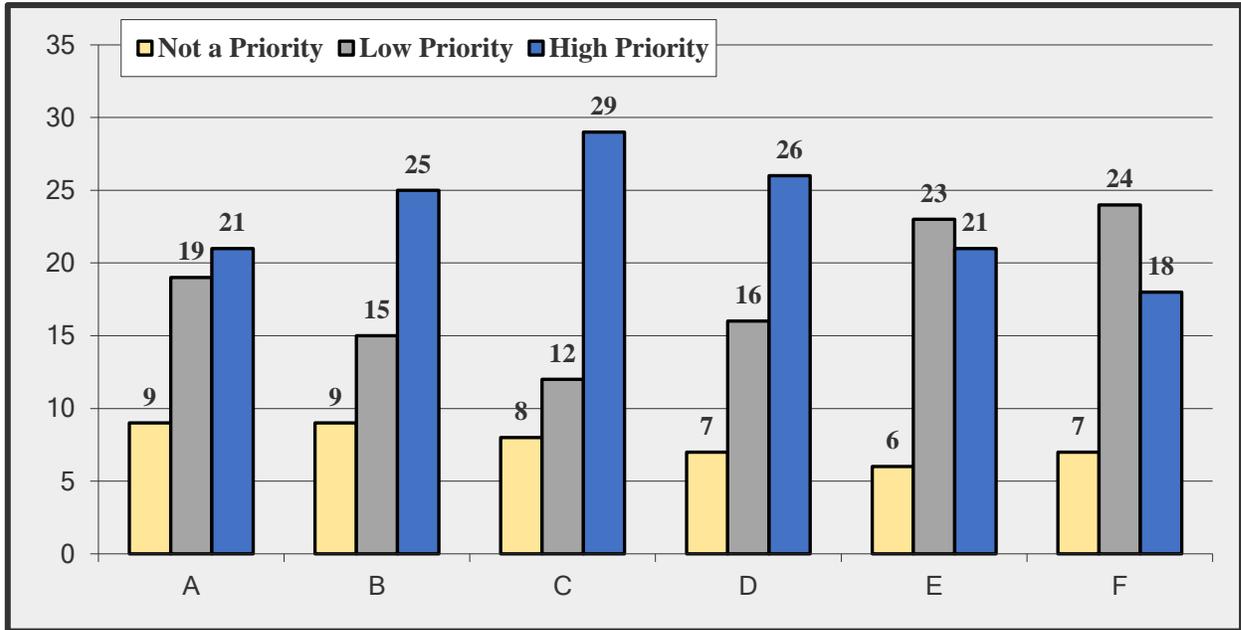
‘Other’ responses:

1. McLeod County Water & Trails Plan
2. Committee Membership
3. Fiscal Host
4. Safe Routes to School

Question 4: Some of the various transportation programs and services offered by MMDC are listed below.

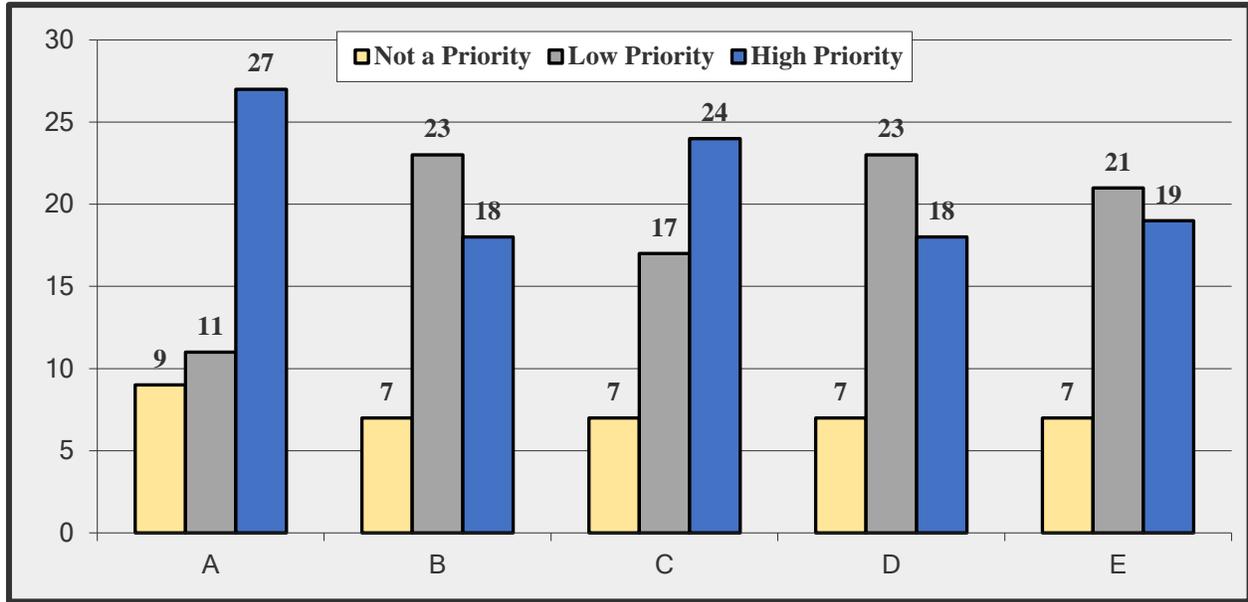
How would you rate their priority?

Note: the charts shows the number of responses per category, not the percent!



Question 4 Categories:	Not a Priority	Low Priority	High Priority
A. Transit planning and coordination assistance?	9	19	21
B. Education and assistance to communities and counties applying for Transportation Alternatives funding through the Area Transportation Partnership (ATP)?	9	15	25
C. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) plan writing assistance and program education?	8	12	29
D. Providing technical assistance, planning, and general information on bicycle, pedestrian, and active living transportation?	7	16	26
E. Technical assistance on various roadway issues?	6	23	21
F. Assistance with "Towards Zero Deaths" initiatives?	7	24	18

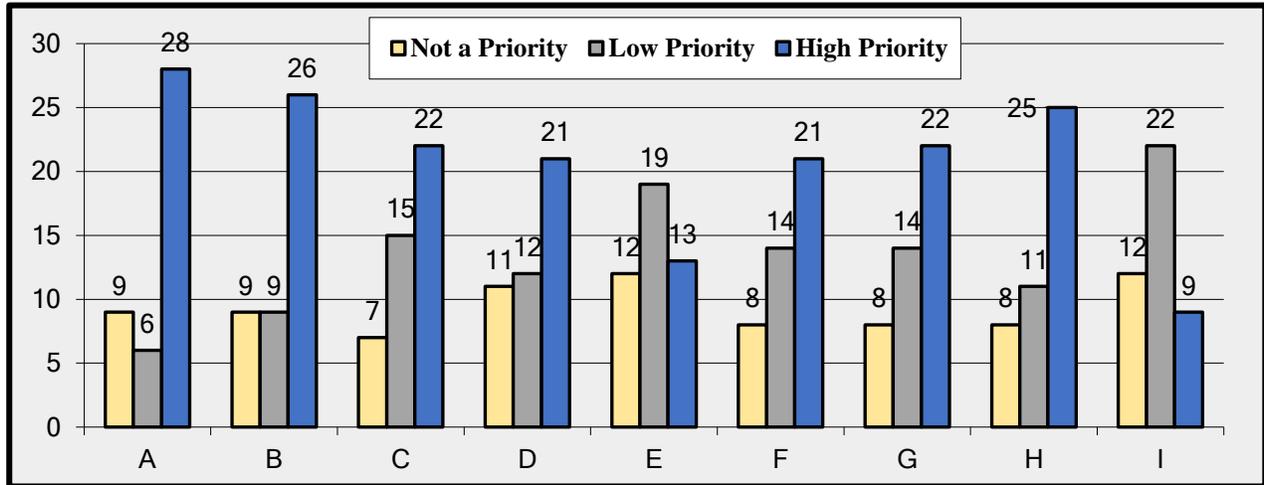
Question 5: MMDC also partners with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) on a number of activities. How would you rate their priority?



Question 5 Categories:	Not a Priority	Low Priority	High Priority
A. Participation in MnDOT District's Area Transportation Partnership (ATP), including Commissioner membership, staff assistance, annual public information meeting and Transportation Alternatives Program Committee?	9	11	27
B. Assisting local governments with roadway Functional Classification?	7	23	18
C. Developing various plans, including air, rail, trail, transit, etc.?	7	17	24
D. Assisting local governments with access management issues along State and U.S. roadways?	7	23	18
E. Coordination of the Region's Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)?	7	21	19

Question 6: Some of the various economic development and lending programs and services offered by MMDC are listed below.

How would you rate their priority?

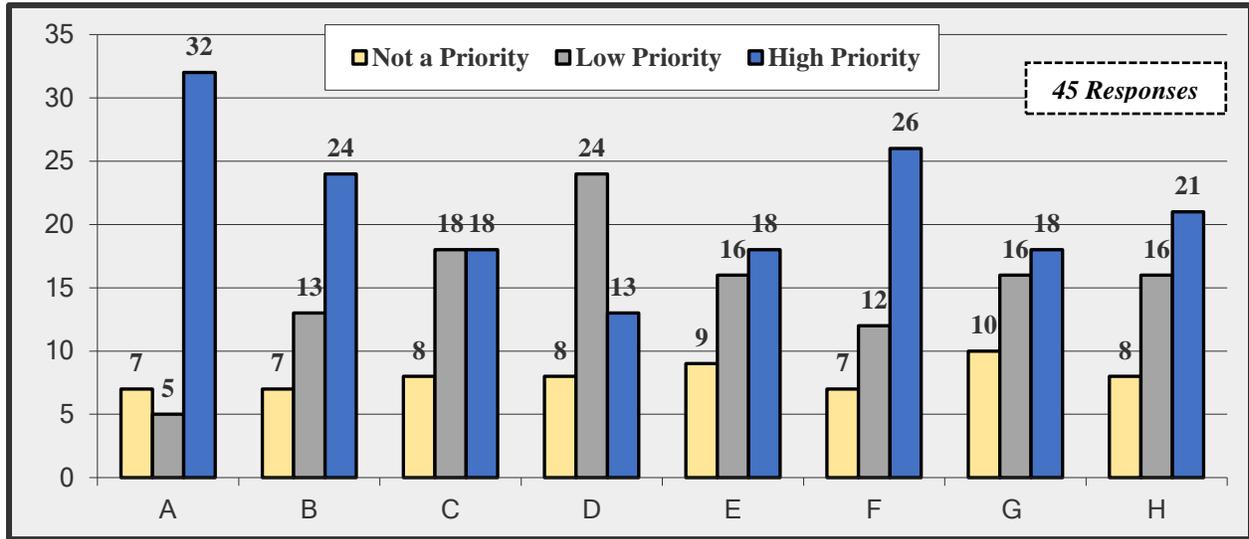


Question 6 Categories:	Not a Priority	Low Priority	High Priority
A. Offering loan financing for new and expanding businesses through MMDC's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program?	9	6	28
B. Assisting with entrepreneurial programs and activities?	9	9	26
C. Assisting in regional workforce development strategies, cooperate with Workforce Investment Boards and other workforce organizations?	7	15	22
D. Help market the Region by assisting with local marketing efforts regarding economic development and workforce recruitment?	11	12	21
E. Coordination of regional economic development practitioner meetings?	12	19	13
F. Disseminate awareness of economic development funding incentives and opportunities, including education on new forms of access to capital and providing opportunities for business/borrower workshops and webinars?	8	14	21
G. Development of the Region's Economic Development Plan/Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy?	8	14	22
H. Technical assistance with issues needed for economic development, such as broadband, workforce housing, daycare, etc.?	8	11	25
I. Assisting with local foods initiatives and planning?	12	22	9

Question 7: Some of the various community planning

and development services offered by MMDC are listed below.

How would you rate their priority?



Question 7 Categories:	Not a Priority	Low Priority	High Priority
A. Assisting local units of government with developing plans, such as comprehensive plans, water plans and hazard mitigation plans?	7	5	32
B. Grant writing and project management for local jurisdictions?	7	13	24
C. Helping local jurisdictions write ordinances and codes?	8	18	18
D. Conducting survey research for local government, businesses and organizations?	8	24	13
E. Authoring or providing assistance during environmental reviews?	9	16	18
F. Providing current information on demographics, housing and other community issues?	7	12	26
G. Assisting local units of government with American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues?	10	16	18
H. Facilitating key community issues by working with elected officials and key stakeholders?	8	16	21

Question 8:

The Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging is now a separate non-profit agency without MMDC involvement. The MMDC still considers aging needs/issues as important and has offered to be fiscal administrators for some aging related organizations over the past few years. What, if any, additional MMDC involvement would be best suited to assist the elderly within the Region? Please explain...

Written comments:

1. Making communities senior and pedestrian friendly.
2. The current region is too large to impact services for local elders in our western counties.
3. Aging populations have real impacts for state and local governments, helping local units of government plan for this is important.
4. I don't believe that aging issues are a high priority for MMDC. There are other organizations that are better equipped to address aging issues. However, MMDC should concentrate on aging issues that affect economic development - such as aging housing and infrastructure. If fiscal management of aging-related organizations makes sense to the bottom line, then I am in favor of it at a fee for service.
5. Continue as is.
6. MMDC is simply looking for "things" to keep busy with. They are completely redundant.
7. I don't have enough knowledge of this to comment in a meaningful way.
8. Provide the ability to be a fiscal administrator.

Question 9:

What are future external opportunities or threats what will affect our Region?

Please explain...

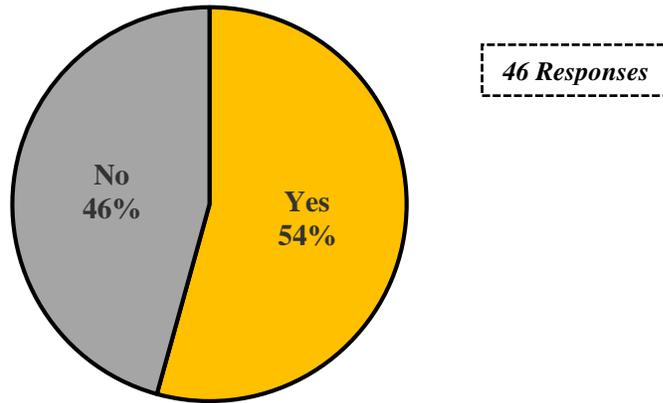
Written comments:

1. Republican majority at state and federal level.
2. Tea Party no government movement doesn't realize the value that MMDC save taxpayers money!
3. Job recruitment as baby boomers retire; safe housing, both owned and rented; elder care in community.
4. Aging population, different climate/weather patterns (stress on infrastructure), changing demographics, lack of forward progress (bills) at the legislature, the Olmstead Plan.
5. Threats: declining population which affects our schools (fewer classes), impacts main street (failing retail) businesses, and challenges businesses (workforce).

Opportunities: bring in higher skilled jobs that increase business' efficiency; embrace new immigrants, educate, and integrate into our communities ASAP; market our rural area strengths to attract and retain population; encourage some level of post-secondary education for all.
6. Aging and reduced population making services such as health care and transportation very important.
7. Lack of broad band, lack of transmission lines and energy sources four lane access to the twin cities there is ample space for business expansion but lacks quality work force.
8. None that MMDC can do anything about.
9. Rural population decline, aging population, shortage of skilled workforce.
10. Jobs and creating more jobs.
11. Retaining youth in local jobs to keep them in the community or to draw people in.
12. Environmental weather change.

Question 10:

**Has MMDC provided service to your jurisdiction/organization
over the last five years?**



Question 11:

**If 'No' to Question 10, please explain why MMDC was
not selected to assist you?**

If you have not hired a consultant over the last five years, please skip to the next question...

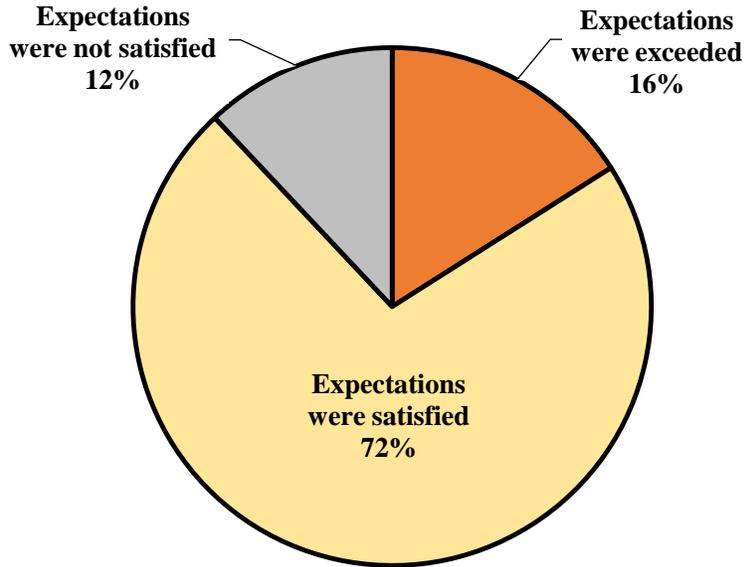
Written comments:

1. Too much paperwork.
2. MMDC is a collection of nice people. However, their goal is to keep their own jobs. MMDC is a waste of money and should be closed down immediately. There are other public and private people doing what they do.
3. Forget assistance available there, communication from them and/or newsletters have been limited.

Question 12:

If 'Yes' to Question 10, please rate your overall satisfaction with MMDC?

25 Responses



Question 12 Categories:	Percent	Count
Expectations were exceeded.	16%	4
Expectations were satisfied.	72%	18
Expectations were not satisfied.	12%	3*

** One of the three 'not satisfied' respondents indicated that MMDC had not provided assistance to their jurisdiction in Question 3. As a result, two 'not satisfied' respondents would represent 8% dissatisfaction.*

Question 13: (optional)

Please share any additional comments you have regarding MMDC.

Thank you for your input!

1. Provide information for new startup business owners, Some Government Regulations and things to consider. Such as Taxes, (all types) advantages of Incorporation, Name registration, Insurance. Labor regs.
2. You have saved my Watershed District a lot of money by not going to engineering consultants for documents!!! Thank you.
3. Our township has not had a need to use MMDC yet. It is good to know there are agencies we can go to if the need arises.
4. It's time for MN to reexamine the development commission program or just go away.
5. Selection of new board members needs addressing. More 'middle of the road' members are necessary. The present board has VERY conservative/negative members who are not forward thinking. This stifles MMDC's strength to move forward! Change is NEEDED!! Also, do not be afraid of a slight levy increase. Additional worthwhile projects can be completed with additional funds. Too conservative organizations do not move forward; they go backwards. Often this is due to lack of sufficient funding.
6. From a Township perspective I'm not sure what MMDC has or could do for us. It might be good for a representative to come to one of our monthly meetings and explain just what you are and what you might be able to help us with. Harrison Township meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Harrison Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jim George to set up a presentation.
7. Remove the meetings these people attend and boil the real work product down to tangible results the picture is really ugly. Attending meetings should not be confused with getting objectives accomplished. I see very little if any benefit to businesses and taxpayers of Meeker county. This is a prime example to wasting money on do nothing organizations. MMDC is over staffed and over paid to do "make-work" projects. If they go away today no one would notice. I fully support closing all of these throughout the state. This is a great example of why MN is one of the highest taxed states in the US. It's all about the employees, not the taxpayer. I've never been involved in a bigger waste of time and resources.
8. Has Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging replaced the former local Area Agency on Aging?
9. Thanks for your work!

Commission Review:

On December 7, 2016, at the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission meeting, Commissioners discussed the assessment of the Commission's performance in fulfilling the purposes of the Regional Development Act. The Commissioners found that the MMDC serves a number of important roles within the four-county region that no other body does provide, or can provide in as efficient and cost effective manner. The Commissioners greatly value the technical assistance MMDC provides local units of government, who do not have the capacity to provide these services for themselves. A resolution from the MMDC Board was passed at their December 7, 2016 Commission meeting stating that the Commissioners have come to the conclusion that MMDC's existence continues to be in the public's welfare and interest.

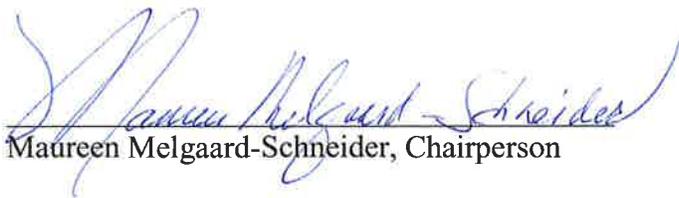
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Statutes 462.393 (Subdivision 2) states that *"In 2001 and every five years thereafter the commission shall review its activities and issue a report assessing its performance in fulfilling the purposes of the Regional Development Act. The report shall address whether the existence of the commission is in the public welfare and interest."* There is, thus a need to conduct an assessment in 2016;

And WHEREAS, The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission has prepared an assessment and discussed it at the Commission's December 7, 2016 Board of Commissioners meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission approves the 2016 Assessment Report for fulfilling the purpose of the Regional Development Act, and finds that the existence of the Commission serves in the public's welfare and interest.

Dated this 7th day of December, 2016


Maureen Melgaard-Schneider, Chairperson