Serving the People of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties since 1974.
To Those We Serve:

On behalf of the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC), we respectfully submit this 2010 Annual Report. This report highlights key achievements of the Commission and its staff in carrying out the Commission’s mission. MMDC is proud of offering another successful year of providing valued services to its citizens and working closely with our partners throughout Region Six-East. The enclosed year-end financial data is for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010).

An important subject matter that we are highlighting in this Report is encouraging the Region’s local units of government to continue working towards creating technologically and economically vital rural communities through advancing both the infrastructure and overall usage of broadband technology. Please read the article, Broadband Adoption, and give some thought on where your community stands on this issue. It is both an important economic and social issue that needs all of us to give it our attention.

The Commission’s 2010 Fiscal Year reflects a recovery over the past two fiscal years, when the Commission was forced to close down our State Building Code Services Department due to the housing construction slow down. Fiscal 2010 figures show that the Commission is once again in the black in its operational budget. The economic hard times, however, has continued to affect the Commission’s Revolving Loan Fund with some losses over the course of the year.

In the summer of 2011, the Commission will be sending out surveys requesting information on how we may serve local units of government, organizations, and the Region’s citizens better. Please take the few minutes to answer this survey to give us helpful feedback.

Through the years we have provided the citizens of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties with a wide array of technical assistance. Please give us a call if there are projects where you need assistance. We pledge that we will not consider a job complete until the client is satisfied with the end product.

Respectfully yours,

Roney Kutzke  
Chairperson

Donn Winckler  
Executive Director

In the summer of 2011, the Commission will be sending out surveys ...
upcoming year. The West Central Dementia Network is developing a strong partnership and presence in our region.

- Opened a new Health Insurance Counseling Site at Master’s Coffee Shop in Olivia. This site is staffed the last Monday of the month from 9-11 am.
- Established five Health Insurance Counseling (HIC) sites in Region 6W. Each county now has one HIC site with on-site assistance. Locations include: Ortonville Community Center, Montevideo Senior Center, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Benson Library, and Granite Falls Senior Center.
- Answered Senior Linkage Line calls through voice over internet protocol (VOIP)
- Presented MnRAAA update regarding current activities to Kandiyohi County Commissioners.
- Provided a “Welcome to Medicare” presentation at Granite Falls Senior Center.
- Provided Senior Surf presentations at Ortonville. They would like a second class and are also interested in future presentations about Medicare.
- Coordinated Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes through McLeod County Public Health.

Advisory Council on Aging (ACA)

The AAA has an advisory council comprised of five members chaired by Maureen Melgaard-Schneider of rural Atwater. The ACA meets up to seven times per year and provides the link between MnRAAA, older adults, and their respective communities.

An additional function of the ACA is to establish Title III funding priorities, review applications, and make recommendations for funding. In 2010, MnRAAA established a Funding Task Force comprised of Advisory Council members representative of the four ACAs. This committee reviewed applications, conducted interviews, and made final project awards to the MnRAAA Board of Directors. Although priorities and projects change, the following list of priority areas and projects approved during 2010 for calendar year 2011 are as follows:

Transportation: Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Renville Counties

Legal Services/Education: Western Minnesota Legal Services

Congregate Dining and Home Delivered Meals: Lutheran Social Services is contracted through December, 2011. East African Elders enjoy socializing and eating at Bihi’s Restaurant once weekly through a grant provided by Title III nutrition funds.

Coalition of East African Community Services: Received a grant to provide counseling services to East African elders. The purpose is to address acculturation and trauma needs to facilitate greater immersion into the local population (Kandiyohi County).

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NOTICE: MnRAAA is looking for volunteers to serve as Health Insurance Counselors. Contact Ashley for more information.

The Community Development Department is able to assist with a wide variety of community development planning projects and miscellaneous activities for local units of government. Typically this particular program area is not tied to any State or Federally funded program, but is funded through service charges that are subsidized by the use of the Commission’s general fund. Many of the projects are also funded through grants. The Department’s technical assistance rate is $75 per hour, however, numerous questions are researched daily for our Region’s citizens, elected officials, and units of government without MMDC charging a fee.

Each year, MMDDC staff offers assistance to local units of government on a wide range of services, including comprehensive land use plans, environmental reviews, zoning and subdivision ordinances, ordinance codification, grant and loan writing, community surveys, public facilities planning, housing studies, mapping services, and many other technical services. As one of Minnesota’s State Data Centers, the MMDDC regularly provides data to businesses, non-profit agencies, private citizens, and units of government from the Census and other informational sources free of charge.

Activities During Fiscal Year

- Staff completed a Comprehensive Water Plan for the North Fork Crow River Watershed District. This Plan was written to address the District’s anticipated key issues over the next 10 years.
- Staff updated the Buffalo Creek Watershed District’s
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 priority 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.

In 1995, a grant was received, in the amount of $930,000 from the Federal Economic Development Administration to initially capitalize a Revolving Loan Fund Program. The award was partially matched by the Commission, local units of government, and the Southwest initiative Foundation. The Revolving Loan Fund Committee provides lending expertise and makes recommendations of loan funding to the governing board.

Activities During Fiscal Year

- Staff served on the Kandiyohi County Local Foods System committee and provided technical assistance and input on making local foods a priority.
- Staff attended Congressman Collin Peterson’s Home Grown Economy Conference at the University of Minnesota, Morris campus. This conference provided information on agriculture, local foods, and marketing.
- Kandiyohi County Local Foods Systems Committee held a “meet and greet” event where local food producers and potential business customers were brought together. Staff attended the meeting to assist in any implementation efforts that will be made available.
- The Blandin Foundation’s Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) project was assisted by staff. The mission of this program is to expand broadband use and availability in Minnesota. Kandiyohi County was picked as a Demonstration Community and the Commission provided staff time to assist the county with implementation.
- Staff attended a meeting in Olivia on Utility Scale Wind Energy. Wind energy is becoming more widely used in Minnesota. The Commission may be asked to provide technical assistance on the projects and felt a need to develop a more educated and aware on the matter.

After due diligence, loans are funded for working capital, real estate purchases, and equipment purchases. Two committees serve as guides to these programs. A Comprehensive Economic Development Committee provides input on the CEDS document, while the Revolving Loan Fund Committee provides lending expertise.


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Broadband Adoption

How is your community’s technology vitality? For your community to be able to compete in today’s world it is important to be on the same playing field when it comes to both having and utilizing broadband applications. The Blandin Foundation has been active assisting Greater Minnesota in creating technologically and economically vital rural communities through competing and thriving in the broadband economy. There is currently a significant gap between rural and urban adoption rates in Minnesota – in both business and home environments. This gap is compounded by the realization that rural areas tend to have a greater percentage of elderly, a lower per capita income, and lower educational attainment. With today’s global economic competition, it is vital that we in rural Minnesota work on closing this broadband technology gap.

Technology adoption takes persons to promote and implement solutions, as well as citizens ready to accept and use these new technologies. The Blandin Foundation has written about the need to move forward with community technology vitality in four required areas. The four areas are: Network, Services, Subscription, and Sophistication. Network refers to the community having a robust infrastructure of both wired and wireless internet technologies. High-speed broadband enables your citizens to utilize the latest applications. When speed is not there, uses are constricted. Business opportunities are not realized. Students are locked out of a whole world of educational opportunities. Opportunities to receive services through the internet are not realized, continuing the need for persons to travel long distances to obtain them. Quality services, customer service, and affordable prices are needed to utilize a robust network. It is important that most everyone in the community subscribes to using broadband services for home, work, education, healthcare, and other benefits the technology can bring. Lastly, users of the technology will need to develop sophistication on what users are doing with the technology. For example, are local businesses using broadband services to their potential for competing in the marketplace?

In March 2010, the Blandin Foundation was awarded a $4.86 million federal “Recovery” grant on behalf of rural Minnesota communities. An additional $1.3 million in resources will match this grant amount by the Blandin Foundation and their grant partners. The project they created, Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC), is a multi-sector, comprehensive approach to sustainable broadband adoption. The project’s goal is to “help create technologically and economically vital rural communities, competing and thriving in the broadband economy, with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth, and wealth creation.” The MIRC project is comprised of some statewide partners as well as 11 “demonstration communities” within the state. Kandiyohi County, through the Kandiyohi County and City of Willmar Economic Development Corporation, was chosen as one of the 11 demonstration sites. Statewide partners in MIRC include: Regional Development Commissions, UMN Extension, Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace, Minnesota Workforce Centers, Minnesota Learning Commons, and PCs for People. These organizations will together offer an array of broadband demand development approaches including education, training, technical assistance, and barrier removal. Two of the targeted populations for this project are Minnesota residents who are unemployed and seeking employment, and small main-street businesses that have not yet adopted modern internet-based technologies.

In addition to the MIRC program, the Blandin Foundation also offers communities several different broadband programs and services. These services and contact information is found on MIRC’s website, www.mminc.org. The programs include a Community Broadband Resources (CBR) Program offering technical assistance to communities making decisions about their technology vitality. The LightSpeed program provides up to $500,000 in matching funds to support projects that use new broadband applications for such institutions as schools and healthcare facilities. The Robust Broadband Networks Feasibility Fund provides matching funds for feasibility studies of geographically-based broadband networks. Blandin Foundation’s Broadband Toolkit is provided on their website and puts hundreds of cutting edge applications for business, government, education, healthcare, and consumer sectors at your fingertips.

With the demonstrated variety of broadband services discussed above, all the Region’s local units of government need to give consideration to where they stand in regards to network, services, subscription, and sophistication. The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission encourages your community to give a thorough review of where you stand currently with broadband technology and usage, and plan for improvements in your community. The MMDCC can help provide you with assistance.
Transportation Planning – The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC) receives an annual grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, matched with the local tax levy. The purpose of the grant is to provide transportation planning services within the Region’s four counties, primarily for activities involving the State Trunk Highway System and to participate 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 which projects receive Federal funding through the State’s Transportation Improvement Program. MMDC’s voting members on the ATP are Sheldon Nies, McLeod County Commissioner, and Ron Kutzke, Meeker County Commissioner. Meeker County’s Highway 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 served on the 2010 ATP Committee that makes Enhancement Project funding recommendations.

The Commission began a contract with the City of Willmar to develop a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for the community. The Plan will prioritize trail and on-road bicycle route additions, as well as projects aimed at alleviating concerns for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

The Commission had a contract with the Mn/DOT Office of Transit to provide planning assistance on their Greater Minnesota Transit Investment Plan. Assistance consisted of helping analyze regional ridership, transit service, and unmet needs; and a plan to address such needs. The Commission also assisted by conducting public outreach meetings for the Plan.

The Commission has provided assistance to the Highway 15 Coalition. The Coalition was formed, with MMDC assistance, to work towards raising awareness of the access, safety, and capacity challenges facing the Highway 15 Corridor. One of the primary first goals of the Coalition is to conduct a corridor study to identify specific safety and access needs along the corridor. The Commission acts as the Coalition’s fiscal agent. MMDC staff participated as a member of a technical advisory committee to a first phase study of the Highway 15 corridor during 2010. This study was funded by Mn/DOT, and the engineering firm that was contracted to prepare the study was Bonestroo & Associates.

The Commission assisted the City of Willmar and McLeod County with the process of making road functional classification changes. Mn/DOT utilizes Regional Development Commissions to guide these changes within their Regions, and to help ensure that federal standards are met. Staff also made Mn/DOT aware of the under counting of total mileage of roads within the City of Glencoe. The correct mileage will allow more of their streets to be designated as collectors and arterials.

Commission staff was also active in the following transportation activities during the 2010 Calendar Year:

- Preparing comprehensive plans that include transportation components and identify key transportation issues.
- Attending RDC Transportation Planners meetings during the past year. These quarterly meetings allow the planners to share information and coordinate planning efforts.
Mid-Minnesota Development Commission

Area Agency on Aging

The Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging Inc. (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. MNRAAA provides funding for continued work in 2008. Additional priorities for policymakers include:

- Expansion of the Transform 2010 Project launched foundation for continued work in 2008. Additional priorities for policymakers. The Gaps & Regional Board on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging. The Long Term Care Activities (Continued from page 1)

**Older Americans Act (OAA)**

The OAA supports programs that encourage older Americans to remain healthy, active, independent, and engaged in society. Activities are for State and community planning to address chronic health conditions and falls prevention. Continued implementation of PrimeWest Health Services Community Re-investment Grant Bone Builders Exercise program expansion throughout community based assisted living and public sites in Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine Counties. Facilitated Eldercare Development Partnership (EDP) Long Term Care Coordinating Council. Goals focused on supporting implementation of programs that support elders to address chronic health conditions and falls prevention.

- Conducted numerous Medicare Part D Plan Comparisons throughout the region for consumers during the annual open enrollment period that began November 15 and ended December 31.
- Participated in the Life Connections Expo, MN State Fair, and other area Senior Health Fairs.
- Provided grant writing assistance for Community Service Development grants to organizations in Kandiyohi and Yellow Medicine Counties.
- Facilitated Eldercare Development Partnership (EDP) Long Term Care Coordinating Council. Goals focused on supporting implementation of programs that support elders to address chronic health conditions and falls prevention.
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- Continued work with Somali Elders grant to provide counseling services for elders. Program is exceeding expectations and elders are experiencing positive feedback from the program.
- Met with Alzheimer’s Association Director to evaluate outreach into the West Central area. We identified common points to distribute information in the community.

Other AAA Activities

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**Community Development and Planning**

Continued from page 1

Rules and Regulations, something that hadn’t been accomplished since 1992. The new rules coincide with changes in State and Federal regulations pertaining to both water and land use laws. The rules establish permitting guidelines on a number of project categories throughout the District.

- Staff worked with Meeker County and Buffalo Creek Watershed District on the transition to having Houston Engineering do full-time GIS mapping services. In addition, MMDC staff assisted Houston Engineering with creating interactive mapping websites for the County and the Watershed District, which makes accessing data much easier for the public.

- Staff worked with Northstar Surveying on the transition of having them complete Meeker County’s parcel map.
- Staff worked on Drainage Records Modernization grants from the Board on Water and Soil Resources for Meeker County and Buffalo Creek Watershed District. These projects consist of scanning all of the drainage records and giving each file a unique identification number that helps to categorize what type of file the record contains. These electronic files will soon be available on the internet.
- Staff began the process of updating MMDC’s basic municipal code for the cities of Pennock, Lake Lillian, and Prinsburg. MMDC’s basic municipal code has been created by staff over a five-year period, and contains up-to-date regulations for a variety of City ordinances.
- Staff completed a comprehensive land use plan for the City of Spicer. One of the interesting items identified in the plan is the desire by the community to create a scenic highway ordinance for Minnesota State Highway 23. These types of ordinances place extra design standards on the properties within a certain viewshed from the highway, along with financial incentives to participate.
- Staff assisted the City of Willmar with a Federal environmental review of Willmar’s old airport to be used as an industrial park.

MMDC staff has assisted with a number of Environmental Reviews, including preparing Environmental Assessment Worksheets (EAW) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). MMDC can either assist with preparing these documents or can assist with formally reviewing them for local units of government. Please contact MMDC for more information.

**Environmental Reviews**

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Area Agency on Aging

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Area Agency on Aging (AAA) goals are to enhance services to people 60 years and older, along with their caregivers. Two staff positions conduct the functions of the aging program. The positions are Program Developer and Senior Outreach Specialist.

Older Americans Act (OAA)

The OAA promotes policy that ensures older American’s full participation in society and supports a strategy that encourages older Americans to choose homes and communities in which they wish to live throughout their later years. Other provisions to the OAA include:

+ Support for State and community planning to address the long-term care needs of the baby boom generation
+ Greater focus on prevention and treatment of mental disorders
+ Outreach and service to a broader universe of family caregivers under the National Family Caregiver Support Program
+ Increased focus on civic engagement and volunteerism
+ Enhanced coordination of programs that protect elders from abuse, neglect, and exploitation (AoA website, March 20, 2007)

Long Term Care Activities

Minnesota’s goal to re-balance long-term care continues to be a primary focus for the Minnesota Board on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging. The development of services that support people who wish to remain in their own homes continues to be a priority for policymakers. The Gaps & Regional Analysis activities conducted since 2001 provide a foundation for continued work in 2008. Additional ly, results of the Transform 2010 Project launched as a partnership between the MN Department of Human Services and the MN Board on Aging also serve as a platform for service development. The purpose of this partnership is to provide short- and long-term goals to transform infrastructures and services that will support permanent changes for the age wave in the state’s population. AAA staff offer presentations to community members, businesses, and agencies regarding the goals of Transform 2010.

Other AAA Activities

Staff also provided a wide variety of technical assistance to various aging organizations. Activities for 2010 included:

+ Conducted numerous Medicare Part D Plan Comparisons throughout the region for consumers during the annual open enrollment period that began November 15 and ended December 31
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Mid-Minnesota Development Commission

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- Wind energy is becoming more widely used in Minnesota. The Commission may be asked to provide technical assistance on the projects and felt a need to be more aware and educated on the matter.

**Broadband Adoption**

How is your community’s technology vitality? For your community to be able to compete in today’s world it is important to be on the same playing field when it comes to both having and utilizing broadband applications. The Blandin Foundation has been actively assisting Greater Minnesota in creating technologically and economically vital rural communities through competing and thriving in the broadband economy. This is currently a significant gap between rural and urban adoption rates in Minnesota – in both business and home environments. This gap is compounded by the realization that rural areas tend to have a greater percentage of elderly, a lower per capita income, and lower educational attainment. With today’s global economic competition, broadband technology gap.

Technology adoption takes persons to promote and implement solutions, as well as citizens ready to accept and use these new technologies. The Blandin Foundation has written about the need to move forward with community technologies in four required areas. The four areas are: Network, Services, Subscription, and Sophistication. Network refers to the community having a robust infrastructure of both wired and wireless internet technologies. High-speed broadband enables your citizens to utilize the latest applications. Speed is not there, uses are constricted. Business opportunities are not realized. Students are locked out of a whole world of educational opportunities. Opportunities to receive services through the internet are not realized, continuing the need for persons to travel long distances to obtain them. Quality services, customer service, and affordable prices are needed to utilize a robust network. It is important that most everyone in the community subscribes to using broadband services for home, work, education, healthcare, and other benefits the technology can bring. Lastly, users of the technology will need to develop sophistication on what users are doing with the technology. For example, are local businesses using broadband services to their potential for competing in the marketplace?

In March 2010, the Blandin Foundation was awarded a $4.86 million federal “Recovery” grant on behalf of rural Minnesota communities. An additional $1.3 million in resources will match this grant amount by the Blandin Foundation and their grant partners. The project they created, Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC), is a multi-sector, comprehensive approach to sustainable broadband adoption. The project’s goal is to “help create technologically and economically vital rural communities, competing and thriving in the broadband economy, with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth, and wealth creation.” The MIRC project is comprised of some statewide partners as well as 11 “demonstration communities” within the state. Kandiyohi County, through the Kandiyohi County and City ofWillmar Economic Development Corporation, was chosen as one of the 11 demonstration sites. Statewide partners in MIRC include: UMN Extension, Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace, Minnesota Workforce Centers, Minnesota Learning Commons, and PCs for People. These organizations will together offer an array of broadband demand development approaches including education, training, technical assistance, and barrier removal. Two of the targeted populations for this project are Minnesota residents who are unemployed and seeking employment, and small main-street businesses that have not yet adopted modern internet-based technologies.

In addition to the MIRC program, the Blandin Foundation also offers communities several different broadband programs and services. These services and contact information is found on MMDC’s website, www.mmdc.org. The programs include a Community Broadband Resources (CBR) Program offering technical assistance to communities making decisions about their technology vitality. The LightSpeed program provides up to $500,000 in matching funds to support projects that use new broadband applications for such institutions as schools and healthcare facilities. The Robust Broadband Networks Feasibility Fund provides matching funds for feasibility studies of geographically-based broadband networks. Blandin Foundation’s Broadband Toolkit is provided on their website and puts hundreds of cut-edge applications for business, government, education, healthcare, and consumer sectors at your fingertips.

With the demonstrated variety of broadband services discussed above, all the Region’s local units of government need to give consideration to where they stand in regards to network, services, subscription, and sophistication. The Mid-Minnesota Development Commission encourages your community to give a thorough review of where you stand currently with broadband technology and usage, and plan for improvements in your community. The MMDC can help provide you with assistance.
Area Agency on Aging

(Continued from page 6)

upcoming year. The West Central Dementia Network is developing a strong partnership and presence in our region.

- Opened a new Health Insurance Counseling Site at Master’s Coffee Shop in Olivia. This site is staffed the last Monday of the month from 9-11 am.

- Established five Health Insurance Counseling (HIC) sites in Region 6W. Each county now has one HIC site with on-site assistance. Locations include: Ortonville Community Center, Montevideo Senior Center, Johnson Memorial Hospital, Benson Library, and Granite Falls Senior Center.

- Answered Senior Linkage Line calls through voice over internet protocol (VOIP).

- Provided MnRAA update regarding current activities to Kandiyohi County Commissioners.

- Provided a “Welcome to Medicare” presentation at Granite Falls Senior Center.

- Provided Senior Surf presentations at Ortonville. They would like a second class and are also interested in future presentations about Medicare.

- Coordinated Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes through McLeod County Public Health.

Advisory Council on Aging (ACA)

The AAA has an advisory council comprised of five members chaired by Maureen Melgaard-Schneider of rural Atwater. The ACA meets up to seven times per year and provides the link between MnRAAA, older adults, and their respective communities. An additional function of the ACA is to establish Title III funding priorities, review applications, and make recommendations for funding.

In 2010, MnRAAA established a Funding Task Force comprised of Advisory Council members representative of the four ACAs. This committee reviewed applications, conducted interviews, and made final project awards to the MnRAAA Board of Directors. Although priorities and projects change, the following list of priority areas and projects approved during 2010 for calendar year 2011 are as follows:

Transportation: Kandiyohi, Meeker, and Renville Counties

Legal Services/Education: Western Minnesota Legal Services

Congregate Dining and Home Delivered Meals: Lutheran Social Services is contracted through December, 2011. East African Elders enjoy socializing and eating at Blih’s Restaurant once weekly through a grant provided by Title III nutrition funds.

Coalition of East African Community Services: Received a grant to provide counseling services to East African elders. The purpose is to address acculturation and trauma needs to facilitate greater immersion into the local population (Kandiyohi County).

********

NOTICE: MnRAAA is looking for volunteers to serve as Health Insurance Counselors. Contact Ashley for more information.

2010 Commission Members

Kandiyohi County Representatives

DuWayne Underthun.......................... Townships
Charles Diederich......................... Municipalities
Les Heitke, Vice-Chairperson .... City of Willmar
Dennis Peterson................................ County
Idalia (Charly) Leuze, Treasurer ... Public Interest
Shaun Mueske............................... Public Interest
Cathy Baumgartner........................ Public Interest
Kevon Crowley.............................. Public Interest

McLeod County Representatives

Alan Fredrickson............................ Townships
Charles Warner, Secretary ......... Municipalities
Bill Arndt................................. City of Hutchinson
Sheldon Nies.............................. County
Dan Ehrke................................. Public Interest
Tim Hacker................................. Public Interest

Renville County Representatives

Delbert Wetzel......................... Townships
Ronald Degner......................... Municipalities
John Stahl................................. County
Richard Lofness ....................... Public Interest
James Schafer............................ Public Interest
Francis Schweiss.................... Public Interest
Ken Anderson............................ Public Interest
Eric Dahlager......................... Public Interest

Meeker County Representatives

Dale Fenrich............................... Townships
Vernon Madson......................... Municipalities
Ron Kutzke, Chairperson......... County
Maureen Melgaard-Schneider..... Public Interest
Dorothy Lindstrom................. Public Interest

Community Development and Planning

The Community Development Department is able to assist with a wide variety of community development planning projects and miscellaneous activities for local units of government. Typically this particular program area is not tied to any State or Federally funded program, but is funded through service charges that are subsidized by the use of the Commission’s general fund. Many of the projects are also funded through grants. The Department’s technical assistance rate is $75 per hour, however, numerous questions are researched daily for our Region’s citizens, elected officials, and units of government without MMDC charging a fee.

Each year, MMDC staff offers assistance to local units of government on a wide range of services, including comprehensive land use plans, environmental reviews, zoning and subdivision ordinances, ordinance codification, grant and loan writing, community surveys, public facilities planning, housing studies, mapping services, and many other technical services. As one of Minnesota’s State Data Centers, the MMDC regularly provides data to businesses, non-profit agencies, private citizens, and units of government from the Census and other informational sources free of charge.

Activities During Fiscal Year

- Staff completed a Comprehensive Water Plan for the North Fork Crow River Watershed District. This Plan was written to address the District’s anticipated key issues over the next 10 years.

- Staff updated the Buffalo Creek Watershed District’s...
On behalf of the Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC), we respectfully submit this 2010 Annual Report. This report highlights key achievements of the Commission and its staff in carrying out the Commission’s mission. MMDC is proud of offering another successful year of providing valued services to its citizens and working closely with our partners throughout Region Six-East. The enclosed year-end financial data is for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010).

An important subject matter that we are highlighting in this Report is encouraging the Region’s local units of government to continue working towards creating technologically and economically vital rural communities through advancing both the infrastructure and overall usage of broadband technology. Please read the article, Broadband Adoption, and give some thought on where your community stands on this issue. It is both an important economic and social issue that needs all of us to give it our attention.

The Commission’s 2010 Fiscal Year reflects a recovery over the past two fiscal years, when the Commission was forced to close down our State Building Code Services Department as a direct result of the housing construction slow down. Fiscal 2010 figures show that the Commission is once again in the black in its operational budget. The economic hard times, however, has continued to affect the Commission’s Revolving Loan Fund with some losses over the course of the year.

In the summer of 2011, the Commission will be sending out surveys requesting information on how we may serve local units of government, organizations, and the Region’s citizens better. Please take the few minutes to answer this survey to give us helpful feedback.

Through the years we have provided the citizens of Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties with a wide array of technical assistance. Please give us a call if there are projects where you need assistance. We pledge that we will not consider a job complete until the client is satisfied with the end product.

Respectfully yours,

Roney Kutzke
Chairperson

Donn Winckler
Executive Director

To Those We Serve:

In the summer of 2011, the Commission will be sending out surveys requesting information on how we may serve local units of government, organizations, and the Region’s citizens better. Please take the few minutes to answer this survey to give us helpful feedback.

Respectfully yours,

Roney Kutzke
Chairperson

Donn Winckler
Executive Director

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**Financial Report**

**Annual Report**

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**Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2010</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Admin.</td>
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<td>Revolving Loan Fund Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS - MNRAAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Transit</td>
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<td><strong>Total Federal Sources</strong></td>
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<td>Agricultural Credit</td>
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<td>Department of Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>HHS - MNRAAA</td>
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<td>HHS - EDP/Sail</td>
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<td><strong>Total State Sources</strong></td>
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<td>Property Taxes</td>
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<td>Interest and Dividends</td>
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<td>Inspection Services</td>
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<td>Technical Assistance</td>
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<td>GIS Mapping</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind</td>
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<td><strong>Total Local Sources</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 767,112</strong></td>
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**Expenditures**

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<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2010</th>
<th>Fiscal Year 2011</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>Services</td>
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<td>Volunteer Services &amp; Other Uses</td>
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<td>Indirect</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 753,534</strong></td>
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**Mid-Minnesota Development Commission**

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

**Executive Director**.................................Donn Winckler
Financial Director/Office Manager......................Sue Gimse
Aging Program Director................................Kate Selseth
Senior Outreach Specialist............................Jeanette Jochum
Senior Outreach Specialist.............................Ashley Ellingson
Economic Development Director........................Les Nelson
Community Development Director..................Matthew Johnson
Admin.Assist./Technology Support Specialist ......Terresa Westerman

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