



## EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

100 Park Street South

Mora, MN 55051

April 28, 2008

7:00 P.M.

- 1) **ATTENDANCE:** Present were Commissioners Dave Chmeil, Jack Edmonds, Frank Grundmeier, Steve Hallan, Richard Hansen, Edward Hill, George Larson, Sue Larson, Fred Lere, Ben Montzka, Jerry Nelson, Steve Odegard, Marlys Palmer, Dave Patenaude, Jeremy Riddle, Rick Smisson, Donald Taylor, Janelle Troupe, Paul Venhuizen, and Barbara Welty. Absent were Commissioners Bob Cupit and Linda Evans. Staff present: Bob Voss, Andrew Daniels, Jordan Zeller, Mary Minnick-Daniels, Bob Bollenbeck, Trish Rydlund and Penny Simonsen. Others present: Margaret Donahue, Transportation Alliance.
- 2) **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairman Rick Smisson welcomed Commission members and had them introduce themselves. The Pledge of Allegiance was cited.
- 3) **AGENDA APPROVAL:** Richard Hansen moved to approve the agenda. Marlys Palmer seconded – motion carried.
- 4) **MINUTES APPROVAL:** Dave Patenaude moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2008, meeting. Sue Larson seconded – motion carried.
- 5) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Bob Voss reported on a number of items including:
  - a. EDA PLANNING GRANT: We received word that our application for a 3-year EDA planning grant was approved in the amount of \$157,884. The period of this grant begins on April 1, 2008 and continues through March 31, 2011.
  - b. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) BY-LAWS: We have developed a working draft of new by-laws for the TAC that more accurately reflect their current duties, responsibilities, etc. It is our intention to review the draft with the TAC, make any desired revisions, and forward them to the full Commission for approval at the annual meeting on June 23, 2008.
  - c. CENTRAL MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON AGING (CMCOA) ALTERNATES: Jerry Nelson moved to appoint Wendy Thompson, Kanabec County Public Health, as the alternate for Kanabec County. Sue Larson seconded – motion carried.
  - d. NEXT PERSONNEL AND BUDGET (P&B) MEETING: The next meeting of the P&B committee will be, Thursday, May 22, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Agenda items include: FY2009 Work Program and budget and staff reviews.
  - e. ANDERSON PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Based on a favorable performance appraisal, George Larson moved to approve a one step increase for Lynn Anderson from Pay Grade B Step 3, \$28,396 to Pay Grade B Step 4, \$29,380 effective May 1, 2008. Barbara Welty seconded – motion carried.
  - f. SAFE COMMUNITIES FUNDING: We are developing next year's application to the MN Department of Public Safety for another round of Safe Communities grand funding. This program has funded our work with the Isanti County Toward Zero Deaths Coalition, Sober Cab Initiatives, etc.
  - g. ECRDC ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting will be held at the NW Company Fur Post in Pine City on June 23, 2008. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the banquet to follow at 7:00 p.m.

- h. NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVE: Met with Rick Pardun, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Community Development Director, on February 28<sup>th</sup> to familiarize him the ECRDC’s programs and services. Pardun expressed much interest in serving on the ECRDC as the “tribal representative” but cannot commit until he is sure of his future with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.
- 6) **TREASURERS REPORT**: Jerry Nelson presented the February and March 2008 Treasurer’s report. Jerry Nelson moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report to include the checks written from February 22, 2008, through April 8, 2008. Steve Hallan seconded – motion carried.
- 7) **EAST CENTRAL ARTS COUNCIL (ECAC)**: Mary Minnick-Daniels invited all Commission members to attend the art exhibit of ECAC grant funded artists on April 29, 2008, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Casino Hinckley Convention Center.

On behalf of the ECAC, Minnick-Daniels brought forth the following recommendations:

Ben Montzka moved to approve the following Art Organization grants as recommended by the ECAC. Steve Hallan seconded – motion carried.

Organization/County	Project	Amount Funded
Pine City Heritage Players, Pine County	2008-2009 Season	\$ 5,000
Franconia Sculpture Park, Chisago County	2008 Fall Arts and Music Festival	5,000
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$10,000</b>

Steve Hallan moved to approve the following Fellowship Grants as recommended by the ECAC. George seconded – motion carried.

Fellowship Applicant	Fellowship Project	Amount Funded
Fred Anderson	“Art Exhibit at Groveland Gallery”	\$3,000
Keith Raivo	“Metal Sculpture Project”	3,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,000</b>

Steve Hallan moved to approve the ECAC/McKnight Scholarships as recommended by the ECAC. Richard Hansen seconded – motion carried.

ECAC/McKnight Scholarship	Project	Amount Funded
Brad Johnson, 10 <sup>th</sup> grader from Braham	Learn airbrushing techniques	\$ 500
Cassandra Olson 12 <sup>th</sup> grader from Princeton	Memoir Writing Project	500
Joe Wolf, 8 <sup>th</sup> grader from Pine City	Attend Jazz Ensemble Camp at Shell Lake Arts Center	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,500</b>

The ECAC will have a carryover in grant funds (from the Small and Art In Our Schools grant programs) of \$2,089. These funds will be allocated toward the ECAC grant funds for next year (FY2009). Also, a small change in the McKnight budget is requested. ECAC will be using \$750 as our match for the Art Exhibit of past ECAC grantees at the Business and Workforce Development Conference. Richard Hansen moved to approve the carryover along with the budget update. Barbara Welty seconded – motion carried.

Minnick-Daniels also reported the proposal to the McKnight Foundation has been submitted. This was part of the Biennial Planning process which was approved last year.

Also noted were the Individual Artist Grants allocated:

Individual Artist	Project	Amount Funded
Dee Kotaska	Nancy Rotenberg Workshop	\$1,000
Marilyn Heinzl	Support wheel-thrown pottery techniques	1,000
Rena Carpenter	New paints, stretch canvas, and supplies	505
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,505</b>

- 8) **EAST CENTRAL SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER (ECSRC):** Penny Simonsen handed out the ECSRC Resource Guide. She reported over 600 surveys have been returned for the Pine County Public Transit Survey. If you are interested in the results of the survey please contact Penny Simonsen. May 13<sup>th</sup> will be the Pine County Transit Advisory meeting and May 8<sup>th</sup> the Kanabec County Transit meeting.
- 9) **TRANSPORTATION:** Bob Bollenbeck reported the new Minnesota Commissioner of Transportation is Tom Sorel.

Bollenbeck then brought forth the following recommendation: to transfer \$225,000 sited for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Trunk Highway #169 to the Aatage Road project. This project will connect Trunk Highway #169 to Mille Lacs CSAH #25. Barbara Welty moved to approve this recommendation. Richard Hansen seconded – motion carried.

George Larson moved to authorize the execution of the 2009 Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) grant application. Sue Larson seconded – motion carried.

- 11) **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT:** Jordan Zeller gave a report overview and brought forth the following recommendation:

Jeremy Riddle moved to the appointment of Bill Miller, who is with the Associated Bank in North Branch. Steve Odegard seconded – motion carried.

Northern Technology Initiative (NTO) was recently awarded a \$50,000 grant from the MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) for regional cooperation and development. We will be using this grant program to help glean out work elements for our new 5-year CEDS we are working on.

Staff will be meeting with newly appointed John O’Leary on May 8<sup>th</sup> to review potential EDA projects, etc.

- 12) **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Smisson announced the next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on June 23, 2008, at the North West Company Fur Post in Pine City. The business meeting will begin at 5:30 with a banquet and guest speakers at 7:00. Jeremy Riddle moved to adjourn the meeting. Marlys Palmer seconded – motion carried.

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Robert L. Voss, Executive Director

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Rick Smisson, Chairperson