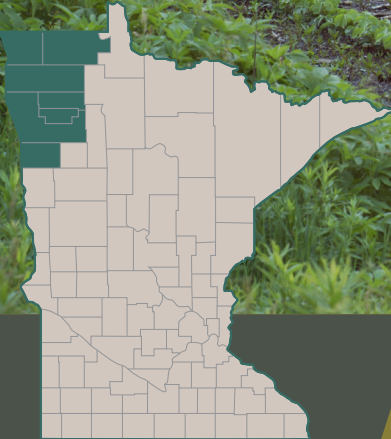




NORTHWEST
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION



www.nwrdc.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

*Serving the counties of Kittson, Marshall,
Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake and Roseau.*

www.nwrdc.org

CONTENTS

Introduction

A Message from our Chairperson	1
A Message from our Executive Director	2
Commission Membership	2

Financials & 2020 Budget	3
---	----------

Dancing Sky Area Agency On Aging	4
---	----------

Together, Older Adults and Communities Thrive

A Year of Education

Senior LinkAge Line®

Medicare Open Enrollment

Pre-Admission Screening

Return to Community

Outreach Events

2019 Aging Grantees

Community Development	6
------------------------------------	----------

Housing, Comprehensive Planning

Economic Development	7
-----------------------------------	----------

Value-Added Agriculture Processing

Northwest Minnesota Arts Council	8
---	----------

2019 Highlights, Grants Awarded, Funding Sources

Transportation Planning	9
--------------------------------------	----------

New Multi-Use Trail Developing in Normal County

Regional Transportation Coordination Council

Northwest Regional Enterprise Loan Fund	10
--	-----------

Strong Finish to 2019

Emergency Operations Planning	11
--	-----------

Homeland Security & Terrorism - The Focus of 2019

Plans & Publications	12
---------------------------------------	-----------

NWRDC Team	13
-------------------------	-----------

IN 2019 THE
COMMISSION
TOURED THE
ROBOTIC DAIRY
FARM,
GOOD-VUE FARMS
IN GOODRIDGE.



THE COMMISSION WAS ALSO ABLE TO TOUR
WEISS ASPARAGUS FARM IN RED LAKE FALLS.

NWRDC STAFF ATTENDED THE
2019 MN ASSOCIATION OF
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS
(MADO) RETREAT

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



DR. JOE BOUVETTE, COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Greetings Friends!

2019 has come and gone, and as usual, the staff at the Northwest Regional Development Commission (NWRDC) have a surplus of activities and projects to report after an amazing year. We are proud of the work that is being done for the people of Regions 1, 2 & 4.

Although our designated Economic Development District #1 covers the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota (Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, Roseau), we also provide services through our Area Agency on Aging (AAA) program to 21 counties and our Emergency Operations Planning to 14 counties in Minnesota. We do this with our

Warren-based staff and a sizable contingent of AAA remote staff (10) who are placed in strategic locations throughout the region. This allows us to provide better service in a more economical way, especially to our aging population so they can age in place.

Additionally, the NWRDC is working more with fellow agencies on a regional basis to provide “greater bang for the buck” by defining areas of mutual concern and speaking more definitively and collectively for the rural population. The NWRDC collaborates with sister regional development organizations throughout the statewide Minnesota Association of Development Organizations (MADO) and inter-regional alliances to build capacity in housing, workforce and other topics.

We have also developed partnerships with neighboring organizations in North Dakota and Canada to look for areas of cooperation and to provide a more effective range of services to our rural population.

The NWRDC Board encourages these collaborations because we know that projects and capacity-building do not stop at our boundaries. Reaching out to our partners makes us stronger and more effective in serving our clients and customers.

We hope you agree that our Annual Report provides an exciting glimpse of the many activities of the NWRDC. We wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year in 2020!



ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDEES: (FRONT ROW, L TO R) RONALD WEISS, KEITH SISTAD, GERALD AMIOT, WARREN STRANDELL, (BACK ROW, L TO R) KEVIN REICH, JIM DUCHAMP, GERALD JACOBSON, GARY KIESOW, LOREN LUSIGNAN, KATHLEEN TWITE, GAIL YUTRZENKA, DAVE ERICKSON, KIMBERLEY JOHNSON, DAVID TREUMER AND DR. JOE BOUVETTE.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CAM FANFULIK, NWRDC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings...

**Welcome to the NWRDC
Annual Report of agency
accomplishments for 2019!**

**This past year has been a
whirlwind of activity, all while
learning, meeting new people,
dealing with local issues that
arise and working with our
clients and customers to find
the best solutions to help
them achieve success.**

We do these things through a number of different ways, including professional training, cohort peer learning, using specialized consultants and following a StrengthsFinders regimen that helps our staff understand the importance of effective communication, conflict resolution and prioritized development of strengths vs. weaknesses.

This has helped to make us more efficient and more productive, and our stakeholders agree; the NWRDC staff consistently receive plaudits from state and federal agencies, sister agencies,

local government, and most importantly our customers and clients. The end results are staff members who can reach out to the public and provide real results and solutions to help solve problems. Not only must we “know” our programs, but it gives our customers confidence that we value things like maintaining ethics, giving accurate information and serving the public the best we can. I am proud to present this Annual Report and hope you enjoy it. Thank you for your support and best wishes in 2020!

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Kittson County

Dr. Joe Bouvette**	Hallock	Public Interest
Kimberley Johnson*	Kennedy	Townships
David Treumer	Hallock	Municipalities
Loren Younggren	Hallock	Counties

Marshall County

Gary Kiesow*	Goodridge	Counties
Loren Lusignan	Grygla	Townships
Gail Yutzenka	Argyle	School Boards

Norman County

Sharon Josephson	Fertile	Townships
Karie Kirschbaum	Gary	Municipalities
Nathan Redland*	Halstad	Counties
Lucas Spaeth	Halstad	School Boards

Pennington County

Elvera Cullen	Thief River Falls	Seniors
Dave Erickson	Thief River Falls	Townships
Brian Holmer	Thief River Falls	Municipalities
Bruce Lawrence*	Thief River Falls	Counties
Karan Lincoln	Thief River Falls	Minorities
Dante Steele	Thief River Falls	Minorities

Polk County

Gerald Amiot	Crookston	Labor
Gerald Jacobson	Fertile	Seniors
Keith Sistad	Fosston	Townships
Warren Strandell*	East Grand Forks	Counties
Toby Strom	McIntosh	Municipalities
Kathleen Twite	East Grand Forks	Business

Red Lake County

Jim DuChamp	Plummer	Municipalities
John Dudycha	Plummer	Counties
Kevin Reich	Red Lake Falls	Townships
Ronald Weiss*	Red Lake Falls	Watershed District

Roseau County

Daryl Wicklund*	Badger	Counties
Debra Wiskow	Greenbush	Townships

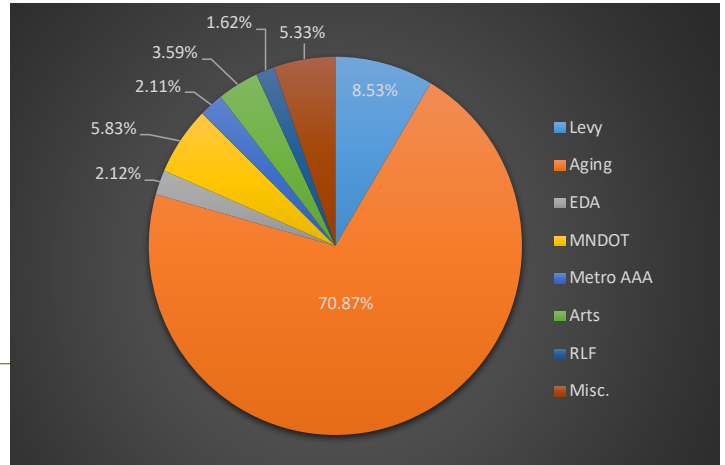
* Board Members

** Chairperson

FINANCIALS & 2020 BUDGET

CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Actual 2019 Revenue Sources



REVENUES	CY'2019 BUDGET	CY'2019 ACTUALS	CY'2020 BUDGET
Local Tax Levy	\$289,243	\$281,981	\$297,920
MN Board on Aging/Department Health	\$2,338,784	\$2,342,309	\$2,224,889
Economic Development Administration	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
MN Department of Transportation	\$189,814	\$192,676	\$228,000
NW Minnesota Arts Council	\$118,727	\$118,777	\$116,587
Dancing Sky AAA County Match	\$53,720	\$53,721	\$55,332
NW Minnesota Enterprise Fund	\$52,895	\$53,709	\$58,743
Metro Area Agency on Aging	\$68,567	\$69,732	\$63,500
Local Contracts/ Miscellaneous	\$122,188	\$122,289	\$106,183
Regrant Revenue	2,633,334	\$2,614,611	\$2,821,733
TOTAL	\$5,937,272	\$5,919,805	\$6,042,887

CY'2018 AUDIT

The CY'2018 Audit was conducted by Brady Martz, Certified Public Accountants and Consultants in Crookston, Minnesota. The auditor's report expresses an unqualified opinion on the General Purpose Financial Statements of the Northwest Regional Development Commission.

EXPENDITURES	CY'2019 BUDGET	CY'2019 ACTUALS	CY'2020 BUDGET
Salaries and Fringe	\$2,594,908	\$2,610,018	\$2,665,484
Professional Services	\$136,563	\$136,416	\$42,827
Travel	\$210,428	\$210,829	\$229,421
Printing/Postage	\$68,716	\$67,976	\$55,608
Supplies	\$43,518	\$52,206	\$48,243
Rent/Maintenance	\$68,308	\$68,692	\$56,406
Equipment	\$9,871	\$5,046	\$4,200
Other	\$171,626	\$123,055	\$118,965
Grants/Contracts	\$2,633,334	\$2,614,611	\$2,821,733
TOTAL	\$5,937,272	\$5,888,849	\$6,042,887

COST ALLOCATION

CY'2019 Actual
Leave Rate:
16.27%

CY'2019 Actual
Fringe Rate:
38.72%

CY'2019 Actual
Indirect Rate:
9.71%



www.dancingskyaaa.org



DANCING SKY AREA AGENCY ON AGING



PURPOSE:

The Dancing Sky is 1 of 7 Minnesota Area Agencies on Aging. Our goal for the people of Minnesota is simple, to work with rural communities to help older adults stay in control of their choices. We envision vibrant communities invested in their elders as well as older adults and caregivers planning for the future. Together, older adults and communities thrive.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Nutrition, congregate and home delivered meals, legal services, housekeeping, chore services, home modification, transportation services, disease prevention/health promotion, early memory care, medication management, falls prevention, Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance, Matter of Balance, chronic disease prevention, respite care and caregiver support.

Together, Older Adults and Communities Thrive

The Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging (DSAAA) celebrated a year of growth, focusing on capacity building and broader public awareness of our services. The Community we serve is made up of unique and resilient older adults, caregivers and home- and community-based providers in 21 counties in Northwest and West Central Minnesota. We believe that all older adults and caregivers are vital to rural communities.

We are committed to instilling the values of dignity, service and collaboration as our aging population adapts to an ever-changing world. We do this by partnering with our communities and patrons. Thank you for your support in 2019 and we look forward as we address the barriers between where we are and where we want to be.

A Year of Education

As dementia continues to effect individuals, families and communities, the DSAAA provided education. Dementia Friends sessions were held in 12 communities, making 338

Dementia Friends. The Virtual Dementia Tour was offered in 11 communities and to the Minnesota Association of Development Organizations. The initiative “EMS Responds: A Patient Centered Approach to Emergency Care of Dementia Patients” provided Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel from 16 EMS services with the skills to identify, communicate and assess patients with dementia. A total of 256 EMS providers, from both paid and volunteer services, completed the training. “EMS Responds” was highlighted at three conferences in 2019: the MN Rural Health Conference, Age Odyssey and the National Association Area Agencies on Aging in New Orleans.

In partnership with State Services for the Blind, 6 “Aging Eyes” training sessions took place, creating 47 Community Partners. Attendees received information and equipment to assist older adults with eye problems.

Evidence-based classes saw an increase in 2019. Through the coordinated effort of YourJuniper.org, 98 evidence-based classes were provided by 25 community partners that reached over 685 participants.

Senior LinkAge Line®

Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL) began assisting older adults in 1994 and continues to serve older adults over the phone and in person. SLL provides assistance on many topics. Housing with services, Medicare insurance, caregiver supports and care transition are a few of the areas SLL can help with. In 2019, SLL staff served 13,357 clients.

Clients
Served
13,357

Medicare Open Enrollment

To support our older adults during Medicare's annual Open Enrollment Period, the DSAAA enlists the support of Phone Specialists, County Coordinators and temporary specialists. We are thankful for our partners' support.

Open
Enrollment
(1 to 1)
1,732

During Open Enrollment, SLL Specialists recognized there were struggles and concerns with the new Medicare.gov website. With the support of our AAA Directors, legislators, the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA), Minnesota beneficiaries can be considered for a Special Enrollment Period (SEP). The SEP is for beneficiaries who received inaccurate or incomplete information during the 2019 Open Enrollment. Please call the SLL at (800) 333-2433 for assistance in evaluating your 2020 Medicare insurance plan.

Pre-Admission Screening

During 2019, Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) Specialists had the opportunity to meet with nursing homes clinics and hospitals to strengthen relationships, provide updated information and create opportunities that focused on person-centered living for older adults. Specialists completed 5,689 screens. This led to 690 follow up calls for older adults after a short nursing home stay. Specialists take pride in supporting the nursing homes, informing county partners regarding a change in status of their residents and checking on the consumer once they are home.

Pre-Admission
Screens
5,689

Return to Community

Community Living Specialists (CLS) have been helping older adults remain in the community since 2010. In the last two years, the focus has expanded beyond older adults in nursing homes to include hospital referrals, adults that decided not to go into the nursing home and community referrals. In 2019, 176 older adults were assisted to remain in the community.

Return to
Community
176

A Tale of Two Specialists

After a veteran's short nursing home stay a PAS specialist called to see how the transition home was going. His wife answered the phone. She was overwhelmed in her role as a caregiver. They were also looking to move into town and needed assistance. The specialist provided immediate supports and referred them to a Community Living Specialist (CLS) for ongoing, in-person supports. By coordinating support systems, the CLS received a referral from the PAS specialist and the couple received the help they needed. "The wife has a lot going on right now and is being pulled in many directions." Now the CLS is working with both the husband and the wife to check on veterans benefits, medication management, caregiver supports, moving, transportation and other person-focused needs.

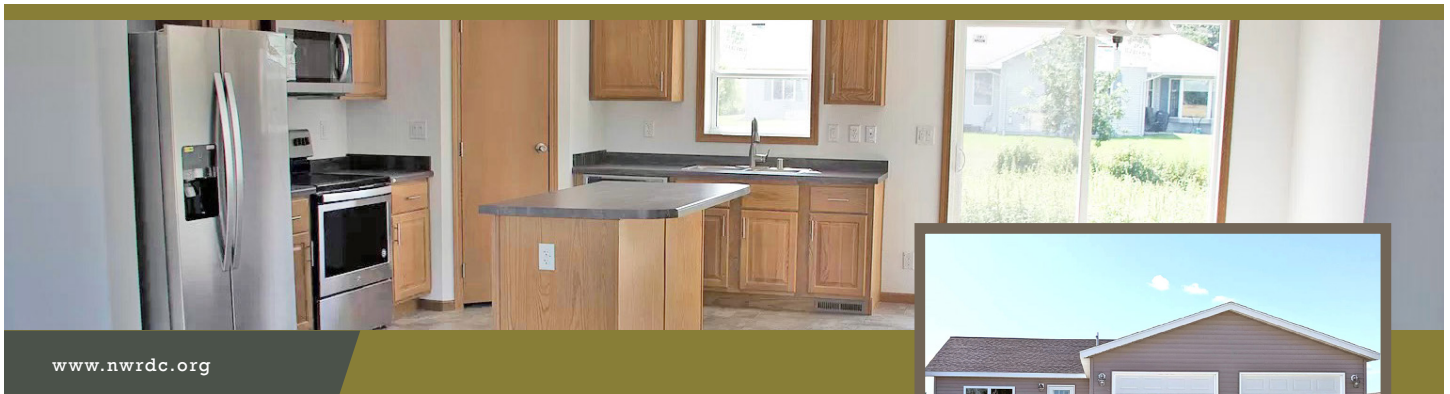
Outreach Events

SLL staff were very busy with outreach in 2019. In a coordinated effort, they provided information on Medicare 101, visited hospitals, clinics and nursing homes, participated in health fairs and wrote newspaper articles.

Outreach
Events
312

2019 AGING GRANTEES

Productive Alternatives Assisted Transportation [\$24,500]
Clearwaters Life Center Assisted Transportation [\$5,924]
Northwest Sentencing to Service Chore Program [\$12,823]
Tri-County Community Corrections Chore Program [\$12,977]
Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota Legal Assistance [\$72,000]
West Central Community Action Home Modification [\$25,670]
Lake Region Healthcare Medication Management [\$13,000]
Lutheran Social Services Caregiver & Respite [\$146,777]
Northwoods Caregivers Caregiver & Respite [\$29,513]
Park Rapids Living at Home Caregiver & Respite [\$21,124]
Central MN Elder Network Caregiver & Respite [\$25,129]
Nutrition Services Inc. Congregate Meals [\$400,500]
Nutrition Services Inc. Home-delivered Meals [\$506,000]
Lutheran Social Services Congregate Meals [\$462,810]
Lutheran Social Services Home-delivered Meals [\$324,120]



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE:

To assist communities in maintaining the services and infrastructure needed to support a robust economy and an attractive quality of life.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Community planning and zoning, tourism and promotions, recreational development and geographic information system (GIS) mapping.

AFFORDABLE FAMILY HOME FOR SALE IN
CROOKSTON BROUGHT TO FRUITION BY THE
MN HOUSING PARTNERSHIP.

Housing, Comprehensive Planning

Encouraging signs have been occurring in some of the larger communities and regional centers of the area with gradually increasing populations, projected larger class sizes and increased diversity of housing, businesses and services. Although there have been a couple of recent school consolidations announced in the area, communities are busily looking at possible renovations or other mixed use opportunities for these buildings. The Twin Valley Nursing Home has transformed into an assisted living center with memory care in 2019.

Housing

The NWRDC staff continue to work with a Minnesota Housing Partnership contingent of communities (Red Lake Falls, Warren, Crookston and East Grand Forks) to look for avenues of collaboration in the construction of

affordable family housing in the area. A home recently built in Red Lake Falls is now for sale; a home in Crookston has been sold, and a home in Warren is for sale. Although bringing the projects to fruition has had its share of barriers, inter-agency cooperation between the communities, NW MNHRA, United Valley Bank, Unity Bank, the NWRDC and Tri-Valley Opportunity Council has been vital to the project's success.

Comprehensive Planning

In conjunction with cooperation from the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) and its "Communities Thrive" program, the NWRDC has worked with the city of Halstad to plan a comprehensive planning effort slated for Spring 2020.

Zoning

The NWRDC assisted Smiley Township in Pennington County with zoning ordinance issues.

Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

The NWRDC sits on a review board to recommend community projects for MN Extension funding that promotes Agriculture and Food Systems, Clean Energy, Natural Resources and Resilient Communities. The projects encourage sustainability, partnerships, volunteerism and community involvement.

Housing Action Network

Regional partners continue to meet regularly to examine potential project collaborations that can provide lowercost housing for younger workforce and for transitioning senior population.

Impact 20/20

The NWRDC works with a contingent of regional leaders sponsored by the NMF to address issues of workforce, education, housing, daycare and other areas of mutual concern to our communities and businesses.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE:

To maintain and increase the population level and job base in the seven counties of Northwest Minnesota.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Business development, labor force development, renewable energy, promotion and planning.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON THE NEW VALLEY
GENERAL STORE IN HALSTAD.

Value-Added Agriculture Processing

Work continued in 2019 through grantwriting, planning, inter-agency collaborations and business assistance to entrepreneurs and expanding companies. Our Revolving Loan Fund played an important role in helping small businesses by providing a risk-sharing role with local banks and providing technical business advice.

Agriculture Processing

The NWRDC has expanded its role with local value-added agriculture processing by assisting with successful equipment grant applications to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The grants helped RS Grain LLC of Euclid, MN purchase sorting equipment for field peas and small grains for the pet food industry as well as Star of the North Bean in Gary MN to purchase cleaning, packaging and conveyor equipment to put dry edible beans into reusable square plastic containers for market. The square

plastic containers provide a cleaner product with less breakage.

As part of its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the NWRDC will play a larger role in 2020 in value-added processing. Upcoming projects include:

Epitome Energy, Crookston –

\$200+ million soybean crushing plant for biodiesel production and a soy innovation center that will define new varieties, new plant characteristics and research and development of soy-based products.

Vertical Malt, Crookston –

\$4+ million plant expansion that provides custom barley malt for the craft brewing industry.

Soyko International, Gary –

\$3.15 million plant expansion that includes sorting, processing, and packaging equipment and building for food-grade soybean markets in East Asia, the Ukraine and all over the USA.

Riverview Dairy, Gary –

The NWRDC will assist with any diversity/equity/inclusion issues for its workforce.

Collaboration with Sister Agencies/ Government Jurisdictions

All NWRDC programs look for opportunities to collaborate and advance economic/community development goals. Each of our programs, including Transportation, Arts and Emergency Operations provide important inter-connections and relationships that help lessen barriers and deliver more cohesive services. Examples include working with the Manitoba government on flood control and border crossing issues; developing and encouraging regional and local branding efforts, increasing tourism opportunities, cooperation with North Dakota in transportation projects and many others.



NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ARTS COUNCIL (NWMAC)

PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NWRDC & NWMAC:

To provide full time staff, office space, shared office equipment, and support staff to the non-profit Northwest Minnesota Arts Council. CY 2019 was \$118,777.

MISSION:

Support and enhance the development of arts and artists in Northwestern Minnesota.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Grants and Grants Administration; Artist Showcase; Arts Promotion; Workshops/Training; and Statewide Leadership in Arts.

www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org

NORTHWEST MINNESOTA ART EXHIBIT AT BADGER
COMMUNITY HALL IN MARCH 2019 .



WE ARE WATER CANVAS ART SHOWCASE OF 70+
PIECES AT U OF M CROOKSTON. ARTIST
RECEPTION INCLUDED OUR CCELEBRATION
OF 10 YEARS OF LEGACY FUNDING.

2019 Highlights

- NWMAC use of the gallery at Northland Community Technical Collage started in October 2019 after Riverwalk Gallery in East Grand Forks closed permanently in June 2019.
- Performing Arts networking group has their first technical training session in Warren this spring. New Facebook group starts for performing arts network.
- George French of Crookston was awarded the Northwest Star Award for lifetime achievement in music.
- NWMAC staff and board creates an Equity Task Force. Staff focuses on training in equity and inclusion.
- 45 weekly interviews in 2019 on Pioneer 90.1 radio (Tuesdays at 3:05 pm) which are also podcasts on our website! 16 artists, 12 arts leaders, 10 arts activity coordinators and 6 interviews with our staff and board members were featured this year.



CHRISTINE FOSTER OF THIEF RIVER FALLS EXHIBIT
OF PAINTINGS DEPICTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SURVIVORS

Funding Sources FY2019

Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment	\$363,656
State of Minnesota General Allocation	\$85,151
McKnight Foundation	\$70,000
Charitable Donations and Fees	\$2,040

USING PROPS
AND MASK
WORKSHOP
ATTENDEES





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5 ROUNDABOUTS TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN THIEF RIVER FALLS THIS SUMMER (2020)

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

PURPOSE:

To ensure safe and efficient movement of people and commodities and provide an on-going forum for important transportation issues in the region. To assist MnDOT and provide input with its planning efforts and programs.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Direction setting, comprehensive regional planning, legislative advocacy and MnDOT project coordination.



FIREFROST INSPECTING A BRIDGE THAT NEEDS A DECKING OR RAILING FOR SAFE PASSAGE

New Multi-Use Trail Developing in Norman County

The NWRDC has been assisting the FireFrost ATV Club in the Halstad and Hendrum areas in the acquisition of property to be utilized for trail development which will give the public a place for outdoor recreational activities. Through fundraisers, donations and working with Halstad Utilities, the club raised over \$50,000 to purchase 24.8 miles of the abandoned Minnesota Northern Railroad that extends from Perley to Neilsville.



The purchase agreement left the bridges intact, however the club needs to raise funds to build railings and add decking to make the bridges safe. The NWRDC arranged meetings with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to discuss grants that would aid in trail options and

provide trail improvement funds. The club is in the process of applying for a grant through the DNR.

Future developments and plans will include Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and establishing a connection with the northern ATV trail systems in the Beltrami State Forest.

Regional Transportation Coordination Council (RTCC)

Phase one was completed in 2018 and phase two began in 2019 with a meeting of board members. The RTCC communicated with local and state politicians about the need for changes in the reimbursement rates for volunteer drivers and clarification about insurance requirements and liability issues. They will continue to identify structural barriers to the coordination of transportation services and communicate these issues to the proper authorities.

A Volunteer Driver Program Committee was also formed to identify best practices in driver recruitment, screening and training. Staff reached out to multiple community organizations to assess transportation needs and recruit volunteer drivers. This committee will develop a volunteer handbook to ensure safe, efficient and enjoyable transportation services for the rider, the driver and the transit provider.

Lynnell Simonson Popowski was recently hired as the Regional Transportation Coordinator. Her duties will include working with providers to coordinate training and other resources to increase efficiency.

Future goals of the RTCC include setting up a website to support a one-call, one-click information service to schedule trips and communicate with customers.



www.nwrde.org

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR VALLEY
GENERAL STORE IN HALSTAD. CONSTRUCTION TO
BE COMPLETED SPRING OF 2020.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE LOAN FUND

PURPOSE:

To strengthen and diversify the economy by providing a source of low interest financing to businesses when credit is not otherwise available from other sources and to ensure the successful completion of activities to be financed.

SERVICE PRIORITIES:

Financing for-profit businesses which create or retain jobs, especially for the long-term underemployed or unemployed.

Strong Finish to 2019

The Northwest Regional Enterprise Loan Fund saw loan inquiries return to 2018 levels in the second half of 2019 after a more average start to the year.

New loan production consisted of five new loans in 2019 for \$408,000.

An additional loan was approved to be closed in the spring of 2020.

The number of inquiries

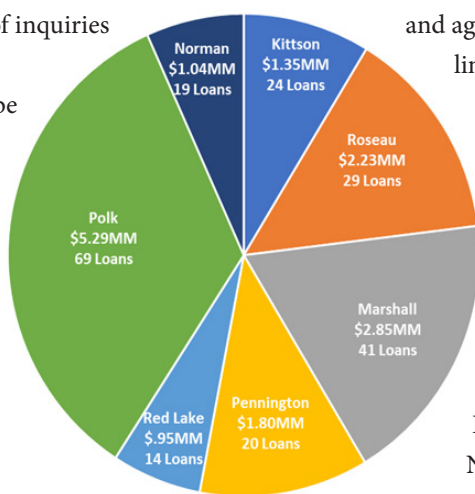
in 2019 also continued to be strong. The program will have over \$200,000 available to lend going into 2020.

In addition to opening new loans, other

loan fund activities included loan restructuring, interest rate adjustments, payoffs, loan assistance to community economic development agencies (EDAs) and technical assistance.

We continue to provide technical assistance in the form of information and referral to other organizations and agencies including but not limited to: Small Business

Development Center,
EDA University Center,
Agricultural Utilization
Research Institute,
Department of
Employment and
Economic Development,
Headwaters Regional
Development Commission,
NW Minnesota Multi-
County HRA, Northwest



LOANS AWARDED SINCE INCEPTION
BY COUNTY (IN MILLIONS)

Minnesota Foundation and the
IDEA Competition.

Historical Loan Activity

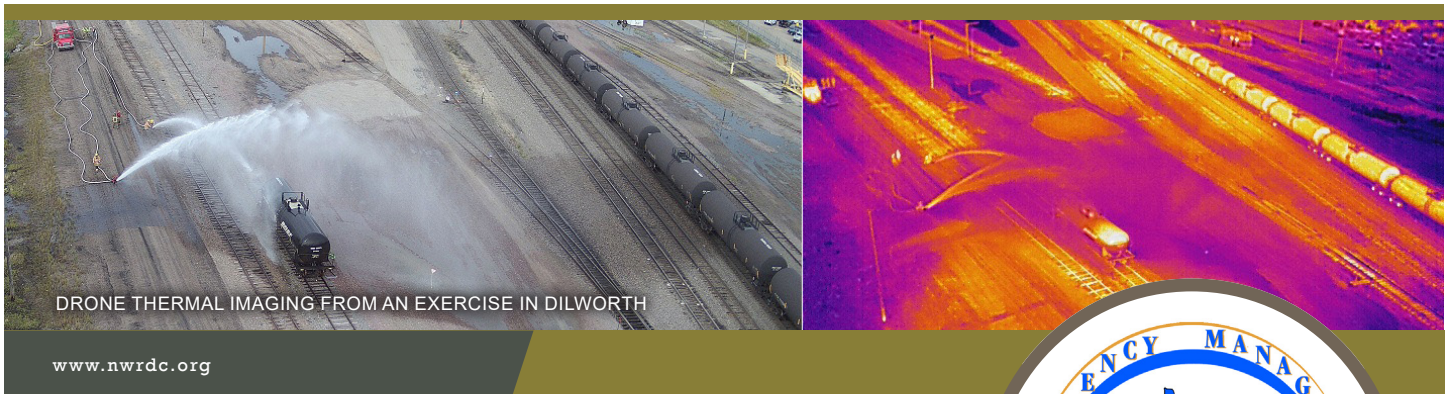
(period ending 12/31/2019):

Total Loans	216
Active Loans	49
Total Loan Amount	\$15,505,229
Other Financing Leveraged	\$70,321,658
Jobs Created/Retained	2,315
Total Project Costs	\$98,856,055

Historical Loan Activity by County

(period ending 12/31/2019):

County	# of Loans	Amount
Kittson	24	\$1,349,120
Marshall	41	\$2,847,045
Norman	19	\$1,039,248
Pennington	20	\$1,795,850
Polk	69	\$5,294,975
Red Lake	14	\$953,115
Roseau	29	\$2,225,876



EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLANNING

PURPOSE: To aid Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) Region Three in the preparation, planning and implementation of activities related to regional preparedness, response and recovery.

SERVICE PRIORITIES: Utilize a specifically geared, annually evolving work program to support existing emergency management capabilities throughout Northwest Minnesota, as approved by the Emergency Management Joint Powers Board and HSEM staff.

Homeland Security & Terrorism - The Focus of 2019

The NWRDC continued its planning partnership with the Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) Region Three Joint Powers Board by providing planning services for the 14 counties located in Northwestern Minnesota.

With an ever-evolving work program combined with an active array of hazards present in Minnesota, it takes many individuals active in emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in order to save lives, reduce property damage and decrease/eliminate future effects. The following points highlight a few of the successes that the Northwest Emergency Manager's Joint Powers Board's regional planning program has accomplished in 2019, thanks to a grant funding opportunity through Minnesota HSEM:

- Acts of Violence and Disorder and Regional Threat & Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) Plan Updates
- Continuity of Operations, emergency operations center and mass casualty assessments
- Crisis Counseling Terrorism Resource Plan
- Critical Infrastructure
- Involvement in regional exercise events
- Public Terrorism Engagement Project
- Regional Badging & Credentialing
- Regional Strategic Plan Update
- Senior Disaster Preparedness Project

Projects in addition to the above-mentioned grant include:

- Exercise with the Northwest Health Services Coalition
- Exercise with the Moorhead Fire Department and other local fire departments/response organizations.
- Safe Routes to School Plan with Fosston and Warren - Alvarado - Oslo School Districts
- Emergency Operations planning with the White Earth Nation Emergency Management
- Pennington County Bike and Trails Plan

PLANS & PUBLICATIONS

PREPARED BY THE NWRDC

PLANS:

- **2020 Aging Area Plan** – Includes senior and provider input as well as demographic data to establish priorities for the use of Title-III Older Americans Act funds. Includes information on the unique characteristics of our region, demographics, accomplishments, program outcomes and budget information.
- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)** – The 2017–2021 CEDS has taken a little different shape to more closely resemble that of each of the other Economic Development Regions of Greater Minnesota. The Economic Development Regions have agreed upon four key cornerstones to economic development: Human Capital, Economic Competitiveness, Community Resources and Foundational Assets. Each region has based their CEDS on these cornerstones and developed their own unique goals and strategies. The 2017-2021 CEDS does maintain previous priorities of Planning, Promotion, Business Development, Labor Force Development and Renewable Energies with added emphasis on workforce related issues such as housing, childcare, training and business succession planning.
- **Regional Arts Plan** – Includes goals, strategies and work activities for State Arts Funds and McKnight Arts Funds.
- **Revolving Loan Fund Plan** – Consists of program elements and guidelines.

PUBLICATIONS:

- **SeniorNews** – A newsletter for senior citizens and service providers of Northwest Minnesota.
- **Artists of Northwest Minnesota** – A directory of 39 artists and 58 businesses. 3,000 printed in 2018.
- **Government Units of Service Directory** – A listing of service agencies and government offices from the township and legislative levels.
- **2019 Annual Report** – A report sent to local officials and legislators on funding and work activities of the NWRDC.
- **NW MN Visitor & Recreation Guide** – A guide of attractions highlighting services and recreational opportunities in Northwest Minnesota communities.

WEBSITES:

- www.nwrdc.org
- www.dancingskyaaa.org
- www.northwestminnesotaartscouncil.org
- www.visitnwminnesota.com



NWRDC TEAM



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Carol Sorensen
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50 Years

Regional Development Act of 1969

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Minnesota Regional Development Act of 1969.

Today, the regional approach is as still important and effective as ever. Although the ten original regions established in 1969 have undergone some changes and iterations since their formation, there exists today a solid network of professional organizations that include nine regional development commissions and one private Initiative Foundation that performs many of the same functions as the commissions.

These ten entities have made a concerted effort to meet on a quarterly basis to discuss best practices, planning approaches, inter-regional collaborations, and cohesive methods and messages addressing vital rural issues of the day. The group established MADO (Minnesota Association of Development Organizations) in order to give a consistent message and planning approach regarding issues affecting rural Minnesota.

MADO developed a framework for statewide regional planning called DevelopMN. The plan identifies four cornerstones for stronger regions and communities:

- ① Human Capital
- ② Economic Competitiveness
- ③ Community Resources
- ④ Foundational Assets.

DevelopMN carries on the intent of the Regional Development Act by creating a common framework for regional economic plans and strategies. It encourages intentional alignment of agencies and partners to maximize the use of resources and raises the bar on what constitutes effective rural development in Minnesota.

