



## Champion Report

Theme Area: **Efficiency and Effectiveness**

Andrea Lauer

Don Hickman

Anna Gruber

Melissa Radermacher

**REPORTING PERIOD: April 15, 2014 through July 15, 2014**

Goals/Strategies or Action Steps:	What NEW success have you had in moving your theme goals forward over the reporting period?
R3	Anna Gruber, City/County Manager at NJPA, has talked with all cities in the five county region and found that there are collaboration groups in three counties (Morrison, Brainerd Lakes, Todd/Wadena). Some border cities choose to connect with cities in neighboring counties rather than the one in which they are located.
R3	Coming in August NJPA is partnering with the League of MN Cities to fund Regional Safety Groups. Towns Collaboration effort via Initiative Foundation Regional Broadband collaboration – great example of effectiveness and efficiency!!
R3	Greater MN Dev. Strategy - Rural regions of MN craft a statewide economic dev strategy
Main Goal	Health & Recreation Alliance.....serving service member families – the new sub-regional collaboration among the 5 NP's involved is innovative impacts HC, Eco/Eng themes as well as Eff/Eff
R3	RCDI – R5DC Awarded 2014 Grant Application in the amount \$152,xxx 10 Non-profit/LUG projects - will help move forward projects in the region that align with the RR Plan <b>AND</b> Move forward the Community Asset profile work - identifying potential underutilized assets and new opportunities for collaboration.

**How are you working with any of the other RR Theme areas?**

No – however, when housing works with energy or broadband works with health, those are examples of effectiveness and efficiency.

**List any Goals or Recommendations within the plan that your team of theme Champions are struggling to address?**

**Note: several of the other Eff/Eff Recommendations & Action Steps are being forwarded by the other theme areas, ie housing, transportation.**

# Efficiency and Effectiveness

## Efficiency and Effectiveness

**Tighter resources; efficiency and effectiveness:** Both public and private institutions are trying to do more with fewer resources. Solutions to our region's issues must be innovative, not dependent on increased spending from traditional sources.

## Efficiency and Effectiveness Goal

**Growth patterns:** 12,000 new homes across the region from a population increase of 8% with an average household size of 2.4 persons. People retire here and want to live near amenities so there is moderate lake shore development. There is an increase in affordable housing and jobs so young people return. People live near jobs so big towns grow some and small towns hold steady.

## Recommendation 1

**Leverage roadway resources:** Local government should dedicate funds for sustainable roadway projects that can leverage additional federal or state funds.

### Action Step A

**Jobs/roadways connection:** Use data from the Regional Transportation Plan and relate it to the area's most likely to see job growth. Prioritize roadways in these areas for improvement as needed to accommodate expected growth.

## Recommendation 2

**Housing efficiency:** Provide more efficient housing in the region in all areas where housing needs to be maintained by considering higher density infill development, or expanding when necessary.

### Action Step A

**Efficiency in development design:** Adopt conservation design principles to more efficiently use infrastructure investments and other community resources.

### Action Step B

**Housing performance data:** Log data of existing and future housing performance and make this information available.

### Action Step C

**Housing rehabilitation:** Rehabilitate homes to suit a younger generation that may look to occupy them. This could mean improving their efficiency.

### Action Step D

### Housing rehabilitation – energy

**efficiency:** Any new or rehabilitated affordable rental/single family housing would be required to use appropriate green technologies to minimize heat and utility use.

### Action Step E

**Rental vouchers for energy efficiency:** Provide energy efficiency vouchers for low income renters as incentives for landlords receiving HUD vouchers.

### Action Step F

**Housing costs:** Include life cycle energy costs and waste of retrofits into the housing cost equation.

### Recommendation 3

***Collaboration between local governments:*** Encourage partnerships between local governmental units and organizations that will lead to lowered costs and improved services, such as mass transit, police, fire, etc.

#### **Action Step A**

**Regular discussion:** Hold regular meetings with governmental units to share information, explore best practices, and provide an opportunity to explore potential partnerships; and stress the importance of civic engagement, and community volunteers, as the key mechanism to facilitating and prioritizing change.

#### **Action Step B**

**Funding:** Work with funders and other partners to provide seed money for more cost effective intergovernmental partnerships that maintain or improve services.

### Recommendation 4

***Cost of development:*** While the role of government includes providing infrastructure, local governments must provide infrastructure that meets strict, long-term financial criterion (i.e. full cost accounting). Communities must be assured that they will not be burdened with rising property taxes to cover infrastructure maintenance and replacement costs, or the costs to fix potential long-term environmental degradation.

#### **Action Step A**

**Prioritize infill:** Infill development, which is a relatively cost effective way to develop, should be a priority.

#### **Action Step B**

**Brownfields:** Brownfield redevelopment is a cost effective infill approach as the infrastructure is typically in place. Consider brownfield redevelopment as a first priority to infill and government financed development.

#### **Action Step C**

**Best practices:** Collect best practices and tools that will help local governments make good decisions regarding long-term development costs.

#### **Action Step D**

**Policies and ordinances:** Create policies and zoning ordinances that support accounting for all costs of development

#### **Action Step E**

**Share information:** Share information with local governments through workshops, emails and other new and existing venues.

#### **Action Step F**

**Impacts on natural resources:** Consider the impact on the environment for each decision made, especially in light of tighter resources. Don't compromise the integrity of the environment for short-term economic solutions that will adversely affect both the environment and the regional economy in the long term