



Annual Plan and Report

May 2007



Philosophy: The Board of Directors and staff of the SW/WC Service Cooperatives believe that all children, families, and community members should be safe, healthy, and have opportunities for learning, growth, and fulfillment.

Dear Friends of SW/WC Service Cooperatives:

SW/WC Service Cooperatives is committed to bringing quality, value-added programs and services to the members we serve! A colleague of mine said it best – “we are not in the insurance business, we are in the members business”. Here at SW/WC Service Cooperatives our focus is on meeting, and exceeding, our members’ expectations for the programs and services we provide for them.

Authorized by statute in 1976 as an Educational Cooperative Service Unit (ECSU), the history of our service cooperative dates back to 1965 when the SW/WC Minnesota Educational and Research Development Foundation (ERDC) was founded. A pilot Educational Service Area (ESA) was established in 1973 and the legislature authorized the enabling legislation in 1976 that allows our agency to provide the programs and services that we do today.

In 1976 the visionary legislators understood the need for regional planning and development of regional services. Today, the need for comprehensive, efficient, and effective programs and services drives the mission of our organization. By focusing on “grass-roots” involvement from our constituents, we use thoughtful and participatory decision making to administer and develop our programs and services. Through an entrepreneurial spirit we have brought quality programs and services to our members, thus helping them save money and operate more efficiently.

We at SW/WC Service Cooperatives are committed to working collaboratively with our members to bring opportunities, efficiencies, and cutting-edge programs and services to our region. Within this report, you will learn more about these programs and how we are doing! We are proud to be a partner with our schools, cities, counties, and other governmental agencies as we embark on providing quality public services. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for taking time to review this annual report. We believe it is important to report back to our members, as we continue to strive for transparency and accountability in our efforts to bring strong programs and services to those we serve.

Just as it is important to report to our members our efforts, it is important for us to listen and hear back from them – please contact us and let us know how we are doing!

Thank you,

Cliff Carmody
Executive Director



54,732

Number of students within the
SW/WC Service Cooperatives
Region

7,647

Number of teachers within the
SW/WC Service Cooperatives
Region

18

Number of counties served by the
SW/WC Service Cooperatives

12,500

Square miles in the SW/WC
Service Cooperatives Region

A glimpse of the Past

An adequate history of the SW/WC Service Cooperatives is difficult to piece together. Its roots are deep into such places as the Granite Falls Fire Hall, Montevideo's Hotel Hunt, the Cyrus Public School and the universities at Morris and Marshall.

Cooperative activities in the 1960s included a series of meetings beginning in Morris in 1965 that led in 1966 to the creation of the SW/WC Educational Research and Development Council (ERDC). The ERDC was independently organized by area school superintendents who were willing, without federal support, to develop a dues structure to fund the council.

The ERDC was succeeded in 1973 by a pilot organization authorized by the state legislature, the SW/WC Educational Service Area (ESA). The Educational Media Center, begun by the Montevideo School District with a 1965 Title II grant, was donated by that district to the ESA.

The ESA was so successful that in 1976 the legislature expanded the concept to all regions of the state, and renamed the agencies ECSUs (Educational Cooperative Service Units). Governor's Planning Regions 6 & 8 combined to form one administrative entity and the SW/WC ESA became the SW/WC ECSU on July 1, 1976. Since then, the rest of the state's regions formed their own ECSUs, for a total of nine in Minnesota.

The purpose of the ECSUs is to perform educational planning on a regional basis and to assist in meeting children's specific educational needs that may be better provided for by an ECSU than by the individual districts.

The 1992 State Legislature changed the enabling legislation for ECSUs to provide services to cities, counties, and other governmental units. This legislative change reflects the state's attitude toward government operating in an effective manner.

On July 1, 1995, through legislative action, the Minnesota ECSUs became Service Cooperatives. The Service Cooperatives' Board of Directors officially named Regions 6 and 8 the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives on August 23, 1995.

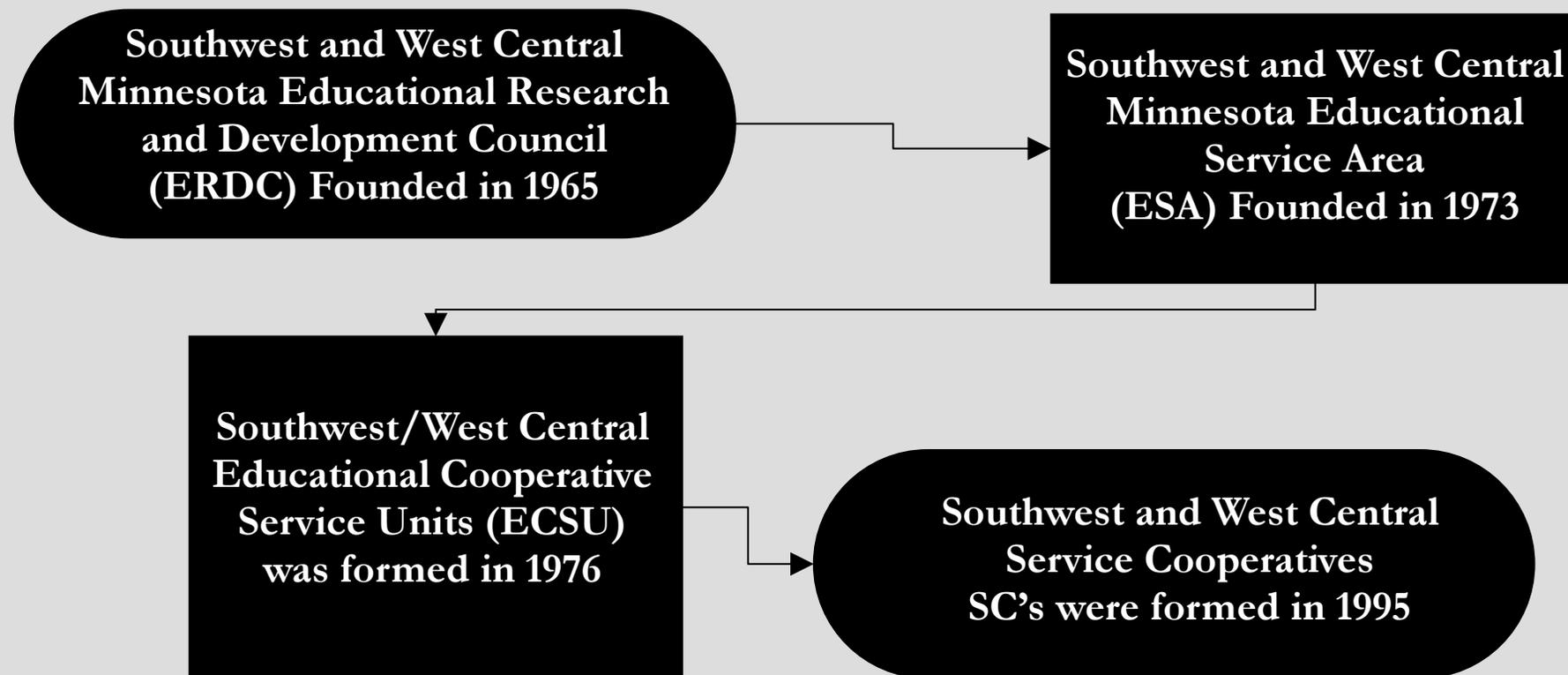
“Perkins funds have also made it possible for students to develop challenging projects using technology and then presenting them for competition. Our students have been recognized at the regional, state, and national level for their project work. Without the digital and computer technology that we were able to purchase, many of our event projects would have not been possible for the students to do. What an honor for students from a small school in southwest Minnesota to compete with students from across the nation and receive gold awards for their work.

I feel that Perkins funds have made opportunities happen for our students. These funds are a vital part of the Family and Consumer Science program in ours school.”

~Marilyn Schoolmeester
Family and Consumer Science
Edgerton High School



Service Cooperatives' Name Timeline



"Carl Perkins money helps our district keep its Business Education program up-to-date with technology!"

~Penny Troe

Business Education Teacher
Worthington High School

"We here in SW MN have the opportunity to spend a nice percentage of our money on educational materials. The Perkins Funds have been very helpful to me when setting up the ProStart culinary program in my school. Being able to order the professional videos or DVD's along with other useful tools have enhanced my teaching presentations. ProStart is a great program which enables us to provide students with hands on skills so useful in the world of work."

~Marcine Elder

Family and Consumer Science
Fulda High School

SW/WC Service Cooperatives'

Centers Of Excellence

A Center of Excellence combines comprehensive services with highly experienced and educated staff to deliver quality programs and services to our members.

Mission

We support members in their efforts to provide quality education and governmental services for children, families, and communities.

Vision

To become a pathfinder in facilitating access to all services that support and enhance the health, safety, growth, and learning of children, families, and community members.

2-5 YEAR PRIORITIES

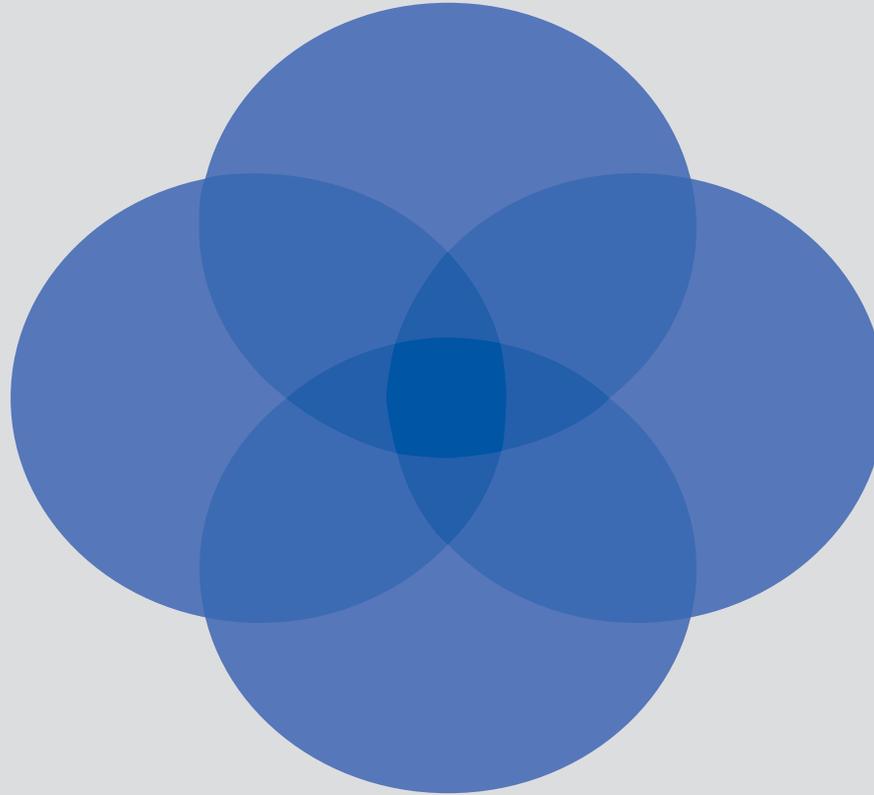
The Service Cooperatives should:

- ↪ provide a wide array of enrichment opportunities for students in Regions 6 and 8.
- ↪ provide business and administrative services available to schools.
- ↪ actively encourage the integration of technology into K-12 instruction.
- ↪ examine the causes of school violence in all forms, and identify the necessary actions to create kinder and safer schools.
- ↪ provide its constituents with high quality training, staff development, and information.
- ↪ make current and potential members fully aware of the range of services available from the agency.
- ↪ emphasize collaboration and partnership as the basis of its operations.

Center for
Special Education
Services

Center for
Teaching & Learning
Services

Center for
Risk Management
Services



Center for
Administrative
Services



Center for Special Education Services



Teresa Ostlie
Montevideo Special
Education Director
Montevideo, MN



Ery Marquardt
Red Rock Ridge
Special Education Director
Windom, MN



Dr. Mary Palmer
Little Crow Special
Education Director
Willmar, MN



Dave Lammers
Pipestone Area Special
Education Director
Pipestone, MN



Bob Braun
Director of Regional
Educational Programs
Marshall, MN

"We are very proud of our Special Education Program at New London-Spicer. This partnership provides a very valuable resource in helping us through difficult times and preparing for the future. The special education staff development opportunities for our staff are timely and appropriate, improving the quality of our staff. Resources are on the decline with demands on schools increasing. It is comforting to rely on the expertise of the Special Education Cooperative."

~Paul Carlson
Superintendent
New London/Spicer

"Whether our needs are staffing for low incidence services for students, helping us attract "hard to find employees", or advising us in a potentially litigious environment, the Redwood Area School District has benefited immensely as a member of the Special Education Cooperative."

~Rick Ellingworth
Superintendent
Redwood Valley

Special Education Service Centers

The Special Education Service Centers had another very busy year. Each center provided numerous training and workshop activities in support of the member districts on a variety of topics. In addition, collaboration occurred with the Regional Special Needs Project and other Special Education Cooperatives in the area so as to bring a number of staff development activities to the region. These regional activities included training for paraprofessionals, DAPE teachers, and speech/language pathologists. It is the intent of the service centers to continue to find ways to collaborate on regional activities, as well as customizing training activities for the schools in their center.

All of the service centers utilize a web-based IEP software system. The Special Education Forms software is a valuable tool for special education teachers in the region. The centers also oversaw the third party pay system and to date have helped the districts access millions of dollars in revenue from this system.

Assistance in promoting continuous improvement activities was provided by the service centers for its member districts. The service centers recognize that special education program effectiveness is an important concept that they can assist the member districts in achieving and/or maintaining.

The centers continued to assist the member districts in completing their applications for state and federal funding. In addition, the information for the state EDRS system was reported by the centers to ensure local funding for special education programs. All the service centers were monitored by the state for fiscal compliance and all the centers did very well.

Educational Pathways Project

The Educational Pathways Project is a collaborative program partnering Regional Educational Services, School-to-Work, Minnesota West, Minnesota Paraprofessional Consortium, and MDE. The project is designed to develop career opportunities in education and provide training for paraprofessionals. The project is a 2+2+2 model for credit transfer linked to the Minnesota Paraprofessional Competencies.

Interpreter Training & Mentoring Project

This project is designed to assist interpreters to obtain training and certification, and to offer certification test opportunities. The project consists of a mentoring component and the development of educational plans. It is a partnership with Minnesota West in the development of a Deaf Studies Program.

Developmental Cognitive Disability (DCD) Training and Network Project

This project establishes networking activities for individuals serving DCD students. It provides instruction in behavioral strategies specific to DCD, training opportunities in the area, a state DCD network, and training for paraprofessionals relating to the DCD student.

Autism Training Project

This project began in 2002-2003 to address the dramatic increase in the number of Autism Spectrum Disorder students. The project provides customized training for teams at the local district level, with a goal of establishing teams in each district with expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorder. This project is a collaborative effort between all the local districts, Regional Educational Services, and MDE.

Regional Assistive Technology Project

The Assistive Technology Lending Library and Demonstration Lab offers equipment and materials to enhance special education learner outcomes and quality of life. The Library lends equipment to school districts considering technology support for a student identified under one of the low incidence categories: Autism, Deaf & Hard of Hearing, Physically Impaired, Other Health Impaired, Visually Impaired, Traumatic Brain Injury and Developmental Cognitive Delay. Needs are determined through the IEP team process, and items are available for short-term loan to assist the team in determining the effectiveness of specific forms of technology. The Lab provides on-site assistance in enhancing a special needs learner's outcomes with assistive technology through consultation, training and demonstration. The demonstration lab is located at the Marshall office.

Outreach Clinics

Gillette Outreach Clinics are made available to anyone (people of all ages with disabilities, families, therapists, teachers, counselors, social workers, etc). Clinics can provide general information, demonstrations, hands on work and/or training for many types of assistive technology, as well as, discussing specific needs and product recommendations. Outreach clinics are sponsored by: SW/WC Service Cooperatives, Regional Educational Services Projects, Region 5 CAN (Community Action Network), The United Way of Southwest Minnesota, STAR (A System of Technology to Achieve Results) and Gillette Children's Special Healthcare.

Southwest MN Assistive Technology Capacity Building Project

The Southwest Minnesota Capacity Building Project is a collaborative initiative that is directed at assuring service is available within the region for individuals who require assistive technology. Major collaborators are Southwest Community Action Network, Regional Educational Services and Rehabilitative Services, Gillette Children's Hospital and STAR Program. The Assistive Technology lending library and demo lab are also a major component of this project. Both the demo lab and the lending library will be combined with Project Discovery Services to help assure appropriate accommodations in vocational assessments of students with disabilities.

Used Equipment Referral Project

This service assists school districts or families who have assistive technology equipment they are no longer using and desire to sell. Also, if there are needs for specific pieces of equipment, this project can store this information on a database, and can be easily accessed when inquiries are made.

Transition Outcomes Project

This is a 6-phase project aimed at improving transition services for junior high and senior high students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The project provides training to special education teachers, families, and agency staff to develop practical transition plans using a student-centered process. The 6 phases of the project are: identification and commitment from local school districts; IEP file reviews, report findings, setting target goals/timelines; developing strategies for improvement; implementation of strategies and technical assistance; follow-up review of IEPs; and report of final results.

Center for Teaching and Learning Services



“I thoroughly enjoyed the science and nature conference. I thought that the speakers were exceptional and the students really seemed to get excited about science. This was the first time that I was able to attend the conference but I really hope that it won't be my last. It was a great experience for both adults as well as kids.”

~Nadine Weedman
5th Grade Teacher
Marshall Middle School

“The Carl Perkins Dollars have made the Family and Consumer Science program one that can use the advances in technology that are available to the consumer and make use of them in class. I have purchased equipment, some of which the students have had no exposure to – the Advantium Oven, Embroidery Sewing Machine, Mechanical Babies, and the high end stoves. In addition I have been able to update classroom teaching supplies – text books and resources – that have improved the program and made it an exciting field of advanced study for my students. The use of the money for travel expenses has made it possible to make it to competitions and to be able to venture out to see areas of industry. It is an important source of funds for my department to keep up with the changing interests.”

~Bonnie Bents
Family and Consumer Science
Worthington High School



“Our district has had the wonderful opportunity to work with the school improvement specialists on staff development planning and school improvement issues this year. Staff are extremely knowledgeable, creative and resourceful in guiding staff through these processes. They have a strong desire to help staff find solutions in the ever increasing realm of student and teaching accountability. We have found them to have effective communication skills, verbal and written and get documents and resources to us almost in an immediate fashion. They have been willing to help us ask some challenging questions about our present and future visions and have always done so in manner that was professional and even at times entertaining. We will feel very fortunate to have had their leadership and eagerly look forward to their support in the future. I personally believe that the formation of the Teaching and Learning Center is the BEST thing that the cooperative has created for a long time and I am glad we have been a part of it.”

~Raymond Staatz
Middle/Secondary Principal
Pipestone Area Schools



Sue Gorecki
Student Activities
Coordinator

Student Activities

SW/WC Service Cooperatives plans and coordinates quality programs, conferences and competitions for students in the eighteen counties of southwest and west central Minnesota. The popularity of these activities is evident by the continued growth in participation with over 26,000 participants last year.

Conferences

- *Conference for Young Artists (grades K-8)
- *Conference for Young Writers (grades 3-8)
- *Science & Nature Conference (grades K-8)

Competitions

- *Creative Writing Contest (grades 3-12)
- *Culinary Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)
- *Junior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-9)
- *Senior High Knowledge Bowl (grades 7-12)
- *Spelling Bee (grades 5-8)
- *Technical Skills Challenge (grades 9-12)



Collaborative Programs

- *CORE (Center of Rural Entrepreneurship) – (grades K-12)
- *Junior Achievement (grades K-12)
- *Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest (grades K-3)



Michael Koranda
Manager of Teaching &
Learning Services

School Improvement and Professional Development

Teaching and learning services have always been a part of the Service Cooperatives, but only this past year did we organize in such a way to bring more and more services to our members. In the fall of 2006, we received funding from the Minnesota Department of Education to employ school improvement specialists to work with the schools not meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). We provide a wide range of services to these schools, including data retreats and data analysis, professional development, curriculum mapping, and planning in many areas. It is our overall responsibility to deliver assistance directly to schools and districts to facilitate local efforts to increase capacity and improve student achievement, which includes

developing and implementing required improvement plans, and providing technical assistance to schools identified as needing improvement. Specifically, the School Improvement Specialists 1) assist district and school teams in the development, implementation and on-going review and refinement of school improvement plans, 2) identify and analyze data and facilitate team dialogue, 3) assist in the identification of specific and joint professional development needs, and 4) plan to meet those needs and support schools as they develop and implement high quality professional development. We provide support at several levels throughout the school district, including school teams, district teams, and regional support teams which are comprised of representatives from school districts in the region, a SW/WC School Improvement Specialist, and MDE Professional Development and Evaluation Specialists. We plan to provide these types of services to all schools, not just those not meeting AYP. We also have staff trained to do a variety of NWEA trainings and workshops. With more and more schools in the region using NWEA for testing, we have responded to the need of our members for more training on how to use this data. We continue to arrange professional development opportunities for all of our members on a variety of topics, include frameworks of effective teaching, evaluation, and more.

Carl Perkins: Career and Technical Education Grant

The Southwest Minnesota Tech Prep Consortium is comprised of 30 high schools and Minnesota West Community and Technical College, our post-secondary partner. The consortium works very closely with other agencies that serve the area, regional businesses, and other consortiums throughout the state. Go to the www.lifetimeoflearning.com link or contact Tom Hoff at 507-537-2271 or tom.hoff@swsc.org for more information.

High schools that participate in the Southwest Minnesota Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium receive an annual entitlement to be used for improvement of state approved career and technical education (CTE) programs. Participating high schools complete a brief application that specifies the approved programs that will be making the purchase and the bill is paid by the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, the consortium's fiscal host. Each year over \$100,000 worth of improvements are made to CTE programs. Examples of improvements include: new text books that links to industry standards, consulting services, mileage and sub fee reimbursement for staff development, commercial grade equipment, industry based software, instructional videos, etc.

The consortium also provides career/education planning materials and opportunities. Many schools in the region use their Carl Perkins funds to purchase career assessment instruments and on-line career information systems. The consortium also works with many agency and post-secondary partners to provide career and education planning experiences through an interactive "Career Expo" and through our "Project Discovery" career assessment and exploration program.

Having students demonstrate what they have learned and develop leadership skills is a central goal for schools in the consortium. Our consortium provides strong support to student organizations (FCCLA, BPA and FFA) and is proud to have some of the strongest in the state. We also host two very popular regional competitions: "Culinary Skills Challenge" and the "Technical Skills Challenge". These events are led by our industry partners and provide students the opportunity to learn about industry standards and participate in competitions that help them reach for those standards.



Tom Hoff
Career & Technical
Project Coordinator

Center for Administrative Services

“Quality People, Quality Product, Quality Service – Comprehensive Results! The RMIC creates a strong backbone for our school’s business operation which in turn is one of the keys in helping us carry out our mission of serving children and families.”

~Kathy Leedom
Superintendent
Willmar Public Schools



Pictures from the 2007 Business Conference



Dr. Luther Heller
Director of Administrative Services



Darin Jensen
Manager of RMIC

RMIC

Regional Management Information Center (RMIC) provides finance, human resource, payroll, and student administrative support services to districts and educational cooperatives.

SMART Finance and UFARS/Accounting Services are provided to contracted districts and educational cooperatives. Our staff provide advice and assistance with accounting and bookkeeping procedures, SMART Systems software, Finance and eR Modules, along with assistance maintaining district

records and serving as a liaison between districts and the Minnesota Department of Education. Accounting assistance services may be purchased as an alternative to hiring an accountant or contracting with an auditing firm.

SMART HR services are provided to the districts that use SMART Systems HR/payroll and eR Modules, which produce payroll, retirement, direct deposit, leave, quarterly and year-end tax reports. The program is also capable of storing and reporting a wide range of human resource information. An online employee self service website is available for employees to view pay detail, leave detail, tax, flex info, emergency contact and licensure information.

STAR (Staff Automated Reporting) reporting consists of reporting licensed and non-licensed school staff data to the Minnesota Department of Education. The data reported on STAR is used to determine licensure violations, to complete supply and demand studies, and to fulfill state and federal reporting requirements.

MARSS (Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System) reporting consists of automated reporting of student data to the Minnesota Department of Education. Data elements are maintained and reported by school districts for each student attending a public school in Minnesota, resulting in payment of state and federal dollars.

RMIC does not support Student Services software, but does provide informal support in the Attendance, STAR, and Carl Perkins programs because of the correlation with MARSS for reporting to the Minnesota Department of Education.

Health and Safety

The Environmental/Occupational Health and Safety Management (EOHSM) Program is provided by MacNeil Environmental, Inc. (MEI). The 2006-07 contract was year three of a three-year contract. The following areas of concern are included in the EOHSM Program: hazard communication (employee right-to-know), personal protective equipment, laboratory standard/chemical hygiene plan, accident reduction program/AWAIR, emergency action plan, hearing conservation, respiratory protection, confined space entry, lockout/tag out, compressed gas safety, lead in water, radon, above/underground storage tanks, asbestos, hazardous waste, infectious waste, blood-borne pathogens, community right-to-know, indoor air quality, integrated pest management, department of labor and industry (OSHA) requirements, first aid/CPR, welding, cutting, or brazing safety, hoist lift safety, forklift safety, machine guarding, mock OSHA safety inspection, playground safety, food safety, and electrical safety.

The on-going activities performed by MEI include annual employee training, periodic surveillance of programs and facilities, attachment #99 activities as indicated (district is responsible for some items), documentation and reporting activities, 24-hour availability of account manager, program recommendations, and each district will receive a minimum of one mission per month. The Health and Safety Management Assistance Program provides consultation and coordination of services related to the management of environmental health and safety concerns for school district.

Cooperative Purchasing

The Cooperative Purchasing Program is dedicated to combining the collective purchasing power of our members in order to receive the best value in goods and services. By working cooperatively, on a regional and statewide level, each of our members benefit by purchasing goods and services at a lower cost than if individually purchasing those same things. When choosing vendors, the CP program focuses on quality, service, support, as well as competitive pricing. The goal of our program is to have our members receive the best long-term value possible. We hold prime vendor contracts, have an annual bid process, and do individual product quoting. Performing the bid process for all members collaboratively eliminates members' time and staff to perform that bidding function and generates aggressive prices in relation to volume purchasing. The Cooperative Purchasing Program concentrates on serving its members, and it saves members' time and money!!

Technology

SW/WC Service Cooperatives manages an extensive Wide Area Network (WAN) on behalf of its member districts. These services include continual monitoring of communications and equipment status and performance. SW/WC uses a number of network management programs to monitor usage, throughput and circuit health. Technical support and communications troubleshooting are performed by SW/WC as the need arises.

SW/WC works with district technology support personnel to design, build, and maintain Local Area Networks (LANs) within member buildings. SW/WC has acquired several diagnostic tools and personnel have received extensive training in the design and analysis of LANs. Staff are available to local tech support for both over-the-phone and on-site assistance.

SW/WC offers technology coordination services to districts to supplement current technology staff all the way to fully-staffing their technology departments. The offerings range in contract terms from monthly visits to full-time onsite positions. These services range from day-to-day operations of a technology system to short and long-term planning and guidance.

Member districts participate in instructional delivery, administrative meetings, and virtual field trips through Interactive Television (ITV) services provided and managed by SW/WC. SW/WC facilitates class scheduling with principals from member districts for ITV and Online Education Courses. We also maintain and manage the video network equipment such as Multi-point Conferencing Units (MCU's), switches, CODECS, and other network hardware.

SW/WC is actively engaged in the deployment of an extensive voice network that will allow member schools to place non-toll charge calls to other member sites on our network. This involves maintenance of a high performance network as well and installation and maintenance of Customer Premise Equipment.

SW/WC offers E-Rate Coordination Services to guide school districts through the entire E-Rate funding cycle. This includes application research, filing and follow-up.

SW/WC offers full support and training services for the TSIS Student Information System and the Cognos Data Warehouse. These two state of the art systems allow districts to have high quality data available to all-stakeholders including administrators, teachers, students and parents. The Data Warehouse allows administrators and staff to make data-driven decisions and analysis.



Deb Foley
CP/Sales & Marketing
Coordinator



Josh Sumption
Manager of Information
Technology

Center for Risk Management Services

In 1985, SW/WC Service Cooperatives entered into its first operating agreement to provide a school district insurance pool to its members. Since that time, the risk management services have focused on a “minimum premium plan”, that provides a self-insured health insurance product for schools, cities, counties, and other governmental agencies.

In 2003, the research and development of VEBA products was completed, with availability of the VEBA plan for schools in July, 2003 and cities, counties, and other governmental units in January, 2004. The development of new programs and services continued with the advent of the Care Support Program, focusing on the management of chronic conditions, and an emphasis on health and wellness initiatives through the Worksite Wellness Program.

Today, risk management services provide a cost-efficient health insurance option for our members. With flexibility and choice of plan design, a complete network with deep discounts, low administrative and stop-loss fees, and new consumer-directed health products, we believe our school pool and city/county/other governmental agency pool have worked in helping our members find the best option for their health insurance dollar.

The administration of the risk management program and services is done in partnership with Appletree Institute, a non-profit, charitable corporation organized to provide programs and services for governmental units resulting in reduced costs, increased efficiency and effectiveness. SW/WC Service Cooperatives and Appletree Institute partnership has helped to bring this program and service to 60 school districts and 128 cities/counties/other governmental agencies in our region. We believe our risk management services are a great example of how cooperation can bring lower cost, more efficient services to our members.

“I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of a health insurance pool. So many districts have good luck with their overall employee health while many districts have to bear the cross of having many high claims. Of course sickness and accidents cannot be predicted because no district knows what the future holds or when misfortune might come upon their district. A health insurance pool is simply one way to help level the extremes to a manageable increase.”

~Loy J. Woelber
Superintendent

Westbrook/Walnut Grove Schools



SW/WC Service Cooperatives' Central Office Services

Development and Communications



The Development and Communications Office was new to the SW/WC Service Cooperatives in the Fall of 2006. The responsibilities of the office continue to evolve, but the main goals include:

1—Cultivating, identifying, and securing financial resources for the organization. This involves developing and maintaining a system for identifying and tracking funding opportunities....identifying potential proposal opportunities and identifying a team to write the proposal.....providing expertise and support to members/staff in writing and submitting grant proposals.....and cultivating the interest of corporate and foundation staff and other external partners in the activities of the Service Cooperatives.

2—Planning. This includes identifying unmet needs and opportunities... conducting needs assessments, interpreting agency vision and priorities, reviewing and analyzing agency and community data...and assisting administration in the development of new programs, services and special projects, including assisting administration in coordinating a process for researching and evaluating the feasibility of new initiatives.

3—Communications. This involves increasing visibility of the service cooperatives and its program/services, and improving name recognition in southwest and west central MN. Specific activities include producing monthly newspaper articles for area newspapers...coordinating letters to the editor and press releases highlighting events related to the service cooperatives...coordinating speaking opportunities for staff at various organizations, community groups, etc...coordinating the annual report and quarterly newsletters...and more. In the future, providing services to our members in the area of communications and the development of a communications strategy will be incorporated into our overall mission for the Development and Communications Office.

What Can the Development and Communications Office Do For Our Members?

Our overall goal is to keep school district administration notified of any funding opportunities that may be available to them, and to provide technical assistance during their grant writing process. This includes emailing school district administration about prospective grant opportunities, providing technical assistance to any member districts that are planning to submit grant proposals (reviewing rough drafts, assistance developing measurable goals, reviewing to ensure all required forms/information is included, etc.), and distributing a quarterly E-Newsletter to all member districts highlighting information and updates from the Development and Communications Office.



Shelly Maes
Manager of Development and
Communications

Magnificent Members



"The Science and Nature Conference is a wonderful opportunity for kids! Our middle school took interested students in grades 5-8 to the conference. They said that they learned many new and fascinating things, and also had a fun time doing so!"

~Carrie Sueker
Life Science
Marshall Middle School

59

Number of Regular Public Schools who are SW/WC Service Cooperatives Members

7

Number of Associated Public Schools who are SW/WC Services Cooperative Members

10

Number of Non-Public Schools who are SW/WC Services Cooperative Members

64

Number of Cities who are SW/WC Service Cooperatives Members

14

Number of Counties who are SW/WC Service Cooperatives Members

47

Number of other Governmental Agencies who are SW/WC Service Cooperatives Members

Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives Members

Adrian Schools				Prairie Lakes Youth Programs
Adult Client Training Service				Prinsburg Schools
Area II MN River Basin	City of Jackson		Lincoln County Soil & Water	Prinsburg - Central Christian School
Projects, Inc.	City of Jasper	Cottonwood County DAC	Conservation	Progress, Inc.
Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City	City of Jordan	Countryside Public Health	Lincoln/Pipestone Rural Water	Red Rock Central Schools
Schools	City of Kerkhoven	County of Pipestone	Litchfield Schools	Red Rock Rural Water Systems
Augsburg Fortress Publishing	City of Lake Elmo	Dawson/Boyd Schools	Luverne Schools	Redwood Area School District
Avera Marshall Regional	City of Lakefield	E.C.H.O Charter School	Lynd Schools	Redwood County
Medical Center	City of Lambertton	Eci' Nompa Woonspe School	Lyon County	Redwood Soil & Water Conservative
Balaton Schools	City of Lismore	Eden Valley/Watkins Schools	Lyon County DAC	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers
Belgrade/Brooten/Elrosa	City of Madison	Edgerton Schools	MACCRAY Schools	Control Area
Schools	City of Marshall/MMU	Edgerton - Leota Christian	Magnolia - Pinnacle Programs	Renville County
Bellingham Schools	City of Maynard	School	School	Renville County West Schools
Benson Schools	City of Mendota Heights	Edgerton - Southwest Christian	Marshall Schools	Rock County DAC
Bird Island - St. Mary School	City of Milroy	School	Marshall - Holy Redeemer School	Rock County Employees
BOLD Schools	City of Minneota	Ellsworth Schools	McLeod West Schools	Round Lake Schools
Brewster Schools	City of Montevideo	Fulda Schools	Meeker County	Russell-Tyler-Ruthton Schools
Buffalo Lake/Hector Schools	City of Mounds View	Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop	Mid-MN Development	Rural Enterprises for Acceptable
Canby Schools	City of Mountain Lake	Schools	Commission	Living
Cedar Mountain Schools	City of New Prague	Glencoe/Silver Lake Schools	Milroy Schools	Sleepy Eye Schools
Chippewa County	City of Newport	Heartland Community Action	Milroy Area Charter School	Southwest Regional Development
City of Adrian	City of Oak Grove	Hendricks Schools	Minneota Schools	Commission
City of Appleton	City of Oakdale	Heron Lake/Okabena Schools	Minneota - St. Edward's School	Springfield Schools
City of Atwater	City of Pipestone	Hiawatha Manor, Inc.	Montevideo Schools	St. James Schools
City of Benson	City of Plymouth	Hills/Beaver Creek Schools	Mountain Lake Schools	SW MN Housing Partnership
City of Bird Island	City of Prior Lake	Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted -	Murray County	SW MN Opportunity Council
City of Buffalo Lake	City of Renville	Holy Trinity School	Murray County Central Schools	Swift County
City of Canby	City of Rosemount	Hospice of Murray County, Inc.	Murray County DAC	Swift County-Benson Hospital
City of Carver	City of Round Lake	HRA of Redwood Falls	New Century Charter School	Tracy Schools
City of Chanhassen	City of Russell	Hutchinson Schools	New Life Treatment Center	Upper MN Regional Development
City of Clara City-Community	City of Sacred Heart	Ivanhoe Schools	New London/Spicer Schools	Commission
Nursing Home	City of Slayton	Jackson County	New Ulm Diocese School	Wabasso Schools
City of Cosmos	City of Spicer	Jackson County Central Schools	Nobles County	Westbrook Public Utilities
City of Cottonwood	City of Springfield	Jackson Housing &	Nobles County Soil & Water	Westbrook/Walnut Grove Schools
City of Ellsworth	City of St. Paul Park	Redevelopment	Conservation	Western Community Action
City of Fairfax	City of Stewart	Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg	Ortonville Schools	Willmar Schools
City of Franklin	City of Stillwater	Schools	Ortonville Area Health Services	Willmar - Community Christian School
City of Fulda	City of Tracy	Kandiyohi Area Transit	Parkview Home-City of Belview	Willmar Municipal Utilities
City of Ghent	City of Tyler	Kandiyohi County	Parkview Manor Nursing Home-	Windom Schools
City of Granite Falls	City of Vesta	Lac Qui Parle County	Ellsworth	Windom Area Hospital
City of Greenfield	City of Waconia	Lac Qui Parle Valley Schools	Paynesville Schools	Worthington Schools
City of Hanley Falls	City of West St. Paul	Lake Benton Schools	Pioneerland Library System	Worthington Regional Hospital
City of Hendricks	City of Willmar -(Housing	Lakeview Schools	Pipestone Area Schools	Worthington Area Language Academy
City of Heron Lake	& Redevelopment)	Lakeview Home	Pipestone County Medical Center	Yellow Medicine County
City of Hugo	City of Windom	Lester Prairie Schools	Pipestone County Soil & Water	Yellow Medicine East Schools
City of Ivanhoe	Comfrey Schools	Lincoln County	Prairie Five Community Action	

Fiscal Integrity

SW/WC Service Cooperatives is a public agency. No state or local tax dollars are used to fund our programs and services.

Operating revenue is derived from membership fees and grants. We invite corporate and foundation sponsorship of student and adult enrichment programs

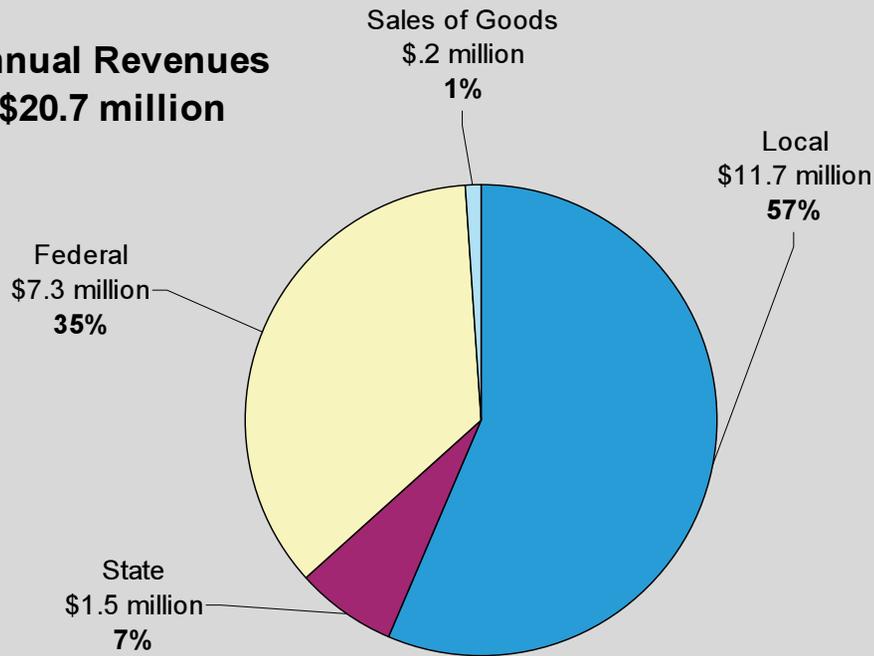
“As a teacher, my students have participated in several activities sponsored by SW/WC: Knowledge Bowl, Young Author's Conference, and the Essay Contest. As a parent, my own children have participated in Knowledge Bowl, Young Author's Conference, Young Artists Conference, and the Science and Nature Conference. I am so grateful these opportunities are available for my students and my children. They provide an extra experience in areas that are of interest to kids. The events are always extremely well-organized and kid-friendly. The presenters are top-notch, and they make the kids feel special and talented.”

~Cathie Fenger
Language Arts
Marshall Middle School



Annette Miller
Business Manager

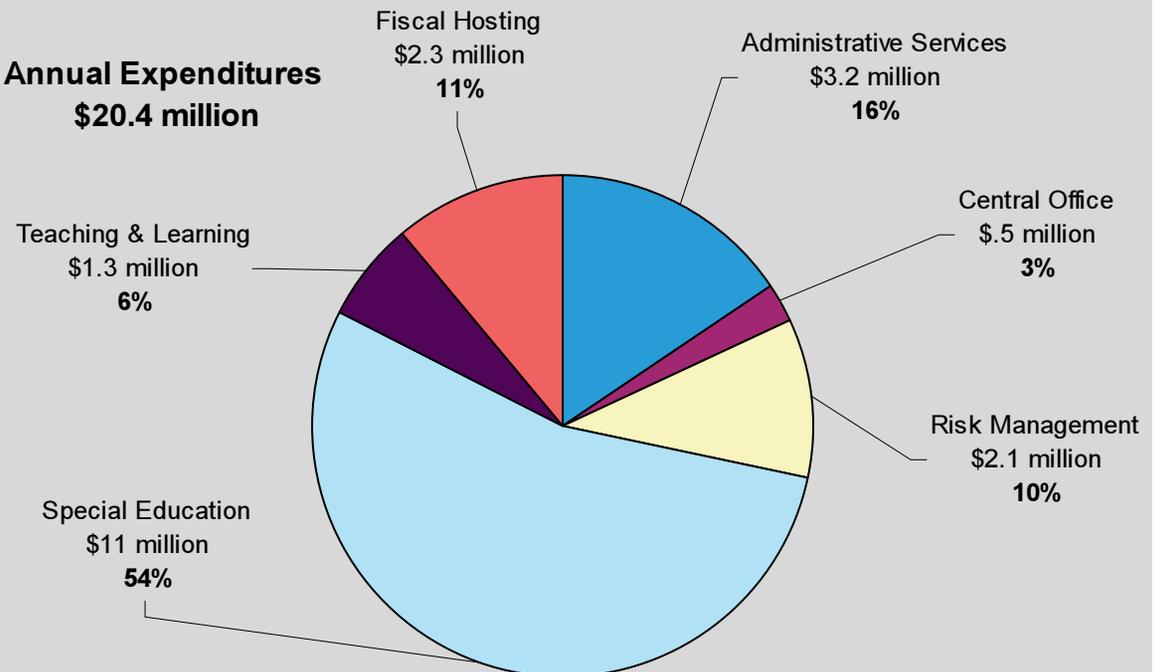
Annual Revenues
\$20.7 million



“I have been associated with the SW/WC Service Cooperative since February 1998. During the years of my superintendent services I have been able to count on the staff of the cooperative to provide accurate and timely information. The information provided has assisted in providing better services for the students and employees of the districts. Low incidence services, special education service, finance services and collegial meetings are just a few of the activities that work to benefit all of our schools. But most importantly have been the professional conversations held with the retired director Lee Warne and the current director Cliff Carmody. These candid opinion sessions have enabled a broad prospective and solution oriented activities”

~Rick Clark
Superintendent Advisory Council Chair
Superintendent, Buffalo Lake/Hector

Annual Expenditures
\$20.4 million



“I have utilized Carl Perkins money in my Family & Consumer Science Classes. Funding has helped provide instructional materials for the classroom that we would not have been able to purchase without the help from Carl Perkins. Students with special needs have had success with sewing machines that are 'user friendly' and DVDs have accompanied curriculum for classroom instruction.”

~Janelle Tews
Family & Consumer Science
Comfrey Public School

Valuing Employees

“Working at SW/WC is a challenging but extremely rewarding career. The improvements we are making in the educational environment through technology is one of the greatest rewards for me.”

~Josh Sumption
Manager of Information Technology
4 years of Service



Edna Gossen
Operations Manager

The SW/WC Service Cooperatives employs a wide range of employees.
 Below is a sampling of some of the varied professionals we have on staff.
 Out of 216 employees...

Title	Number of Employees
ALC Teacher.....	3
Assistive Technology/Transition Coordinator.....	1
Audiologist.....	2
Autism Consultant.....	2
Bilingual Paraprofessional.....	6
Consultant for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....	1
Consultant for the Visually Impaired & P/HD.....	1
Cultural Liaison.....	5
Database Specialists.....	2
E/BD Paraprofessionals/Teachers.....	19
ECSE Coordinators/Teachers.....	5
Heartland Girls Ranch Teacher.....	2
Integration Collaborative Coordinator.....	2
IT Coordinator.....	1
ITV American Sign Language Teacher.....	1
LAN/PC Specialist/Technicians.....	3

Title	Number of Employees
Learning Disabilities Teacher.....	1
LI Consultant for Severe/Multiply Impaired.....	1
Network Coordinator.....	1
Occupational Therapist/COTAs.....	18
P/HD and TBI Consultant.....	1
Physical Therapist/Physical Therapist Assistant.....	3
PLATO Lab Assistant.....	1
School Improvement Specialist.....	3
School Psychologist.....	15
School Social Worker.....	5
School Success Coordinator.....	6
Spanish Teacher.....	11
Special Education Teacher.....	1
Speech/Language Pathologist.....	6
Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing.....	5
Technology Coordinator.....	1

**We
 value
 and
 practice
 initiative,
 ingenuity,
 and
 creativity.**

“The variety of challenges encountered in schools serving students with unique learning difficulties keeps my job interesting and new. I am fortunate to work with many great staff in the schools as well as our Project.”
 Darwin Dyce, Physical and Health Disability Consultant
 15 years of service



Denise Hoek

“As I have stated for years at many meetings and to people within the organization and in the public, the best thing about working at the SC is that they let you put your family first.”
 Karen Warne, Bookkeeper
 18 years of service



Fran Stassen

“I enjoy the variety! I never know for sure what I will be doing that day. I've seen people as young as a few hours old and as old 106 to help with swallowing. My co-workers are fun and keep me going.”
 Susan Spieker, Speech Pathologist
 Montevideo Schools and Granite Falls Hospital.
 3 years of service

“The administration and all the staff at the Service Cooperatives have been extremely supportive of our projects and are always ready to pitch in to help out. As a result, the services we provide to students, teachers and school districts have increased dramatically over the years. This has been a great place to work.”
 Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Project Coordinator
 13 years of service

“I enjoy working with many school personnel – in their roles as coach, contact person, committee member, etc. I especially enjoy seeing how excited and happy students are when they show off projects they have made or talk about what they learned during one of our conferences for students or when they are successful in a competition such as Spelling Bee or Knowledge Bowl.”
 Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator
 29 years of service



Dana Coyle and Bill Schaefer

Governance

An elected board of directors representing our membership governs us. Advisory committees provide planning and evaluation input. We operate as a regional system delivering programs and services responsive to our members and others.

2006-2007 Superintendent Advisory Council

David Marlette, Tracy Public Schools
Loy Woelber, Westboork/Walnut Grove Public Schools
Bruce Houck, RTR Public Schools
Rick Ellingworth, Redwood Area Public Schools
David Baukol, Montevideo Public Schools
John Kraker, Minneota Public Schools
Gery Arndt, Jackson County Central Public Schools
John Brennen, Springfield Public Schools
Bill Strom, Mountain Lake Public Schools
Larry Peterson, Eden Valley/Watkins Public Schools
Mike Funk, BOLD Public Schools

Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY Public Schools
Dwayne Strand, Yellow Medicine East Public Schools
Rick Clark, Chair, Buffalo Lake/Hector Public Schools
Robert Tews, Cedar Mountain Public Schools
Doug Froke, Windom Public Schools
Klint Willert, Marshall Public Schools
Del Brouwer, Willmar Community Christian
Jeff Williamson, Minnesota West-Worthington
Diane Graber, Minnesota West-Worthington
Loren Wiger, Southwest Minnesota State University



“It has been a privilege to serve on the SW/WC SC Board of Directors since 1990— supporting our members by providing services for children and families. Whether the service is Special Education, Teaching/Learning, Risk Management or Administrative, the SC staff focuses on delivering quality assistance— they never fail to impress me with their commitment. A special thanks to Lee Warne— we were so fortunate to have his years of dedication to our region.”

~Sally Vogt

Canby Public Schools

SW/WC Service Cooperatives Board Chair



Kathi Thymian
Ortonville Public Schools



Paul Henriksen
RTR Public Schools



Stephanie Cordes
RTR Public Schools



Loren Mathews
Glencoe/Silver Lake Public Schools

Board of Directors



Michael Zins, Vice-Chair
Fulda Public Schools



Richard Vroman, Clerk
Milroy Public Schools



Daniel Benson, Treasurer
Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg
Public Schools



Michael O'Brien
New London/Spicer Public Schools



Maydra Maas
Westbrook/Walnut Grove Public Schools



Daniel Zimansky
Tracy Public Schools



Don Brugman
Windom Public Schools

Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives

1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
507.537.2240
Fax 507.537.7663

Montevideo Area Special Education Cooperative

306 North First Street
Montevideo, MN 56265
320.269.9243
Fax 320.269.7132

Little Crow Special Education Cooperative

611 Southwest 5th Street
Willmar, MN 56201
320.231.5184
Fax 320.231.5302



Pipestone Special Education Cooperative

PO Box 69, 713 6th Street Southeast
Pipestone, MN 56164
507.825.5858
Fax 507.825.4035

Red Rock Ridge Special Education Cooperative

North Highway 71, PO Box 265
Windom, MN 56101-0265
504.831.2936
Fax 507.831.2938

Visit us online at:

www.swsc.org

Our website offers a general guide to programs and services, information about training opportunities, special events, employment openings, links to other Special Education Cooperatives, and much more!

This report is published for educators, legislators, and business/government partners who enable us to provide relevant, cost-efficient, and high quality services to schools and communities throughout the 18-county Southwest and West Central Minnesota region. You'll see throughout the pages of this document why we are proud of who we are and what we do to make a difference every day in schools and communities.