

APPROVED 9/24/15
RAMS Board Meeting Minutes
August 27, 2015
Nashwauk City Hall
7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: President Carlene Perfetto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. following our tour of Essar Steel.

2. Roll Call: Present: Carlene Perfetto, Pat Garrity, Ray Marsnik, John Berklich, Ed Zabinski, Warren Stolp, Ben DeNucci, Mark Forte, Pat Medure, Mark Skelton, Bob Berrini, Walt Hautala, Paul Kess, Herb Sellars, and Deron Stender. There are 2 vacancies on the board.

Alternate present: Jeff Polcher. Voting alternate present: Stuart Lehman
Steve Giorgi, Executive Director was also present.

3. Approve Agenda: Pat Medure made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by John Berklich.
Motion carried.

4. Deron Stender made a motion to approve the July 23, 2015 board meeting minutes. Second by Walt Hautala. Motion carried.

5. Committee reports: The Constitution and By-Laws committee met. Members are: Mark Forte, Mark Skelton, John Klarich, Steve Giorgi and Charlie Baribeau. A draft of the constitution was sent to the board for their review. Steve Giorgi reviewed the proposed changes with the board. Discussion followed. In order to implement proposed revisions the "Constitution and By-Laws" will be mailed to the full membership for their approval. Under Article III, Number 4, Mark Skelton made a motion to "strike the names of the individual organizations and leave "media and other private interests". Warren Stolp second. Motion carried. Discussion continued on proposed changes, additions and deletions to the constitution. The committee will meet again and bring back another draft to the board.

6. Executive Director Steve Giorgi gave his report which had previously been sent to the board.

7. Old Business:

a) Insurance Policies summary was included in the board packet. The only policy not included is long-term disability which was part of the offer to Steve. All renewal and term dates will coincide.

b) Website Development – The board previously approved using Cold Snap Technology for website development. Our plan is to go 'live' before our next meeting.

c) Storage Unit in Buhl - Christopher Welter, archivist at the MN Discovery Center has been contacted regarding preserving RAMS historical data. The plan is to have the storage unit cleaned out before the lease has be renewed.

8. New Business:

a) Open Board Position: There were two nominees, Charlie Baribeau from the city of Virginia and Al Stanaway from the city of Mt. Iron. Ed Zabinski made a motion to appoint Charlie Baribeau. Ray Marsnik second. Discussion followed. A voice vote was taken and was inconclusive. Results of the Roll-call Vote were: Pat Garrity – no, Ray Marsnik-yes, John Berklich-N, Ed Zabinski-yes, Warren Stolp-no, Ben DeNucci-no, Stuart Lehman-no, Pat Medure-no, Mark Skelton-yes, Bob Berrini-yes, Walt Hautala-no, Paul Kess-no, Herb Sellars-yes, Deron Stender-no, Carlene

Perfetto-abstain. Motion failed 10 – 5 with 1 abstain. Mark Forte made a motion that we appoint Al Stanaway to fill the vacancy. Ben DeNucci second. Motion carried.

- b) Resolution on Executive Director becoming a registered lobbyist: Ed Zabinski made a motion to approve the resolution for Steve Giorgi to become a registered lobbyist. Mark Skelton second. Motion carried.
- c) Employment Offer for Carol Backman: Paul Kess made a motion to approve the offer as presented. John Berklich second. Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- d) Spending Authority of Executive Director: Herb Sellars made a motion to give Steve Giorgi the authority to spend up to \$1000 per purchase without prior approval by the board. Pat Garrity second. Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- e) Cell Phone Purchase: Pat Medure made a motion that we purchase the phone for \$549.00 and that we sever our contract with AT & T. Mark Skelton second. Discussion followed. Motion carried.
- f) Payroll Service: Pat Medure made a motion that we take Steve’s recommendation and use ARCC for our payroll services Warren Stolp second. Motion carried.
- g) Simple IRA: Ed Zabinski made a motion to approve the simple IRA plan. Mark Forte second. Motion carried.
- h) RAMS credit card: Herb Sellars made a motion that Steve Giorgi be authorized to use the RAMS credit card. John Berklich second. Discussion followed. Herb Sellars amended his motion that Steve could spend up to \$5000 on the credit card. John Berklich agreed with the amendment. Motion carried.
- i) Resolution of Support: “Resilient Forest Service Act of 2015” HR2647. Amy Klobuchar is looking for us to lend our support. Mark Skelton made a motion to support HR2647. Pat Medure second. Motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously on a roll-call vote 15 – 0. Resolution is adopted.

9. Carol gave her office report. All old computer files from 2001 – present have been organized and moved to the new computer.

10. Approval of Bills & Expenditures: The document was included in the board packet. We received \$71,100 in TRF. Warren Stolp made a motion to approve the bills and expenditures. Walt Hautala second. Motion carried. We currently have \$327,007.38 in the bank. The budget and finance committee will meet before the next board meeting and come back with recommendations.

Herb Sellars again proposed the idea of RAMS offering 10 - \$1000 need-based scholarships in our area. It was suggested that we seek out free legal advice to see if are able do this and report at the next meeting.

Executive Director Steve Giorgi thanked Mayor DeNucci for hosting the board meeting in Nashwauk.

The next RAMS Board meeting will be on September 24 at 6:00 p.m. at the Northeast Service Cooperative in Mt. Iron. Deputy Commissioner Mary Finnegan will be attending the meeting.

Warren Stolp made a motion to adjourn. Paul Kess second. Motion carried.

President Carlene Perfetto adjourned the meeting.

*NOTE: Corrections and additions may be made to these minutes at the 9/24/15 board meeting.