

Range Association of Municipalities and Schools

Board Meeting Minutes -
Thursday, September 24, 2015
Northeast Service Cooperative Building
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order – President Carlene Perfetto 6:05 pm
2. Roll Call - Present: Carlene Perfetto; Dave Worshek; Ray Marsnik; Bob Larson; Ed Zabinski; Warren Stolp; Ben Denucci; Mark Forte; Ben Hawkins (alternate); Mark Skelton, Kim Stokes, Bob Berrini; Al Stanaway; Stu Lehman (alternate); Dennis Zinter (alternate); Herb Sellars; Deron Stender; Steve Giorgi, Ex Director
15 present/9 absent (Pat Garrity arrived at 6:35 pm) guests – Charlie Baribeau
3. Review and Approve Agenda (action) *Motion to approve agenda – Motion by Ed Zabinski/Kim Stokes - motion carried.*
4. Approve Meeting Minutes of August, 27, 2015 meeting. *Motion by Deron Stender/Ben Hawkins seconded – motion carried.*
5. Committee Reports – Constitution/by-laws – *Charlie Baribeau provided a brief update on the work of the committee to update the constitution which will be reviewed in detail by the board. Charlie thanked the members of the committee, Mark Skelton, Mark Forte, John Klarich, and Steve Giorgi.*
6. Executive Director Report – *Steve provided an update on his activities in the past few weeks which included meetings in Mt. Iron and Virginia, with the Mayors and City Administrators. Steve has continued to work on materials needed for the launching of the RAMS website and there is hope to go live perhaps next week. More work has been done on archiving of RAMS files from the storage unit in Buhl.*
7. Old Business
 - a. Website design & development – *Steve provided a visual preview of the website and an update on what is needed to complete the design and development phase before the site can go live. The last week of September the project should be completed.*
 - b. Storage unit – *A request has been sent to the historical archivist, Chris Weller at Iron World to meet in Buhl and examine the files to see if they will accept the files for historical purposes. Steve stated that he may be calling on one of the RAMS member units to provide storage for two filing cabinets. Herb Sellars from Great Scott Township indicated they may be able to accommodate our storage needs.*
 - c. Payroll - *ARCC has provided a final billing for their payroll services, lower than originally bid. By the October payroll, auto deposit should be functioning.*
8. New Business
 - a. Open Administrative Assistant Position – *Steve discussed the resignation of Carol Backman from RAMS and thanked her for her years of dedicated service and*

emphasized how important Carol had been to RAMS and his transition into his position. Steve recommended that the position be posted and filled ASAP. Steve also went through the additions to the job description for the position and recommended approval of those changes. Motion by Deron Stender/Ray Marsnik second to post the position and approve the updated job description. Motion carried.

- b. Thank you to Carol Backman – Steve informed the board of the gift certificate presented to Carol and the nice thank you card he gave Carol on behalf of the RAMS Board of Directors and himself. Carol was very appreciative.*
- c. Review of By-law revisions – discussion on next step – Steve provided a complete review of the RAMS constitution which was last amended in 2005. This review involved a great deal of healthy discussion and clarification by all. The Constitution/By-law committee’s recommendations were acceptable to the Board with the following exceptions:
Motion by Ed Zabinski/Herb Sellars second to delete the last 3 lines in Article VII- Section 6 as they were redundant. Motion passed.
Motion by Deron Stender/Ed Zabinski second to eliminate item #1 in Article VII – Section 2 and any references to this provision in the constitution as it is no longer an active or applicable reference. Motion passed.
Finally a Motion was made by Deron Stender/Warren Stolp second to recommend the changes in the constitution and to hold a formal vote at the October meeting. Discussion on the voting process took place and it was clarified that per the constitution, each RAMS member unit would be provided the revised constitution and a ballot to vote on approval or rejection with votes to be tallied at the October meeting. Motion carried.*
- d. Review of Membership numbers by sector and dues formula – Steve provided a spreadsheet with the current dues assessments for all RAMS Association members, along with a proposal for dues based on a formula that was computed either by population or student enrollments. Steve recommended that this issue be referred back to the Finance Committee for further discussion and by consensus that will take place.*
- e. Discussion on grant writing/strategic planning conference –Steve proposed to either host a conference with a local grant writer and ARDC for RAMS members to assist our smaller units with the challenges they face trying to secure State, County or Federal grants.*
- f. Banking & investment options – Steve provided some investment rates of return from three (3) separate banks. Due to the fund balance in the RAMS account at this time it seems prudent to look at investment options with a portion of the funds. Steve recommended this be referred to the Finance Committee for a recommendation at the October meeting. By consensus this will be done. Steve informed the Board that the First National Bank of Buhl does have an interest bearing small business checking account and recommended that the current account be switched to the small business*

account. Motion by Ed Zabinski/Deron Stender second to move to the interest bearing small business checking account. Motion carried.

9. Office Personnel Report – No one to report.
10. Approval of Bills and Expenditures *Steve provided a review of the monthly financial transactions for RAMS. Expenses through the month of August totaled \$2005.01. The ending balance in the account was \$328,326.27. Motion by Deron Stender/Kim Stokes second to approve the report and pay the bills. Motion carried.*
11. Other - *Steve reported that he had contacted the State Auditor’s office with a request for an answer to the question raised by Herb Sellars regarding the possibility of RAMS offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The question is whether or not RAMS can use general fund dollars for scholarships. Steve was notified that the request had been turned over to the legal department at the Auditor’s office.*
Charlie Baribeau provided an update on the Highway 53 relocation and the bridge project. The City of Virginia has secured bonding for their portion of the cost of the construction of the bridge and the project is on a fast track for construction.
Mayor Mark Skelton provided some information about his recent tour of the Eagle Mine in Marquette, Michigan. Mark described it as a “smart mine” because it has such strict environmental standards and is so well contained that the end product discharge is so clean the company has to add minerals back into the water. The technology is there to provide a safe environment for our communities and he was able to see it first-hand.
12. Next meeting date: *Thursday, October 22, 6:00 p.m. NESC*
13. Member Floor Privileges – On Agenda Items Only
14. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm – Meeting adjourned.

This are the unofficial minutes of the September 24, 2015, RAMS Board of Directors meeting. This minutes may be amended at the October 22, 2015 Board meeting.