

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building

President Charlie Baribeau called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Charlie Baribeau (City of Virginia);** Cyndi Worshek (ISD 2711-Mesabi East); **Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids);** Richard Aldrich (ISD 701-Hibbing, Supt Assn); **Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt);** Bob Berrini (Morse Township); Jim Fisher,(McDavitt Township); **Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Paul Kess, (City of Ely); Philip Medure (Great Scott Township);** Kim McLaughlin (ISD 701-Hibbing); **Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk);** Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge) (Supt Assn); Reggie Engrebritson (ISD 712-MIB) (Supt Assn); **Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Stacey Scholz, ISD 2909 Rock Ridge;** Dave Worshek (City of Aurora); Chris Vreeland (City of Hoyt Lakes)

Absent: ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin; City of Chisholm; City of Hibbing; City of Tower; City of Buhl; Cherry Township

Also Present: **Ida Rukavina, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Adm Assistant;** State Senator Justin Eichorn; State Rep Dave Lislegard; **State Rep Julie Sandstede; State Rep Rob Ecklund;** State Senator David Tomassoni; State Rep Mary Murphy; State Rep Dale Lueck; State Rep Spencer Igo; Jeff Anderson **(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)**

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to accept the agenda was moved by Adams and supported by Hoff. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Moved by Pat Medure and supported by Saari to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held October 28, 2021. Motion carried.

Appearances:

The Board was joined by State Senators Eichorn and Tomassoni, and State Representatives Lislegard, Sandstede, Ecklund, Murphy, Lueck, and Igo. Each of the delegation spoke of what they were working towards with many things in common, including the bonding bill and redistricting. Other topics that were brought up included the \$250M in Covid Hero funding (no agreement yet), Federal money (no rules, can't spend yet), transportation finance bill, \$1B owed for UI, nonferrous mining, budget surplus, childcare, housing, broadband, wolf hunt, wild rice legislature, Polymet, Line 3, Huber, and telehealth.

Director's Report:

Director Rukavina highlighted her activities for the month of November 2021.

- A. Director Rukavina attended many meetings during the month
- B. In addition to RAMS sending a letter to the Public Comment in support of Twin Metals, She encouraged every member to also submit a Public Comment.
- C. Planning a lunch and learn on the EV charging stations in rural areas due to the federal funding that will be available for this.

Old Business:

No old business.

New Business:

- A. Legislative update from Jeff Anderson:
 - 1. Great update listening to the local delegation!
 - 2. Special Session, if it happens, would deal with frontline worker bonuses, drought relief, and relief for hospitals and nursing homes. It is doubtful that it will happen.
 - 3. Positive feedback about bonding bill.
 - 4. Could be a record setting bonding bill proposal from the Governor's office.
 - 5. Budget forecast will likely indicate a surplus.
 - 6. Federal Infrastructure Bill and Build Back Better will take months to figure out funding for MN.
- B. The Annual Meeting:
 - 1. The Keynote Speaker will be Brian Hanson from APEX for the Annual Meeting.
 - 2. 11 nominations so far. Due by Dec 10.
 - 3. The full membership will be emailed a ballot before December 14.
 - 4. Members will be able to vote in-person (due to Covid) Tuesday, Dec 28, and Wednesday Dec 29 at the RAMS office, and in-person at the Annual Meeting.
 - 5. Ballot Committee is Pat Medure, Glenn Anderson, and Stacey Scholz.
 - 6. A motion to purchase \$100 gift cards for Lois and Steve was made by Stolp and supported by Kess. Motion carried.
- C. A request was made by United Way for a donation to their Kindness Grant. The request was received and filed.
- D. Director Rukavina discussed some promotional items that she would like to order for the Annual Meeting and other events: tote bags with the RAMS logo and note pads. A motion to approve these purchases was made by Anderson and supported by Scholz. Motion carried.
- E. A motion to write a letter in support of the Huber wood plant project was made by Pat Medure and supported by Kess. Discussion included the importance of growth, diversity, and jobs in the area. Motion carried.
- F. A motion to send Twin Metals letter of support for DNR public comment period was made by Fisher and supported by Saari. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

Stacey Scholz, ISD 2909 Rock Ridge

- A. Eveleth-Gilbert and Virginia came together to form Rock Ridge High school with an academy style learning curriculum. The new E-G elementary school will be built first, the new high school second, and the new Roosevelt will be built third in Virginia (where the current one stands). This is an \$180M project with a large amount of that coming from IRRRB. There had been over 100 public meetings regarding this project, with RAMS helping to coordinate some of those. The project is on time and on budget. Around \$1M in donations from the community have been received. Thank you to RAMS for the support during this!

Finance Committee Report:

- A. Pat Medure reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held December 1, 2021:
 - 1. Expenditures for the period of October 28-November 30, in the total amount of \$11,642.34.
 - 2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 84.4%.
 - 3. Balance Sheet - \$364,280.21

Moved by Anderson and supported by Adams to accept the financial reports. Motion carried.

Other:

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RAMS Board will be held at 6:00 P.M. on December 29, 2021, at the Mt Iron Community Center for the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.