

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 23, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building, Mt Iron, MN

Executive Director Peltier called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Angela Campbell (City of Ely); Ryan Davies (Town of Harris); Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Cathy Erickson (City of Two Harbors); Jim Fisher (Town of McDavitt); Justin Fosso (City of Hibbing); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Dan Goette (City of Aurora); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids – Supt); Shane Hoff (City of Sliver Bay); Jed Holewa (City of Chisholm); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); Phil Medure (Town of Great Scott); Ron Pittman (Town of Cherry); Bob Rahja (ISD 695 Chisholm); John Rauzi (City of Eveleth); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk); Kathleen Undeland (ISD 2711 Mesabi East).**

Absent: Town of Morse; ISD 2412 St Louis County; ISD 696 Ely; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge – Supt.

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Brennan Scott (City of Hoyt Lakes); Judy Wahlberg (Town of Great Scott); Pat Haley (City of Kinney); Kelly Sather (St Louis County); Aubrie Hoover (NESC); Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids).**

(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Election of Officers:

PRESIDENT: Stolp nominated Kalmi; Hoff nominated Friedlieb. After a vote by a show of hands, Kalmi won 11-9. Kalmi accepted.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Stolp nominated Fisher; Hoff nominated Friedlieb. Friedlieb withdrew and Fisher accepted.

TREASURER: Friedlieb nominated Hoff. Hoff accepted.

Review and Approve Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to accept the agenda was made by Rahja and supported by Grose. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 21, 2024, and the Annual Meeting minutes from December 19, 2024, was made by Davis and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on December 30, 2024.

1. Expenditures for November 20 – December 31, 2024, totaling \$42,962.06.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 114.2%.
3. Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024, is \$477,807.29.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Pittman and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Kelly Sather (St Louis County) and Aubrie Hoover (NESC) to discuss the Better Together Behavioral Health Network. Better Together is made up of seven local agencies and regional partners in Northeast Minnesota. The network began two years ago and is in the process of applying to become a 501(c)(3). The goal of Better Together is to bring more providers to the area and education for leadership. Better Together recently hosted a Behavior Health Regional Summit and has been awarded two HRSA grants in the past. They are currently applying for a HRSA grant that will provide \$250k per year for four years. A motion to provide a letter of support for Better Together Behavioral Health Network was made by Fisher and supported by Rahja. Motion carried.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in January. Peltier discussed his meeting with Mayor Hyduke (Hibbing) and PBS North that resulted in a short video that will air on PBS North describing the RAMS organization. He also discussed updates with NRRI and green iron, Beed, the aging of school roofs, permitting for gas, and the letter of support for the Superior National Forrest Restoration Act.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Executive Director Peltier presented a RAMS Board Welcome Packet to all Board Members. The packet included information on members, bylaws, policies, legislative priorities, maps, and other materials related to RAMS.
- A list of proposed RAMS meeting dates for 2025 was discussed. A motion to approve the meeting dates was made by Fisher and supported by Grose. Motion carried.
- 2025 Membership dues were discussed. A motion to increase Membership dues with a CPI increase of 2.9% was made by Friedlieb and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter of support for HF8 (Heintzeman) was made by Fisher and supported by Campbell. Motion carried.

- A motion to approve the Letter of Engagement from Fort and Company for the RAMS 2024 Audit was made by Kvas and supported by Rahja. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

New Board Members introduced themselves:

Davis: Retired Deputy Sherriff of 31 years, appreciative to be on RAMS Board

Rauzi: Seven years as Councilor, 20 years as Firefighter, 40 years with Ambulance Service

Holewa: Councilor for two years, newly certified paramedic, 16 years at HibTac

Fosso: Two terms as Councilor, Delta airlines for 20 years, excited about new campground in Hibbing

Loeffler: Third year as Councilor, Social worker for 8 years, probation officer for 10 years

Campbell: Six years as Councilor, six years as RAMS Alternate, committed to mental health and pro mining

Rahja: Twenty-four years on School Board, 20 years with NESC, new Chisholm school should open in 2026

Undeland: Fourth term on ME School Board, French and Math teacher, EIP Board

Erickson: Thirteen years as Councilor, Director of School Finance for MN Dept of Education, worked for ARCC and Duluth Public Schools

Kvas: Third term on MIB School Board, worked in college system for 20 years, city planning for 5 years, Principal at Marquette for 5 years, works at NESC in Workforce Development

Other:

- Fisher recommended a tour of the Rock Ridge Schools.

Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be the RAMS Annual Meeting at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building on February 27, 2025.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45PM.