

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 26, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Bob Berrini (Morse Township); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Dan Goette (City of Aurora); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Pamela LaFrenier (ISD 2711-Mesabi East); Julie Lucas (French Township); Philip Medure (Great Scott Township); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Travis Vake (City of Chisholm); Dr Rae Villebrun (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin Supt Assn); Cal Warwas (Clinton Township); Jim Weikum (City of Biwabik); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)**

Absent: **ISD 701-Hibbing, Supt Assn; McDavitt Township; City of Silver Bay; City of Hibbing; City of Calumet**

Also Present: **Steve Giorgi, Interim Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant**
(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Review and Approve Agenda:

Approve Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 17, 2022, and October 27, 2022, was made by Zins and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

Appearances:

There was no guest this month.

Director's Report:

Interim Executive Director Giorgi discussed his time catching up and getting reacclimated with RAMS. He has been touching base with Jeff Anderson on a regular basis and watching the Legislative session as much as possible. His report was sent out to Board members.

He discussed his meeting with the Northern St Louis County Housing coalition. The Minnesota Housing Partnership is accepting 4 applications for Cohort #9 until January 31, 2023. They are looking for shovel ready projects to help with. If you need a letter of support from RAMS, please reach out. Itasca County Housing meeting will be May 4, 2023.

Today the news broke that there will be a 20-year moratorium on mining exploration and land use for 225,000 acres in Cook, Lake, and St Louis Counties. This is not good news for Twin Metals. RAMS will wait to see what Twin Metals will do.

Old Business:

Discussion was held on the Annual Meeting. It is estimated that 150 people were in attendance (much fewer than the anticipated number due to weather). Everyone liked the venue and food. Highlights that were mentioned were the Tomassoni tribute and Senator Bakk's comments.

Interim Executive Director Giorgi will try to secure the ITMEC for this year's Annual Meeting with the tentative date of Thursday, December 14, 2023.

New Business:

1. A motion to approve Interim Executive Director Giorgi's consulting agreement was made by Warwas and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.
2. A motion to approve the contract with Fort & Co for the RAMS yearly audit was made by Kalmi and supported by Berrini. Motion carried.
3. Discussion was held on the open position of the Executive Director. Ads were placed regionally, and 1 application has been submitted as of today. A committee has been formed to discuss the process of hiring; Friedlieb and Weikum volunteered for this committee. A motion to extend the posting was made by Kess and supported by Stolp. Motion carried.
4. Discussion was held on the need for a modification to the Code of Conduct. A committee was formed to review the Code of Conduct; Warwas and Friedlieb volunteered for this committee. It will be further discussed at the next meeting.
5. A motion to approve the contract with Costin Group was made by Pittman and supported by Saari. Motion carried.
6. The Legislative update was given by Interim Executive Director Giorgi as the zoom link for Anderson was not working.
 - a. Unemployment Insurance was extended for the workers at Northshore Mining with thanks to the Range Delegation.
 - b. Codifying reproductive rights.
 - c. Carbon free electricity by 2040 (Cliffs and MNPower expressed concerns about continuous power for large industry and rates).
 - d. Governor Walz came out with a \$3.3B Bonding proposal. Possibility of 2 bonding bills, with one hoping to pass by the end of February in the amount of \$2B. Bonding projects included: Trailhead funding, St James Pit (Aurora), Vermilion Community College, Giant's Ridge.
 - e. Giorgi has been invited to attend the Iron Ore Alliance meeting on February 6 and St Louis County days February 8-9.
 - f. Tax refunds, early childhood/daycare, cap on Social Security are also topics being discussed.
 - g. Skraba and Lislegard are working on a Veteran's bill.
7. A motion to approve the Legislative Meeting and Dinner in St Paul was made by Warwas and supported by Anderson. Motion carried. A tentative date is February 15, 2023. RAMS would like at least 4 Board members to attend the event.
8. A motion to certify the election held on December 15, 2023, was made by Zins and supported by Lucas. Motion carried.
9. A motion to remove Ida Rukavina from all financial accounts was made by Lucas and supported by Adams. Motion carried.
10. Nominations and Election of Officers:
 - a. Saari nominated Pat Medure for President. No other nominations. Medure accepted the position.
 - b. Kalmi nominated Anderson for Vice President. No other nominations. Anderson accepted the position.
 - c. Stolp nominated Kalmi for Treasurer. No other nominations. Kalmi accepted the position.
11. OTHER: Finance committee would like a couple extra people on the committee. Kess and Adams volunteered. A thank you card will be sent to former Executive Director Rukavina for her work with RAMS.

Board Member Updates:

No update tonight.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held December 22, 2022:

1. Expenditures for the period of November 18-December 21, 2022, in the total amount of \$10,279.58
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is on track (93.5%).

3. Balance Sheet as of December 21, is \$376,125.39

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

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held January 26, 2023:

1. Expenditures for the period of December 22, 2022-January 25, 2023, in the total amount of \$10,798.61.

2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is on track (1.4%).

3. Balance Sheet as of January 25, 2023 is \$381,315.74

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

Other:

Dr Rae Villebrun gave an update on the new school for Nashwauk/Keewatin. The final design will be approved at the February meeting. Construction will begin in the spring of 2023, with a move-in time of fall of 2025.

Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RAMS Board will be held at 6:00 P.M. on February 23, 2023, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building

Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8pm.