

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 27, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building

President Charlie Baribeau called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: Charlie Baribeau (City of Virginia); Cyndi Worshek (ISD 2711-Mesabi East); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); 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); Jennifer Hoffman-Saccoman (City of Hibbing); Norma Jean Jofs (City of Aurora); Stuart Lehman (City of Buhl); Philip Medure (Great Scott Township); Kim McLaughlin (ISD 701-Hibbing); Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)

Absent: City of Silver Bay; City of Ely; City of Chisholm; City of Calumet; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge (Supt Assn); ISD 2909 Rock Ridge

Also Present: Ida Rukavina, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Adm Assistant; Ken Buehler; Jeff Anderson; Gary Friedlieb
(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to accept the agenda was moved by Fisher and supported by Lehman. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Moved by Kalmi and supported by Anderson to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held December 1, 2021. Motion carried.

Appearances:

The Board was joined by Ken Buehler from the Lake Superior Railway Museum, to give a presentation on the Northern Lights Express (NLX). This project has been underway for over 20 years, and it will utilize the greenest engine in the industry. It will make four trips daily between Union Depot in Duluth and Target Field in Minneapolis. Amtrak has listed this project as the most shovel ready project in America. The funding for this project is 80% Federal and 20% State.

Director's Report:

Director Rukavina highlighted her activities for the months of December 2021 and January 2022.

- A. RAMS, Superintendents, and Mayors submitted letters/comments about the mine rule. Huber letter of support was also submitted.
- B. Worked on sending out ballots and setting up the annual meeting.
- C. Went to fundraiser in St. Paul with Jeff Anderson and met with Sen. Bakk, Rep. Daudt, Speaker Hortman, House Majority Leader Winkler, Rep. Lee, Rep. Greenman, and more.
- D. Hosted an EV charging station webinar with MN Power, Great River Energy, Clean Energy resource team to learn more about the Federal funding that is coming.
- E. Range Mayors meeting was held and IRRRB came to talk about grants that were available.
- F. Annual Meeting went well, except for the technical side.
- G. Twin Metals informational webinar.
- H. CDBG meetings (2-3 days).

- I. Testified at USFS/BLM virtual hearing, along with Stacy Scholz, Jeff Anderson, and Pat Medure.
- J. Hosted MN State Demographer presentation (was recorded if anyone is interested).
- K. Added as a board member on Jobs for Minnesota.
- L. Thank you card from Lois Roskoski for the gift certificate.

Old Business:

The Federal Withdrawal Comment letter from RAMS was included in the packet.

New Business:

- A. A motion to certify the election results from the Annual Meeting was made by Adams and supported by Lehman. Motion carried. The new members were introduced.
- B. Election of Officers
 1. President: Cyndi Worshek was nominated by Kalmi, and Charlie Baribeau was nominated by Adams. Nominations were accepted. Roll call vote. Vote=10 Worshek, 7 Baribeau. Worshek elected President.
 2. Vice-President: Pat Medure was nominated by Kalmi. Nomination was accepted. A motion for a white ballot was made by Fisher and supported by Baribeau. Motion carried. Pat Medure elected Vice-President.
 3. Secretary/Treasurer: Barb Kalmi was nominated by Anderson. Nomination was accepted. A motion for a white ballot was made by Anderson and supported by Saari. Motion carried. Kalmi elected Secretary/Treasurer.
- C. Committee Assignments
 1. Constitution and Bylaws: Baribeau, Adams, Scholz
 2. Finance: Worshek, Kalmi, Baribeau, Pat Medure, Anderson
 3. Legislative Policy: Saari, Fisher, Lehman, Jofs, Berrini
- D. Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics policy distributed to be signed.
- E. A motion to table the Audit proposal for now was made by Kalmi and supported by Lehman. Motion carried.
- F. A motion to accept the lobbyist contract with Costin Group was made by Anderson and supported by Pat Medure. Motion carried.
- G. A discussion was held on the proposed Legislative Priorities. In addition to the handout in packet, 6000 Pre-K seats will be added and township roads and bridges. A motion to approve Legislative Priorities was made by Kalmi and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.
- H. IRRRB asked for a letter of support for the Good Jobs Challenge Grant. Letter was included in the packet. A motion to approve the letter was made by Fisher and supported by Lehman. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

Jim Fisher, McDavitt Township.

Attended a meeting with other townships and discussed the need for LGA. A lot of people are unaware of what townships are. Minnesota has the most townships of any state, and also the smallest in population (6 people!). Roads need the most help in these townships.

Finance Committee Report:

- A. Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held January 27, 2022:
 1. Expenditures for the period of December 1-December 31, 2021, in the total amount of \$10,933.97, and for the period of January 1-January 26, 2022, in the amount of \$7,753.93.
 2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is where it needs to be.
 3. Balance Sheet as of Jan 26 - \$395,654.13, as of December 31, 2021 - \$344,091.14

Moved by Fisher and supported by Lehman to accept the financial reports for December 2021. Motion carried.
 Moved by Anderson and Supported by Adams to accept the financial reports for January 2022. Motion carried.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RAMS Board will be held at 6:00 P.M. on February 24, 2022 at the Northeast Service Cooperative office.

Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Fisher and supported by Jofs. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45.