

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.

Nashwauk City Hall

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Bob Berrini (Morse Township); Ryan Davies (Harris Township); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Dan Geotte (City of Aurora); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Julie Lucas (French Township); Phil Medure (Great Scott Township); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); John Tuorila (City of Calumet); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Dr Rae Villebrun (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin Supt Assn); Jim Weikum (City of Biwabik); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)**

Absent: City of Grand Rapids; ISD 318 Grand Rapids; City of Silver Bay; ISD 2412 St Louis County Schools; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Ellsburg Township; Jeff Anderson**

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

Call to Order:

President Medure called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Review and Approve Agenda:

Medure recommends adding 9.C. (June meeting BBQ) and Kalmi recommends adding 8.A. (Letter of Support for Mesabi Metallics). Combined motion made by Berrini and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 25, 2024, was made by Kess and supported by Anderson. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 22, 2024.

1. Expenditures for April 25 – May 21, 2024, totaling \$13,662.28.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 47.6%.
3. Balance Sheet as of May 21, 2024, is \$ 443,476.92.

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

Appearance:

No appearance at the May meeting.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in May. Peltier highlighted end of session monitoring, yearly audit prep, Superintendents meeting, APEX Partners Focus Group, MN Power Integrated Resource Planning Group engagement, letters of support, and the Keetac ribbon cutting. He also reminded everyone that RAMS will break for summer after the June 27 meeting and resume meetings in September.

Old Business:

1. 8.A. A motion to send a letter of support to encourage the Governor, DNR, and Pollution Control to expedite the permit to mine amendment was made by Kalmi and supported by Davies. Those who voted in the affirmative were Pat Medure, Anderson, Kalmi, Berrini, Davies, Goette, Kess, Phil Medure, Saari, Stolp, Tuorila, and Villebrun. Those who voted in the negative were Freidlieb, Lucas, Pittman, Weikum, and Zins. Fisher abstained. The motion prevailed 12-5.

New Business:

1. 9.A. Discussion was held on the open Board seat due to the resignation of Warwas. Nominations will be due by 5PM on June 20, 2024. The Board may vote to appoint a nominee at the meeting on June 27, 2024.
2. 9.B. Jeff Anderson gave a Legislative Update
 - 11,023 bills were submitted for consideration
 - Bills that made it through the finish line: Tax; Environment and Natural Resources; Jobs, Workforce, and Economic Development Finance; Firearms; Transportation, Labor, and Housing; Education; Energy and Agriculture; Human Services; Cannabis with Commerce Provisions; Emergency Medical Services
 - Uber and Lyft will stay in MN
 - Updates to the Earned Safe and Sick Time
 - EMS will receive \$30M (Bill signed in Hoyt Lakes)
 - Bonding bill, ERA, and rank choice voting did not make it through this year
 - RAMS did get an increase from the production tax

3. 9.C. Discussion was held regarding the June 27 RAMS meeting. A motion to invite the Range Delegation and one representative from each RAMS Member for a Duke Skorich BBQ at the June meeting was made by Kalmi and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

Other:

Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

The next RAMS Board Meeting will be held on June 27, 2024, at 6:00pm, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM.