

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 27, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building, Mt Iron, MN

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

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Bob Berrini (Town of Morse); Angela Campbell (City of Ely);** Ryan Davies (Town of Harris); **Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Jim Fisher (Town of McDavitt); Justin Fosso (City of Hibbing); Larry Cuffe (City of Virginia); Dan Goette (City of Aurora); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids – Supt); Shane Hoff (City of Sliver Bay); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Phil Medure (Town of Great Scott); Ron Pittman (Town of Cherry); Bob Rahja (ISD 695 Chisholm); John Rauzi (City of Eveleth); Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge Supt); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk);**

Absent: City of Two Harbors; City of Chisholm; ISD 2412 St Louis County; City of Buhl; ISD 696 Ely; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (Grand Rapids); Emily Roose (Ely); Sheila Jensen (Nashwauk).**

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

Review and Approve Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed and amended to add 8.I. LOS for Mike Jugovich and 8.J. LOS for NESC. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Grose and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 23, 2025, the LOS for HF 8, the LOS for SF 1197, and the LOS for HR 978 was made by Rahja and supported by Fosso. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on January 31, 2025.

1. Expenditures for January 1 – January 30, 2025, totaling \$9,361.22.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 4.4%.

3. Balance Sheet as of January 30, 2025, is \$484,509.96.

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 27, 2025.

1. Expenditures for January 31 – February 26, 2025, totaling \$20,595.61.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 13.5%
3. Balance Sheet as of February 26, 2025, is \$513,130.26.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Fisher and supported by Berrini. Motion carried.

Appearance:

The scheduled appearance of Mike Lilegren (DNR, Assistant Director of Lands and Minerals) has been postponed until March. Executive Director Peltier gave a rundown of what the future presentation will include.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in February. Peltier discussed ISD 712 (MIB) going to a 4-day school week, the RAMS Legislative Reception on March 11, the Ranger Reception on April 7, and the need for housing grants in the TAA. Peltier also discussed his meetings with Members and with perspective Members, welcoming the newest Member, Breitung Township.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- The LOS for HF 8 that was sent to the House will also be sent to the Senate for SF 570.
- A motion to send a LOS encouraging the MN Legislature to pass a Capital Investment Bill was made by Fisher and supported by Campbell. Motion carried.
- The RAMS Board discussed the different possibilities that may come with tax policy relating to Oil and Natural Gas.
- A motion to approve a new event (RAMS Membership Lobby Day) was made by Fosso and supported by Hoff. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve LOS for HF 1067 (MN Housing Tax Credit Program Modifications) was made by Fisher and supported by Rahja. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve LOS encouraging investment in housing programs was made by Campbell and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve LOS for SF 1702 (Prohibition on School Trust Land Sale in BWCAW) was made by Hoff and supported by Berrini. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a LOS to recommend Mike Jugovich to the LCCMR Committee was made by Pittman and Berrini. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a LOS for the NESCC to renew, restore, and revitalize the Laurentian Environmental Center was made by Rahja and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Davis: SF 1382 and SF 1744 could be damaging towards the permitting process

Next Meeting:

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

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.