

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 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: **Barb Kalmi (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Jim Fisher (Town of McDavitt); Shane Hoff (City of Sliver Bay); Bob Berrini (Town of Morse); Emily Roose (City of Ely); Ryan Davies (Town of Harris); Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Justin Fosso (City of Hibbing); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids – Supt); Jed Holewa (City of Chisholm); Chris Koivisto (ISD 2412 St Louis County); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); Phil Medure (Town of Great Scott); Tom Omerza (ISD 696 Ely); 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); Kathleen Undeland (ISD 2711 Mesabi East)**

Absent: City of Two Harbors; City of Aurora

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (Grand Rapids); Tom Warwas (ISD 319); Rep Roger Skraba; Dr Don Elsenheimer (DNR)**

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

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from February 27, 2025, the LOS for SF1197/HF 1161, the LOS for SF1702/HF 1425, and the LOS urging Legislature to pass a Capital Investment package was made by Holewa and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

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

1. Expenditures for February 27 – March 26, 2025, totaling \$14,965.35.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 20.3%.
3. Balance Sheet as of March 26, 2025, is \$614,276.44.

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

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Dr Don Elsenheimer from the MN DNR to discuss the permitting and regulations regarding gas resource development in Minnesota. Current legislation includes a moratorium on gas production without a permit, forming a Technical Advisory Committee, recommendations on permitting under temporary framework, expedited rule making (24 months), and authorization to lease. Draft recommendations and legislative language were submitted to the State Legislature on January 15, 2025. Draft recommendations included permitting requirements and processes, financial assurance, taxation, environmental review, gas well construction, environmental permits, and pooling and spacing. Visit gasproductionrules.gov to view recommendations, draft legislative language, best regulatory practices report, compilation of input, and link to 2025 legislative proposals.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in March. Peltier thanked those who came to the Legislative Reception on March 11. He also discussed the Iron Ore Alliance Meeting, the Seasonal Recreation Bill, the Governor's budget, town aid, the permanent school fund, Mesabi Metallica lobby day (April 9), and RAMS lobby day and Ranger Party (April 7). Peltier congratulated Sen Farnsworth as the new Chair of IRRR and welcomed Beatty Township as the newest member of RAMS.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- A motion to approve a LOS for SF 2116/HF 1996 regarding Town Aid increases was made by Fisher and supported by Holewa. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a LOS for SF 2618/HF 2834 regarding Blight Aid appropriation was made by Davis and supported by Loeffler. Motion carried.
- A motion to table a LOS for SF 2530/HF 2447 regarding Gas Production Tax was made by Rahja and supported by Holewa. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed a draft Job Description for the Executive Director position that was put together by Kalmi, Kvas, and Friedlieb.
- A motion to approve a \$1000 donation to the MN Discovery Center for the 2025 Science and Engineering Festival was made by Davis and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Davis: A reduction in PILT will be damaging.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building on April 24, 2025.

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15PM.