

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 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 Silver Bay); Bob Berrini (Town of Morse); Angela Campbell (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); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk)**

Absent: City of Two Harbors; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge – Supt; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (Grand Rapids); Steve Biondich (City of Biwabik); Brandi Lautigar (Rock Ridge School Board); James Devine (Twin Metals); Jennifer Cady (MN Power); Jon Skelton (MN Power); Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); Don Warwas (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Jace Swanson; Doug Gregor (City of Aurora); John Upton (Ellsburg Township)**

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

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rahja and supported by Holewa. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from April 24, 2025, and three Letters of Support was made by Kvas and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 22, 2025.

1. Expenditures for April 24 – May 21, 2025, totaling \$17,395.19.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 39.3%.
3. Balance Sheet as of May 21, 2025, is \$580,210.87.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Grose and supported by Campbell. Motion carried.

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Jennifer Cady and Josh Skelton to discuss the Allete/Minnesota Power acquisition. The acquisition aims to strengthen the operational and financial foundation of Minnesota Power while enhancing its commitment to providing reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy solutions to customers. Minnesota Power will remain headquartered in Duluth and is expected to hit 90% renewable energy by 2035.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on some of his activities in May:

- Attended Dan Goette's funeral
- Hosted meetings regarding broadband (mini projects) at NESC and Beatty Township
- Mayors meeting will be in Coleraine
- Plans to attend Membership meetings throughout the summer
- Tracking PILT, SFIA, LGA
- Permanent School Fund will come to Chisholm for a meeting
- Planning the Summer Member Event

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- The Board met with three nominees for the vacant Board seat. Each nominee (Rick Blake, Brandi Lautigar, Steve Biondich) spoke to the Board for 4 minutes. By a show of hands, Steve Biondich led the votes and accepted the seat with a term ending 12/31/25.
- A motion to approve the RAMS Executive Director Job Description was made by Fisher and supported by Holewa. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve the new Executive Director Evaluation Process was made by Hoff and supported by Grose. Motion carried.
- Executive Director Peltier will work with Jeff Anderson to pick a date for the Summer Membership Meeting with the goal that Legislators will be able to attend.
- Jeff Anderson gave an update on the Legislature:
 - ❖ The session ended on Monday, May 19, with no big bills passed
 - ❖ Still left unresolved: taxes, jobs and labor, health and human services, finance, transportation, education
 - ❖ Bills that have been passed: Agriculture, broadband, vets, cannabis, human services policy, legacy
 - ❖ A Special Session won't be called until everything has been settled. It will likely be 2-3 days long. If the budget is not passed by June 1, layoff notices will go out to state employees, with a layoff starting July 1.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

- The next regular Board meeting will be at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building on September 25, 2025.

Other:

- Medure shared his opinion that they should increase the number of Board of Directors.
- Koivisto shared that there will be wildfire training in Itasca from June 2-6. Cost is \$85, with a dorm room charge of \$36/night.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.