

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 23, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

Rock Ridge High School, Virginia, 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); Steve Biondich (City of Biwabik); 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); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); Tom Omerza (ISD 696 Ely); Ron Pittman (Town of Cherry); John Rauzi (City of Eveleth); Noel Schmidt (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge Supt); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk)**

Absent: City of Two Harbors; ISD 2412 St Louis County; Town of Great Scott; ISD 695 Chisholm; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids); Don Warwas (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); Mike Hoche (Rock Ridge Tech Support)**

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

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Friedlieb and supported by Biondich. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 25, 2025, was made by Campbell and supported by Grose. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

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

1. Expenditures for September 25 – October 22, 2025, totaling \$17,906.40.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 74.5%.
3. Balance Sheet as of October 22, 2025, is \$612,284.99.

A motion to approve the Finance Committee Report was made by Rauzi and supported by Fosso. Motion carried.

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Jeff Anderson from the Costin Group to give an update on the upcoming Legislative Session. Next year the House will again be split (D/R) and the Senate will have a 1 person DFL majority. It is an election year with all House and Senate seats up for election, as well as the Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and State Auditor. The MN House and Senate both took Bonding Tours two weeks ago. The House Representatives made many stops including Ely, Virginia, Chisholm, and Hibbing, while the Senators made just a couple stops and followed up with zoom meetings. Because a budget was passed in 2025, there is no need for an education or tax bill in 2026. Anderson encouraged RAMS Members to invite their Representative or Senator to their place to talk before February 17th!

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on some of his activities over the month of October:

- Statewide sulfate strategy
- Constitutional amendment language
- Brownfields meeting in Hibbing October 29
- Broadband
- DNR overpayments
- Budget and Dues
- November 5th Miti Forum

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- A motion to approve the Consultant Agreement between RAMS and Costin Group was made by Fisher and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding Member Dues for 2026. The Finance Committee gave a recommendation to keep the dues at the same level as 2025. A motion to keep the dues at the same level as 2025 was made by Holewa and supported by Stolp. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Biondich: Thanks to Paul for help with DNR
- Holewa: Thanks to Paul and RAMS for the housing meeting; Chisholm is shovel ready for 65 new houses
- Kalmi: Thanks to Rock Ridge for hospitality; Nashwauk/Keewatin has begun abatement on Elementary school before demolition and turning it over to the city for their housing initiatives
- Schmidt: Please take the pumpkin bread that the culinary classes baked for the RAMS Members!
- Davis: Please add Legislative Priorities to the November Agenda

Next Meeting:

- The next regular Board meeting will be at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building, November 20, 2025, at 6PM.
- The RAMS Annual Meeting will be held on December 9, 2025, at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.