

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 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); Steve Biondich (City of Biwabik); Angela Campbell (City of Ely); Ryan Davies (Town of Harris); Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Cathy Erickson (City of Two Harbors); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); 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)**

Absent: City of Hibbing; ISD 318 Grand Rapids (Supt); ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids)**

(Names 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 Friedlieb. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 22, 2025, and the Special Meeting Minutes from August 14, 2025, was made by Kvas and supported by Davis. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on July 9, 2025.

1. Expenditures for May 22 – July 8, 2025, totaling \$25,005.96.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 45.5%.
3. Balance Sheet as of July 8, 2025, is \$572,443.53.

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on August 14, 2025.

1. Expenditures for July 9 – August 13, 2025, totaling \$23,073.20.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 56.8%.

3. Balance Sheet as of August 13, 2025, is \$550,130.58.

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on September 25, 2025.

1. Expenditures for August 14 – September 24, 2025, totaling 20,570.15.
2. Profit and loss Budget vs Actual is 66.5%.
3. Balance Sheet as of September 24, 2025, is \$626,247.41

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

Treasurer Hoff gave a quick update on RAMS financial trends: RAMS is in a very healthy spot financially.

Appearance:

No appearance today.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on some of his activities over the summer break:

- Sulfate standard letters of support (RAMS, Mayors, Superintendents) and meeting prep (1164 comments!)
- New school opening in Nashwauk/Keewatin
- Ribbon cutting for Mesabi Metallica
- Brownfields lunch and learns
- Jobs for Minnesotans Board meeting via zoom
- Legislative Exchange with Rep Warwas
- Housing meetups
- Permanent School Fund meeting
- Monitor RAMS financial position
- Mesabi Metallica, Northshore, and Keetac tours

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- A motion to accept the 2024 RAMS Audit from Fort and Company was made by Davis and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.
- A motion to accept the Executive Director Evaluation was made by Biondich and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Berrini: Executive Director Peltier came to a Morse Township meeting, and it went well.
- Medure: Would like clarification on how the sulfate standard is written.
- Kvas: Superintendent Engebretson is retiring after this school year. MIB and St Louis County will continue to share a superintendent.
- Kalmi: Nashwauk/Keewatin school had their grand opening, and the kids are in the new school.
- Stolp: Nice to see Peltier playing with the band at the N/K grand opening.

- Davis: Thanks to Peltier for his work on the sulfate standard issue.
- Erickson: New apartments are coming to Two Harbors; new waterfront task force; Peltier plays a critical role in the Permanent School Fund Distributions of Earnings Task Force.
- Hoff: Carly Perfetto (former RAMS Board member) passed away last week.

Next Meeting:

- The next regular Board meeting will be at Rock Ridge High School on October 23, 2025, at 6PM.

Other:

- Kalmi: RAMS will cover the \$5 cost for any Board Member that would like to attend the Critical Minerals presentation on Tuesday, September 30.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.