

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 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); 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); Justin Fosso (City of Hibbing); Larry Cuffe (City of Virginia); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids – Supt); Jed Holewa (City of Chisholm); Chris Koivisto (ISD 2412 St Louis County); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); 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: ISS 712 Mt Iron/Buhl; Town of Great Scott; ISD 2711 Mesabi East

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids); Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); John Upton (Ellsburg Township); David Leslie (Cherry Township)**

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

Review and Approve Agenda:

The agenda was amended to change “New Business: I. Consider closed session” to “New Business I. Approve new expenditure relating to the sulfate issue”. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Holewa and supported by Loeffler. Motion carried.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2025, was made by Rahja and supported by Fosso. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 20, 2025.

1. Expenditures for October 23 – November 19, 2025, totaling \$14,101.17.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 81%.
3. Balance Sheet as of November 20, 2025, is \$606,976.41.

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

Appearance:

None.

Director's Report:

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

- Welcome to RAMS newest Members: Greenway Township and Balkan Township
- Tour of Hwy 35 facilities
- Statewide Sulfate standard
- Permanent School Fund
- DNR overpayments update
- Working on Legislative Priorities for January Board Meeting
- Annual Meeting – Tony Sertich Keynote Speaker – 160 people signed up so far
- Brownfields meeting on November 25 from noon-1

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- A motion to approve the employee performance review of the Administrative Assistant was made by Pittman and supported by Davis. Motion carried
- A motion to approve the employment agreement for RAMS Administrative Assistant was made by Stolp and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter of support for Mike Jugovich's application for LCCMR was made by Holewa and supported by Loeffler. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter to DNR requesting clarification on the process for member mining royalty revenue disbursements was made by Rahja and supported by Biondich. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter to MPCA requesting update on economic impact and considerations of the sulfate standard raised by RAMS and member comment, call for criteria used for enrolling/disenrolling wild rice waterbodies was made by Holewa and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.
- A motion to approve a letter of support for Mesabi Metallics Permit to Mine was made by Stolp and supported by Davis. Motion carried.
- Executive Director Peltier gave an update on the Permanent School Fund. The task force will make a recommendation to the Legislature on or before January 15, 2026.
- Executive Director Peltier went over the results of the Legislative Priorities Survey that went out to Members. Thirty Members responded: 13 schools, 11 cities, and 6 townships.
- A motion to approve an additional expenditure of up to \$5,000 (1/3 of the total cost) for an updated report on costs of sulfate treatment for municipal wastewater treatment facilities was made by Davis and supported by Rahja. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Kalmi: Congratulations to Dr Schmidt for his Superintendent's Award and School Award.
- Davis: asked for an update on MITI
- Holewa: Asked for info on PFOS
- Erickson: Housing: North Shore Flats will have 75 units; the band Pearl Jam sponsored the new zamboni for the new ice arena thanks to the Arena's manager who is a longtime fan of the band.
- Koivisto: ISD 2142 is still searching for a new superintendent and is working with MI/B to continue the shared superintendent agreement.

Next Meeting:

- The RAMS Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia.

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.