

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building, Mt Iron, MN

President Kalmi called the Meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Barb Kalmi (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin); Shane Hoff (City of Sliver Bay); Bob Berrini (Town of Morse); Rick Blake (City of Grand Rapids); Dirk Davis (Town of Morcom); Jim Fisher (Town of McDavitt); Sheila Jensen (City of Nashwauk); Chris Koivisto (ISD 2412 St Louis County); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron/Buhl); Renee Loeffler (City of Buhl); Dan Manick (City of Cook); Ron Pittman (Town of Cherry); John Rauzi (City of Eveleth); Warren Stolp (Town of Nashwauk); Kathleen Undeland (ISD 2711 Mesabi East)**

Absent: City of Biwabik; City of Ely; Town of Harris; City of Two Harbors; City of Hibbing; ISD 318 Grand Rapids Supt; City of Chisholm; Great Scott Township; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge Supt

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jason Janisch (IRRR); Beth Caple (Ellsburg Township)**

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

Review and Approve Agenda:

Kalmi amended the agenda to add “9.D. Schedule Summer Meeting and BBQ.” A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Fisher and supported by Loeffler. Motion passed unanimously.

Approve Consent Agenda:

A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from February 26, 2026, the letter of concern – SF 1245, letter of support: City of Virginia Congressionally Directed Spending Request, letter of support: City of Keewatin Congressionally Directed Spending Request, and letter of support: 2026 LCCMR Funding Application – NESC, was made by Pittman and supported by Kvas. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report:

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 26, 2026.

1. Expenditures for February 26 – March 25, 2026, totaling \$16,194.58.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 24.9%.
3. Balance Sheet as of March 25, 2026, is \$693,347.37.

Hoff reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on April 23, 2026.

1. Expenditures for March 26 – April 22, 2026, totaling \$18,429.74.

2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 36.1%.
3. Balance Sheet as of April 22, 2026, is \$368,370.26

A motion to approve the Finance Committee Report was made by Berrini and supported by Davis. Motion passed unanimously.

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Jason Janisch, Climate and Energy Policy Advisor at IRRR. Janisch gave a brief overview of the trends in iron mining (world and local) and impacts of the production tax. He noted that production reductions will make an impact on distributions. There could be four years or so of less money due to the three-year average, and we should consider planning for different production scenarios.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on some of his activities over the months of March and April:

- Working on the "Impacts of Iron Ore Market Trends" meetings.
- Attended "Tribal Relations – Industry Training – Past, Present, and Future" which included five former Tribal Chairs.
- Attended SME Conference.

Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- A motion to approve a letter of support for NESC – EDA Broadband Resilience Project was made by Davis and supported by Pittman. Motion carried unanimously.
- Peltier discussed the final report on the Sulfate Compliance Study Update. The report shows an increase of 27% from 2018 to 2025, with upgrades ranging from \$68M to \$386 per facility.
- Peltier discussed the two recent RAMS events. The Legislative Dinner was attended by 20 people, and the RAMS Lobby Day was attended by 30 people. Both were great events.
- The RAMS Summer BBQ will be held on June 18. There will be a short business meeting, followed by food and meeting with Range Legislators. A motion to approve the Summer BBQ date on June 18 was made by Pittman and supported by Loeffler. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Updates/Member Floor Privileges:

- Biondich (via President Kalmi): Thank you to everyone who attended the RAMS Lobby Day.
- Davis: Julie Lucas is knocking it out of the park with her appearances on MPR and podcasts.

Next Meeting:

- The next RAMS Meeting will be held at 6pm, on May 28, 2026, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

Other:

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.