

Meeting Minutes MN Rural Counties Board of Directors

Monday, November 14, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Douglas County Public Works Building

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. and took the roll. The roll was taken, and a quorum was confirmed.

Attendees: Luke Johnson, MRC Chairman, Pipestone Co.; Jerry Rapp, MRC Vice-Chair, Douglas Co; Sharon Bring, MRC Sec/Treas., Marshall Co; Larry Anderson, Cottonwood Co; Charlie Meyer, Tim Kalina, and Keith Englund, Douglas Co; David de la Hunt, Hubbard Co; Leon Olson, Kittson Co; Dean Nielsen, Lincoln Co; David Geray, Mahnommen Co; Doug Krueger and Daryl Luthens, McLeod Co; Steve Schmitt, Meeker Co; Neil Peterson, Pennington Co; Paul Gerde, Pope Co; Chuck Flage, Red Lake Co; Neil Wiese, Stevens Co; Dave Salberg, Traverse Co; Bill Stearns and Murlyn Kreklau, Wadena Co; Jim Branstad, Watonwan Co; and Dennis Larson, Wilkin Co.

2. Approve Minutes

Doug Krueger made a motion to adopt the October 2, 2022 and November 7, 2022 minutes with corrections. Second by Larry Johnson. Motion adopted.

3. Executive Director Interviews

Chairman Johnson reviewed the process for interviews and shared the interview questions with the group. There was a brief discussion about the title of the new contractor and the group agreed to continue with Executive Director

The following firms were interviewed: Capitol Hill Associates (Rob Vanasek and Anne Kilzer); Weber Johnson (Chris Tiedeman, Joe Weber, and Mike Franklin); and O'Rourke Strategic Consulting (Cap O'Rourke and Lynda Barry).

Motion by Jim Branstad to offer the contract to Capitol Hill Strategies. Seconded by Neil Peterson. Motion carried.

Motion by Dave Geray to authorize Chairman Luke Johnson to negotiate and sign a two year contract with Capitol Hill Strategies for \$64,000 per year. Seconded by Bill Stearns. Motion carried.

The group agreed that the contract should start December 1, 2022 if possible and run through December 31, 2022, prorated to include the extra month.

4. December 4, 2022 MRC Meeting Agenda – Chair Luke Johnson

The next MRC meeting is Sunday, December 4 from 6-8 PM at the AMC Conference. The new firm will be invited to participate. AMC will provide staff support. The focus will be on finalizing MRC's 2023 Legislative Priorities.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved

12-4-2022

Sec / Treasurer

Sharon Bring