

Meeting Minutes MN Rural Counties Board of Directors

Sunday, December 4, 2022

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Doubletree Bloomington Minneapolis South Hotel, Bloomington Room

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:05 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; Don Niemi and Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin Co.; Barry Nelson, Becker Co.; Brent Olson, Big Stone Co.; Frank Gross and Jenny Mongeau, Clay Co.; Larry Anderson and Kevin Stevens, Cottonwood Co; Tim Kalina, and Keith Englund, Douglas Co; Troy Johnson, Grant Co.; Ted Van Kempen and Tom Krueger, Hubbard Co; Leon Olson, Kittson Co; Wayne Skoe, Koochiching, Co.; Dean Nielsen, Lincoln Co; Doug Krueger, Nathan Schmalz, and Daryl Luthens, McLeod Co; Steve Schmitt, Meeker Co; Neil Peterson and Bruce Lawrence, Pennington Co; Joan Lee, Polk Co.; Paul Gerde, Pope Co; Jack Swanson, Roseau Co.; Bob Koptizke, Stevens Co; Gary Kneisl, Todd Co.; Dave Salberg, Traverse Co; Bill Stearns and Murlyn Kreklau, Wadena Co; Bill Miller, Watonwan Co; and Dennis Larson, Wilkin Co; Mary Wetter, Wright Co.

2. Approve Agenda

Paul Gerde made a motion to adopt the meeting's agenda. Second by Neil Peterson. Motion adopted.

3. Approve Minutes

Neil Peterson made a motion to adopt the November 14, 2022, minutes. Second by Steve Schmitt. Motion adopted.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Sharon Bring provided a report on the current MRC financials, including a review and overview of Dan Larson's final expense reports.

Brent Olson made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Dave Salberg. Motion adopted.

5. Legislative Landscape Post-Election

The team from Capitol Hill Associates provided a presentation on the recent legislative elections and political climate heading into the 2023 legislative session. They conducted a brief Q&A session following their presentation. No action was taken on this item.

6. MRC 2023 Legislative Priorities

Nathan Zacharias and Luke Johnson provided a brief overview of the survey sent out to MRC members on the potential 2023 legislative priorities.

Luke Johnson led a discussion among MRC members on selecting 3-4 priorities to make as top priorities. MRC members reviewed the survey information and debated the merits of each priority.

Bob Koptizke made a motion to approve County Program Aid, Transportation, Broadband, and combined Drainage/Public Waters as priorities for the 2023 legislative session. Second by Neil Peterson. Motion adopted.

Luke Johnson led a brief discussion on the lowest ranking priority items and proposed that they be removed from the official MRC platform and the remaining items become non-priority platform items. MRC members discussed and debated these items.

Paul Gerde made a motion to remove the Death Penalty, SWCD Funding, and Rural Crime from the MRC platform. Second by Bob Kopitzke. Motion adopted.

7. 2023 Meeting Dates

Luke Johnson reminded members that they have a new handout that includes locations for the January and October, 2023 meetings. No action was taken.

8. 2023 MRC Delegates and Invoices

Luke Johnson informed members that dues invoices will be mailed to MRC members from AMC this month. He also informed MRC members that they should contact Anne Kilzer from Capitol Hill Associates to let her know who delegates and alternates for 2023 will be.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes Approved	<u>1-9-2023</u>
Sec / Treasurer	<u>Shawn Brung</u>