

MRC Board of Directors
Monday, January 10, 2022
10:30 – 1 p.m.
County Board Room
Douglas County Administration Bldg.
Or via the Zoom platform and Telephone

Call to Order:

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Attendees: Luke Johnson, MRC Chairman, Pipestone Co.; Jerry Rapp, MRC Vice-Chair, Douglas Co; Don Niemi, Aitkin Co; Barry Nelson, Becker Co; Wade Athey, Big Stone; Larry Anderson, Cottonwood Co; Tim Kalina and Heather Larson, Douglas Co; Doyle Sperr, Grant Co; Char Christenson and Ted Van Kempen, Hubbard Co; Wayne Skoe, Koochiching Co; David Geray, Mahnomen Co; Doug Krueger and Nathan Schmalz, McLeod Co; Steve Schmitt, Meeker Co; Dave Oslin, Mille Lacs Co; Jeff Baldus, Mower Co; Bruce Lawrence, Pennington Co; Paul Gerde, Pope Co; Chuck Flage, Red Lake Co; Russ Walker, Roseau Co; Bob Kopitzke, Stevens Co; Dave Salberg, Traverse Co; Jim Branstad, Watonwan Co; Dennis Larson, Wilkin Co; Rich Sanders, Polk Co. Engineer; Dan Larson, MRC Executive Director.

Chairman Johnson called for a motion to combine action on the agenda, minutes and treasurer's report. The motion was approved by consensus.

1) Approve Agenda:

1) Approve Agenda; 2) Approve Minutes (Dec. 5, 2021); 3) Treasurers Report; 4) Session Preview and Issue Discussion; 5) Other Business; 6) Adjourn

2) Approve December 5, 2021 Minutes:

3) Treasurer's Report:

Dan Larson gave the financial report and reported invoices to AMC for the following:

Invoices to AMC for the following:

AMC Administrative Services Q4	\$583.25
AMC Accounting Services Q4	\$125.00
Website	\$187.50
Postage October - December	\$2.12
Copier October - December	
AMC Annual Conference – Dan Larson	\$400.00
Meeting Charges Double Tree	
Equipment	\$300.00
Room Rental	\$100.00
Food/Beverages	\$288.01
December Mtg. – Double Tree	<u>\$688.01</u>
	\$2,673.89

Bob Kopitzke made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Pat Veraguth, Douglas Co. Surveyor to MRC Issues Priorities Approval. Second by Doug Kruger. Motion adopted.

Jim Brandstad made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and invoice payment. Second by Neil Peterson. Motion adopted.

Speaker: Margaret Donahoe, MN Transportation Alliance

Margaret led the board through the MTA transportation funding priorities for 2022.

Bonding and local match are going to be two big issues this year.

MRC should consider supporting state general fund revenues to the HUTDF to assist counties with local match on federal IJJA projects, and shifting sales tax on auto parts to the HUTDF.

4) Session Preview and Issue Discussion:

Dan Larson presented a set of suggested priorities for 2022 that the board discussed.

Aitkin County Engineer John Welle raised concerns smaller counties with low retail base have keeping pace with needs. He said the wheelage and Local Option Sales Tax had helped counties with retail tax base and the difference is creating a patchwork of good and bad roads and bridges across the state depending on the level of retail existing in a given county. This disparity is creating a transportation funding message from counties that is no longer unified.

Dan Larson suggested putting a work group together on smaller county transportation concerns and report any progress back to the board at the February meeting.

Bob Kopitzke, Larry Anderson, David Geray and Paul Gerde volunteered for the work group.

The board adopted the following as priorities for the 2022 legislative session:

- Transportation Funding
- Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program Funding
- Rural Broadband Funding
- Emergency Readiness Grant Funding
- Maintaining Regulatory Certainty of Waters Designated Under the Public Waters Inventory
- County Based Purchasing
- County Program Aid

The board assigned the follow issues to the MRC Watch List for 2022:

- Antiquated HHS Computer Replacement Funding
- Energy for Greater MN Mfg. and Residential Needs
- County Mental Health Worker Retainment Funding
- Support Surveyor Effort on Re-Monumentation Act
- Payment-in-lieu of Taxes Funding Increase
- Support Higher Bar on Executive Powers for Calling Special Sessions
- Oppose New Truth-in-Taxation Rules

5) Other business:

Next meeting is February 7^h.

6) Adjourn:

Paul Gerde made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dave Salberg. Motion adopted.

Minutes Approved _____

Sec / Treasurer _____

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