

**MN Rural Counties Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

Monday, March 3
10 am – 1 pm
ZOOM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

2. Roll Call

Chairman Johnson took the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

Delegates: Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County; Frank Gross, Clay County; Larry Anderson, Cottonwood County; Jerry Rapp, Douglas County; Troy Johnson, Grant County; Ted Van Kempen, Hubbard County; Leon Olson, Kittson County; David Geray, Mahnomen County; Sharon Bring, Marshall County; Doug Krueger, McLeod County; Steve Schmitt, Meeker County; Dan Sparks, Mower County; Steve Bommersbach, Norman County; Neil Peterson, Pennington County; Luke Johnson, Pipestone County; Randy Kramer, Renville County; Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County; Jim Branstad, Watonwan County; Dennis Larson, Wilkin County.

Alternates: Chad Zommel, Big Stone County; Jenny Mongeau, Clay County; Keith Englund, Douglas County; Tim Kalina, Douglas County; Charlie Meyer, Douglas County; Doyle Sperr, Grant County; Dwight Walvatne, Grant County; David De La Hunt, Hubbard County; Destry Hell, Koochiching County; Jason Sjoblom, Koochiching County; Daryl Luthens, McLeod County; Nathan Schmalz, McLeod County; Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County; Gary Willhite, Polk County; Larry Lindor, Pope County; Bob Van Hee, Redwood County; John Robinson, Renville County; Kayla Schmidt, Traverse County; Murlyn Kreklau, Wadena County; Bill Miller, Watonwan County; Tina Diedrick, Wright County.

Guests: Julie Ring, Association of Minnesota Counties; Lisa Herges, Renville County; CJ Holl, Mahnomen County; Brian Buhmann, Kittson County; Kevin Paap, Blue Earth County; Andrew Letson, Meeker County.

Staff: Anne Kilzer, Britta Torkelson, Rob Vanasek, Sam Walseth.

3. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Schmitt moved approval of the agenda. Second by Commissioner Larson. Motion adopted.

4. Approve Minutes

Commissioner Bring moved approval of the February 21, 2023 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Krueger. Motion adopted.

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Secretary/Treasurer Bring provided a report on the current MRC financials. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Commissioner Frank. Motion adopted.

6. Legislative Update

Sam Walseth walked through upcoming Legislative Committee deadlines and provided an update on recent discussions at the Capitol.

The group discussed legislation related to Second Amendment/Gun Rights/Gun Safety.

The group discussed efforts around Public Safety; seeking equity in the funding model and ensuring adequate resources. AMC is collecting resolutions from all 87 Counties and most have been submitted at this point. Julie Ring, AMC Executive Director, provided additional insights on this effort.

Commissioner Schmitt suggested that MRC draft a letter of support or sign on to coalition efforts. Commissioner Anderson moved MRC sign onto this effort; Second by Commissioner Schmitt. Discussion ensued. Motion passes. Anne Kilzer will ensure the MRC lobbying team connects with Carli Stark at AMC for next steps.

9. Other

Discussion regarding Beaver trapping- Sam flagged this for follow up. SF 1316; HF 1299.

Discussion ensued regarding land use, ditches, public purchasing. AMC discussion with DNR; funding request for modernization.

Question regarding what resources might be available to resolve a City Well issue. USDA Rural Development, Bonding legislation were two suggestions.

Commissioners thanked staff for their work so far this year.

10. Adjourn

Commissioner Branstad moved the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.