APPROVED Meeting Minutes
MN Rural Counties Board of Directors
Tuesday, March 3
5:00 PM
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Attendance:

Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Becker County	Phil	Hanson
Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Benton County	Steve	Heinen
Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Big Stone County	Wade	Athey
Big Stone County	Paul	Radermacher
Big Stone County	Bill	Thyne
Brown County	Anton	Berg
Brown County	David	Borchert
Brown County	Brian	Braun
Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Brown County	Scott	Windschitl
Carlton County	Marv	Bodie
Clay County	Ezra	Baer
Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Clearwater County	Bruce	Emmel
Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Douglas County	Jerry	Rapp
Douglas County	Jeff	Way
Grant County	Troy	Johnson
Hubbard County	David	De La Hunt
Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Mahnomen County	David	Geray
Meeker County	Paul	Johnson
Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Meeker County	Darren	Sombke
Nobles County	Gene	Metz
Olmsted County	Brian	Mueller
Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson
Polk County	Joan	Lee
Polk County	Gary	Willhite
Pope County	Paul	Gerde
Pope County	Larry	Lindor

Pope County	Paul	Gremmels
Redwood County	Bob	Van Hee
Renville County	John	Robinson
Rice County	Gerry	Hosington
Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram
Stearns County	Tarryl	Clark
Stearns County	Bob	Johnson
Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Waseca County	Doug	Christopherson
Waseca County	Brad	Milbrath
Watonwan County	Jim	Branstad
Watonwan County	Bill	Miller

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Neil Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

2. **Roll Call**
   Chair Peterson took the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. **Approve Agenda**
   Commissioner Anderson moved approval of the agenda. Second by Commissioner L. Johnson. Motion adopted.

4. **Approve Minutes**
   Commissioner L. Johnson moved approval of the December 7, 2025 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Mongeau. Motion adopted.

5. **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**
   Secretary/Treasurer Bring provided a report on the current MRC financials; on track with expected expenditures and revenues to date. Commissioner Bertram made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Commissioner McDonald. Motion adopted.

6. **Proposed Change to Minnesota Rural Counties Rules of Procedure.**
   Chair Peterson noted that there is interest from the membership to instate term limits; Rules of Procedure is currently silent on this issue; currently states that each term is two years. Per the Rules, proposed language was circulated for consideration prior to the meeting.

   Commissioner Schmitt moved that the Rules of Procedure be amended to include "An officer shall not serve more than two consecutive terms (4 years) in the same position". Second by Commissioner Anderson. Motion adopted.

7. **Guest Speakers**
   Guest speakers included Senator Rob Kupec (04, DFL) and Representative Bianca Virnig (52B, DFL). This unified voice at the Capitol is making a difference. Senator Kupec and Representative Virnig gave reports on what is happening within their committees, party priorities, floor activity, and how the end of the year may play out. Both Legislators noted the aligned efforts of Minnesota counties regarding IT System Modernization and anticipate movement on the issue.

8. **MRC Legislative Updates**
   MRC Lobbyists Sam Walseth and Rob Vanasek gave an overview of the Legislative session to date; this included an overview of new logistics and security measures at the Capitol; dynamics among

legislators; revenue forecasts. They provided status updates on issues of importance to Minnesota Rural Counties including IT Modernization, Solid Waste, Mental Health, Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program and Rural Health Initiatives. Discussion ensued regarding these and other issues of importance to members.

9. **Announcements/Other**
   MRC Administrator Anne Kilzer noted the next three meetings will be via Zoom. MRC will meet in person on September 16 prior to the AMC Fall Policy Conference, in Bemidji. The October and December meetings will also be in person.

10. **Adjourn**
    The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.