APPROVED Meeting Minutes
MN Rural Counties Board of Directors
December 7, 2025
Bloomington, Minnesota

Attendance:

Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Becker County	Phil	Hanson
Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Beltrami County	Joe	Gould
Benton County	Steve	Heinen
Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Big Stone County	Wade	Athey
Big Stone County	Chad	Zimmel
Brown County	Anton	Berg
Brown County	David	Borchert
Brown County	Brian	Braun
Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Brown County	Scott	Windschitl
Clay County	Ezra	Baer
Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Clearwater County	Bruce	Emmel
Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Cottonwood County	Kevin	Stevens
Douglas County	Tim	Kalina
Douglas County	Lee	Katzmarek
Douglas County	Jeff	Way
Grant County	Troy	Johnson
Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Lincoln County	Dean	Nielsen
Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Mahnomen County	Darvin	Schoenborn
Marshall County	Sharon	Bring
McLeod County	Lori	Cacka
McLeod County	Nathan	Schmalz
Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Meeker County	Darren	Sombke
Nobles County	Gene	Metz
Olmsted County	Brian	Mueller
Pennington County	Bruce	Lawrence
Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson

Polk County	Joan	Lee
Polk County	Gary	Willhite
Pope County	Paul	Gerde
Pope County	Paul	Gremmels
Pope County	Larry	Lindor
Pope County	Gordy	Wagner
Renville County	John	Robinson
Rice County	Jim	Purfeerst
Rice County	Steve	Underdahl
Roseau County	Kermit	Jensen
Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Sibley County	Peter	Koch
Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram
Stearns County	Tarryl	Clark
Stearns County	Bob	Johnson
Stearns County	Steve	Notch
Stevens County	Bob	Kopitzke
Todd County	Barb	Becker
Todd County	Tim	Denny
Todd County	Randy	Neumann
Traverse County	Chad	Metz
Traverse County	Kayla	Schmidt
Wadena County	Murlyn	Kreklau
Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Wadena County	Bryan	Winkels
Waseca County	Doug	Christopherson
Waseca County	Brad	Milbrath

Guest	Raeanne	Danielowski
Guest	Bruce	Starkey
Guest	Stacey	Timm
Guest	Nancy	Walker

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

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
   Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

3. **Approve Agenda**
   Commissioner Luke Johnson moved approval of the agenda; Second by Commissioner Troy Johnson. Motion adopted.

4. **Approve Minutes**
   Commissioner Luke Johnson moved approval of the October 6, 2025 meeting minutes as submitted. Second by Commissioner Jeffrey Veerkamp. Motion adopted.

5. **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**
   Secretary/Treasurer Bring provided a report on the current MRC financials. Revenues and expenses are on track. Commissioner Steve Schmitt made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Commissioner Larry Anderson. Motion adopted.

6. **Discussion: Rules of Procedure; Number of Terms for Officers**
   Commissioner Steve Schmitt noted that he believes the intent of previous changes made to the Rules included term limits for officers. He is suggesting MRC considers a limit of 2 consecutive terms for elected positions. This language will be brought forward for a vote at the March in-person meeting of MRC. Anne Kilzer said that per the Rules, proposed language will be circulated to the full membership at least 10 days prior to voting.

7. **Speaker: Representative Nathan Coulter**
   Britta Torkelson introduced Representative Nathan Coulter (DFL, 51B) to the membership. Representative Coulter gave updates on anticipated priorities for the upcoming Legislative session from his perspective. Member discussion included the effects of unfunded mandates passed in the prior Legislative session.

8. **2026 Legislative Discussion, Priorities Document**
   Britta Torkelson walked through a presentation including special elections, legislative body makeup, legislative calendar and potential issues to be addressed in the upcoming session. Britta also put forth the Minnesota Rural Counties Legislative Priorities 2026 document. Commissioner Jenny Mongeau moved approval of the 2026 Legislative Priorities Document as presented; Commissioner Gould seconded. Motion adopted.

9. **2026 Meeting Calendar and Membership Updates**
   Anne Kilzer said she will send out the current listing of Delegates and Alternates with a request that members respond with any updates to their Delegates and Alternates as needed. It is anticipated that all current MRC member counties plan to renew membership for 2026. Next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 3 at 5:00 pm, prior to the AMC Legislative Conference. AMC has announced that the Policy Conference in September will be held in Bemidji; MRC will meet in person there as well.

10. **Announcements/Other**
    None.

11. **Adjourn**
    The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.