

**MN Rural Counties Board of Directors –APPROVED Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, December 8, 2024**  
**6:00 pm**  
DoubleTree Hotel, Bloomington MN

**Attendance**

Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Becker County	Erica	Jepson
Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Beltrami County	Richard	Anderson
Beltrami County	Joe	Gould
Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Big Stone County	Wade	Athey
Big Stone County	Chad	Zimmel
Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Clay County	Frank	Gross
Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Cottonwood County	Kevin	Stevens
Douglas County	Tim	Kalina
Douglas County	Jerry	Rapp
Douglas County	Shane	Schmidt
Grant County	Troy	Johnson
Hubbard County	Charlene	Christenson
Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Hubbard County	Tom	Krueger
Hubbard County	Ted	Van Kempen
Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Kittson County	Leon	Olson
Lincoln County	Dean	Nielsen
Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Lyon County	Todd	Draper
Mahnomen County	Larry	Olson
Mahnomen County	Darvin	Schoenborn
Mahnomen County	Bruce	Starkey
Marshall County	Sharon	Bring
Marshall County	Gary	Kiesow
Martin County	Jaime	Bleess
McLeod County	Doug	Krueger
McLeod County	Nathan	Schmalz
Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Mower County	Mike	Ankeny
Olmsted County	Brian	Mueller
Olmsted County	David	Senjem
Pennington County	Bruce	Lawrence
Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson

Polk County	Joan	Lee
Polk County	Gary	Willhite
Redwood County	Jim	Salfer
Redwood County	Bob	Van Hee
Renville County	John	Robinson
Roseau County	Glenda	Phillipe
Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Sibley County	Peter	Koch
Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram
Stearns County	Steve	Notch
Stevens County	Patricia	Lesmeister-Nelson
Wadena County	Murlyn	Kreklaug
Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Wadena County	Bill	Stearns
Waseca County	Doug	Christopherson

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

**Guests:** Gary Johansen, Edward Popp, Pam Benoit, Denise Anderson, Martie Monsrud, Mike Flanagan, Paul Graupman, Darren Sombke, Kersten Kappmeyer, Cheryl VanOrt, Jory Danielson, Phil Hansen, Dave Meyer

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Chair Peterson called the roll. A quorum was confirmed.

**3. Approve Agenda**

Commissioner Nelson moved approval of the agenda, Commissioner Schmitt seconded. Motion approved.

**4. Approve Minutes**

Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the October 7, 2024 minutes, Commissioner Anderson seconded. Motion approved.

**5. Financial Report**

Secretary/Treasurer Bring reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Statement, noting that the Association of Minnesota Counties invoice included accounting and website services incurred during the prior quarter. MRC continues to have a healthy operating balance. Commissioner McDonald approved the Treasurer's Report, Commissioner Bertram seconded. Motion approved.

**6. Consideration of Proposed Changes to MRC Rules of Operating Procedure**

Chair Peterson asked Anne Kilzer to review the proposed changes to the MRC Operating Rules of Procedure, which were distributed to MRC membership within the timeline mandated by that document. The changes proposed are to include the Past Chairperson as an officer of the organization, and that each officer serves for two years (rather than one year). Commissioner Christenson moved approval of these proposed changes; Commissioner Stearns seconded. Per the Rules of Operating Procedure, at least 2/3 of the voting membership approved (30 votes in favor); motion passes.

**7. Guest: Representative Paul Torkelson**

Chair Peterson welcomed Representative Paul Torkelson (R-Hanska) as a guest speaker for the evening. Representative Torkelson gave an overview of the current discussions regarding shared leadership in the

House, as well as some issues that will likely be high priority during the upcoming session. Discussion ensued.

**8. 2025 Legislative Session Discussion**

Britta Torkelson reviewed a presentation regarding the upcoming 2025 Legislative Session and discussed the MRC Legislative priorities and issues; Rob Vanasek and Sam Walseth provided perspectives as well. Britta noted that the 2025 MRC Legislative Platform, approved at the October MRC meeting, has been finalized and posted on the MRC website.

**9. 2025 Meeting Calendar and Membership Updates**

Anne Kilzer announced that Rice County is the newest MRC member and welcomed participants who attended the meeting. 2025 dues will remain at the same level as last year; invoices will be sent by the Association of Minnesota Counties in January. She also noted that the 2025 meeting calendar, as approved at the October Business Meeting, is included in the meeting materials. The next MRC meeting will be held virtually on Monday, February 3, 2025. Anne asked that any updates to the MRC Delegates/Alternates lists be submitted as Counties make their 2025 appointments.

**10. Adjourn**

Chair Peterson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 pm.