

MN Rural Counties Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

May 22, 2023

1:00 pm

ZOOM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

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; Leon Olson, Kittson County; Dean Nielsen, Lincoln County; Doug Krueger, McLeod County; Steve Schmitt, Meeker County; Steve Bommersbach, Norman County; Neil Peterson, Pennington County; Luke Johnson, Pipestone County; Paul Gerde, Pope County; Chuck Flage, Red Lake County; Randy Kramer, Renville County; Peter Koch, Sibley County; Bob Kopitzke, Stevens County; Bill Stearns, Wadena County; Jim Branstad, Watonwan County; Dennis Larson, Wilkin County; Mike Kaczmarek, Wright County.

Alternates: Jenny Mongeau, Clay County; Keith Englund, Douglas County; Tim Kalina, Douglas County; Charlie Meyer, Douglas County; Tom Krueger, Hubbard County; Daryl Luthens, McLeod County; Nathan Schmalz, McLeod County; Bruce Lawrence, Pennington County; Gary Willhite, Polk County; Bob Van Hee, Redwood County; Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County; Steve Saxton, Sibley County; Murlyn Kreklau, Wadena County; Bill Miller, Watonwan County.

Guests: Lisa Herges, Kersten Kappmeyer, Brian Buhmann, CJ Holl, Andrew Letson.

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

3. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Peterson moved approval of the agenda. Second by Commissioner Gerde. Motion adopted.

4. Approve Minutes

Commissioner Nielsen moved approval of the May 1, 2023 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Flage. Motion adopted.

5. Jodi Gerkin, Director of State Government Affairs and Community Relations, CentraCare.

Ms. Gerkin provided an overview of the \$10 million Legislative appropriation passed during session for rural health and the medical campus they are creating in partnership with the University of Minnesota. [CentraCare - University of Minnesota on Vimeo](#)

6. Legislative Update

Britta Torkelson provided a Legislative update including a presentation on the final days of session and an overview of the 2023 Legislative Summary. Both will be provided to all members via email as a follow-up to the meeting. MRC will continue to have active participation on the Drainage Work Group which will continue to meet throughout the year.

7. Summer Work Plan

Anne Kilzer noted that MRC staff will continue to reach out to potential member counties. She will review MRC historical documents in preparation for the annual meeting in October. A short discussion ensued regarding potential research projects that could be conducted in the upcoming months. Anne also noted that the website will be updated with information from the 2023 Session. Finally, notices will be sent out for the September and October meeting.

8. Announcements/Other?

MRC members expressed appreciation and congratulations for the work done throughout the Legislative Session.

9. Adjourn

Commissioner Branstad moved the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.