

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes MN Rural Counties Board of Directors**  
**Tuesday, February 25**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**Attendance:**

<b>County</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Beltrami County	Richard	Anderson
Beltrami County	John	Carlson
Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Brown County	Anton	Berg
Clay County	Ezea	Baer
Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Douglas County	Tim	Kalina
Grant County	Troy	Johnson
Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Kittson County	Leon	Olson
Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Mahnomen County	Darvin	Schoenborn
Mahnomen County	David	Geray
Marshall County	Sharon	Bring
McLeod County	Doug	Krueger
Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson
Polk County	Joan	Lee
Pope County	Paul	Gerde
Renville County	John	Robinson
Roseau County	Kermit	Jensen
Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram
Stevens County	Patricia	Lesmeister-Nelson
Wadena County	Murlyn	Kreklau
Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Wadena County	Bill	Stearns
Waseca County	Doug	Christopherson
Waseca County	Brad	Krause

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

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Chairman Peterson took the roll, a quorum was confirmed.

*Attendance:*

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

**3. Approve Agenda**

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

**4. Approve Minutes**

Commissioner moved approval of the December 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner. Motion adopted.

**5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement**

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

**6. Legislative Report**

MRC Lobbyists Britta Torkelson, Sam Walseth and Rob Vanasek provided an overview of the key dates and potential priorities for the 2025 Legislative session, particularly those related to the MRC platform. Bills introduced to date were also highlighted. Discussion ensued.

**7. Department of Natural Resources Platform**

A meeting will be held next week to discuss the DNR platform. Please watch for emails and provide feedback. Discussion ensued regarding DNR mining on public lands.

**8. Department of Corrections Concerns**

Members discussed mental health services and staffing; encouraged engagement of jail administrators and sheriffs regarding estimated costs. Emilio Mental health and staffing. Be talking to jail administrators and sheriffs. AMC Policy Analyst Emilio Lamba noted that AMC is tracking this issue and there is still time to make comments through the rulemaking process. Members also discussed a Governor's potential cuts to Sentenced to Serve funding. Members encouraged staff to invite a DOC representative to a future meeting.

**9. Round Robin**

Each county provided a brief update on top of mind issues and recent successes.

**10. Announcements/Other**

Anne Kilzer noted the next several meetings throughout the Legislative Session will be held virtually. Unless necessary for timely issues, no official business will occur during these meetings. Agendas will be sent prior to each one.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.