

APPROVED Meeting Minutes MN Rural Counties Board of Directors
Tuesday, September 10, 2025
Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

Attendance:

County	First Name	Last Name
Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Becker County	Phil	Hanson
Beltrami County	Richard	Anderson
Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Big Stone County	Paul	Radermacher
Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Brown County	Anton	Berg
Brown County	Brian	Braun
Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Douglas County	Jerry	Rapp
Douglas County	Tim	Kalina
Douglas County	Charlie	Meyer
Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Lyon County	Todd	Draper
Mahnomen County	Darvin	Schoenborn
Mahnomen County	David	Geray
McLeod County	Nathan	Schmalz
Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Meeker County	Paul	Johnson
Nobles County	Gene	Metz
Olmsted County	Brian	Mueller
Olmsted County	David	Senjem
Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson
Polk County	Joan	Lee
Pope County	Gordon	Wagner
Red Lake County	Chuck	Flage
Redwood County	Bob	Van Hee
Roseau County	Kermit	Jensen
Roseau County	Glenda	Phillipe
Stearns County	Steve	Notch

Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram
Stevens County	Bob	Kopitzke
Stevens County	Patricia	Lesmeister-Nelson
Todd County	Barb	Becker
Todd County	Randy	Neumann
Traverse County	Kayla	Schmidt
Wadena County	Murlyn	Krekla
Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Wadena County	Bryan	Winkels
Watonwan County	Jim	Branstad
Wilkin County	Dennis	Larson

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Peterson called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Chair Peterson took the roll; a quorum was confirmed.

3. Approve Agenda

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

4. Approve Minutes

Commissioner Johnson moved approval of the February 25, 2025 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Bertram. Motion adopted.

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Chair Peterson provided a report on the current MRC financials. Anne Kilzer noted there have been questions about dues in 2026; this will be discussed at the October Business Meeting but as of now no increases are anticipated unless brought forward by members. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Commissioner Olson. Motion adopted.

6. Speaker: Representative Mike Wiener

Representative Wiener thanked the Board of Directors and Britta Torkelson for the invitation to speak. He has been an advocate for rural communities at the Capitol and stressed the importance of Commissioners making their perspective heard. Discussion included unfunded mandates, tax relief, health care, reporting requirements, PILT. Representative Wiener encouraged members to reach out to relevant Committee Chairs in addition to their own representatives. MRC members also shared frustration with agency rulemaking processes.

7. Legislative Updates and Discussion

Britta Torkelson provided an update on current status of House and Senate leadership, and upcoming special elections. She also gave an overview of the MRC Platform development process which will take place at the October Business Meeting.

8. Round Robin/Top of Mind Issues

Members provided updates about top-of-mind issues and successes within their counties. Each one also provided information regarding their levy amounts for 2026. Topics discussed included staffing/negotiations, land use/water quality/drainage, facilities/construction projects, waste, energy,

libraries, and housing.

9. Announcements/Other

Chair Peterson noted that the date for the next meeting is incorrect on the agenda; it will be held on October 6 (not 7) in Alexandria in the Commissioner's Board Room. Anne Kilzer added that this will be in person only, a hybrid option will not be available. Anne welcomed Nobles County to MRC and noted that Clearwater County has also joined.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.