DRAFT Meeting Minutes
MN Rural Counties Board of Directors
Wednesday, September 16
2:30 PM
Bemidji, Minnesota

Attendance:

Delegate	Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Delegate	Becker County	Barry	Nelson
Alternate	Becker County	Phil	Hansen
Delegate	Benton County	Scott	Johnson
Delegate	Big Stone County	Wade	Athey
Alternate	Big Stone County	Paul	Radermacher
Alternate	Big Stone County	Chad	Zimmel
Delegate	Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Delegate	Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Delegate	Clearwater County	Bruce	Emmel
Alternate	Clearwater County	Mark	Larson
Alternate	Clearwater County	Mark	Titera
Delegate	Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Alternate	Cottonwood County	Tom	Appel
Delegate	Douglas County	Jerry	Rapp
Alternate	Douglas County	Tim	Kalina
Alternate	Douglas County	Jeff	Way
Delegate	Hubbard County	Steve	Keranen
Alternate	Hubbard County	Ted	Van Kempen
Alternate	Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Alternate	Lyon County	Rick	Anderson
Alternate	Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Alternate	Lyon County	Todd	Draper
Delegate	Marshall County	Sharon	Bring
Delegate	Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Delegate	Nobles County	Gene	Metz
Delegate	Olmsted County	Brian	Mueller
Delegate	Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Delegate	Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson
Delegate	Polk County	Gary	Willhite
Alternate	Polk County	Joan	Lee
Delegate	Pope County	Paul	Gerde
Delegate	Renville County	John	Robinson
Delegate	Roseau County	Kermit	Jensen
Alternate	Roseau County	Glenda	Phillipe
Delegate	Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Delegate	Stearns County	Jeff	Bertram

Alternate	Stearns County	Tarryl	Clark
Delegate	Todd County	Tim	Denny
Alternate	Todd County	Barb	Becker
Alternate	Todd County	Randy	Neumann
Delegate	Traverse County	Chad	Metz
Alternate	Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Alternate	Wadena County	Bryan	Winkels
Delegate	Waseca County	Doug	Christopherson
Delegate	Watonwan County	Jim	Branstad
Delegate	Wilkin County	Dennis	Larson
Alternate	Wilkin County	Jon	Braton

Additional Attendees: Ron Antony, Aimee Sugden, Darren Sombka, Jory Danielson, Brad Milbrath, Pam Rud, Todd Greseth, Bruce Starkey, Rick Peterson, Brian Braun

1. Call to Order
Chair Neil Peterson called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call
Chair Peterson took the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Approve Agenda
Commissioner Mongeau moved approval of the agenda. Second by Commissioner Gillie. Motion adopted.

4. Approve Minutes
Commissioner L. Johnson moved approval of the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Jensen. Motion adopted.

5. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement
Secretary/Treasurer Bring provided a report on the current MRC financials; on track with expected expenditures and revenues to date. Commissioner Gillie made a motion to file the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement. Second by Commissioner S. Johnson. Motion adopted.

6. Legislative Updates
Sam Walseth talked about upcoming elections and gave an update on the recent IT Modernization bill signing.

7. County Reports
Chair Peterson asked each county to give a report including their levy, COLA and Health Insurance numbers.

County Reports suspended.

8. Guest Speakers

Guest speakers included Senator Steve Green (02); Representative Bidal Duran (02A) and Representative Matt Bliss (02B). Legislators gave an overview of top of mind issues during the election cycle. Question and answer period followed with MRC members reiterating priorities/concerns.
County Reports resumed.

9. October Business Meeting Preview
Anne Kilzer gave an overview of the October meeting, which is the annual business meeting. This will include elections, approval of contracts and the budget, meeting dates, and legislative priorities. 2026 Legislative Priorities and the MRC Legislative Platform were included in September meeting packets for member review. Anne also noted that members have requested information regarding data centers, so staff is lining up speakers.

10. Announcements/Other
Commissioner Braun spoke about Brown County's implementation of the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act.

11. Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.