

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 21, 2024 – 6:30 P.M.  
MN Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**Roll Call of Board:**

Present: **Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Chris Koivisto (ISD 2412 St Louis County); Lisa Kvas (ISD 712 Mt Iron); Julie Lucas (French Township); Phil Medure (Great Scott Township); Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja (City of Chisholm); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Dr Rae Villebrun (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin Supt Assn); Jim Weikum (City of Biwabik)**

Absent: Morse Township; Harris Township; City of Two Harbors; City of Aurora; ISD 318 Grand Rapids (Supt); ISD 2711 Mesabi East; City of Nashwauk

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jeff Anderson (Costin Group); Malissa Bahr (ISD 318); Carly Melin (Essentia); Dirk Davis (Morcom Township); Simon Charter (NewRange Copper Nickel); Orion DiFranco (Sen. Tina Smith's Office); Char Conger (MN Discovery Center)**

**(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)**

**Call to Order:**

President Medure called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**Review and Approve Agenda:**

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to amend the agenda to move 9A to after 9J and add 9K (Bank Discussion) was made by Friedlieb and supported by Lucas. Motion carried.

**Approve Consent Agenda:**

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from October 23, 2024, and the Letter of Support for the Green Iron Plant Project was made by Kalmi and supported by Kvas. Motion carried.

### **Finance Committee Report:**

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 20, 2024.

1. Expenditures for October 23 – November 19, 2024, totaling \$15,667.39.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 93%.
3. Balance Sheet as of November 19, 2024, is \$ 510,022.09.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Adams and supported by Stolp. Motion carried.

### **Appearance:**

The Board was joined by Char Conger of the MN Discovery Center (MDC). MDC is a state owned non-profit and the largest museum complex outside of the metro region. The goal of MDC is to strengthen the community and enhance the quality of life on the Iron Range. The MDC provides cultural, educational, and art programs and events. It is home of the Redhead Mountain Bike Trailhead, has an open-air concert venue, and a premier research center with one of the largest collections of genealogical and local history research materials in the Midwest. If you have questions or comments, contact Char Conger at [char@mndiscoverycenter.org](mailto:char@mndiscoverycenter.org) or 218-254-1220.

The Board was also joined by Simon Charter from NewRange Copper Nickel. He discussed a project that was just completed: tearing out the old LTV Concentrator. They pulled out close to 80,000 tons of concrete that was recycled and used as aggregate, there was 81,000 tons of taconite ore that was used as road fill, and 26,000 tons of steel that has been, or will be, recycled. NewRange will be finishing several studies over the next nine months focusing on efficiency (conveyor instead of rail) and sustainability (tailings dams, water, throughput).

Orion DiFranco introduced himself to the Board as Sen. Tina Smith's contact for Cook, Lake, St Louis, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties.

### **Director's Report:**

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in November. Peltier highlighted the Legislative priorities survey that was sent out to Membership along with meeting with Members in person to discuss priorities. He also discussed the Annual Meeting planning, sponsorships, and registrations. The Annual Meeting will be completely funded by sponsorships in the area of \$14-15K.

### **Old Business:**

- Peltier went over RAMS Resolution 24-01: Support for the Duluth Medical School Site. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Anderson and supported by Kalmi. Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

- The 2025 Consultant Agreement between RAMS and Costin Group was discussed. A motion to approve the Agreement was made by Friedlieb and supported by Pittman.
- The Letter of Support for Barret Ziemer for the Metropolitan Airports Commission was discussed. A motion to approve the Letter of Support was made by Kvas and supported by Kess. Motion carried.

- RAMS website redevelopment was discussed. The Finance Committee made a recommendation to the Board that RAMS use W. A. Fisher for the project. A motion to approve W. A. Fisher was made by Kalmi and supported by Adams. Motion carried.
- Peltier presented a few options to the Board for professional training. Options included a full day of training, a 30-minute session during a Board Meeting, or a survey with results. A motion to approve the survey option (CliftonStrengths Top 5 or CliftonStrengths 34) was made by Kess and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.
- Updates to the RAMS Personnel Policies were discussed. A motion to approve the updated Personnel Policies was made by Friedlieb and supported by Weikum. Motion carried.
- RAMS 2025 Legislative Priorities were discussed. A motion to approve the Legislative Priorities was made by Lucas and supported by Hoff. Motion carried.
- Executive Director Peltier's performance review was discussed. A motion to accept the review was made by Kalmi and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.
- A motion to move into a closed session to discuss the negotiations of the Executive Director and Administrative Assistant was made by Anderson and supported by Kess.
- A motion to reopen the session and return to an open public meeting was made by Adams and supported by Anderson. Motion carried.
- The new labor agreement for Executive Director Peltier was discussed. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Anderson and supported by Pittman. Motion carried, with three voting no.
- The new labor agreement for Administrative Assistant Kranz was discussed. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Kalmi and supported by Stolp. Motion carried.
- The RAMS 2025 budget was discussed. A motion to approve the budget was made by Koivisto and supported by Anderson. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on designating a new bank for 2025. The Finance Committee recommended moving from B2Bank to Park State Bank in time for the reorganization meeting in January. A motion to approve the move from B2Bank to Park State Bank was made by Kess and supported by Lucas. Motion carried.

### **Board Member Updates**

#### **Other:**

- Koivisto, Stolp, and Friedlieb volunteered to be on the Election Committee at the Annual Meeting.

### **Member Floor Privileges:**

#### **Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting will be the RAMS Annual Meeting at the Iron Trail Motors Event Center in Virginia on December 19, 2024.

### **Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 9PM.