

MN Rural Counties Board of Directors – APPROVED**Monday, May 20, 2024****1:00 pm****ZOOM****Attendance**

	County	First Name	Last Name
Delegate	Aitkin County	Laurie	Westerlund
Delegate	Beltrami County	Joe	Gould
Delegate	Big Stone County	Wade	Athey
Delegate	Brown County	Jeffrey	Veerkamp
Delegate	Clay County	Frank	Gross
Alternate	Clay County	Jenny	Mongeau
Delegate	Cottonwood County	Larry	Anderson
Delegate	Douglas County	Jerry	Rapp
Delegate	Grant County	Troy	Johnson
Delegate	Hubbard County	Charlene	Christenson
Delegate	Jackson County	Don	Wachal
Alternate	Kittson County	Theresia	Gillie
Alternate	Kittson County	Loren	Younggren
Delegate	Lincoln County	Dean	Nielsen
Delegate	Lyon County	Thomas	Andries
Alternate	Lyon County	Gary	Crowley
Delegate	Marshall County	Sharon	Bring
Delegate	Martin County	Jaime	Bleess
Delegate	McLeod County	Doug	Krueger
Alternate	McLeod County	Nathan	Schmalz
Delegate	Meeker County	Steve	Schmitt
Delegate	Norman County	Steve	Bommersbach
Alternate	Pennington County	Bruce	Lawrence
Delegate	Pennington County	Neil	Peterson
Delegate	Pipestone County	Luke	Johnson
Delegate	Polk County	Gary	Willhite
Delegate	Pope County	Paul	Gerde
Delegate	Red Lake County	Chuck	Flage
Alternate	Redwood County	Bob	Van Hee
Alternate	Renville County	Randy	Kramer
Delegate	Renville County	John	Robinson
Delegate	Roseau County	Kermit	Jensen
Alternate	Roseau County	Glenda	Phillipe
Delegate	Saint Louis County	Paul	McDonald
Delegate	Sibley County	Peter	Koch
Delegate	Stearns County	Steve	Notch
Delegate	Stevens County	Bob	Kopitzke
Alternate	Traverse County	Kayla	Schmidt
Alternate	Wadena County	Murlyn	Kreklau

Alternate	Wadena County	Ron	Noon
Delegate	Wadena County	Bill	Stearns
Alternate	Waseca County	Brad	Krause
Delegate	Watonwan County	Jim	Branstad
Alternate	Watonwan County	Bill	Miller
Delegate	Wilkin County	Dennis	Larson
Delegate	Wright County	Mike	Kaczmarek

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

Guests: Jackie Bauer, Kersten Kappmeyer, Heather Schlangen, Lisa Herges, Andrew Letson, Julie Ring, Brian Martinson

1. Call to Order

Chairman Luke Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Chairman Johnson took the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

3. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Kopitzke moved approval of the May 20, 2024 agenda. Second by Commissioner Gerde. Motion adopted.

4. Approve Minutes

Commissioner Peterson moved approval of the May 6, 2024 meeting minutes. Second by Commissioner Larson. Motion adopted.

5. Legislative Update – Britta Torkelson, Rob Vanasek and Sam Walseth

Britta Torkelson, Rob Vanasek and Sam Walseth provided an overview of the 2024 Legislative Session. This included an overview on activity regarding MRC priorities, other relevant legislation that passed and initiatives that ultimately did not move forward. A powerpoint summary was provided to MRC members. Discussion ensued regarding additional issues of interest to members as well as observations regarding the last week of session and legislative process. MRC members thanked the MRC Legislative Team for their work during session.

6. Legislative Platform 2025- Initial Discussion

The 2024 Legislative Platform was included in the May 20 meeting materials for reading and review. Britta Torkelson walked through the process that will be used to update this document over the summer, noting that sub-groups have been identified to closely review each of the five sections. Association of Minnesota Counties Policy Analysts will be consulted in a second meeting to provide insights. A draft 2025 Platform will be brought to the September MRC meeting for discussion, with the goal of identifying priorities at the Annual Business meeting in October.

7. Summer Project – Converting Paper Historical Files to Digital

As mentioned at a previous meeting, Anne Kilzer is recommending that the MRC paper files be converted to digital files. Digital files would be more easily searchable, take up less space, and be easier to transfer. Discussion ensued regarding ensuring that paper copies of historical and significant documents be retained. The cost estimate is approximately \$2-3000 for this project. Commissioner Christenson moved that the MRC paper files be converted to digital format. Commissioner Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

8. Announcements/Other

Members gave updates on issues of interest to their counties including eminent domain concerns, signal crayfish invasion, local resolutions and upcoming elections.

The next MRC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 11 in Alexandria, in conjunction with the AMC Policy Committee meetings.

9. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.