

**Minnesota Rural Health Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
January 11, 2010**

Attending: Tim Stratton, Mark Schoenbaum, Jenni Lohse, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Jack Geller, Laurissa Stigen, Dave Borgert, Dave Brenne, Jim Dregney, Jill Myers, Karla Weng, Judy Neppel

Excused: Ray Christensen, Darrell Carter, Allison Lunde, Duane Nelson, Liz Quam, Barbara Muesing, Maddy Forsberg, Tiffany Yen, Marnie Moore

1. **Call to Order:** President Stratton called the meeting to order at 12:04PM
2. **Approval of Minutes from December 14, 2009:** Corrections included the date change from 2010 to 2009 and taking David Brenne's name off the excused listing as he indeed participated in the December 14 conference call. Motion to approve with said corrections made by Mark Schoenbaum. Seconded by Jack Geller. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Business Arising from Minutes:** none
4. **Old Business:**
 - **Day at the Capital** is Tuesday, February 16, 2010. M Moore is making the room reservation. L Stigen on behalf of MRHA has extended an invitation to AHEC Directors. J Schlagenhaft suggested that the invitation be extended to the membership. President Stratton asked the Executive Director to prepare an email invitation that can be extended after an agenda and room reservation is confirmed.
 - **Day at the Capital** agenda will include discussions of the MRHA Policy Priorities for 2010 which will be worked on tomorrow by the Past President Council.
 - **Vision Task Force:** K Weng reported on behalf of the Vision Task Force. The statement created by the Task Force has gone to the Board for their input. She will request input one more time and report back to the Board with a final edition at the February meeting.

- **Mission Statement Update:** President Stratton is readying the Mission statement and will present it to the Board at the February meeting.
 - **Rural Policy Forum:** President Stratton reported that an invitation to moderate the rural policy forum at the Rural Health Conference in Duluth, June 28, 2010, was extended to Gary Eichten of Minnesota Public Radio. He declined the invitation and suggested Lori Sturdevant of the Tribune. He also suggested that if all gubernatorial candidates were panel participants, Minnesota Public Radio would be interested in taping the presentation for their use. J Geller offered to speak with L Sturdevant to encourage her participation. President Stratton asked for additional suggestions for a moderator should Ms Sturdevant decline. It was suggested that Julie Zenner, co-host of *Almanac North* on Duluth/Superior's PBS Television station would do a fine job. Additionally, it was suggested that the League of Women's Voters be contacted to gauge their interest in co-sponsoring the forum. President Stratton will contact the League of Women Voters in Duluth and report back at the next meeting.
 - **President Elect Discussion:** President Stratton asked the Nominating Committee Chair, Jack Geller, to update the Board on the progress of seeking a President Elect. No progress to report. President Stratton reported that Dr. Ray Christensen has agreed to serve as President Elect for the remainder of this year and President for 2010-2011. A motion to approve Dr. R. Christensen as President Elect for the remainder of this year and President for 2010-2011 was made by Dr. Geller and seconded by K Weng. Motion passed unanimously.
5. **New Business:** NRHA's annual Policy Institute is scheduled for January 26-28 in Washington DC. The highlight of the institute is the congressional visits. The ORHPC has once again made the meeting arrangements with the congressional staff. Who from the MRHA Board will be attending? M Schoenbaum and L Stigen have agreed to represent MRHA.
 6. **Other:** J Schlagenhaft asked if the Board members had an opportunity this morning to review the email sent by her from the MN Hospital Association with a website identified that would advocate for the restoration of the GAMC funds. The question of whether MRHA should be included in the organizations currently in support of the Fix-It-Now strategy was asked. President Stratton asked that the message be forwarded to the Board again and that an email vote on whether MRHA should be listed on the website be taken Friday.
 7. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Geller at 12:37PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Judith Neppel, Secretary