

**Minnesota Rural Health Association
Board of Director's Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2009
Conference Call**

Attending: Jack Geller, Barbara Muesing, Liz Quam, Karla Weng, Maddy Forsberg, Darrell Carter, Kathy Huntley, Mark Schoenbaum, Tim Stratton, Duane Nelson, Jill Myers, Jenny Schlagenhaft, David Bogert, Judy Neppel
Ex Officio: Marnie Moore-Lindman

Excused: Ray Christensen, Tiffany Yen, Jenny Lofse, Nancy Franke-Wilson, Robin Weis

1. **Call to Order:** President Geller called the meeting to order at 12:03PM
2. **Review of Minutes:** Motion for Approval: Darrell Carter, Second: Maddy Forsberg, Approved unanimously
3. **Finance Report:** Treasurer Nelson provided a preliminary year end report with total expenses of \$38,196.43 and a total loss of (\$15,601.78). The balance sheet for December 31, 2008, reflects a total asset of \$25,593.71 and total liabilities and equity of \$25,593.71. A motion for approval was made by Treasurer Nelson, seconded by Liz Quam, approved unanimously.
4. **Director's Report:** Executive Director Neppel reported on membership, cyber conferences, NRHA grant, Bremer grant application, MN Rural Health Conference planned for June 15-16, 2009, in Duluth, and partnerships. See report for details. Motion to approve: Mark Schoenbaum, seconded by Kathy Huntley, approved unanimously.
5. **RHAC Panel Report:** Kathy Huntley reviewed the RHAC panel discussion from November 2008. She provided the Board with the same handout regarding MRHA as she provided the attendees. The panel was comprised of individuals representing special constituency groups, particularly, trade associations. Mark Schoenbaum attended the panel discussion, along with several others including 4 Legislators and complimented Ms Huntley on the fine job she did of representing the broad perspective of MRHA. The Board thanked Ms Huntley for the excellent job of representing MRHA.
Liz Quam asked about the MRHA green (policy priorities for 2009) sheet. President Geller told her it will be available soon.

6. Committee Appointment

Board discussion resulted in considering a 2 track strategy for the forum given the dire financial circumstances of the state and the possibility that the legislature could be in session.

- a. Rural Health Conference Policy Forum: Marnie Moore-Lindman, Liz Quam, and Tim Stratton volunteered. Ray Christensen will be invited. Judy Neppel will coordinate.

7. Other

NRHA Policy Institute: Washington DC, January 25-28th. Mark Schoenbaum, and Karla Weng will be attending. President Geller and President Elect Tim Stratton cannot attend. Barbara Muesing will check to determine if she can go. Perhaps she and/or Judy Neppel will attend.

MRHA Day at the Capital: President Geller and Executive Director Neppel will discuss and send out 3 or 4 dates for the Boards consideration. MRHA will extend an invitation to Larry Anderson to join along with all of the MRHA membership.

President Geller asked Marnie Moore-Lindman for her view of the upcoming legislative session. She says the best defense is a good offense in these tough times and making certain rural is not on the chopping block will be critical.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Barbara Muesing at 12:51 PM.