

Minnesota Rural Health Association
Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 8, 2006
Conference Call 12 Noon

Present: Barbara Muesing, Chair, Dr. Ray Christensen, Dr. Tim Stratton, Robin Weis, Duane Nelson, Tiffany Yen, Marnie Moore, (ex officio) Judy Neppel (ex officio)

Each Board Member discussed current rural health issues of interest to the work of MRHA prior to the agenda initiation.

1. Membership: The letter of invitation, membership form, and legislative priorities were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting discussion. Seeking membership via email versus postal service mail was discussed. Each Board member will seek membership, feel free to make the materials their own, and proceed. The Executive Director will seek membership from the MN Rural Health Conference and the MRHA membership data base via email.
2. Rural Health Summit: Muesing explained that she, Mark Schoenbaum, and Judy Neppel are scheduled to meet with Lynette Dickson, Sue Offutt, and Brad Gibbens of the ND Center for Rural Health on Wednesday, December 13, 2006, to discuss a regional health policy summit. She asked if there were topics of particular interest to the Board. Those discussed included professional employment barriers state-to-state and/or rural healthcare workforce issues i.e. shortages. The Board is open to CRH suggestions. Muesing and Neppel will report back to the Board.
3. Ideas to Advance Metro to Rural Migration Resolution– Discussion centered on clarifying the written MRHA resolution which attempts to convey a complex concept -- one not easily understood. After much discussion the Board agreed that while the resolution is a good one and should be supported, the language must be more intentional and/or deliberate to clarify the concept. Muesing will meet with President Quam to discuss the language of the resolution and report back to the Board.
4. Day at the Capital – Date established as Wednesday, February 21, 2007.
5. Other – Next MRHA Board Meeting – January 23, 2007.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40PM

Respectfully submitted:
Judith Neppel