

**Minnesota Rural Health Association  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes**

**March 14, 2008  
Noon-1:08PM**

Attending: Jack Geller, Maddy Forsberg, Mark Schoenbaum, Tim Stratton, Greg Thorson, Robin Weiss, Tiffany Yen, Judith Neppel Ex-Officio

Excused: Jenni Beech, Dave Borgert, Ray Christensen, Nancy Franke-Wilson, Liz Quam, Barbara Muesing

1. **Call Meeting to Order** - In Barbara Muesing absence, Jack Geller, President Elect, called the meeting to order at 12:05PM.
2. **By-Law Modification** – This agenda item is tabled until the next meeting.
3. **Nominating Committee Report** – Greg Thorson requested that this item to be delayed until later in the meeting when Dr. Ray Christensen is expected to join the meeting.
4. **Membership Report** – Judy Neppel gave a report on membership numbers and current membership activities. There are 110 members. Jack Geller reported that he had completed some recent membership thank you calls and that they were appreciated and a good follow-up connection for us.
5. **Director's Report** - Neppel also reported that the break out session topics have been selected by the planning committee for the June 23-24 Rural Health Conference that MRHA co-sponsors. She also reported that the MRHA Annual Meeting is being discussed for early morning, Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. Tiffany Yen reported that she will assume responsibility to get a room for the meeting at the DECC and will order breakfast. It was decided that the room should be scheduled for 6:45AM with the meeting to start at 7-7:15AM and a planned adjournment for 8:15-8:30AM. MRHA will co-sponsor with the UMC Center for Adult Learning, a workshop series on Mapping Your Retirement, a Vital Aging curriculum. MRHA will have a table at the NW AHEC Career Fair on March 29<sup>th</sup>. MRHA will contact the other AHEC's around the state and offer our presence at their events. MRHA Board member distribution is such that representation at all AHEC locations is supported. Neppel reported that all AHEC Directors are members of MRHA.
6. **Resource Development** – Mark Schoenbaum reported that MRHA has received a State Office of Rural Health (SORH) grant of \$5000. After some discussion a motion was made that MRHA Board would authorize

Mark Schoenbaum to be the authorizing signature with the authority to sign off on all required documentation. He will work with Judy Neppel to insure that all the terms of the grant are met. Motion was seconded by Maddy Forsberg. Motion passed unanimously.

The Bremer grant proposal was discussed and while it is incomplete, it shows promise. The need to include strategies, measures, and a few other concepts, is a good first step and Barbara Muesing is commended for the work done to date. Tim Stratton agreed to assist and will incorporate his ideas into the grant. He asked about timelines and it was agreed that since the Bremer Foundation meets monthly there is interest in continuing to move the draft forward as time permits. Jack Geller suggested a brainstorming session to allow for adding substance to the draft. Mark suggested that using a video conferencing technology may be the way to move the project along. He will look into finding a technology source to facilitate the draft advancement.

7. **Conference Planning** – MRHA will facilitate the Rural Health Conference Policy Forum on June 23, 2008 from 3-5PM. Jack will assume responsibility to set an agenda and invite Legislators. He will report back next week.

#### **8. Adjourn – 1:10PM**

Respectfully submitted:  
Judith Neppel  
Executive Director