

**Minnesota Rural Health Association  
Board of Director's Meeting  
Monday, April 6, 2009  
Conference Call**

**Minutes**

**Attending:** Jack Geller, Darrell Carter, Kathy Huntley, Jill Myers, Duane Nelson, Mark Schoenbaum, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Tim Stratton, Judy Neppel

**Excused:** Jennifer Beech, David Bogert, Ray Christensen, Maddy Forsberg, Barbara Muesing, Robin Weis, Karla Weng, Liz Quam, Tiffany Yen

**Ex Officio:** Marnie Moore-Lindman

**Guest:** Kathy Draeger

1. **Call to Order:** President Geller called the Board of Director's meeting to order at 12:02 PM.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 5, 2009, meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve made by: Tim Stratton. Second by: Darrell Carter. Approved unanimously.
3. **Financial Report:** Treasurer Duane Nelson reviewed the written financial report for the end of the first quarter and noted a fund balance in excess of \$80,000. Details on the profit and loss statement were reviewed. A motion to accept the financial report made by: Kathy Huntley. Seconded by: Tim Statton. Approved unanimously.
4. **MN Commission on Local Foods:** Kathy Draeger joined the Board meeting to educate regarding a legislative bill introduced in the House by Representative Larry Hosch (H File 1747) to establish a Task Force that would develop state level policies making recommendations on access to local foods. The Task Force report would be submitted to the Commission of Agriculture on March 2010 and would be disbanded in July 2010. The bill is prescriptive and inclusive.

President Geller thanked Dr. Draeger for the work done on this important topic and asked that she keep him up to date on the progress of the bill.

5. **Director's Report:** Executive Director Neppel reported on the planning progress made to date regarding the Rural Health Conference scheduled for June 15-16, 2009, in Duluth. The decision to schedule a 2 hour presentation each day of the conference to hear issues related to health care reform was discussed briefly by Mark Schoenbaum. Neppel stated

that the break out sessions have been selected by the committee she serves on and that there were 84 proposals and 25 selected. The program promises to be excellent and will cover a variety of current topics. The selection process was difficult as the proposals are greater in number and quality each year that the conference is held.

Neppel reported on the progress in the rural health policy forum which MRHA will sponsor at the conference. She and Tim Stratton, MRHA subcommittee members for the forum planning, reported that Senator Klobuchar has been invited to speak on health care reform with a focus on rural, and will attend to keynote the Forum if possible. The Senator promised a 48 hour notice regarding her attendance. If she cannot be present, she may possibly do a brief video presentation. There will be staffers from Senator Klobuchar's office who will be her "eyes and ears" at the conference. Marnie Moore-Lindman is inviting, on behalf of MRHA, the state legislators identified by the committee and is making good progress on getting commitments from many serving on key health committees and advisory committee groups.

- 6. Rural Forum Committee Report** – Tim Stratton reviewed the Rural Policy Forum agenda. He stated that Senator Klobuchar will do the Keynote, if she can attend or there's a video available, followed by Representative Tom Huntley who will do a brief update on health reform as the Chair of the MN House Committee on Health and Human Services Finance Division. Senator Yvonne Prettner-Solon, serving on the MN Health and Human Services Budget Division committee will give a brief senate update. The following Legislators will serve as table facilitators and will end the Forum with their tables report and comments.

The other Legislators invited include Representative Paul Thissen, Representative Laura Brod, Senator Julie Rosen, Representative Mary Ellen Otremba, Representative Rod Skoe and Senator Steve Gottwalt. The Forum Planning Subcommittee is planning a substitute agenda should the legislature be in session.

- 7. Other:** no additional issues
- 8. Adjournment:** President Geller entertained a motion for adjournment. Motion made by Tim Stratton and seconded by Darrell Carter. Approved unanimously. Meeting ended at 1PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Judith Neppel, Secretary