

Minnesota Rural Health Association

Annual Board Meeting

June 24, 2008

6:45AM

DECC Board Room

Attending: Barbara Muesing, Jack Geller, Jill Myer, Karla Weng, Tim Stratton, Maddy Forsberg, Robin Weis, Jenni Schlagenhaft, Mark Schoenbaum, Tiffany Yen, Darrell Carter, Kathy Huntley, Judy Neppel

Guests: Rick Failing, Jim Hart

Excused: Ray Christensen, Jenni Beech, Nancy Franke Wilson

- 1. Call to Order:** President Barbara Muesing called the meeting to order.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions:** President Muesing welcomed the Board members to the annual meeting and asked everyone around the table to introduce themselves and discuss their employment positions briefly.
- 3. Annual Report:** President Muesing reviewed the Annual Report.
By Law Revision: President Muesing thanked Jenni Beech and Maddy Forsberg for their work on revising the by laws. She asked if there were any additional revisions at this time. L Quam of the Audit Committee suggested one change under Article X, Section 10.2, under checks and drafts that the amount required for signature of at least two officers be changed from \$1000 to \$3500. The recommendation will be made in the Audit Committee report.
- 4. Passing the Gavel:** President Muesing discussed the significance of a gavel she is presenting to MRHA and officially passed it to the new President Jack Geller.
- 3. Membership Report:** Executive Director Neppel reviewed the membership report for 2007-2008. The Corporate membership numbers have increased significantly. Continuing to increase membership will be on-going.

- 4. Finance Report:** Treasurer Nelson reported a cash balance of \$39,323.97. After some discussion, Nelson motioned to approve. Quam seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- 5. Audit Committee Report:** Members Quam and Geller reported that they reviewed every receipt and deposit, invoice and expense, and the bank account and found no irregularities. They recommend the modification of the bylaws Article X, Section 10.2 as bylaw previously discussed. Geller moved approval and Nelson seconded. Motion passed. They also recommend a 4% annual bonus for the Executive Director. Quam moved approval and Nelson seconded. Motion passed.
- 6. Nominating Committee/ Election of Officers:** Quam reviewed the nominations of the five proposed new Board members and stated that it is with pride and awe at the expertise she propose the slate to include: Karla Weng, Jill Myers, Darrell Carter, Jenny Schlagenhaft, and Kathy Huntley. Schoenbaum moved a unanimous ballot which was seconded by Stratton. Motion was approved.
Quam reviewed the Board Officers for 2009 including: President Elect, Tim Stratton, and Vice President Elect – position open, Treasurer, Duane Nelson, and Secretary, Judy Neppel. Schoenbaum moved a unanimous ballot which was seconded by Geller. Motion was approved.
- 7. Grant Development:** President Geller discussed plans to complete a grant request which will be focused on moving MRHA to the next level. Thoughts include: a full time staff, organizational effectiveness to improve advocacy work, and improving rural civic engagement. Geller will ready the grant and submit by August 1, 2008.
- 8. Other:** Schoenbaum reminded the Board of the work accomplished in the 2008 Legislative session and the importance of acknowledging the accomplishment and thanking those who worked so hard to achieve a \$47 million dollar public health fund designated to begin the reformation of healthcare in MN. This is the largest amount of money set aside for healthcare in years, maybe ever. While the focus could have been better for rural, there's much to be said about the importance of collaboration and coordination of the services. The discussions will begin soon and it will be important that MRHA keep an eye on the two forums that will be working out the details on the insurance side and the medical homes piece.
- 9. Thank You:** President Geller suggested that the Board acknowledge the exceptional work done by Immediate Past President Barbara Muesing. The accomplishments of the past year were significant and it took the yeoman efforts of President Muesing to achieve the outcomes. Geller

moved that on behalf of the Board of Directors we acknowledge that effort.
Quam seconded. Approved.

10. Adjourn: President Geller called for a motion to adjourn. Moved by
Nelson, seconded by Neppel. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Neppel
Secretary