



MINNESOTA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Board of Director's Meeting
Conference Call
December 13, 2010

Attending: Ray Christensen, Jenny Schlagenhaft, Jim Dregney, Laurissa Stigen, Mark Schoenbaum, Jill Myers, Marnie Moore, Karla Weng, Judy Neppel

Excused: Tim Stratton, Jack Geller, Allison O'Connor, Jenny Lohse, Robin Weis, David Brenne, David Borgert, Liz Quam, Tiffany Yen, Darrell Carter,

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** J Neppel called the meeting to order at 12:10PM in President R Christensen absence.
2. **Approval of Meeting Notes from November 19, 2010, Board Retreat** – Motion to approve the retreat notes was made by L Stigen and approved unanimously.
3. **Business Arising From Minutes:** None
4. **Old Business:**
 - Membership Committee:** Schlagenhaft reported that the committee will meet in January and develop a work plan for the year. The plan will include an electronic survey of the memberships needs and satisfaction, target membership solicitation (CAH's, strategic portions of the state where membership is minimal), and other strategies to improve membership numbers.
 - Education Committee:** K Weng asked Neppel how the cyber conference offered this past week on the UP HI program went. Neppel reported that the number registered was 13 and the conference was very interactive and was well received.

President Ray Christensen joined the meeting and led the remainder of the agenda.

 - Finance Committee:** No report. D Brenne was unable to attend.
 - Advocacy Committee:** M Moore reported that she has been attending caucus meetings and introducing herself to the new legislators. The Advocacy Committee will meet in January to finalize the MRHA green sheet. She looks forward to communicating regional meeting dates and will solicit the Board members and membership to participate to communicate with the new and returning legislator's advocacy issues of importance to MRHA.
 - Structure:** Dr. Christensen reported that the committee is satisfied with the current organizational structure.

5. **New Business:**

MRHA Day at the Capital: Christensen called on Neppel to report. The date is set for February 2 from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Christensen asked L Stigen what the AHEC's are planning. She reported that the AHEC Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 3 and that several board members and all AHEC personnel will be attending. She expects several will attend MRHA's Day as well. She reviewed last year's AHEC Day at the Capitol agenda which included a presentation from Representative Paul Thissen, a welcome from Representative Mary Ellen Otremba, a legislative overview from the University of MN Government Relations Staff, lunch, and time for the previously scheduled meetings with legislators. Plans for the MRHA Day at the Capitol agenda will be forthcoming.

Rural Health Conference Forum: Neppel reported that the planning committee is working on the conference. She asked what the Board they wanted to do about the forum format. She reported that the planning committee suggests that a professional moderator be hired and that perhaps a representative group of state legislators heading health related committees be asked to discuss the direction the state will go on rural health issues. The Board was interested in that idea. Further discussion is needed.

Regional Planning Conference: Neppel reported that the planning committee has met twice in the last month. The group is discussing the concept using technology to reduce travel costs and improve access. More on that concept when there's more known.

Director's Report: Neppel referenced her written report.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Judith Neppel, Secretary