

**Minnesota Rural Health Association
Board of Director's Meeting
May 18, 2009
12 Noon – 1PM
Conference Call**

Minutes

Attending: Jack Geller, Jenni Lohse, Duane Nelson, Jill Myers, Jenny Schlagenhoft, Kathy Huntley, Tim Stratton, Maddy Forsberg, Karla Weng, Tiffany Yen, Darrell Carter, Mark Schoenbaum, Judy Neppel

Excused: Liz Quam, Barbara Muesing, Ray Christensen, Robin Weis, Dave Bogert

1. **Call to Order** – President Jack Geller called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - President Geller called for approval of the minutes of the April 6, 2009, meeting. Kathy Huntley moved approval, Karla Weng seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Rural Forum Committee Report** – President Geller asked Committee Chairperson Tim Stratton to update the Board on the Rural Forum preparation progress. He reported that Senator Klobuchar will attend to Keynote the Forum, if possible. If not, she will send a 10 minute video updating the participants on health reform at the federal level. A member of her Staff will attend in her absence.
Confirmation from Legislators is limited to Senator Paul Thissen currently. Marnie Moore has delivered the letters of invitation and Dr. Stratton will follow-up with her this week (after the session).
The Forum structure being worked on is as follows:
 - Senator Klobuchar – Keynote
 - MRHA Priorities Presentation
 - Representative Huntley and Prettner Solon remarks
 - Round Table Discussions
 - Legislators Summaries

President Geller asked Mark Schoenbaum to summarize the plans for the CAH and Rural Health Conference. Mr. Schoenbaum reported that the program is finalized and the brochures are out. There are 3 featured

speakers: Sanne Magnan, Commission, Department of Health; Lawrence J. Massa, President and CEO, MN Hospital Association; Alan Morgan, CEO, National Health Association.

He encouraged the Board to register and make hotel reservation as soon as possible. Tiffany Yen reported that there are currently 60 individuals and 55 exhibitors registered. She discussed the DECC parking ramp construction and said that there will be parking challenges though alternative parking places have been established. Kathy Huntley encouraged another notice to the MRHA membership.

- 4. NRHA Meeting Report** – President Geller called on the Board members who attended the NRHA annual meeting to give a report. Karla Weng reported that the tenor of the meeting was cautious optimism over the national health reform activities. Jill Myers reported that the meeting numbers were fewer than 700, down from previous years, perhaps because of travel restrictions for hospital and community attendees. Darrell Carter reported that there was a “sense of a light at the end of the tunnel” which generated energy and a hope for improvement in the next 2 years. The sessions were well attended and the information discussed was interesting and useful. President Geller reported that the level of optimism for federal reform was one of “something could happen”. The contribution sessions were excellent but the private business sponsorships took away from some of the sessions.
- 5. Finance Report** – Duane Nelson, MRHA Treasurer, reported that there had been minimal activity in the months of April/May. He will provide a financial report at the June meeting.
- 6. Directors Report** – Judy Neppel reported that MRHA worked hard to get the Primary Seat Belt law passed. She thanked the MRHA Board and membership for helping with encouraging a positive vote. The cyber conferences in May on Personal Health Record and TogetherRxAccess both were successful with more than 20 individual attending each. The CAH and Rural Health Conference have been discussed at today’s meeting. The Hero and Team have been chosen and it will be the responsibility of MRHA to make those presentations at the conference. The next Board meeting will be at the DECC Board Room (upper level – same as last year) at 7AM on Tuesday, June 16, 2009.
- 7. Other** – President Geller requested that a meeting of the Policy Forum Committee be organized for the week after the Memorial Day Holiday.
- 8. Adjourn** – Dr. Stratton made the motion to adjourn at 12:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Neppel, Secretary