



Minneapolis – Duluth/Superior  
Passenger Rail Alliance  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
Pine County Courthouse  
Pine City, MN

## MINUTES

### **Appointed Representatives Present:**

Elissa Hansen, \*\*City of Duluth, Chair  
Jason Serck, City of Superior, Vice-chair  
Stan Gustafson, City of Cambridge  
Matt Ludwig, \*Pine County Commissioner  
Rick Goutermont, \*Lake County Commissioner  
Mike Jugovich, \*St. Louis County Commissioner

### **Alternate Representatives Present:**

None

### **Appointed Representatives Not Present**

Katie Draper, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

\* *County Commissioner*

\*\* *Council Member*

### **Other meeting attendees attached and made part of the minutes**

#### **1. Call to order / introductions**

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. welcomed all and introductions were made. Six (6) representatives in attendance constituted a quorum.

#### **2. Recognize & Seat Board Members**

No new Board Members.

#### **3. Election of Officers for 2018**

**Chair** – (One-year term, which expires January 1, 2019) – Bob Manzoline conducted the election by calling for nominations from the floor for Chair. Jason Serck nominates Councilor Hansen. With no further nominations, nominations were closed and a **motion** by Jason Serck, **supported** by Stan Gustafson, that Councilor Hansen is named Chair of the Alliance for a one-year term. Unanimous. Chair Hansen then thanked all for their support.

**Vice-chair-** (One-year term, which expires January 1, 2019) – Chair Hansen calls for nominations for Vice-chair. Chair Hansen **nominates** Jason Serck as Vice-chair. **Supported** by Stan Gustafson. With no further nominations, nominations were closed and named Jason Serck as Vice-chair of the Alliance for a one-year term. Unanimous.

#### 4. Organizational Items for 2018

- A. Appoint Legal Counsel - 2018 Legal Service Proposal would provide legal services to the Alliance at the hourly rate of \$295 per hour, the same hourly rate that was in effect for 2017. All legal services would be coordinated through Steven C. Fecker and Roy J. Christensen, who may on occasion assign legal work to other members of the law firm with the consent of the Alliance. Bills will be submitted monthly and will contain an itemization of legal services rendered and the hours of service per month. Mileage will be billed at the Alliance's then-current rate. No bills will be submitted for meals or other travel-related expenses (except where an overnight stay is required), nor clerical assistance. Alliance has the right to terminate this attorney-client relationship at any time. Following discussion a **motion**, by Commissioner Goutermont, **supported** by Commissioner Jugovich to accept the Legal Services Proposal from Johnson, Killen & Seiler in the amount of \$15,000.00 for year 2018. Unanimous.

#### 5. Additions to agenda

- . A. None

#### 6. Public Forum / Appearances

- A. None.

#### 7. Communications

- A. Correspondence to and from various entities supporting NLX in the State Bonding bill and Federal TIGER Grant – Received.

#### 8. Consent agenda

- A. Approve minutes from the re-scheduled meeting of November 15, 2017 -  
B. Expenditure & Budget Analysis of November & December 2017- A **motion** by Jason Serck, **supported** by Commissioner Goutermont to approve the November 15, 2017 meeting minutes. Unanimous. A **motion** by Jason Serck, **supported** by Commissioner Goutermont to approve the November & December 2017 budget & expenditure reports as presented. Unanimous.

#### 9. Reports

- A. Media – Jill Brown – (Attached and made part of the minutes). New updated NLX flyers are ready for distribution.
- B. State / Federal / Legislative Report – John Ongaro gave the State and Federal Legislative updates.
- C. Technical Advisory Committee Report – Ken Buehler – (Attached and made part of the minutes).
- D. MN Department of Transportation – Frank Loetterle – Frank Informs that he spoke with Melissa Hatcher - Federal Rail Administration (FRA) on the FONSI, who reported clearance was received from the Department of the Interior and awaiting “signature” from FRA by the end of the month.

**10. Unfinished business**

- A. Consider 2018 Alliance Membership Contributions & Budget – Bob Manzoline reviews the Membership Contributions & Budget for 2018. (*Attached and made part of the minutes*). Informational only and will be reviewed again in six (6) months. No action taken.

**11. New business**

A. Consider Federal / State Lobbying yearly contracts & Media Consultant -

1. Lockridge Grindal Nauen - \$7,500.00 / 6 months – A **motion** by Commissioner Goutermont, **supported** by Jason Serck to approve the 6 month contract with Lockridge Grindal Nauen in the amount of \$7,500.00. Unanimous.
2. Chris DeLaForest - \$ 1,500.00 / 6 months – A **motion** by Jason Serck, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to approve the 6 month contract with Chris DeLaForest in the amount of \$1,500.00. Unanimous.
3. Jill Brown - \$9,000.00 / 6 months – A **motion** by Commissioner Jugovich **supported** by Stan Gustafson to approve the 6 month contract with Jill Brown in the amount of \$9,000.00. Unanimous.

- B. Consider resolution for NLX Board Signatories - Based on the previous elections, a **motion** by Jason Serck, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to appoint Councilor Hansen as 2018 Alliance Board Chair, and to appoint Jason Serck as Vice-chair. Alliance authorizes and approves Board Chair to sign in the name of the Board for the Alliance. In the absence of the Board Chair, Vice-chair has signatory capacity. Unanimous.

**12. Other business**

None.

**13. Next meeting**

February 28, 2018  
Pine County Courthouse @ 10:00 a.m.  
Pine City, MN

**Adjournment**

With no further business a **motion** Commissioner Jugovich, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to adjourn @ 10:35 a.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Birdie Oddo.



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Elissa Hansen  
Chair of the Alliance



**Minneapolis to Duluth /Superior Passenger Rail Alliance- Attendees**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2018**

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**Pine City, MN**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address/Organization</u></b>
Steve Fecker	Alliance Attorney
Birdie Oddo	St. Louis & Lake Counties RRA
Bob Manzoline	St. Louis & Lake Counties RRA
Jill Brown	NLX Contractor
Frank Loetterle	MN DOT
Nick Baker	Douglas County, WI
Alycia Vender Vegt	Hinckley News
Phillip Kester	City of Sandstone
Leonard Bonander	City of Sandstone
Kathy George	Administrator - City of Sandstone
Marshall Lind	City of Braham
John Ongaro	St. Louis County