



Minneapolis – Duluth/Superior  
Passenger Rail Alliance  
Wednesday, May 22, 2019  
Pine County Courthouse  
Pine City, MN

## MINUTES

### **Appointed Representatives Present:**

Keith Nelson, \*St. Louis County  
Stan Gustafson, City of Cambridge  
Matt Ludwig, \* Pine County  
Andrew Johnson, \*\*City of Mpls.  
Noah Hobbs, \*\* City of Duluth

### **Alternate Representatives Present:**

### **Appointed Representatives Not Present**

Katie Draper, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe  
Jason Serck, City of Superior, WI

\* County Commissioner

\*\* Council Member

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

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

Vice-chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., welcomed all and introductions were made. Five (5) representatives in attendance constituted a quorum.

#### **2. Additions to Agenda**

None.

#### **3. Public Forum / Appearances**

None

#### **4. Communications**

A. Vice-chair Johnson announces that the City of Minneapolis voted to reauthorize the Joint Powers Agreement for their participation with NLX and approved their portion of funding for 2019. Vice-chair Johnson also shares that he has had opportunities to speak with Hennepin County officials in an effort for them to consider the same.

#### **5. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approve minutes from meeting of February 27, 2019 - A motion by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Commissioner Nelson to approve the February 27, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Unanimous.
- B. Expenditure & Budget Analysis for February, March & April 2019 – A motion by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Commissioner Nelson to approve the February, March & April expense & budget reports as presented. Unanimous.

## 6. Reports

- A. Media – Jill Brown - (*Attached and made part of the minutes*).
- B. State / Federal Legislative Update – John Ongaro gave the State legislative update.
- C. Advisory Committee – Ken Buehler – Updated the Board on the Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> Advisory Committee meeting. Train Days are at St. Paul Union Depot on June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10-4 p.m. both days. Ken, Jill Brown and Frank Loetterle will person the booth with NLX information and handouts.
- D. Administrative – Bob Manzoline & Frank Loetterle - In Frank's absence, Bob informed of the current State Bonding Requests under consideration by the Legislature, the three (3) projects are: Rail Projects/NLX Specific for \$6 million, Grassy Point Draw Bridge for \$17.5 million and the Third Main for \$55.1 million. Work is being assembled for a grant application on the Third Main Project for the Federal Build Grant which is due in July.

## 7. Unfinished business

- A. None.

## 8. New business

- A. Consider loan repayment to St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) in the amount of \$954.02 for year-end 2018 – Bob Manzoline explains that in January 2019 the RRA loaned \$5,000.00 to the NLX Alliance to cover the Alliance's year-end 2018 cash deficit. The Alliance repaid \$5,000.00 to the RRA in February 2019.

The actual year-end deficit has been determined to be \$5,954.02. The RRA has loaned \$954.02 to cash-balance the Alliance for year-end 2018. Following discussion, a **motion** by Stan Gustafson, **supported** by Commissioner Nelson, Alliance repays RRA in the amount of \$954.02 for year-end 2018. Unanimous.

- B. Consider recommendation for 2020 State capital budget project(s) for NLX – Bob Manzoline informs that projects, referenced in Item #6D are still under consideration by the State Legislature and reviews the 2020 MN Management & Budget (MMB) Capital Budget instructions. Key dates for Capital Funding Requests are: June 14, 2019 - requests are due; July 15, 2019 - MMB submits all local government requests to the Legislature; October 18, 2019 - Final bonding project requests are due for consideration by the Governor; January 15, 2020 - Governor presents the capital budget to the Legislature. Not knowing at this time what the Legislature is going to decide and time sensitivity makes the projects to be applied for difficult to be determined.

As has been done in the past, Alliance Board has made a recommendation to the St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) to apply for State Bond funds on behalf of NLX. The next RRA Board meeting is Wednesday, June 5, 2019. Following discussion, a **motion** by Stan Gustafson, **supported** by Councilor Hobbs requests the RRA submit a Capital Funding application to the State of MN for NLX project(s) that best serve advancement of the NLX Project

following the outcome of the 2019 State Legislative Session and in consultation with Alliance Chair before a Capital Funding Request is made. Unanimous.  
*(Opportunities for Incremental Improvements are attached).*

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Next meeting**

June 26, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Pine County Courthouse

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Councilor Johnson adjourned the meeting @ 10:47 a.m.  
Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by Birdie Oddo.

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Jason Serck  
Chair of the Alliance



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

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

**Pine County Courthouse**

**Pine City, MN**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address/Organization</u></b>
<b>Bob Manzoline</b>	<b>St. Louis &amp; Lake Counties RRA</b>
<b>Birdie Oddo</b>	<b>St. Louis &amp; Lake Counties RRA</b>
<b>Steve Fecker</b>	<b>NLX Legal Council</b>
<b>Jill Brown</b>	<b>NLX Alliance Contractor</b>
<b>Ken Buehler</b>	<b>LSRM / NSSR</b>
<b>Leonard Bonander</b>	<b>City of Sandstone</b>
<b>Phillip Kester</b>	<b>City of Sandstone</b>
<b>Mark Perry</b>	<b>City of Hinckley</b>
<b>John Ongaro</b>	<b>St. Louis County</b>
<b>Marshall Lind</b>	<b>City of Braham</b>
<b>Molly Davis</b>	<b>Hinckley News</b>
<b>Peter Spartz</b>	<b>City of Sandstone</b>
<b>Nick Baker</b>	<b>Douglas County, WI</b>