



Minneapolis – Duluth/Superior
Passenger Rail Alliance
Wednesday, February 27, 2019
Pine County Courthouse
Pine City, MN

MINUTES

Appointed Representatives Present:

Jason Serck, City of Superior, WI
Stan Gustafson, City of Cambridge
Matt Ludwig, * Pine County
Andrew Johnson, **City of Mpls.
Rick Goutermont, *Lake County
Keith Nelson, *St. Louis County

Alternate Representatives Present:

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 Serck called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m., welcomed all and incoming Commissioner Keith Nelson. Introductions were made. Six (6) representatives in attendance constituted a quorum.

2. Recognize & seat Board Members

A. Election of Officers to follow.

3. Election of Officers for 2019

- A. Chair - Bob Manzoline called for nominations for Chair. A **motion** by Stan Gustafson, to reappoint Jason Serck as Chair, **supported** by Councilor Johnson. For a one year term. Unanimous.
- B. Vice-chair - Chair Serck called for nominations for Vice-chair. With none, Chair Serck nominates Councilor Johnson as Vice-chair. A **motion** by Stan Gustafson, **supported** by Commissioner Nelson, to appoint Councilor Johnson as Vice-chair. For a one year term. Unanimous.

4. Organizational Items for 2019

- A. Appoint Legal Counsel, consider proposal from Steven C. Fecker – Bob Manzoline reviews the proposal to render legal services to the Alliance at the hourly rate of \$295.00 per hour, which is unchanged from previous years. All legal services will be coordinated through Steven C. Fecker. Bills will be submitted monthly and contain an itemization of legal services rendered and the hours of service per month. The Alliance has the right to terminate this

attorney/client relationship at any time. A **motion** by Commissioner Nelson, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to accept the legal services proposal retroactive to January 1, 2019. Unanimous.

5. Additions to the Agenda

A. None.

6. Public Forum / Appearances

A. None.

7. Communications

- A. To: New legislators – *(Attached and made part of the minutes)*.
- B. From: Amtrak letter of support – *(Attached and made part of the minutes)*.

8. Consent agenda

- A. Approve minutes from meeting of November 28, 2018 & January 23, 2019 – A **motion** by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to approve the minutes from both meetings as presented. Unanimous.
- B. Expenditure & Budget Analysis for November & December 2018 and January 2019 - A **motion** by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to approve the budget and expenditures as presented. Unanimous.

9. Reports

- A. Media – Jill Brown – *(Report attached and made part of the minutes)*.
- B. Project Report – Bob Manzoline & Frank Loetterle - Bob Manzoline informs the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvement Grant (CRISI) is due in March and without the non-federal match for the application, MN Department of Transportation is not going to submit the application, as the Federal Rail Administration will not look at the applications without the match. This would be the third year of not coming up with the match for the Federal grant funds. The State may finally be contributing dollars to the Project and if received, the monies that would be dedicated to NLX would be used for this type of grant.

Frank Loetterle adds that not much has been done since the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been completed. The format for applying for Federal funds has changed and he has been working with Quandel Consultants to accomplish this task within 2–3 weeks, should funding become available.

- C. State / Federal / Legislative Update – John Ongaro and Jeff Anderson gave the respective legislative updates.
- D. Technical Advisory Committee – Ken Buehler – *(TAC meeting minutes attached)*. Meetings are scheduled in March with Local & State Legislators to inform them on the Project and a brief power point has been assembled to be presented. *(Attached and made part of the minutes)*. Jill Brown manned the booth for Duluth/St. Louis County Days at the State Capitol. Thanks Jill!

10. Unfinished business

A. None.

11. New Business

- A. Consider contract for Media Consultant – Jill Brown - Following discussion, a **motion** by Commissioner Nelson, **supported** by Commissioner Goutermont to approve the contract, with a not to exceed amount of \$20,000.00, retroactive to January 1, 2019. Unanimous.

- B. Review 2019 budget, expenditures and loan from St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority – Bob Manzoline explains that the NLX Alliance budget for 2018 exceeded \$80,000.00. The St. Louis & Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) loaned NLX Alliance approximately \$5,000.00 to cover the additional expenses for 2018. Following discussion, a **motion** by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Stan Gustafson, to repay the \$5,000.00 to RRA. Unanimous.

- C. Consider resolution for NLX board signatories – Based on the previous elections, a **motion** by Commissioner Goutermont, **supported** by Commissioner Nelson to appoint Jason Serck as 2019 Alliance Board Chair, and to appoint Councilor Andrew Johnson 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.

- D. Consider proposed 2019 NLX meeting dates – A **motion** by Councilor Johnson, **supported** by Stan Gustafson to approve the 2019 meeting schedule as presented. Meetings are the 4th Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. @ the Pine County Courthouse and subject to change. Unanimous.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Next meeting

March 27, 2019 @ 10:00 a.m.
Pine County Courthouse

Adjournment

With no further business, a **motion** by Councilor Johnson, **supported** Stan Gustafson to adjourn the meeting @ 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Birdie Oddo.

Andrew Johnson
Vice-chair of the Alliance



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<u>Name</u>	<u>Address/Organization</u>
Bob Manzoline	St. Louis & Lake Counties RRA
Birdie Oddo	St. Louis & Lake Counties RRA
Steve Fecker	NLX Legal Council
Jill Brown	NLX Alliance Contractor
Ken Buehler	LSRM / NSSR
Leonard Bonander	City of Sandstone
Phillip Kester	City of Sandstone
Mark Perry	City of Hinckley
Kathy George	City of Sandstone
John Ongaro	St. Louis County
Marshall Lind	City of Braham
Jeff Anderson	The Costin Group
Francis Loetterle	MNDOT
Molly (?)	Hinckley News