

MICHIGAN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021

Homewood Suites
Lansing, MI

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Tom Anthony at 8:31 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present

Roll Call: Secretary/Treasurer Hankenberg called the roll. Present were Bob Masters, Cheri Laverty, Todd Hankenberg, Tom Anthony, Andrea Schroeder, Randy Seida, Dale Stewart, Chris Kenyon

Participating by Zoom: Michelle Thibideau

Excused Absence: Tim Kading

Absent:

Quorum was present.

Staff: Tim Neumann

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Schroeder, seconded by Masters to approve the December 9, 2021, agenda.

Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion was made by Seida and seconded by Schroeder to approve the September 30, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes.

Vote: All in favor, motion carried.

Edward Jones: Jena Eisenberger from Edward Jones presented to the Board on MRWA investments and discussed different options on MRWA investment policy. Board to consider action on policy under investments in New Business.

President's Report: Anthony reported on Mattawan on their USDA loan, EGLE testing cement asbestos.

National Director's Report: NRWA Executive and Finance Committee met 1st weekend of December, working through funding process, approve fee structure for dues, NRWA leasing office space on 10th floor of 101 constitution, Kenyon appointed Legislative Committee Chair.

Approval of the Financials: The Financial reports for October 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Schroeder to approve the financial reports as presented; seconded by Seida. Discussion and questions followed. Secretary-Treasurer Hankenberg role called the vote. All in Favor, Motion carries.

Executive Director's Report: Neumann reported all items to report will be reported out in the committee reports.

Committee Minutes:

- A. Chair Anthony presented the September 29th meeting minutes and reported out on the December 8th Executive Committee meeting and the committee discussed the National Director Update, Financials, Investment Reports, Federal Program Update, Audit proposals, investing additional MRWA funds, Upcoming Staff Retirements & Hiring Process, Employee Bonus, Executive Director Evaluation and 2022 Budget.
- B. Co-Chair Masters presented the Conference committee minutes from October 21, 2021, meeting and reported out on the December 8th committee meeting and the committee discussed Opening Session Speaker, Water-Pac, Registration Giveaway, Raffle Ticket Items, Video Contest, Award Program, Scholarship Program, Hospitality Room/Social Event, Training Class Suggestions/Changes.
- C. Chair Seida presented the September 29th meeting minutes and reported out on the December 9th Membership/Training Committee meeting and the committee discussed Retired Members, Training Division Update, AWIA Update, EPA Training Specialist, EPA WW Program, Affinity Programs, Credit Card Fee for Membership Renewals.
- D. Chair Kenyon presented the September 29th meeting minutes and reported out on the December 9th Legislative Committee meeting and topics addressed were Chlorides and Sulfates, NRWA DC Update, National Regulatory Update, Lead & Copper, PFAS, Coalition for a Strong & Prosperous Michigan, FY22 Funding, 2021-2022 State Legislation Update, Re-Districting Update, Water Rally 2022

Old Business: None

New Business:

- A. Motion by Kenyon to approve the Executive Board recommendation to approve the Weinlander & Fitzhugh audit proposal, 2nd by Masters Roll Call Vote, motion carries unanimously.
- B. Motion by Schroeder to approve Executive Board recommendation of investing an additional \$100,000 in MRWA investments with Edward Jones, 2nd by Masters. Roll Call Vote, Motion carries unanimously.

- C. Motion by Masters to change MRWA's Investment Policy to 50% to 70% in stocks and 30% to 50% in Fixed Assets i.e., cash, bonds, 2nd by Schroeder. Discussion was held on the policy change. Roll Call Vote, Motion carries unanimously.
- D. Motion by Schroeder to approve the Executive Board recommendation of a 3% raise and a \$1,000 bonus for Executive Director Neumann, 2nd by Kenyon. Discussion was held on bonus for Neumann Roll Call Vote, 1 – Yes, 8 – No, motion fails.
- E. Motion by Masters to recommend a 3% raise for 2022 and a \$2,000 bonus in 2021 for Executive Director Neumann, 2nd by Stewart. Discussion was held on the motion. Roll Call Vote, 7 – Yes, 1 – No, motion carries. Lost Zoom connection so Thibideau did not vote.
- F. Motion by Schroeder to approve Executive Board recommendation of approving MRWA's 2022 budget, 2nd by Masters. Roll Call Vote, Motion Carries unanimously. Lost Zoom connection so Thibideau did not vote.
- G. Declarations for running for MRWA's 2022 Executive Board, President – Anthony, Vice-President – Seida, Secretary/Treasurer – Hackenberg
- H. Committee Recommendations:

Motion by Seida to approve the Retired Members Policy as recommended by the Membership/Training Committee, 2nd Hackenberg, All inf Favor, Motion Carries. Lost Zoom connection so Thibideau did not vote.

Motion by Schroeder to approve \$1,000 bonuses for MRWA Staff to be paid in 2021 as recommended by the Executive Board, 2nd Masters, Roll Call Vote, Motion Carries Unanimously. Lost Zoom connection so Thibideau did not vote.

Other:

March 15th Board Meeting will be at 4:30 pm at Soaring Eagle Resort.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Masters; second was made Schroeder.

Vote: Motion carries.

President Anthony adjourned the meeting at 10:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tim Neumann
Executive Director, MRWA