



## MINUTES OF GOVERNING BOARD MEETING Crookston, MN – May 5, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Randy Bruer, Jason Carlson, Aaron Cook, Sarah Kjono, Chris Kujava, Karla Langaas, Chris Mills, Shauna Reitmeier, Fran Tougas. Via Zoom: Brittney Bimler, Jim Guetter, Kayla Jore, Shawn Yates

**Board Members Absent:** Maureen Hams, Kathy Johnson, Andrew Larson, Kristi Nelson, Kirk Thorstenson

**Others Present:** Faye Auchenpaugh, Colleen MacRae

**Guests:** Randy Bergquist, Crookston superintendent; Lynell Pupowski, NW Regional Development Commission

**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Randy Bruer, chairman. We were introduced to Randy Bergquist, Crookston school superintendent. He left the meeting shortly thereafter.

**Agenda:** **M/S/C** (Cook/Yates) to approve the agenda.

**Minutes:** **M/S/C** (Mills/Carlson) to approve minutes of the May 5, 2023 meeting.

**Financials and Bills:** **M/S/C** (Kujava/Tougas) to approve payment of the July and August 2023 facilitator invoices.

**Lynell Pupowski, Mobility Manager/Regional Transportation Coordinator, Northwest Regional Development Commission** addressed the group and spoke about various initiatives that support the work of our members throughout the region. Volunteer drivers: As “Boomers” age out, the next generation is not volunteering to fill the vacant slots. Legislation passed in 2021 defined a volunteer driver as not “for hire.” The law defined a volunteer driver as “an individual who transports persons or goods on behalf of a nonprofit entity or governmental unit in a private passenger vehicle and receives no compensation for services provided other than the reimbursement of actual expenses.” (Auchenpaugh researched this law and found legislators also created a state income tax subtraction for volunteer drivers to reduce their tax liability in Minnesota. Minnesota IRS stated in December 2022 that “you may subtract any amount exceeding the 14-cent-per-mile volunteer mileage rate on your Minnesota return, up to the 2022 cap of 58.5 cents per mile for January 1 through June 30, and 62.5 cents per mile for July 1 through December 31, 2022.)

Discussion on Bike Fleet housed at NWRDC. Pupowski said Tim Finseth has repaired them all and they still have the trailer full of bikes. They are still available for use through the Safe Routes to School program. Interested groups should contact Tim Finseth for protocol. Walk.Bike.Fun training is available through MNDOT.

### **Grant Opportunities and Reports:**

1. **21<sup>st</sup> CCLC** – Mills reported we finally got some feedback on the grant proposal submitted this spring, but the rubric was not constructive and not very detailed. He will request additional feedback for submitting future grants. MDE funded only 1 grant per congressional district and Breckenridge received the funding for our district. There were 33 applicants total requesting more than \$19 million and 10 applicants were funded. The very successful program just finished training, among other things, 40 Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA).
2. **BJA’s STOP School Violence** – Four Youth Mental Health First Aid workshops were held with a maximum of 30 per training. Red Lake requested their own and sent an additional three staff members to one of the trainings at Garden Valley in Erskine. We also had a final Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines training. Elementary staff are requesting training for students at the primary level – they are experiencing many issues even at the preschool/kindergarten level.

We received notice this week that we have been granted a no-cost-extension through September 30, 2024.

**Identifying data points that make us competitive/in need of grant opportunities:** Tabled to our next meeting.

**Field Trip to Waukon Dairy:** Those who went on this field trip were impressed. They milk 120 cows every 8 minutes around the clock and have 45 workers total. They even process the waste into bedding by squeezing it dry. There is no odor.

**Poverty Simulation Training:** Tri-Valley Opportunity Council is holding this training with their partners as targeted participants. They are hoping our politicians may also come.

**Next meeting:** October 6, 2023, 9:30 am.

**Meeting Adjourned:** **M/S/C** (Yates/Cook)

Faye Auchenpaugh, Facilitator