

Meeting Summary

Present: Molly Schilling, Chair, Adrian
Ray Hassing, Vice Chair, Round Lake-Brewster
Scott Monson, Past Chair, Minneota
James Menton, BOLD
Ryan Nielsen, Canby
Chris Sonju, Glencoe-Silver Lake
Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek
Barry Schmidt, Jackson County Central
Melissa Radeke, Lester Prairie
Joe Meyer, Murray County Central
Klint Willert, Pipestone
Brad Johnson, Renville County West
Dr. Chad Anderson, Tracy
Bill Adams, Willmar
Richard Schneider, Yellow Medicine East

Absent: Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena
Chris Fenske, Lakeview
Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West
Sonya Vierstraete, SW Minnesota State University

Staff: Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
Tegan Gillund, Director of Finance
Shelly Maes, Director of Member Engagement & SWWC Foundation Executive Director
Deecy Jesse, Administrative Assistant

- I. Call to Order – Molly Schilling, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
 - b. Agenda Review and Approval
The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Joe Meyer, second by Todd Holthaus, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.
 - c. Review and Approve 12/19/24 Meeting Summary
The minutes from December 18, 2024, Superintendents' Executive Council meeting were reviewed. Motion by Melissa Radeke, second by Bill Adams to approve December 18, 2024, Superintendents' Executive Council meeting summary. Motion passed.
- II. Information & Discussion Items
 - a. Day at the Capitol Follow Up
Overall, those that attended felt the Day at the Capitol was time well spent.
 - Enjoy the social/dinner evening before.
 - Notice the legislators are trying to do things we've requested.
 - Like having it earlier.
 - Roger tried to get the right people there, however, Senate was in session that day.
 - Need both Democrat and Republican parties present.

Suggestion:

- Have AASA join a virtual superintendent meeting to provide a federal legislative update.
- Have an “off-season” legislative planning session.

b. Special Education Program Review

Cliff shared that SWWC plans to convene the Special Education Advisory Committee to discuss trends we are seeing with our special education program. More and more we are being asked to “customize” our approach to how we are delivering special education administrative services to our schools. Our goal is to ensure we meet the needs of the members, including making any changes in how we deliver services if that is what members want.

If you have an interest in communicating comments, concerns, or questions, contact a member of the Special Education Advisory Committee or the Executive Director. This is the beginning stages of the program review with more to come.

c. Cooperative Facility Lease Levy Discussion

SWWC has been using the lease levy authority under MN law as a source of revenue to pay for new and existing facility leases for past 3 – 4 years. The current formula includes a flat fee charged to all districts plus a per pupil amount. The Council reviewed the current practice, along with other formula options; including, using a formula based on a per pupil amount that aligns with the Cooperative Facilities Levy authority in statute (\$65 per pupil).

The Executive Director recommended to use only the \$65 /APU Lease Levy Authority for cooperative facilities, to not access the \$212/APU levy authority reserved for school district use, and to use a per pupil formula amount to determine the allocation per district.

It should be noted that the use of the Cooperative Facilities levy authority is not mandatory for members, however, each member will be allocated a portion of the cooperative facility lease costs and can determine how they want to pay for these costs. The Cooperative Facilities Levy is one source for each member.

Motion: Motion by Ryan Nielsen, second by Todd Holthaus, to recommend that beginning with the 2025-26 budget, the SWWC Board of Directors change the formula for allocating lease costs to members from the current 40% fixed cost and 60% per pupil cost, to a straight per pupil cost, with a not to exceed allocation of \$65 per pupil as established in Minnesota statute.

III. SWWC Reports, Updates & Program Review

a. FY25 Revised Budget & Financial Report – Tegan Gillund

Tegan presented an updated FY25 Revised Budget and Financial Report.

b. SWWC Executive Director Report – Cliff Carmody

Scheduling the interviews for Senior Director of Special Education on March 25, 2025.

i. June Meeting Date Input

Scheduled to coincide with the Summer Leadership Conference. Would you like to keep it to the scheduled date or find an alternate date?

Discussion followed. The date will remain the same.

IV. Communication, Information and Updates

a. MREA Update – Cliff Carmody

Diane Vossen retired. Advocacy presentations have good information.

b. MASA Update – Dr. Bill Adams

MASA Meeting held in December - MASA/MASE has split, MASE will no longer be a part of MASA. MASA Conference and MASA Board Meeting are next week.

c. MN Telemedia Report –Ray Hassing/Paul Bang/Dan Deitte

No report.

d. Post-Secondary Partners Updates

i. SMSU – Dr. Sonya Vierstraete

No report.

ii. MN West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk

No report.

e. SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education Update – Shelly Maes

Fundraising has been going well. Culinary Skills Challenge and Science & Nature Conference are coming up. Working with The READY Clinic on fundraising.

V. Open Forum/Closing Remarks

PSEO Challenges.

VI. Adjourn

Motion: Motion by Ray Hassing, second by Bill Adams to adjourn the meeting at 12:10pm. Motion passed.