



## Regional Transportation Coordination Council

### Minutes

#### Tri-Valley Heartland Express

524 Barzan Ave. N Thief River Falls, MN 56701

June 6, December 6, 2019

#### Steering Committee Members Present:

Marcia Haglund, Marvin Gunderson, ~~Leon Olson Sharon Bring, Glenda Phillipe,~~ Lezlie Grubich, ~~Rudy Finseth,~~ Nancy Ellis, Ken Yutrzeuka, ~~Rick Trontvet, Rob Lovejoy, Mark Schmitke, Cindy Pic,~~ ~~Teri Kouba, Glenda Phillipe, Mark Schmitke, Susan Peterson, and Chuck Flage~~ ~~Danica Robson~~

Staff: Troy Schroeder, ~~NWRDC, Tom Gottfried, DHS, Sue Siemers, MnDOT~~

#### Welcome/Introductions:

~~Olson Schroeder~~ welcomed everyone and ~~called the meeting to order at 1:05PM. Role call, had everyone introduce themselves and who they represented. a quorum was present. Olson asked everyone to introduce themselves and who they represent. Susan Siemers from the Office of Transit and Active Transportation joined via telephone. Schroeder provided a handout from the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access (MCOTA) that listed all the recipients of the initial planning grants. There are 5 RDC's awarded the contract along with 4 others that were awarded to other planning organizations. The MCOTA paper included a short description of what the RTCC mission statement.~~

#### ~~Board Review/Election of Officers~~ Approval of April Minutes:

~~Olson asked for approval of the April minutes as presented in packet. Phillipe motioned, second by Bring. Motion approved~~

### **RTCC Board Changes:**

Schroeder mentioned Yutrzenka will be resigning as he's retiring at the end of the month. Yutrzenka motioned that Nelson take his position on the board. Bring second the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Schroeder also mentioned that Trontvet resigned as he had taken a new position at Marvin Windows. Mark Schmitke has served as the alternate for Trontvet and would accept the role on the RTCC Board. Bring motioned that Schmitke replace Trontvet. Ellis Second the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Schroeder recommended those alternates not be filled as the voting membership has 17 members. RTCC Board has 28 total members.

### **Implementation Work Plan Discussion:**

Committee members discussed where to located volunteer drivers, discussed the barriers related to drivers and how difficult getting and retaining volunteer drivers is. Several red tape issues were discussed and shared with MnDOT. Those barriers need to be discussed with our legislative representatives to give them a better understanding of what can be done to help with transit services. The AAA is a great resource to line up volunteer drivers, churches often have a van than is rarely used, the Lions Club and members of the RTCC should be approached to discuss ideas on what can be used and where drivers can be found. There was also discussion on how to better use existing services that can be coordinated better to get more use from the people and vehicles owned by a particular agency. County Board members that serve on the RTCC are a great resource. Veteran Services is another provider where coordination and information sharing can occur. The payment of .14 cents was also discussed along with 1099's. There needs to be more incentive in order to get more volunteer drivers. There was discussion on the use of school buses. Gottfried discussed the issues and what is being worked on. Each school district will have the option of giving rides to the public. Phillippe mentioned that a meeting with each community or at least the community or counties that have an interest in providing more and better rides would provide good information. The insurance and liability issue is certainly a topic of discussion.

### **Transportation Management Coordinator:**

Schroeder Mentioned the RDC had posted an add for a Transportation Management Coordinator with an application deadline of June 19, 2019. The add is also posted on the NWRDC webpage. A sheet of the posting was distributed for review.

### **Transit Providers Inventory:**

Committee members discussed places that have vans or buses and the possibility of that agency coordinating the vehicles for other entities to utilize the fleet. Schroeder and the new hire will reach out and visit with these groups to discuss coordination efforts.

**MnDOT Comments:**

Siemers mentioned the NWRDC is invited to the MCOTA meeting to discuss the planning and implementation phases the NWRDC has gone through over the past year.

**Invite transit providers to discuss transportation coordination:**

RTCC members discussed inviting all the agencies that have a vehicle or staff that can contribute to the RTCC coordination effort will be invited to an RTCC meeting to discuss opportunities that may be available. The meeting will take place in late fall or early winter.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

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**Next Meeting Date:** August 7<sup>th</sup>, 11-1pm

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

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