

3/23/23 NWRGCC Meeting Minutes

Present: Lynnell Popowski, NWRGCC; Darla Waldner, NWRGCC; Chuck Flage, Red Lake County; Stephanie Aasness, Area Agency on Aging; Sharon Bring, Marshall County; Theresia Gillie, Kittson County; Rudy Finseth, R&L Transportation; Judy DelValle, East Grand Forks Senior Center; Heather Everson, Options; Tammy Haugen, Falls DAC; Glenda Phillipe, Roseau County; Marcia Haglund, Rural Transportation Collaborative; Michelle Litchig, MCOTA; Tony from Headwaters RDC.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: November meeting minutes motion by Judy DelValle, second by Heather Everson; January meeting minutes motion by Theresia Gillie, second by Judy DelValle. Motions carried unanimously.

Review of the Bylaws: changes made to accurately reflect the frequency, location and timing of the NWRGCC. It was brought to the attention of the group that public notice needs to be given 10 days prior to the meeting so the bylaws were changed to reflect that requirement.

Elect a Vice-Chair: Theresia Gillie nominated Seth Nelson, seconded by Judy DelValle. Motion carried unanimously.

MCOTA Updates: 2024-25 RTCC grants are due April 7. Money comes from the Federal 5310 dollars and funds 80% of the work of the RTCC. 10% funding comes from MCOTA and 10% from the NWRGCC. Described the goals of mobility management and how the tasks associated with the logic model move us forward.

RTCC Staff Updates:

Kittson County NCMM grant was declined but with a suggestion that we apply for some technical assistance, which I have done. We just received word that our application was accepted and the NCMM staff will travel to Hallock to facilitate a community meeting April 27. There are two other funding sources we are exploring for Kittson County – LWAH and Title III funding. The Title III funding can be used to provide the 50% match required by the LWAH Grant.

Fosston/Essentia we are exploring ways to create an on-call schedule of volunteers to provide transportation for after hour discharges. Because the riders are likely to be in distress, there may be some extra training for the drivers. There are questions about which set of rules/laws apply in this situation. Would they be considered a private carrier? STS?

Marketing/Communications – purchased a subscription to a software program, Animaker. Contract with Upper Minnesota River Valley RDC to create two videos; one to describe the role of the RTCC and one to recruit drivers, primarily volunteers.

Completed the first several lessons in the Easter Seals Mobility Management Certification program. This certificate program requires 60 credit hours to be completed in two years. The first courses were; Understanding Transportation, the Essentials of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Marketing your Volunteer Driver Program and Building Skills for Successful Transportation Program Management.

Gave a presentation during the Volunteer Driver Forum Series on Hybrid Models of Volunteer/Paid driver programs. I discussed the Kittson County model, the Fosston model, and the Warroad Senior Living Center Model.

Upcoming Events: The Shared Use Mobility Summit in Chicago May 4-5. This conference will inform my work with the Greater Minnesota Shared Mobility Coalition. We are working to bring ride sharing, bike sharing, and other design strategies to greater Minnesota that will make it easier for families to live without a personal vehicle. The Community Transportation Association of American in Oklahoma City May 22-25. I attended this conference last year and found it very helpful. There is a one-day focus on mobility management.

Emergency Management and the RTCC – Who Ya Gonna Call? Document with all the emergency transportation phone numbers and black spaces for individual emergency numbers.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting May 18 at 10am via zoom or at the NWRDC office in Warren