Agriculture & Rural Development Advisory Committee  
Crown Plaza, St. Paul  
March 5, 2015

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Rick Anderson, Lyon County
Bob Fox, Renville County
Cal Johannsen, Hubbard County
Luke Johnson, Pipestone County
Harlan Madsen, Kandiyohi County
Mike Slavik, Dakota County
Daniel Stenseng, Clearwater County
Vance Stuehrenberg, Blue Earth County
Marcia Ward, Winona County
Tom Warmka, Faribault County

GUESTS:
Dennis Potter, Brown County
Jake Gillen, Rice County
Michele McPherson, Mille Lacs County
Paul Gerde, Pope County
Gerald Magnus, Murray County
Glenn Kluis, Murray County
Paul Setzepfandt, Renville County
David Erickson, Dodge County
Todd Schneeberger, Grant County
James Jens, Murray County
Randy Kramer, Renville County
Steve Jacob, Winona County
Gene Metz, Nobles County
John Riebel, Sherburne County
Duane Bakke, Fillmore County
Bob Moline, Murray County
Ron Staples, Stevens County
Don Wachal, Jackson County
Bill LaValley, Grant County
DeRon Brehmer, Lac qui Parle County
William Tusa, Jackson County

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chair Gillen called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. The pledge of allegiance was recited and introductions were made around the room. The minutes from the December 7, 2014 meeting were amended, moved, seconded, and approved as amended.

II. Current and future status of rail congestion: Impacts to rural Minnesota
Dave Christianson, MnDOT State Rail Plan Project Manager presented on the current status of rail congestion and the future outlook. This presentation focused on impacts to rural Minnesota from both a public safety and economic perspective.

III. State assumption of Federal Section 404 permit program (update)
Jennifer Berquam, AMC Policy Analyst, provided a status update on the bill AMC has been working with legislators on to study the state assumption of the Federal Section 404 permit program.
IV. **Potential changes to Minnesota buffer laws (overview and discussion)**
Duane Bakke (Fillmore County Commissioner) and Harlan Madsen (Kandiyohi County Commissioner) provided an overview and led a discussion on the governor’s buffer initiative and potential changes that may be coming to current buffer laws.

V. **Advisory Committee Role – discussion for moving policies forward**
Luke Johnson, Advisory Committee Vice Chair and Pipestone County Commissioner, led a discussion to promote a more active role of the Agriculture and Rural Development Advisory Committee to impact AMC policies. The committee discussed passing policies or resolutions forward to appropriate AMC policy committees.

There was a motion to adjourn that was seconded. The motion prevailed.
The committee was adjourned at 9:45 AM.