

### 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  
 Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena  
 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  
 Richard Schneider, Yellow Medicine East
- Absent:** Chris Fenske, Lakeview  
 Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West  
 Sonya Vierstraete, SW Minnesota State University  
 Bill Adams, Willmar
- Staff:** Cliff Carmody, Executive Director  
 Tegan Gillund, Director of Finance  
 Shelly Maes, Director of Member Engagement & SWWC Foundation Executive Director  
 Abby Polzine, Director of Human Services  
 Deecy Jesse, Administrative Assistant

#### **I. Call to Order – Molly Schilling, Chair**

Molly Schilling called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Agenda Review and Approval  
 The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Scott Monson, seconded by Melissa Radeke, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Review and Approve 3/12/24 and 6/12/24 Meeting Summaries  
 The minutes from March 12, 2024 and June 12, 2024 were reviewed. Motion by Ray Hassing, seconded by Joe Meyer, to approve the minutes from March 12, 2024 and June 12, 2024. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Review 2024-25 Superintendents' Executive Council Membership  
 All member terms are full.

#### **II. Organization of Superintendents' Executive Council – Molly Schilling**

- a. Election of Vice Chair

Molly Schilling called for nominations of Vice Chair. Nomination and motion by Ryan Nielsen, seconded by Scott Monson, to appoint Ray Hassing as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Special Education Advisory Committee Appointment

*Molly Schilling, Melissa Radeke and Ryan Nielsen currently serve on this advisory committee as representatives of the Council. We will need to appoint three people to serve on the Special Education Advisory Committee.*

All three would like to remain on the advisory committee. Motion by Ray Hassing, seconded by Chad Anderson, to appoint Molly Schilling, Melissa Radeke and Ryan Nielsen as the Special Education Advisory Committee representatives. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Executive Committee Appointment

*Current members include Molly Schilling, Chair, OPEN Vice Chair, Scott Monson, Past Chair, Melissa Radeke, 2024-25, Chad Anderson, 2025-26, OPEN 2026-27, and Cliff. The newly elected Vice Chair will become a member and 1 representative from the 2026-27 class will need to be appointed.*

Ray Hassing will resume the Vice Chair. Brad Johnson volunteered to fill the 2026-27 Class.

d. MN Telemedia Appointment

*Current members include Ray Hassing and Paul Bang.*

Motion by Ray Hassing, seconded by Scott Monson, Ray and Paul to continue as representatives. Motion passed unanimously.

### III. Information/Discussion/Action

Action/Disc.

a. 2024-25 Meeting Schedule – Shelly Maes

Shared information about the schedule, Candidate Forum and Professional Development planning. There will be four in person Regional Meetings and MASA Region 3 Day at the Capitol will be held in February.

Suggestions:

- Make sure we have time to talk about legislation items before Day at the Capitol. With MREA, MSBA, & MASA. Dec 19 and Jan 23 were discussed as good options to build in this discussion and include associations.
- Like having the Associations attend the in-person meetings.
- Maybe look at having a November meeting.

Motion by Chad Anderson, seconded by Ray Hassing to approve the 2024-25 Meeting Schedule as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 2024-25 Regional PD for Superintendents' Plan – Shelly Maes

MASA rotates PD money to regions and SWWC will receive money this year. Based on feedback from the survey, leadership and innovation were topics of interest. One option discussed was to have Wade McKittrick, Better Solutions, provide 6 types of working genius, creating innovative solutions and leadership professional development. Another piece is to provide costs for School Finance Training that has been held. Discussion was held and Shelly will work with the Executive Committee of the Superintendents' Executive Council to look into additional opportunities.

c. 2024-25 SWWC Staffing Update – Abby Polzine

Since July 1, SWWC has hired 66 new employees. We have 20.5 positions open yet. Eleven of these are teaching and para positions. 47 Total SWWC Employees. There is a need to look at different ways of staffing.

d. Review FY26 Budget Process & Timeline – Tegan Gillund

Tegan reviewed the development and timeline of FY26, included in the agenda packet.

e. Review SWWC Bylaws – Cliff Carmody

SWWC has two sets of Bylaws. One is the Superintendents' Executive Council Bylaws and the other is the SWWC Bylaws. We have full membership and associate membership. The liabilities of the Cooperative are with our members. Cliff talked about Appendix I: SWWC Special Education Cooperative Membership.

f. SWWC Board Ex Officio Member Appointment – Cliff Carmody

It is important over the next few years, within the agency and region, to inform how the Cooperative works so a transition will continue the good work we've been doing. The SWWC Board Meetings are generally on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month in Marshall from 6:30-8pm.

Brad Johnson volunteered to serve as Ex Officio.

Motion made by Ray Hassing, seconded by Ryan Nielsen to approve Brad Johnson as the SWWC Board Ex Officio Member Appointee. Motion passed unanimously.

g. AESA Fellowship – Cliff Carmody

SWWC offers the AESA Fellowship for Superintendents to apply and attend the National Conference. You get a feel of what the other Educational Associations around the country are doing.

h. Other

#### IV. SWWC Executive Director Report

Info./Disc.

- a. Additional positions: Statewide the 9 Service Cooperatives hired 185 employees around the new MDE Compass, READact. Cliff feels really good about the work we've done in our region, especially around literacy.

- b. Insurance: This is driving up the cooperative costs. An RFP will be done this year. We are looking at unbundling. Working to provide more information on utilization methods to SWWC Staff and now have an online virtual platform initiative, Galileo.
- c. Facilities: Opened ELC - Marshall and ELC - New London. We will continue to work on taking care of our facilities. The SWWC Board Meeting will be held at New London in September.

## **V. Communication, Information and Updates**

- a. Executive Committee Report – No Report
- b. MREA Updates – Cliff Carmody  
Election information will be coming soon. Looking for school board members.  
The National Rural Teacher of the year, Melissa Oberg, is a MN recipient.  
MREA Conference November 17-19.
- c. MN Telemedia Report – Paul Bang/Ray Hassing  
No report.
- d. MASA Updates – Bill Adams  
No Report.
- e. Post-Secondary Partners Updates
  - i. SMSU – Sonya Vierstraete  
No Report
  - ii. MN West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk  
Terry Gaalswyk shared an update via email:
    - Fall enrollment is exceeding projected growth of 3%, witnessing growth across all locations and most programs are up.
    - 68 students applied for the new PSEO/REACH Scholarship started last spring.
    - Athletic teams are well enrolled and competitive – stay tuned!
- f. SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education Update – Shelly Maes  
Shelly shared during 23-24, the Foundation raised \$55,653 through grants and donations. Donations can be made directly to the ELC's however most are used for the Student Enrichment Programs. Working to get vision screeners, that typically would use borrowed from the Lions Clubs. The Conference for Young Artist registration is open.

## **VI. Open Forum/Closing Remarks**

## **VII. Adjourn**