MINNESOTA
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ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the MNA Board of Directors

Friday, September 11, 2026
Email Vote

Present: MNA President Tara Brandl, Tracy; First Vice President Kelly Boldan, Willmar; Second Vice President Crystal Miller, Albert Lea; Third Vice President Ted Almen, Kerkhoven; Directors Tim Douglass, Glenwood; Bill Albrecht, Coon Rapids; Rachel Miller, Henderson; Treasurer Andrew Meuleners, Howard Lake

Email vote:

Thurs., Sept. 10 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Online Zoom interview of MNA/MNI Director Candidate Justin Lessman. All current MNA board members present.

Fri., Sept. 11 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Online zoom discussion regarding the open MNA/MNI director position and the interview conducted by the board the day prior.
Motion was made by Ted and seconded by Kelly:
Motion to hire Justin Lessman as next Executive Director at MNA/MNI. Salary of $125,000/year.
Additional $10,000/year to use for expenses to be able to facilitate the position (hotel stays, visiting other papers, etc). The $10,000 expense is not for travel from his home to his office as other employees are not paid to travel to work. But parking is paid.
Requirement of 2 days in the office the first 6 months.
Board review at April meeting.
Motion was sent as an email so all board members votes were recorded. All current board members present except Crystal Miller and Tim Douglas

Motion was sent via email at 10:56 am on Fri. Sept. 11.
Aye votes - Kelly, Crystal, Andrew, Tim, Rachel, Ted, Bill, Tara
Motion passed.
Respectfully submitted,

Tara Brandl
MNA president

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