**Summary**

**Present:** Molly Schilling, Vice Chair, Adrian  
Joe Meyer, Past Chair, Murray County Central  
Ryan Nielsen, Canby

Todd Holthaus, Hills-Beaver Creek   
Barry Schmidt, Jackson County Central

Chris Fenske, Lakeview

Terry Gaalswyk, Minnesota West

Klint Willert, Pipestone

Doug Froke, Renville County West

Ray Hassing, Round Lake-Brewster   
Dr. Chad Anderson, Tracy

Bill Adams, Willmar

Jeff Holm, Willmar  
Richard Schneider, Yellow Medicine East

**Guests:** Amber Unke, Jill Stiefvater & Regina Magedanz

**Absent:** Scott Monson, Chair, Minneota

Dennis Laumeyer, Benson  
Jeff Horton, Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop

Paul Bang, Heron Lake-Okabena

Melissa Radeke, Lester Prairie

Sonya Vierstraete, SW Minnesota State University

John Landgaard, Worthington

**Staff:** Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

Tegan Gillund, Director of Finance

Shelly Maes, Director of Member Engagement & SWWC Foundation Executive Director

Mary Palmer, Senior Director of Special Servies

Deecy Jesse, Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order – Molly Schilling, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
   1. Welcome and Introductions
   2. Agenda Review and Approval

The agenda was reviewed. Motion by Bill Adams, second by Joe Meyer, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed.

* 1. Review and Approve 9/21/23 Meeting Summary

The minutes from the September 21, 2023, Superintendents’ Executive Council meeting was reviewed. Motion by Barry Schmidt, second by Chad Anderson, to approve the September 21, 2023, Superintendents’ Executive Council meeting summary. Motion passed.

1. Information/Discussion/Action
   1. Lease Levy Discussion – Tegan Gillund/Cliff Carmody

Cliff and Tegan shared a presentation with the Council regarding the SWWC Facility Financial Support and Future considerations.

The Council would like to have estimated costs by February to bring to the in-person meetings so Superintendents can plan for 25-26 year. We will bring district by district run for this year and runs for 25-26 costs to the January 9, 2024, meeting.

* 1. Special Services Information/Updates – Dr. Mary Palmer
     1. Approval of Coordinated Early Intervening Services Requirements

Coordinated Early Intervening Services Requirements is in Federal Law and talks about disproportionality. The Cooperative has had districts in mandatory CEIS over the years and this year the Cooperative as a whole received a letter that we are in Mandatory CEIS. Mary brought a revised plan to the Special Education Advisory Committee (included in the Council packet). Asking for Council approval on plan submitted.

Motion by Bill Adams, seconded by Klint Willert, to approve as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

* + 1. ELC Update

Enrollment is holding steady.

Belview: no space available due to staffing. Room in other sites.

ELC – Wilmar: had a mold issue that has been resolved.

ELC – Windom: the Administrator has resigned and have posted for an interim administrator for the remainder of the year.

* 1. 2023-24 SWWC Staffing Update – Abby Polzine, Director of Human Resources

Cliff shared that SWWC staffing is better than last year, with fewer open positions year-to-date.

1. Program/Service Highlight
   1. Special Education Services (Amber Unke, Jill Stiefvater & Regina Magedanz)

Mary introduced Amber, Jill and Regina and shared that these are three of our seven due process specialists at SWWC. These services are a critical piece of administrative services provided to school districts.

Amber, Jill, and Regina shared where the service areas and their roles/services provided in districts, including, but not limited to,

* New Special Education Teacher Cohorts
* Professional Development
* ELCs & ALCs Support
* Resources for Informed Special Education Teachers (live website that has tools and guidance)

1. SWWC Executive Director Report
   1. SWWC Board Election

Important election this year. The SWWC bylaws were changed so that all SWWC Board members will be elected school board or city, county, or other governmental agency positions.

1. Communication, Information and Updates
   1. MREA Updates – Todd Holthaus/Dennis Laumeyer

Todd shared that the MREA Conference had 480 attendees attend.

The Proposed 2024 MREA Platform:

* Teach Recruitment and Restoring the Profession
* Establishing a teach Compensation Adjustment Revenue program initially aimed at improving starting teacher salaries to minimum of $60,000.
* Improving TRA by either lowering the combination of the normal retirement age and total years of service OR minimizing the reduction in retirement benefits paid before normal retirement age.
* Amending the Grow Your Own application requirements at MDE so rural district can qualify.
* Reforming QComp so all schools qualify for the basic $169/pupil and ensure allowable uses include paid student teaching.
* Providing direct underwriting to state colleges for teacher preparation programs so those credits are free to undergraduates seeking teaching degrees.

A virtual meeting will be held on December 5.

Todd was recognized at the MREA Conference for being on the MREA Board for ten years. Election for Board Members will be held in December.

* 1. MN Telemedia Report – Paul Bang/Ray Hassing/Jeff Horton

Ray reported that MN Telemedia is seeking applications, and they are due January 9. Information is on the MN Tele-Media Link.

* 1. Post-Secondary Partners Updates
     1. SMSU – Dr. Sonya Vierstraete
     2. MN West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk
* Settlements represent 1/3rd of staff in those units and will use half of the new money in biennium.
* Faculty settlement completed.
* Working on legislative platform and submitted capitol and supplemental budget requests.
* Welcoming Matt Kibban as the new CFO on January 2.
* Center for Rual Policy released a study on recent High School Graduates and connecting job opportunities, looked at 10 years. Many did not stay in local areas but those that did correlate it with the opportunities from their high schools.
  1. SWWC Foundation for Innovation in Education Update – Shelly Maes

Shelly shared “Give the Max” day is November 16, the Young Writers Conference registration deadline is December 4 and working on grants to support student enrichment.

1. Open Forum/Closing Remarks

Bill Adams provided a MASA Report. Example contracts will be shared out and MASA Region 3 Day at the Capitol updates are coming out soon.

Willmar will host Breakout Coach training in June. SWWC will resend this information along with the presentation information to Superintendents.

1. Adjourn