

DATE: January 27, 2011
TO: Board Members unable to attend January 26 Regular MVTA Board meeting/TWGs
FROM: MVTA
RE: Meeting Summary

Here is a meeting summary of the MVTA January 26, 2011 regular meeting of the MVTA Board of Directors. Supplemental materials and meeting hand-outs are posted at http://www.mvta.com/MVTA_Board.html.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Will Branning and a quorum was present. Greg Lind was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted a letter that was read by Chair Branning
2. Gary Hansen announced that he had spoken with Dan Kealey and Clint Hooppaw and that Wally Lyslo would continue as the at-large commissioner and Joe Zanmiller of Rosemount would be the at-large alternate commissioner. Will Branning then administered the Oath of Office to Clint Hooppaw, representing the Apple Valley City Council and Joe Zanmiller of Rosemount as the at-large alternate commissioner.
3. Will Branning asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Jon Ulrich to adopt the slate of officers as presented, by acclamation. Motion carried. Officers were elected as follows:
 - Chair – Will Branning
 - Vice Chair – Gary Hansen
 - Treasurer – Jane Victorey
 - Secretary – Wally Lyslo
4. The sign-up sheet for committee assignments was passed around the room. It was noted that the Board will focus on two committees in 2011 – Finance and STA. Jane Victorey suggested that the duties of the Personnel Committee be incorporated into the duties of the Finance Committee and the Board approved this action.
5. The agenda and the Consent Agenda (minus item D – Designation of Official Newspaper) were approved. Bill Droste raised questions about the designation of the Burnsville *SunCurrent* as the Official Newspaper. Robin Selvig indicated that Article X of the MVTA's Bylaws state "The Authority designates as its official newspaper the official newspaper designated by the City of Burnsville." We confirmed that the City of Burnsville has designated the *SunCurrent* as its official newspaper for 2011. Selvig also explained that this has nothing to do with issuing of news releases (which are submitted to all community newspapers) and she indicated that specific projects might also be advertised in special or designated local newspapers, depending on the project. The designation of the official newspaper was then approved.
6. The Board adopted its 2011 meeting calendar, with meetings being held at the Burnsville Bus Garage. There was discussion about the Driver of the Year dinner in February and Board members voted to continue the dinner, but suggested that restaurant locations be rotated amongst the MVTA cities.
7. A draft of a letter regarding the Transitway Guidelines was distributed to the Board, to be submitted under Chair Branning's signature. Chair Branning talked about the process and how the guidelines were rushed and very top-down driven by staff. He stated that the Advisory Committee seldom had an opportunity to comment during a presentation, and then there was no time left after the presentation. The Board agreed that sending the letter was a good idea. It will also be forwarded to Daniel Wolter and Craig Peterson.

8. Lois Spear presented information regarding amending the contract with Bonestroo for the Rosemount Park & Ride from a not-to-exceed cost of \$117,415 to a not-to-exceed cost of \$141,515. The current design includes a restroom and mechanical room for the site at a cost estimate of approximately \$247,900. The cost estimate submitted with the CMAQ grant included only \$150,000 for a 50 foot by 30 foot shelter with canopy. Additional environmental work is also required. The funds would come from the MVTA's Reserve/Contingency budget. The Board discussed whether these increased costs include anything for any mitigation that might be needed on the site after the additional environmental work. There are no funds currently designated for remediation, and Spear said that any additional expenditures would require Board approval. The Board approved the contract amendment for Bonestroo and approved the 2011 Budget amendment on a unanimous roll-call vote.
9. Lois Spear requested approval of the Pay Equity report required by the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations. It is consistent with the last report, submitted in 2008, with the addition of one transit planner. The report was approved and will be submitted electronically by Jan. 31, 2011.
10. Beverley Miller reviewed some of the major findings and key recommendations included in the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) Evaluation Report on Governance of Transit in the Twin Cities Region. She noted that a key recommendation was "We do not recommend eliminating the suburban transit providers, although there are opportunities for some consolidation." Miller also noted that CTIB and the Met Council have publicly stated that they believe some of the findings are overstated.
11. Will Branning reviewed the rigorous process of examining and commenting on the study – that some three drafts were reviewed with minimal time to offer comment. Numerous meetings were conducted of STA members as well as with the Legislator Auditor and his staff. He indicated he has great respect for the OLA staff despite not agreeing with everything in the report. Hearings have already started at the Legislature.
12. The Board also discussed the draft 2011 Suburban Transit Association Legislative Agenda. Beverley Miller mentioned that STA will continue to support regional bonding for transit, but would like to see the list before it is submitted. She mentioned the request to increase the speed limit on bus shoulders and several items consistent with the OLA findings. Board members suggested that Hastings be included as one of the cities needing additional transit investment. Further, it was recommended that MVTA have coffee with Farmington and Northfield regarding future cooperation.
13. Jon Ulrich noted that Scott County is continuing to study the over-reaching authority taken by the Metropolitan Council by not using the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) in the adoption of the Transportation Policy Plan. Further information is expected in the near future.
14. Will Branning noted that he participated in a meeting in Rochester sponsored by Goodhue County and the Mayo Clinic regarding "Zip Rail," the proposed high-speed passenger rail service between Rochester and the Twin Cities.
15. The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for February 23 at 4:30 p.m. at the Mediterranean Cruise Café, to be followed by the Driver of the Year Dinner.