

DNR/DEQ Retirees Association
Board Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2025 – 9:45 am
Held at RAM Center

Roll Call

Debbie Begalle, Sharon Hanshue, Kay Duncan, Cheryl Farhat, Mike Moss, Sue Colon, Patty Roethele, Hal Fitch, Ann Feldhauser, Dave Forstat. Excused: Janice Heck, Mindy Koch

President Begalle called meeting to order.

Added to agenda, 2026 Annual meeting, and summer newsletter

Secretary Report - Minutes from Jan. 2025 mtg sent out via email, no changes, Ann F. moved to accept minutes, Sharon H. seconded, Motion Carried.

Kay mentioned the September annual meeting minutes are posted in the fall newsletter and she will keep as brief as possible.

Treasurer Report ending 4/30/2025

Beg Bal. date \$14,635; Checking Acct. \$4,407; Share Saving Acct. \$3,123; Money Market \$2,018; 7-month CD \$5,350; Total Assets \$14,900. Treasurers Report Filed. Upcoming CD will be rolled over.

Officer(s) Reports:

Pres. Elect – Sharon tabled her items to later in agenda

Regional Reps: Ann Feldhauser: Good attendance at last December UP get together. Picnic is scheduled for July in Marquette. Ann announced she will be stepping down for her regional position and will try to recruit her replacement and we should rest assured UP activities will carry forth. Discussed a few possibilities for Reg. I Rep.

Patty Roethele: Lansing Picnic is underway and coordinate with Hal for supplies. Parks and Recreation Division has a new Chief, Kristen Kosick and came to DNR from Yellowstone National Park as Chief of Staff. Patty reached out to Jason Fleming, Chief, Resource Protection and Promotion Section, of Parks and Recreation Division inquiring his interest at guest speaker for our Sept. 2025 Annual Meeting. He is very interested in being our speaker and put a tentative commitment on his calendar.

Mike Moss: Reported Reg II has been quiet, except for a couple of retirement parties.

Dave Forstat: Pushed out a new electronic Directory in May 2025. Obits notification goes out on a regular basis. We give a courtesy copy of the spring newsletter to those members expiring on 12/31. To remind folks to pay up, Cheryl will put an article in next newsletter in a conspicuous location.

Cheryl Farhat: Working on 16-page summer newsletter; deadline for submittals July 11, 2025; will include language in newsletter on Articles Amendment, Cheryl to attend 6/12/25 meeting with Amy Abdo, HR for DNR/EGLE to discuss if they can share retirees' names and information for our Association to use for invites. We think some new members did get notice of us in their retirement package.

Discussed 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award. Sharon will take VOY lead; submittal deadline for nominations 8/1/2025. Kay to provide Dave with VOY information to send email to members.

Webmaster: Hal reported Dashboard tracking revealed 245 hits from Jan. to May 2025.

Average hits 1.7 per day. Received 55 renewals to date on Web; and 3 new applications to join.

Old Business

1. Articles of Incorporation Amendment-requires approval of members at 9/2025 mtg for name change by LARA.
Hal reported: LARA requires a Certificate of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation be filed for a name change, and LARA requires the name change be approved by our members. This will be done at our September 2025 meeting, and an article regarding this action needs to be posted in the summer newsletter. Cheryl will do so.
2. Summer Picnics – Both picnics announced under Region I and III Reps. report. Dates: Lansing, Thurs. 6/12/25 at Delta Mills Park and Marquette, Tues. 7/8/2025 at Presque Isle Park
3. Annual meeting: Sue confirmed event at Kirtland for Wednesday, September 10, 2025. Sue is handling logistics. Coffee will be from Biggby and Sue will bring donuts. Decided to decrease reservation count from 80 down to 70 for now. We reviewed the menu, it will be buffet and Kirkland requires a count from attendees which buffet they want, either Texas Style Barbecue or Italian Buffet. This will be on the registration form asking folks to select a choice. Discussed guest speaker, Patty spoke with Jason Flemming, with Parks and Rec. Division and majority board voted for Jason as speaker and he will talk about improvements changes and renovations in Parks.

New Business:

1. Association Academic Scholarship Proposal outline drafted by S. Hanshue, C. Farhat, and A. Feldhauser was distributed to Board. The Board engaged in a lengthy discussion whether our Association should pursue to offer scholarships. A majority of Board members spoke on their position to the scholarship proposal, and pros and cons were addressed. Kay Duncan motioned the scholarship proposal is not advantageous to our organization, we do not have the staff to work on it, and we not move forward on proposal. Hal seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Thanked Ann for all her efforts.
2. Vacancies on the Board come September. UP Rep Ann Feldhauser will not be returning. She will seek for a replacement. A new president elect will be sought. No interest expressed in Secretary position. Facebook position still looking for someone. Dave is ok with continuing on with the email notifications to members. Mentioned Mindy would like to find a person to replace her.
3. Volunteer of Year – Sharon will handle. Cheryl will put article in Newsletter, and Dave will send out email article asking members to consider candidates.
4. Date and location for 2026 annual meeting. To be held at RAM and Sharon has made the reservation for September 28, 2026, Board agreed this was best date RAM could offer us.
5. Future Audits – Lori Beauchamp recommended as a possible auditor for our records. Someone volunteered to reach out to Lori. FY ends on August 31, 2025 for new audit.
6. Future Board Meeting to be held on August 6, 2025 via zoom at 10:00 am; Hal to arrange.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kay Lynn Duncan, Secretary

Dated: July 1, 2025