

# Minutes

## 4/24/04 Membership Meeting

Meeting called to order at 09:10, Roll Call

**Present:** Ken Anderson, Don Anderson\*, Angela Flores, Jim Couch, Carla Leehy, Sean Fields, Karla Peterson, Robert Hansen\*, Brian Fergen, Jeff Hasse, Kurt Gensmer, Fred Graupmann, Tom Schoewe, Scott Doering, Mary Hensel, Dale Leehy, Wendy Deane, Emily Boote, Shelly Thielen, Bob Thielen, Bob Reid, Kevin Stokes, Brian McEwen\*, Stan Kegel.  
24 total, \* =New guests & new members.

**Equipment Evaluation:** Tom Green and Jay Wallen of Front Line Plus Fire & Rescue demonstrated Stearns new swiftwater rescue PFD (I650), their two other SAR PFDs, and their improved Ice Rescue Suit. The changes in the suit include moving the zipper away from the chin, ice pick pockets, better gloves, and better traction in the boots. The new swiftwater vest has all the bells and whistles of the competitors, including a “live bait” rescue tether and 25 # of buoyancy. It retails for \$233.00. Our price is \$175.00. They can be reached at 1-800-879-3177.

**Minutes of 2/7/4 Meeting:** Kevin S/Emily B moved accept the minutes as read. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Balance: \$0.15. Motion to accept by Kevin S/Fred G. Motion Passed.

### Old Business:

1. K-9 Standards Committee: Basic Urban Disaster (BUD) Dog standard has been developed and approved.
2. Other Meetings:
  - a. Fred Graupmann was invited to speak on-air to KDUZ radio in Hutchinson on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. He spoke on search and rescue in the state and about SRRRMN’s efforts. He felt well received by the station personnel.
  - b. Fred has also spoken with the McLeod Co SAR Divers and they are interested in SRRRMN.
  - c. The Winter Survival Workshop hosted by Central Lakes at Camp Ripley went well. They had 22 participants and warmer weather than usual.
  - d. The State Posse Association (?) is putting together a questionnaire to be given to Sheriff’s departments across the state. It will elicit information regarding what Sheriff’s expect from a posse group.
3. Organizing Committee: The process used to review membership applications as well as the election procedure for the BOD elections was presented.

### New Business:

1. Membership Issues
  - Deputy Mary Hensel of the Scott County Sheriff’s Department read a statement regarding their choice to not become members at this time. She will forward a written statement to be appended to these minutes when it becomes available.

- The question was raised; how did the Temporary Board come up with the criteria for membership? The group was clearly uncomfortable with the “ad hoc” rules for establishing the nature of an “organization.”
- Jeff explained:
  - At the 2/7/4 meeting, it was proposed that we have two meetings this spring. The first, to decide jointly who will make up the “membership” of SRRRMN and the second, to elect the board of directors. Chuck/Peggy moved to shorten the process and empower the Temporary Board to “review, process, and establish the first members” (from the 2/7/4 minutes). The motion passed with 18 affirmative and 2 abstained votes. The consensus was that this should be a simple “rubber stamp” process, since the initial applications were likely to come from those groups who have been involved in SRRRMN since the beginning and it wasn’t anticipated that there would be anything controversial raised in those applications. It was acknowledged that our original intention of having the individual “disciplines” determine membership criteria had not been accomplished yet, so the Temporary Board would have come up with some general guidelines.
  - The Temporary Board/Membership Committee met on 2/19/04, 3/25/04, 4/22/04, and 4/24/04, (plus an email vote online) to hammer out the membership issues. It was far from uncontroversial. Every step of the process raised questions. The first thing we had to do was design an application. We discussed at length what type of information we should gather to help make membership decisions. We settled on a fairly general form, which asked for basic information but didn’t require a lot of supporting paperwork (Articles of Incorporation, governing documents, etc.). We didn’t want it to be a cumbersome or intrusive application, yet we wanted enough information to make informed decisions.
  - While most applications did not raise any issues, three did. The first was Yellow Medicine County Technical Rescue Team. Their application was something of a (pleasant) surprise. We did not know much about them; and their governing documents still seemed to be in process yet. The question was raised whether SRRRMN was intended to be a coalition of “established” groups or should we recruit new groups so that SRRRMN could be a resource for their development. The general membership hadn’t discussed this previously, so the committee decided that, *for now*, we would accept established groups for Organizational Membership and newly formed groups as Provisional Members. We decided that, as a temporary minimum standard, a group would be considered “established” if another entity recognized that they were an organization (such as articles of incorporation filed with the State). This started us down the slippery slope.
  - The second issue we faced was with the North Central Mountain Bike Patrol. It came to our attention that the group was in crisis and factions had formed. Whether or not the group had ever officially incorporated (as we had been previously told) was also called into question. It was clear that SRRRMN was not formed to take sides in an internal conflict within a group so we asked NCMBP to resolve their issues and come back with proof of their status as an organization.

- The third issue that generated considerable debate was K-9 Search Services' application. Shortly before the 4/22 meeting, we discovered that they were also not an incorporated entity. Ken and Jeff talked to them some about their reasons for not incorporating and it appeared that they had legitimate reasons. Unfortunately, neither Bob was able to make the meeting, so they were unable to clearly explain it to the rest of the committee. During the meeting, it became clear that this was a larger issue than we could resolve in less than 36 hours, so the committee decided to compromise by offering them individual memberships (so they would be eligible for the BOD elections) and deal with the issue at a later time. Nobody was advocating excluding K-9 Search Services from SRRRMN, we were simply trying to offer a temporary solution until the Membership Committee had sufficient time to come up with better membership criteria.
- When informed of the committee's decision, K-9 Search Services informed us that this was not an acceptable compromise.
- When we met prior to the general membership meeting 4/24, we talked again about membership criteria. The opinion was expressed that, by making up ad hoc rules of membership without the benefit of input and discussion from the rest of the members, we had traveled down a slippery slope and ended up in a place with which some of the committee members were not comfortable. It was suggested that we let the "non-controversial" members vote on the three applications that we were having trouble with. Other committee members argued that we had been given the duty to make these decisions and it would create problems at the general meeting if we didn't complete our job. The vote was split, but we decided to leave things as they stood.
- *Note: This may not be a word-for-word recounting of how I explained things at the meeting. The paragraphs above are accurate to the best of my understanding. For a more complete accounting, review the minutes of our meetings. All the Organizational Committee/Temporary Board meeting minutes are available on the Yahoo site.*
- Some of the group's comments:
  - Scott D: Don't take these "road blocks" personally... There is no reason to be upset about them. Let's bring issues to the table and work them out.
  - Karla P: If an application is problematic, couldn't we bring it to a subgroup (of similar "disciplines") to decide?
  - Jim C: Reminded us of the mission in the bylaws to be victim-oriented. He also pointed out that one of our stated ideals was to be inclusive, not exclusive. Having Articles of Incorporation is not a good criteria for SRRRMN membership, SAR qualifications are...
  - Stan K: Since it has become difficult and controversial to establish objective criteria for membership, perhaps we should eliminate the two classifications (Organizational and Individual) of membership. The straw pole indicated 2 people agreed with this idea (of the 24 people present).
  - Bob R: When we become exclusive, we become extinct. K-9 Search Services fits within the mission of SRRRMN and therefore should be an Organizational Member. The strength of SRRRMN flows from the membership to the BOD, not the reverse.
  - *Note: I'm sorry if I left people out, it was hard to keep up...*

- Jeff H: Pointed out that this need not be a divisive issue. This is simply an example of “growing pains” common in new organizations. SRRRMN’s focus has not changed; we are still victim-oriented and committed to forming a coalition of organizations. We tried to keep the application process simple, but “the devil is in the details.” Clearly, Articles of Incorporation were poor membership criteria, since they led to the exclusion of a qualified group. However, now is not the time to abandon the bylaws simply because we ran into a glitch. “Power” in this organization lies in the members. (The BOD may have to be reminded of that occasionally...) The members gave the committee the task to review the applications. If the results are not satisfactory, take the power back.
- Wendy D/Kevin S moved to accept K-9 Search Services as an Organizational Member. 8 votes affirmative, 0 negative, 1 abstained. Motion passed.
- Dale L/Bob T moved to accept Tom’s new mountain bike group (as yet unnamed) as an Organizational Member. 8 votes affirmative, 0 negative, 2 abstained. Motion passed.
- Dale L/Wendy D moved to accept Yellow Medicine County Technical Rescue Team as an Organizational Member. 11 votes affirmative, 0 negative, 0 abstained. Motion passed.

## 2. Board of Director elections

- a. President: (2 year term)
  - The first vote ended in a tie between Kurt Gensmer and Jeff Hasse.
  - Bob R/Carla L moved that the tie be resolved by a second vote after the candidates explain why they should be SRRRMN’s President. Motion passed unanimously.
  - Kurt ceded the race after Jeff spoke.
  - Jeff spoke on Kurt’s behalf...
  - Jeff was then elected in a vote of 9 affirmative, 0 negative, and 2 abstained.
- b. Vice President: (1 year term)
  - Kurt Gensmer was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.
- c. Treasurer: (2 year term)
  - Fred Graupmann was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.
- d. Secretary: (1 year term)
  - Stan Kegel was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.
- e. 1<sup>st</sup> At Large Director: (2 year term)
  - Bob Reid was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.
- f. 2<sup>nd</sup> At Large Director: (1 year term)
  - Wendy Deane was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.
- g. 3<sup>rd</sup> At Large Director: (2 year term)
  - Ken Anderson was elected in a single vote by a simple majority of the votes.

## 3. Training opportunities:

- a. Ground Search Techniques workshop sponsored by the St Cloud Region EMS Directors. The planners will be meeting in May. More information to follow.
- b. 1<sup>st</sup> annual Scott County SAR Conference
  - June 19 Classroom (possible classes): MIMS, State Patrol capabilities, basic cartography, lost person habits, basic wilderness medicine, helicopter LZ safety, CAP, others.
  - Exercise June 20 in Louisville Swamp. ½ day ICS class

- Registration forms will be faxed to ROTA and anyone asking for them.
- c. Discussion of the Psychology of Families in Crisis idea that Jeff tossed out on the Yahoo site. A representative from the Jacob Wetterling Foundation has agreed to speak to us on this issue. Since there are varying viewpoints on how to handle the families of the victims we serve, the suggestion was made that this be something of an open forum to discuss the various issues.
- d. Fred Graupmann's son is a certified 4-wheeler safety instructor. Fred asked if the group would be interested in this type of training. The consensus was that it would be.
- e. Bob Reid is organizing a 1-2 hour Crime Scene Preservation class sometime after July. It will be conducted by agent Katsenbaum (spelling?) from the BCA.
- f. There will be a "training" search for Erica Dalquist on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Central Lakes if available.
- g. Bob Hansen of the Three Rivers Park District spoke on search and rescue operations in the parks. TRPD owns land in 5 counties, so they have a lot of area in which to search. He spoke of a multi jurisdictional body recovery nightmare in the 1980s. Mr. Hansen advised us to not be discouraged or feel ignored during these events. He also graciously offered us the use of the parks to train in, provided that park personnel can be involved (this significantly reduces the red tape involved in working with a unit of government) and with sufficient lead-time. He can be reached by email at [bhansen@threeriversparkdistrict.org](mailto:bhansen@threeriversparkdistrict.org).
- h. Mr. Hansen also invited us to participate in the Underground Railroad program conducted by the Franklin Middle School. It will be held on May 6-7, 2004 at Murphy's Landing in Shakopee.
- i. The Boy Scouts will be holding a program called the Webelos Experience on October 9, 2004. They expect approximately 3,000 boys to attend. They would like to see a good SRRRMN turnout: Dogs, horses, CAP, etc.
- j. There will be a Managing the Search Operation course held October 7-10, 2004 at Vermillion Community College in Ely.

**"Getting to know you...":** Central Lakes (Deferred till next meeting due to time.)

**Case Review:** Deferred till next meeting due to time.

More information to follow on the next General Membership Meeting.

The Board of Directors will meet May 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 at a place to be determined

Wendy D/Kevin S moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Hasse.