# Rural Task Force 10A Spring 2026 Meeting

Draft Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

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The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Chair Burt Thompson.

## I. Introductions

***In person:***
Allen Musall, Antrim County Road Commission
Brent Shank, Emmet County Road Commission
Brian Stark, MDOT
Burt Thompson, Antrim County Road Commission, *Chair*
Cassidy Robarts, Networks Northwest
Christina Kretschmer, Antrim County Transit
James Vanek, Charlevoix County Road Commission
Jenna Foerster, Kalkaska Public Transit Authority
Pat Weeks, Charlevoix County Road Commission
Sam Demel, City of Boyne City
Tracy Fisher, Kalkaska Public Transit Authority
Travis Horrocks, Emmet County Road Commission

***Online:***
Joe Kroll, Charlevoix County Transportation Authority/Ironton Ferry
John Rogers, Kalkaska County Road Commission

## II. Approval of Agenda

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Christina Kretschmer, supported by Pat Weeks. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.*

## III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the February 12, 2026 meeting were presented.

*Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Allen Musall, supported by Brent Shank. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.*

## IV. Charlevoix County (JN214822) Change Request

James Vanek reported that the FY26 project JN214822 was currently estimated around $992,000 but only budgeted for $791,622. Charlevoix County requested approval to utilize the RTF's bid savings. At the time of the meeting the exact dollar amount was not

known, however it was believed to be in the range of $170,000 to $200,000. The group agreed to approve Charlevoix's use of these cost savings, with the understanding that the exact dollar amount will be confirmed later.

*Motion to approve the change request as presented by Burt Thompson, supported by Christina Kretschmer. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.*

**V. Antrim County (JN223408) Change Request**

Antrim County requested to add a new Kidder Road project in FY 2028 in the amount of $706,250 and to shift its previously programmed FY 2028 and FY 2029 projects out by one year.

*Motion to approve the change request as presented by Burt Thompson, supported by Tracy Fisher. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VI. Beaver Island Transit Cost Savings Utilization**

Beaver Island Transit requested approval to utilize cost savings from its FY 2023 project by changing the project scope to include additional work. Mary was unable to attend the meeting in person due to fog on the island, and the request had originally been circulated as an e-vote that did not receive enough responses to pass. The item was therefore placed on the in-person agenda so the full group could act on it.

*Motion to approve the change request as presented by Pat Weeks, supported by Sam Demel. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried unanimously.*

**VII. E-Vote/Bylaws Discussion**

The group discussed ongoing difficulties with the e-vote process, particularly that, as currently interpreted, it requires responses from every road commission, at least one city or village in every county, and a transit agency from every county, which has made it hard to secure enough correctly distributed votes even when a clear majority responds. During the conversation, it was clarified that, under the RTF framework, there should instead be a limited set of designated voting representatives: one from each road commission, one city/village representative, and one transit representative, for a total of six (6) votes, rather that the forethought twelve (12). The group agreed that each county, and the cities, villages, and transit agencies, should coordinate to formally designate these representatives in advance, and that this structure would simplify e-votes by focusing on a known list of voting members. It was further noted that the existing bylaws, last updated in 2016, do not clearly reflect this structure or the current e-vote practice. As a result, the group agreed that the bylaws should be reviewed and updated to clarify the number and type of voting members, define how representatives are designated, and spell out the e-vote requirements accordingly.

**VIII. Illustrative List Additions** - None.

## IX. Public Comments

Brian Stark provided several informational updates during public comment. He explained that Form 1799 will be updated to require agencies to specify how much federal funding is used on local and minor collectors so that he and Cassidy can track it separately.

He announced fall RTF training sessions, including a full-day session in Gaylord around September 10–11, featuring panels with road commissions, transit agencies, MPO/RPA staff, and environmental staff, intended to be more practical and Q&A-focused than the prior broad “RTF 101.”

He noted that updated estimates reflecting the 2020 Census are already in place and that current program estimates are not expected to change, as there has been no movement on the drunk-driving penalty issue.

He described that neighborhood funds should not significantly affect the RTF program, beyond possibly needing to distinguish between MTF and neighborhood funds when used as a match.

He also reviewed the federal buyout program for 2027 and said that if STP amounts change when final numbers are available in the fall, sponsors can then request additional funding.

Finally, he clarified how TDFD direct distribution is handled: projects using TDFD stay in JobNet for tracking, local-only projects drop out, and the direct distribution is processed in December once final numbers are received from finance.

There was no further public comment.

## X. Adjournment

*The meeting was adjourned by Burt Thompson at 11:27am.*