

RSVP Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Balsam Room 100 W Keenan St, Rhinelander WI
DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2026
TIME: 9:00 A.M.

Members Present: Nancy Brisse, Joan Hauer, Rita Mahner, Bill Vancos, Dawn Winqvist
Council Members Absent: Two vacancies
Staff Members Present: Lori Ring

The meeting was called to Order by Dawn Winqvist at 9:20 a.m. The meeting began by voting for action items from past meetings that were improperly posted. A motion to approve the agenda for the October 16, 2025 meeting was made by Brisse and a second by Winqvist. All in favor, motion carried. A motion to approve the agenda for the January 15, 2026 meeting was made by Vancos, and a second by Brisse. All in favor motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting was made by Winqvist, and a second by Brisse. All in favor, motion carried. A motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting was made by Vancos, and a second by Winqvist. All in favor, motion carried. The chair chose to move agenda item 13 for a vote at this time. A motion was made to approve Joan Hauer and Nancy Brisse to their second term on the RSVP Council by Brisse and a second by Vancos. All in favor, motion carried. This concludes the action items requiring a proper posting and vote.

A motion was made to approve the agenda for today's meeting by Brisse and a second by Hauer. All in favor, motion carried.

There was no public comment or communication from members.

The next meeting of the RSVP Council will be July 16, 2026 if new funding is awarded.

Ring provided a Financial report with current balances. Funds are sufficient until the original grant period of March 31, 2026. Due to the delay in new grant applications and approvals, AmeriCorps has extended the current grant period until June 30, 2026. The county will be continuing grant activities with grantee share funds when AmeriCorps funds are exhausted.

Ring provided a current report on volunteer activity for the past 12 months showing approximately 14,000 hours. Ring shared her goal of increasing hours above last year's 15,000 hours celebrated in September at the volunteer recognition banquet. More diligent reporting by volunteers and stations will help accomplish this goal.

Ring brought grant updates to the group. The application for a new grant has been submitted on time. The review process has begun and the Notice of Grant Awards will be coming in June of 2026. The county can charge back to the grant one month prior to the notice of grant award to recover some of the funds used between April 1, 2026 and May 31, 2026. If approved, the new grant should provide an increase in funding to the program making it completely self-sufficient and allow for more volunteer recognition events. This grant will begin another 6 year cycle with

AmeriCorps with continuation applications for two years, followed by a renewal, and then two more continuation applications. This is all dependent on Congressional budget approval of AmeriCorps.

Ring shared that we may be able to have an outdoor summer recognition event this year pending grant approval.

Ring asked the council for suggestions for our two member vacancies. Suggestions will be gathered and advertising can begin as soon as a notice of grant award is received in June. This gives sufficient time to recruit before the July 16, 2026 meeting.

Future agenda topics would be the celebration of the new grant and its focus if funding becomes available, planning a summer volunteer thank you project and fall volunteer recognition banquet, and new council member nominations.

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. by Dawn Winquist.

Advisory Council Chair

Advisory Council Secretary