

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: MnCCC Membership

FROM: Lisa Christine Meredith, Executive Director
651-917-6996, lisa@mnccc.org

DATE: July 18, 2016

SUBJECT: New JPA and Bylaws

At our 2016 Annual Membership Meeting, the membership approved new Bylaws and a new Joint Powers Agreement. Copies of both are attached. The MnCCC Board has also approved the attached "When A Contract Ratification is Required and Why..." document which has led to several of our user groups updating their User Group Rules and Regulations.

Joint Powers changes include the following:

- updating to the new MnCCC abbreviation for Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative,
- changing the requirement to change the Joint Powers Agreement from a majority vote to a two-thirds vote,
- removal of the language for electronic or mailed ballots, and
- the language regarding failure to pay has been modified to match that language that is included in the bylaws and on our invoices.

Bylaws changes include the following:

- updating to the new MnCCC abbreviation for Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative,
- removal of the special language for ISSG, which is now included with the other user groups in the bylaws language,
- additional language that allows a Past Chair to serve a second term in the event that a Chair is unable to serve as Past Chair in the officer rotation,
- removal of the language for electronic or mailed ballots, and
- added statement noting we use a modified accrual basis for accounting.

Please have the Joint Powers Agreement approved by your Board, signed by your Board Chair, and returned to MnCCC. Return via email to lisa@mnccc.org or via usps to MnCCC, 100 Empire Drive Suite 201, Saint Paul, MN 55103.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me.



When A Contract Ratification is Required and Why...

What is a Contract Ratification? A Contract Ratification is a form that is sent to a member board to acknowledge receipt of a copy of a contract, agreement to terms, and commitment to both terms and financial obligations during the term of the contract.

When is it required? When a User Group Contract requires a certain minimum amount (either by number of participants or some number representing the total number of participating members – e.g. parcel count, population, or employee count) during the entire term of the contract AND the user group would be required to absorb the costs if a member were to leave the user group. The contract would be required to be ratified by each participating member for each contract terms to commit the participating member to remain with the user group and pay all designated contract amounts until which time the contract expires or is modified (through amendment or change in membership) to allow them to leave.

How to enforce a required Contract Ratification? We recommended User Group Rules and Regulations contain the following language or similar language when a contract ratification is required...

Members of the XXX User Group agree to pay the dues established by the MCCC Board of Directors as provided for in Article X., Sections 2 and 4 of the MCCC Bylaws. The Maintenance and Support Contract shall be ratified by the Governing Board of each Member Agency within 90 days after signing by MCCC and the chair. Voting rights and enhancement rights will be placed on hold for agencies without a ratification statement on file after the 90 day period unless this is waived by the Chair of the XXX User Group due to extenuating circumstances. Member agencies may not submit requests for participatory enhancements without a contract ratification on file with MCCC. Member Agencies must promptly pay their assigned rates for Maintenance and Support when billed by MCCC.

When is a Contract Ratification not required?

- When participation in a contract requires a member to agree to terms outlined in a participatory work order (similar to a purchase order). The participatory work order includes terms, pricing, and references the master agreement; it also requires signatures from both an authorized representative of the member and the MnCCC Executive Director; in some cases, the user group chair is also required to sign.
- When a vendor contract allows users to add and leave a contract with no penalty to the remaining user group members and no contract minimums at risk. In these cases, both the contract and the user group rules and regulations shall contain the required notification process for leaving the user group. Member will be responsible for all fees until which time the proper notification process is met.

Adopted by the MnCCC Board December 10, 2015.

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT**

THIS AMENDED AND RESTATED JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT, made as of the 8th day of June, 2016, by and between the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (“MnCCC”) and _____ (“Member”), to amend, restate and redefine the operation of MnCCC, and the rights, benefits, obligations and liabilities of MnCCC members.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, MnCCC and its participating members have established by agreement an organization through which the parties may jointly and cooperatively provide for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of data processing facilities, software and other information management systems for the use and benefit of the parties; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, authorizes two or more units of government jointly or cooperatively to exercise any power common to the parties or any other similar power and by agreement to provide for a joint board representing the parties to the agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth, and pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, as amended, and any other applicable statutes, the parties hereto do hereby mutually agree, affirm and agree as follows:

Article I: Purpose

Member and the other members of MnCCC have agreed to a cooperative mechanism, enabling them to jointly exercise powers common to each participating member to:

- A. Develop, maintain and enhance proprietary software programs and related information systems and services of interest to MnCCC members and licensees, that can be registered and owned by MnCCC, and which may also be offered to third parties for commercialization by license or other agreement outside of Minnesota;
- B. Acquire or license third party software programs and related information systems and services of interest to MnCCC members;
- C. Provide for post-installation training, maintenance, support, enhancement and related managed professional services for MnCCC software programs and related information systems;
- D. Pursue government and related technology grants and related opportunities to acquire or improve software programs and information systems of interest to MnCCC members and eligible licensees;

- E. Assess, collect, hold and disburse dues, contract payments and other member contributions authorized by the Board;
- F. Employ a full time Executive Director to administer MnCCC operations and directives of the Board, and such other employees as may be necessary or desirable to administer MnCCC operations;
- G. Rent, purchase or otherwise acquire and hold property and other assets necessary or reasonably desirable for the successful operation of the MnCCC;
- H. Organize and conduct annual regional and MnCCC conferences, User Group training sessions, workshops and other meetings of members and licensees; and
- I. Establish and maintain a listing of such minimum acceptable contract terms to be included in any software license or managed services agreement, including such minimum required liability insurance obligations for all such licensors or service providers that meet or exceed the minimum standards as recommended from time to time by the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT), or of any other primary insurer of MnCCC.
- J. Engage in such other similar or related services and programs as determined by the Board as are incident to and proper or reasonable to carry out the foregoing.

It is further the intent of the members to establish procedures whereby additional qualifying members may be added to Agreement, and to establish a mechanism whereby additional and/or alternative programs and services may be developed for the benefit of MnCCC members and eligible software licensees.

Article II: Name

The name of this joint powers entity shall be the MINNESOTA COUNTIES COMPUTER COOPERATIVE, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “MnCCC”.

Article III: Membership

Membership in the MnCCC shall be open to any governmental unit or other political subdivision of the State of Minnesota as contemplated by M.S. 471.59 Subdivision 1. The Board may impose such conditions on membership, and may create or modify different classes, levels or types of membership within MnCCC, with differing member rights, privileges or obligations as it deems appropriate to protect the interest of the MnCCC and to provide for the benefit of its members; and in compliance with such conditions as are required by this Agreement, then-current Bylaws as amended (“Bylaws”), or by applicable statutes, administrative rules or other applicable Minnesota regulations for Minnesota joint powers organizations. During the term of membership, Member shall be entitled to use software and related managed professional services

for all software in use by any User Group that Member belongs to, subject to payment of all applicable User Group fees or other associated charges relating to such software.

Member agrees that such access and use of software is also contingent upon and subject at all times to compliance with all then-current MnCCC software and information systems rules and regulations (as well as those license and other covenants and obligations made by MnCCC with any third party owners). Member shall maintain in strictest confidence any and all software source code, user documentation or other confidential asset of MnCCC and/or any third party licensor, and acknowledges that such access and usage is reserved and authorized solely for Member's confidential internal use only, and that Member has no right to, and will not sell, license, distribute, transfer or otherwise make any unauthorized copy of any software source or object code or system or user documentation or any derivatives thereof, or to make any other unauthorized use of such assets without the prior written authorization of the MnCCC Board or the Executive Director; and that all MnCCC or third party licensor software or other property (including copies thereof) will be removed from such Member's computer system and returned to MnCCC (or destroyed, if so requested by MnCCC), promptly following such Member's withdrawal, other termination of membership, or following any uncured breach of such license or other software use agreement. In the event that any Member is authorized to and modifies the source code, such Member shall indemnify, defend and hold the MnCCC, other members or licensees, harmless from any claims resulting from such modifications, as well as for any unauthorized disclosure or other unauthorized use of such source code.

Article IV: Board of Directors

There is hereby created a Board of Directors of the MnCCC, herein referred to as the "Board", which shall be empowered to oversee and administer the MnCCC, in the manner provided in the Bylaws, as may be amended from time to time. The Board shall be fully empowered to oversee and direct all the affairs of the MnCCC and to do all things necessary or convenient for the furtherance of the purposes of the MnCCC, including but not limited to: expending and receiving funds; entering into contracts, leases, and other agreements and obligations; employing personnel either as employees or by contract, including consultants, such as technology advisors, attorneys, accountants or others. At all times as Member is an eligible Voting Member (as such term is defined in the Bylaws), Member and each other eligible MnCCC Voting Member shall elect those Board representatives as provided in the Bylaws, who shall each serve for an indefinite term and until such Board representative dies, resigns, retires from employment with, or is otherwise removed or replaced by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Voting Members present and participating at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting of the Voting Members called, noticed and held for such purposes.

The Board shall have the full authority and direction of Member to oversee and manage the business of the MnCCC, except:(a) as may be limited or otherwise modified from time to time by any resolution duly approved by the majority affirmative vote of Voting Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting of Voting Members called, noticed and held for such purposes; or (b) and/or except for matters of long range policy, or any proposed amendment of this Agreement or of the Bylaws; or (c) the approval of the MnCCC annual budget, which shall each be the exclusive province of the Voting Members. The MnCCC Board

shall be comprised of the officers, regional representatives, and the Information Service Support Group at-large Member, all as designated in the Bylaws, and a majority of all then-current Board members shall be necessary and sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Article V: User Groups

The Board shall be empowered to create, manage, modify, or terminate MnCCC user groups, to be comprised of members and other licensed end users of similar software programs and other information systems (“User Groups”), to be operated under such standard User Group rules and regulations as have been approved from time to time by the Board (the “User Group Rules and Regulations”). Subject to Board approval, User Groups may elect and replace User Group officers; create and administer annual User Group budgets; and prepare recommendations for User Group software or information systems acquisitions, enhancements or related services of interest to that User Group’s participants, or propose revisions to its User Group’s Rules and Regulations.

Article VI: Bylaws and Operating Policies and Procedures

MnCCC’s then-current Voting Members shall adopt, and shall have the sole power and authority to amend or replace the Bylaws, which shall provide for the operation and administration of the MnCCC. The Voting Members, by resolution of the affirmative two-thirds vote of eligible Voting Members in attendance at the Annual Meeting, or at any special meeting called, noticed and held for such purpose, or by ballot in lieu of a meeting, may also adopt and modify User Group Rules, or any other operating policies and procedures, or other policies or agreements that may be created or utilized from time to time to direct and document the specific activities of the MnCCC, consistent with this Agreement and the Bylaws.

Article VII: Financial Matters/Limitation of Liability

MnCCC shall have a calendar fiscal year beginning January 1 and ending each December 31. On or before June 1 of each year, the MnCCC Board shall prepare and circulate to each Member a proposed annual budget for the following calendar fiscal year, comprised of budgeted operating costs, other expenses, capital costs and other revenues and expense categories, which budget will be subject to review, adjustment and/or approval for the next year by the affirmative majority vote of Voting Members at the Annual Meeting, to be held each June. During each fiscal year, the approved MnCCC budget and individual line items therein may be adjusted by the Board in order to reflect actual costs incurred; changes in estimated expenses, costs or revenues; or reallocation of budgeted costs and expenses, with any such adjustments promptly reported to all MnCCC members. Each User Group shall be responsible for determining and providing amounts to MnCCC’s Executive Director by June 30 of each fiscal year, which will be invoiced to participating User Group members for the following year’s participation and other shared fees and expenses and as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

Member agrees to promptly pay its proportional share of all MnCCC expenses, as well as its User Group fees or other contributions upon receipt of and in the manner designated in MnCCC invoices, and to pay or reimburse MnCCC for its reasonable attorney’s fees or other costs

incurred in enforcement of this Agreement (collectively, “Costs”). All software licenses and similar agreements will include comparable provisions for User Group Members, or for licensee User Group participants, who are not eligible for MnCCC membership as defined in Article III above. Member will be temporarily ineligible to vote if and for as long as any invoice(s) and any interest or other expenses remain unpaid. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 118A shall govern all depositories and investments of MnCCC funds.

The Board may, at its discretion and from time to time, determine that an assessment is necessary to insure the financial integrity of the MnCCC, to operate and maintain the MnCCC or to carry out other purposes of the MnCCC pursuant to this Agreement. Such assessments shall be in a form, manner and amount as determined by the Board, and shall be payable to MnCCC by Member and other members in the manner specified by the Board, provided that any proposed assessment of Member that exceeds the amount of \$50,000 will not be binding unless and until such assessment has also been ratified by a majority of the applicable County Board of Commissioners or other ultimate governing bodies of those Voting Members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, or at a special meeting of all MnCCC Voting Members called, noticed and held for such purpose.

To the full extent permitted by law, actions by the parties pursuant to this Agreement are intended to be and shall be construed as a “cooperative activity”, and it is the intent of the parties that they shall be deemed a “single governmental unit” for the purposes of liability, all as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.59, Subd. 1a; provided further that for purposes of that statute, Member expressly declines responsibility for the acts or omissions of MnCCC, or of any other MnCCC member. The parties to this Agreement are not liable for the acts or omissions of the other participants to this Agreement, except to the extent to which they have expressly agreed in writing to be responsible for acts or omissions of any other MnCCC member(s) and except as provided in Article IX.B. of this Agreement.

Article VIII: Withdrawal of Member

Member or any other MnCCC members may only withdraw from this Agreement, or any MnCCC User Group created pursuant to Article V, in the manner provided in this Article VIII. To withdraw from a User Group and/or the MnCCC, Member must first give at least ninety (90) days prior written notice of its intent to do so to the MnCCC’s Executive Director, to be delivered by certified or registered mail or national overnight courier service or by facsimile or email, in cases where Member can provide verified, reliable proof of delivery, with such withdrawal to become effective as of the first day of the calendar quarter following the quarter in which such notice was given and the 90 day notice period expires.

Member shall remain jointly and severally liable for its full share of all fees, costs, expenses, debts, obligations and liabilities which were incurred by or on its behalf during the term of its membership, including, without limitation, any such amounts attributable to Member’s participation in any User Group for then-current or pending software or other information system deliverable, service obligation, updates, enhancements or other participatory projects or other work then in progress through the expiration or conclusion of each such User Group program as approved by the User Group prior to Member’s delivery of the termination notice specified in the

prior paragraph. Member's financial withdrawal liability and payment arrangements therefor will be determined by the Board, who shall calculate and offer a present value discount if such liabilities are paid as a lump sum by the Member on or prior to the effective date of termination. Member shall also be liable for all MnCCC enforcement Costs for any withdrawal obligation not paid within 10 days of invoice, or of such other payment deadline as specified by the Board.

Member's withdrawal shall not affect the continuance of the MnCCC or any User Group by the remaining members and other participants. If Member terminates or ceases to qualify for participation in the MnCCC, Member shall have no right or claim to the assets, reserves or other holdings of the MnCCC on withdrawal or termination, unless deemed appropriate by the Board, who may, in its sole discretion, determine the nature and timing of any distribution of assets to a withdrawing member.

Member may apply for post-termination use of MnCCC software in use by such Member as of withdrawal, in the same manner as provided in Article X below for termination of MnCCC membership.

Article IX: Insurance

From time to time, MnCCC may purchase and maintain liability insurance coverage with carriers and such coverage terms as are approved by the Board, in order to insure the activities of MnCCC and its joint software, information systems and services, with copies of such policies made available to members upon request.

- A. MnCCC shall be considered a separate and distinct public entity to which the parties have transferred all responsibility and control for actions taken pursuant to this Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement. MnCCC shall comply with all laws and rules that govern a public entity in the State of Minnesota, and shall be entitled to the protections of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 466.
- B. MnCCC shall defend, indemnify and hold Member harmless against all claims, losses, liability, suits, judgment, costs and expenses by reason of the action or inaction of the Board and/or employees and/or the agents of MnCCC. This Agreement to indemnify and hold harmless does not constitute a waiver by any participant of limitations on liability provided under Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04.

Article X: Term of Agreement/Termination of All Member Agreements

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely until:

- A. Terminated by the written agreement of Member and all other MnCCC members;
- B. Suspended or superseded by a subsequent agreement between all MnCCC members, adopted and approved at a duly called meeting or otherwise as provided by the Bylaws;

- C. Dissolution of MnCCC by affirmative vote of a majority of its members;
- D. Otherwise terminated by operation of law;

In the event that the MnCCC is terminated as specified in subsections (A)-(D) above, and subject to the provisions of Article XII below relating to potential future use of software products then in use by MnCCC, any property or other assets acquired by the Board shall be distributed to Member and the then-current other members in a manner commensurate with their contributions, or otherwise as determined by the Board. However, sufficient reserves shall be retained and maintained consistent with the MnCCC's obligations and known or foreseeable risks, under this Agreement, the Bylaws, and applicable laws or regulations.

Article XI: Term of Agreement/Termination of Member's Agreement

This Agreement shall remain in effect indefinitely until:

- A. Terminated by the mutual written agreement of MnCCC and Member; or
- B. Terminated by MnCCC following delivery of any exclusion notice issued by MnCCC to Member under [Article VI] of the then-current MnCCC Bylaws, or otherwise in any manner provided for therein.

Article XII: Post Termination Use of MnCCC Software

Termination under Article X or Article XI will also terminate Member's rights and license to use MnCCC software or related services, except with MnCCC's express prior written consent. MnCCC agrees to grant its consent upon request and provided that Member is no longer delinquent in any payment or other pre-termination obligations for the then-current version(s) of any software owned by MnCCC, and/or licensed from third parties and sublicensable after termination of such membership. Any such post-termination use of software by a former Member will be on a nonexclusive, nontransferable basis; fully subject to the terms of any then-current license or sublicense agreements; and contingent on the execution of an assumption, release and indemnification agreement in a form specified by MnCCC, acknowledging that such software is being acquired without warranty and in "AS IS" condition, and that the user(s) thereof will indemnify, defend and hold MnCCC, its other members, employees, licensees and other affiliates harmless from any liability for post- termination use thereof.

Article XIII: Entire Agreement; Amendments

This Agreement, the Bylaws and applicable User Group Rules and Regulations constitute the parties' entire agreement and understanding regarding the organization and general operation of the MnCCC. This Agreement replaces all prior oral or written agreements or understandings regarding the common exercise of joint powers as contemplated by Minnesota Statutes § 471.59. Any Voting Member may propose one or more amendments to this Agreement, which shall be forwarded to all Members upon receipt. In order to amend this Agreement, the Voting Members, by resolution of the affirmative majority vote of eligible Voting Members in attendance at the

Annual Meeting, or at any special meeting called, noticed and held for such purpose, or by ballot must affirmatively approve of such amendment, effective as of the date of the meeting or resolution, or such later affirmative date as may be specified therein.

Article XIV: Remedies

Failure to pay, within sixty (60) days of date of invoice, any MnCCC Dues, Charges, or other amounts billed by MnCCC shall result in a late-payment penalty charge at the lower rate of: (a) one percent (1%) per month compounded monthly on the unpaid balance. The Board shall have authority to waive any late-payment penalty charge, upon a showing of excusable neglect or other good cause, as determined in its sole discretion. Each Joint Powers Agreement and Licensee Agreement shall contain provisions obligating each Member (or Licensee) to pay or reimburse MnCCC for its reasonable attorney's fees and other expenses incurred in the enforcement of any MnCCC right or remedy thereunder.

Article XV: Governing Law/Jurisdiction and Venue

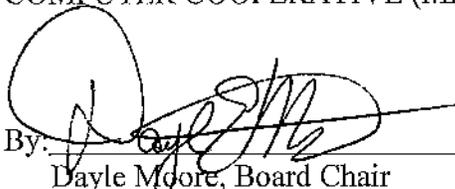
This Agreement will be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. Each party irrevocably submits to the jurisdiction of the applicable federal or state courts located in Ramsey County, Minnesota. Member and MnCCC each agree that such courts shall be the exclusive venues for any disputes arising hereunder.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Member and MnCCC have caused this agreement to be signed in duplicate or counterpart originals, all of which are considered to be a single agreement dated and effective as of the date hereof and delivered on their behalves.

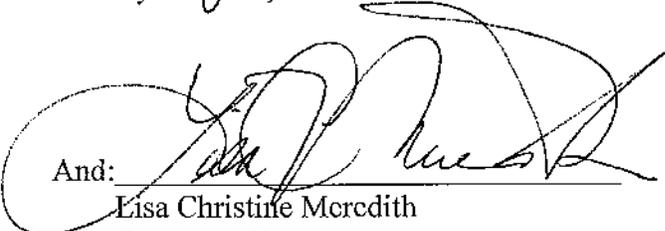
_____ (MEMBER)

MINNESOTA COUNTIES
COMPUTER COOPERATIVE (MnCCC)

By: _____

By: 
Dayle Moore, Board Chair

Name: _____
Board Chair

And: 
Lisa Christine Mercedith
Executive Director