

**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY January 29, 2018**  
**CRD Office, Slayton, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County .....	Will Purvis	Mower County .....	Tim Gabrielson
Brown County.....	Dennis Potter	Murray County.....	Jim Jens
Cottonwood Co .....	Tom Appel	Nobles County.....	Gene Metz
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	Pipestone County.....	excused
Freeborn County .....	excused	Redwood County .....	Dennis Groebner
Jackson County.....	Don Wachal	Renville County ... ..	Rick Schmidt
Lincoln County.....	Mic VanDeVere	Rock County.....	Gary Overgaard
Lyon County .....	Steve Ritter	Sibley County .....	Joy Cohrs
Martin County .....	Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County.....	excused

**ALSO PRESENT:** Annette Fiedler & Robin Weis (SRDC – RMEB Staff)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Flohrs.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice Chairman Flohrs led the Pledge.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** All were asked to introduce themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**AGENDA:** Vice Chairman Flohrs asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda.

**M/S/P** Purvis, Gabrielson to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P:** Gabrielson, VanDeVere to approve the minutes of November 27, 2017 as presented.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Fiedler reported on the financial status of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board. November and December bills were reviewed as follows: SRDC general cost \$1437.50; PACE admin \$455; PACE Outreach \$2836.04; and invoices from Fryberger total \$596.55; and financial in SRDC audit \$300. Total funds after pending bills is \$92355.26.

**M/S/P:** VanDeVere, Ritter to except the financial report and payment of bills as presented.

**SUBCOMMITTEES & RMEB BUSINESS:**

**Nominating Committee.** (*Warmka, Potter, Appel*) Commissioner Warmka reported on the recommendation for the slate of officers for 2018. They took into consideration member counties who had never been on the executive committee and made the following recommendations: Chair Steve Flohrs; Vice chair Steve Ritter or Gene Metz; Secretary Dennis Potter; Treasurer Gerald Magnus. Commissioner Ritter declined nomination for Vice Chair.

M/S/ Warmka, Gabrielson to nominate Steve Flohrs as RMEB Chair.

M/S/P Ritter, Gabrielson to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Steve Flohrs as Chair.

Warmka nominated Metz as Vice chair

M/S/P Ritter, VanDeVere to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Gene Metz as Vice Chair.

Warmka nominated Dennis Potter for the position of Secretary

M/S/P Metz, Ritter to cease nomination and cast a unanimous ballot for Dennis Potter as Secretary.

Warmka nominated Gerald Magnus as Treasurer.

M/S/P Warmka, Potter to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Gerald Magnus as Treasurer.

**Review Committee membership / 2018 appointments:** *committees stayed the same.*

*Tour 2017 members, Steve Ritter, Will Purvis*

*PACE 2017 members: Gerald Magnus, Gene Metz, Will Purvis (chair), Scott Sanders, Bob Fox.*

*Legislative 2017 members: Gene Metz (chair), Gerald Magnus, Tom Warmka, Steve Flohrs*

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee presented the 2017 Policies and Procedures document. There were no changes recommended.

M/S/P Gabrielson, Wachal to approve the Policies and procedures for 2018 as presented.

**Tour Committee:** Fiedler reported that she had been in contact with MISO regarding a tour, and they would get back to her in late January. Direction was provided to look toward a July 23 tour is possible. To also connect with Hennepin county regarding a tour of the incinerator.

**PACE Committee:** No staff report. Commissioner commented that Weis did an excellent presentation at the AMC District meetings.

**Legislative Committee:** Metz reported that Sam Richie has been in contact with him and they do not expect to see much related to the RMEB during this short session. Metz then referred Commissioners to the 2018 letter of engagement with a \$10,000 limit.

M/S/P Ritter, Warmka to authorize Metz to sign the 2018 letter of engagement with the Fryberger firm for 2018 services.

**Member Updates on Energy Projects and Issues from Respective Counties:**

**SELP** – Solar Energy Lending Program – project update report will be at the March meeting.

- Martin – refurbish west of Trimont, increase blade from 77to-91', 1.5 to 1.6 MW, 100 to 107.2 size, 30 year term adjustments.
- Lyon – 2019 about 50 MW wind to tie into the CAPX substation
- Cottonwood – APEX 3 windfarms

- Rock – rumors of solar
- Faribault – Xcel had too many people subscribe. EDF Wind looking to develop 2 100 MW wind farms, former Big Blue developer is not supportive; ITC Huntly to Mankato 4 routes need to be narrowed down to one.
- Jackson – NR
- Brown – NR
- Mower – quiet
- Blue Earth - NR
- Nobles – concerned about the blade plants going out of business
- Murray – Geronimo is scheduled to come to the county board
- Redwood – NR
- Lincoln – Red Pine 99 of 100 towers in and operational; one base sunk and needs to be relocated.
- Renville – NR
- Sibley – County has adopted solar power ordinances; the county subscribes to solar.
- Wind and Solar Decommissioning Work Group report (*Fiedler*)

**SW CERT:** Reminder that the conference is scheduled for March 28-29, 2018 in St Cloud. Weis will be presenting on PACE, and the SW Regional Session will be focusing on Small business.

**2018 MEETING DATES:** March 26, May 21, July 23, September 24 and November 26.

**ADJOURN:**

**M/S/P** Ritter, VanDeVere to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By  
Energy Board Secretary



Minutes Approved By  
Energy Board Chairperson

