

**MINUTES  
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY February 27, 2008, 9:30 A.M.  
CRD  
SLAYTON, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County.....	Will Purvis	Murray County.....	Kevin Vickerman
Chippewa County .....	Jeffrey Lopez	Nobles County.....	David Benson
Cottonwood County.....	John Oeltjenbruns	Pipestone County .....	Excused
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	Redwood County.....	Excused
Jackson County.....	Roger Ringkob	Renville County.....	Bob Fox
Lincoln County.....	Larry Hansen	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lyon County.....	Bob Fenske	Watsonwan County.....	Excused
Martin County.....	Excused	Yellow Medicine Co.....	Ron Antony
Mower County.....	Excused		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary Sieve (Nobles Coop Electric), Paul Pierson (USDARD), George Crocker (NAWO), Randy Fordice (CAPX 2020/GRE), John Biren (Lyon Co. Public Works), Dennis Potter (Brown Co. Commissioner), Connie Hargest (Outland Renewable Energy), Ingrid Bjorklund (Outland Renewable Energy), Steve Scott (Outland Renewable Energy), Annette Bair (Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Vice-Chairman Fox.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Bair announced that Congressman Tim Walz will have mobile office in Worthington, on Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at the Nobles County Library.

Bair read resolution number 01-2008 in support of increase funding to form a University of Minnesota Southwest Sustainable Development Partnership. This resolution was approved on January 28, 2008 by the Energy Board with the instructions that Commissioner Benson was to provide language to staff to develop the resolution which would then be approved by Chairman Kletscher. The draft resolution was provided to Chairman Kletscher and has approved it.

**APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

**M/S/P** Warmka, Benson to approve the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Antony, Vickerman to approve the minutes of January 28, 2008 as written.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Treasurer Hansen reviewed the finances of the RMEB and bills submitted for payment. Bills submitted for payment include: January 2008 Southwest Regional Development Commission totaling \$1,785.59 and a bill from Campbell Knutson in the amount of \$90.00. Upon approval and payment of bills, the balance will be \$77,069.43. It was noted that 16 of 17 counties have submitted their dues.

**M/S/P** Hansen, Warmka to approve the Treasurers Report and payment of bills.

**DRAFT 2008 BUDGET:** Vice-Chairman Fox requested Bair to review the draft Budget developed by the Executive Committee on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The draft Budget has the following columns: Operating (regular RMEB operating revenue and expenditures) Rural Metro, LCCMR, and Total Budget. Total revenues are anticipated to be \$201,400, total expenditure of \$186,092. The operating reserves carried over from 2007 were added to the current year revenues for a total of \$48,433. Bair noted the following: this budget assumes that \$150,000 of the \$200,000 LCCMR grant will be in calendar year 2008 and the remainder of \$50,000 will be received and spent in calendar year 2009; and the RMEB did not received a \$500 bill for 2007 website maintenance from AMC. This budget reflects received a bill from AMC. If no billing is received the budget will be amended.

**M/S/P** Fenske, Warmka to approve the calendar 2008 RMEB budget as presented.

**JOINT POWERS BOARD OPERATIONAL BUSINESS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Subcommittee Reports:**

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee met on February 8<sup>th</sup> to develop the draft FY2008 Budget and review existing policies and recommend adoption of other policies. The following policies are recommended by the Executive Committee for adoption:

- RMEB reimbursed travel and expenses are to be authorized by the RMEB Chairman or by the RMEB Board.
- 2008 per diem to remain at \$60.
- Mileage is at the federal reimbursable rate.
- Expense sheets are to be submitted by the Monday before a regularly schedule RMEB meeting (RMEB normally meets on the fourth Monday, unless it falls on a holiday).
- RMEB Board Members travel and per diem will be itemized in the Treasurers Report and approved by the RMEB.
- Website policy. Links should be government entities or entities identified in Minnesota State Statute; documents posted as authorized by RMEB Board.

**M/S/P** Oeltjenbruns, Benson to adopt the above identified policies.

**Legislative and Rural Metro Subcommittees:** Fox and Warmka outlined the Winona County language. It was modified to allow the counties and Metropolitan Council to own and bond for projects. The second page of the language reviewed by the Energy Board would be to amend chapter 373 by adding a new section that deals with financing energy, purchase contracts, and participate in generation and transmission projects. Subdivision two of the proposed language is specifically for counties and deals with the energy purchase contracts and generation projects.

**M/S/P** Warmka, Hoime to approve the proposed language of the bill.

**Discussion:** Commissioners reported that they have met with Representative Hilty who has indicated that he thinks the legislation will pass. Commissioners Fox and Warmka reported that they had had five to six meetings with the Utilities regarding the development and agreement on the proposed language.

**LCCMR Executive Committee RFP Status:** The RFP is currently on the website and Trusty has received some questions regarding it. There will be more to report at the March meeting.

**Outland Renewable Energy**

Ingrid Bjorklund, Vice-President of Government Affairs and Associate General Council and Steve Scott, Chief Operations Officer, presented a power point presentation on their business philosophy projects and plan. Regarding the independent power line route they did indicate that there are going to be approximately 200 land owners affected. With that route permit, they are looking at bundling of technologies, bio-mass, solar, anything with a wind firming capacity. Gary Sieve of Nobles Cooperative Electric asked about pairing with peaking plants and George Crocker asked about analysis with the Sweet Spot Study where it would be partnering with communities to market the energy which would reduce transmission needed and spread economic development.

**SW CERT update:** Bair reported on the CERT RFP for funding assistance of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, the RFP is located on the Clean energy Resource Team website: [www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org](http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org) . Also reported on was the February 11<sup>th</sup> wind energy, roads, bridges and Land use workshop sponsored by SW CERT in Windom. Bair was asked by Dodge County to provide a similar presentation in Hayfield on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Randy Fordice reported that CAPX 2020 will be holding meetings on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Marshall and on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Hendricks. The website will be brought up to date soon.

The future meeting dates were identified and the next meeting is scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

  
Energy Board Secretary Hoime

Minutes Approved By:

  
Energy Board Vice Chairperson Fox