

**MINUTES - MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019 AT 1:00 P.M.
RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD
CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SLAYTON, MN**

COMMISSIONERS ATTENDANCE:

Blue Earth County	Will Purvis	Mower County.....	Tim Gabrielson
Brown County	Jeff VeerKamp	Murray County.....	Dennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County .	Tom Appel	Nobles County	Gene Metz
Faribault County.....	Greg Young	Pipestone County	Dan Wildermuth
Freeborn County	Glen Mathiason	Redwood County	Dennis Groebner
Jackson County.....	Don Wachal	Renville County.....	Doug Erickson
Lincoln County	Mic VanDeVere	Rock County.....	Gary Overgaard
Lyon County	Steve Ritter	Sibley County.....	absent
Martin County.....	Steve Flohrs	Watonwan County.....	excused

OTHERS PRESENT: Jean Christoffels (Murray Co Environmental Services), Tara Ritter (Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy), Timberly Ross and Scott Seier (Tenaska/Nobles 2), John Luepke (Nicollet Co Commissioners D5) and Annette Fiedler (SRDC).

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Flohrs called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Gabrielson shared information on the Lower County Presentation at the 2019 Ag Summit – Agriculture, Food, Science and Energy. Also shared at the meeting was an ad in the Peach Newspaper.

AGENDA:

M/S/P Ritter, VanDeVere to approve the agenda as presented.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Purvis, Wildermuth to approve the minutes of February 11, 2019 as presented.

FINANCIAL REORT:

Treasurer Wildermuth presented the finance report. He noted that as of February, the report indicated 16 of the 18 counties dues were submitted; the 17th county paid dues in March; the remaining dues are from Sibley County and due to their withdrawal, the amount they owe is \$1,290.32. The pending bills are from the SRDC for January and February \$2,925 and \$490; Fryberger Law Firm \$3,455.40, AMC for Webpage \$500; and Speaker/Member Tours expenses \$1.08 for a total of pending bills of \$7,371.48. Action on the Treasurers Report and payment of bills was deferred to later in the meeting when the Legislative Committee Chair could be present and help address questions regarding the lobbyist bill.

M/S/P Wachal, Ritter to approve the Financial Report and payment of bills.

Discussion: Metz reported that the lobbyist bills have been over budget for the past two years. The actual budgeting for the lobbyist needs to go on a state fiscal year from July 1st to the end of June rather than

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the calendar year to reflect the legislative session. Staff was asked to provide the full bills from the lobbyist with the entire description. Financial staff was thanked for compiling the financial information.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND RMEB BUSINESS:

Executive Committee: The RMEB was requested to ratify the contract with the lobbying firm.

M/S/P VanDeVere, Mathiason to approve the Chairman of the Legislative Committee to sign the contract.

Tour Committee Report: Discussion involved past tours such as Deer Creek Station, MISO, HERC; consideration of touring of the Brewster Bean Plant as also discussed. Commissioners discussed touring of Ag Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient facilities.

PACE: No report and nothing has changes since the last meeting.

Legislative Committee: Metz and Wildermuth reported on their visit to the Capitol and visiting Senators and Representatives. There were 3 main topics that were discussed regarding wind and that was: noise, ADLS and the ten times the height of the tip of the turbine set back which would virtually eliminate all wind development in Minnesota. Commissioners at the meeting also discussed the 2050 carbon free footprint which probably should have the market drive it rather than force it through legislation which would make it very expensive.

PRESENTATION:

Rural Climate Challenge Dialog: – Tara Ritter from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy presented information on hosting rural climate dialogs. These dialogs have a two-fold approach. Their place-based and democratic community solution on one side and on the other it produces more equitable policy and development. Following these types of 3 day dialogs, participants experience a change in knowledge as well as attitudes. They are currently at looking at hosting dialogs in two SW MN counties on the topic of Wind Energy Citing and Development. The Energy Board was asked for feedback on issues and locations. Information provided on poor dialogs were in Martin and Freeborn County; the Juhl property along Highway 30 as well as the Bent Tree Wind Farm where the turbines seem to be packed in over in Freeborn County. The copy of the power point presentation was sent out to the members in an e-mail and Ritter's contact information was included in the notes sent to the Energy Board Members.

ADLS: - Aircraft detection lighting Systems, Scott Seier of Tenaska provided a handout of his company. His presentation discussed what ADLS are and that it involves the installation of one or more radar systems that can scan a 3 mile distance beyond the towers and a 1,000 foot above the highest tip of the turbine or about 1,500 feet above ground. Lights would be engaged for approximately 30 minutes after the aircraft has gone by. Aircraft are detected at approximately 1 sq m. The tower lights would engage only if an aircraft or object 1 meter would trigger it. The permit from the MN PUC requires FAA approval. The ballpark additional cost to a wind project is between \$750 thousand to \$1 million. For an existing wind farm, it was his opinion that the addition of ADLS would not be a cost viable option.

MEMBER UPDATES

- Lincoln - The wind farm is planning on pouring 200 new bases.
- Renville - County will be mapping the wind and solar projects

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- Cottonwood – Jeffers repower delayed to 2020; Plum Creek 2020; Big Bend (Apex) 2021
- Blue Earth – 27,000 cu ft water over the dam; in a year powers about 30 homes.
- Freeborn – Final determination for Freeborn Wind is expected the week of April 1.
- Mower – County Engineer is looking into ??????
- Brown – Possible development in NW Corner of county
- Faribault - Not much talk of wind at the present. The transmission line is in the process of being permitted – the route near Mankato is still being worked out.
- Redwood -Transmission line for Plum Creek Wind, and Plum Creek Wind 2020; talk of 75 turbines between Redwood and Brown Counties
- Pipestone - Stoneray completed (Pipestone and Murray), using the revenue for tax forfeited property clean up. Laydown yard in Pipestone County generated a bit of disagreement.
- Nobles – Have you heard of Windlock? If you have no new towers, what has happened with your production tax? Nobles has gone down about 11%. If you need facts about the wind industry, go to www.cleangridalliance.org (formerly Wind on the Wires) – they have information about public education, FAQ, Reports and studies, and fact sheets.
- Murray - (Jean was asked to give an update) – Plum Creek in Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood – Murray has a 3x5 RD back from wetlands, the company will be asking the PUC for a variance; large solar farm is planned between Chandler and Lake Wilson on both sides of Highway 91; two 1 MW solar are looking to develop.

SW CERT

Fiedler will be assisting in the facilitation of a Utility to Utility meeting regarding Electric Vehicles on March 26.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS, NEW BUSINESS: There was no other further business.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for June 3rd 2019.

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: Commissioners requested Fiedler to connect to the Clean Grid Alliance to see if they would come to the next meeting to discuss how they and the RMEB could work together.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Flohrs at 3:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Annette Fiedler, SRDC Physical Development Director.


Reviewed by Mic VanDeVere, Secretary


Approved by Steve Flohrs, Chairman