

**MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY April 28, 2008, 9:30 A.M.
CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County.....	Katy Wortel	Nobles County.....	David Benson
Chippewa County.....	Jeffrey Lopez	Diane Thier
Cottonwood County.....	John Oletjenbruns	Pipestone County	Marv Tinklenberg
Faribault County	Butch Erichsrud	Jim Keyes
Jackson County.....	Absent	Redwood County.....	Brian Kletscher
Lincoln County.....	Larry Hansen	Renville County.....	Robert Fox
Lyon County.....	Absent	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Martin County.....	Jack Potter	Watonwan County.....	Scott Sanders
Mower County.....	Absent	Yellow Medicine Co.....	Ron Antony
Murray County.....	Kevin Vickerman		

ALSO PRESENT: Connie Ireland (DEED/WIRED), Teresa Kittridge (WIRED), Lisa Hughes (DEED/WIRED), Cheryl Glaeser (SW Initiative Foundation), George Crocker (NAWO), Paul Pierson (USDA RD), Dick Ruiter (Nobles Coop Electric), Jay Trusty (staff) Annette Bair (Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by Chairman Kletscher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bair announced that a card from Jack Keers family was being passed around. A brochure describing the Minnesota PUC was available for each RMEB member.

INTRODUCTIONS: Everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

APPROVE THE AGENDA:

M/S/P Tinklenberg, Hansen to approve the agenda with the following additions: land lease discussion, Sweet Spot Study, Minnesota Transmission Task Force, and Windustry Conference report.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Oletjenbruns, Vickerman to approve the minutes of March 24, 2008.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Hansen reported that the following bills have been submitted: \$1,512.50 from the SRDC for services from Jay Trusty, Annette Bair, and financial staff; \$500 from AMC for website maintenance; and \$442.65 to Brian Kletscher for March and April travel and per diem. Upon payment of bills there will be a balance of \$73,882.86.

M/S/P Hansen, Lopez to accept the Treasurers Report and approve payment of the bills to the SRDC, AMC, and Brian Kletscher as reported.

JOINT POWERS BOARD OPERATIONAL BUSINESS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LCCMR Steering Committee: Jay Trusty reported that the project is progressing right on schedule. In February of 2008 a Request for Proposals was issued for a Project Manager/Project Team to implement the work program and meet the project deliverables as described in the LCCMR work program. One response was received, from HGA Architects and Engineers. On April 7th, the Executive Committee interviewed HGA at the Association of Minnesota Counties office in St. Paul. Members of the proposed project team presented their thoughts on the project. The Executive Committee then met and approved the selection of HGA as Project Managers and their Project Team. The Project Team will consist of HGA as the Project Manager; Richardson, Richter & Associates handling communication and intergovernmental coordination; LLS Resources handling siting and interconnection planning; Stoel Rives LLP will provide legal and negotiation work; and

Northland Securities will do the financial modeling and risk assessments. A draft contract was submitted for review on April 23rd and a meeting will be scheduled within the next few weeks to set project priorities and begin the planning process. A copy of the draft contract will be sent to HGA and the RMEB Attorney. The contract is set up so if as the project moves forward to be not feasible, it can be stopped. Currently, it is a couple of weeks behind schedule. The grant was for \$200,000 of which \$5000 was to be used to develop the RFP and get consultants on board, the remaining \$195,000 was for the project consultants. The consultant RFP came in at \$220,000. The funding shortfall will be addressed at the May RMEB meeting.

Rural - Metro / Legislative Committee: Bob Fox reported on the status of the legislation and testimony by metro and rural before various committees. We have been told the language is in the Tax bill, Hennepin County is watching it. It would be helpful to ask Magnus to speak with other Republicans to support it.

Bio Based Products: Bair referred the committee members to their mailing which had a draft resolution for RMEB consideration as well as a sample resolution for member county board consideration. An explanation of the procurement inventory provided as a follow-up to a county inquiry. The goal of the project is to identify what products can be developed into Bio Products. The goal of the procurement inventory is to identify what counties purchase (product trade name and the volume), so biobased products can be developed, tailored to what counties use. After speaking with one of the counties, it was determined that the task may be too labor intensive. A more manageable approach could be one or two county departments or areas that use products that can be looked at as Bio Based Products for an inventory. Many of the products include corrosives, corrosive inhibiting additives, fluids, adhesives and plastics, and cleaning supplies. Commissioners discussed departments that might be appropriate for this inventory would be: maintenance and road & bridge. Other thoughts would be if there is a remodeling project that is being planned that the Bio Based Products should be looked at. One of the main hindrances of Bio Based Products is acquiring shelf space and distribution of the product.

M/S/P: Wortel, Benson to approve the bio-based product resolution.

Discussion: Bair was directed to send a copy of the RMEB Resolution, an explanation of what is intended for the procurement inventory, as well as examples of what the current Bio Based Products are available and the samples resolution to the County Board contacts.

WIRED: Connie Ireland, Teresa Kittridge, and Lisa Hughes gave a presentation on the WIRED project. The WIRED region covers 36 counties in primarily rural Minnesota. It is the Minnesota Renewable marketplace. WIRED stands for Workforce Innovative Regional Economic Development and is meant to work together to build talent. There was a \$5 million grant granted in 2007 which looked at assets, initiatives, and sustainability. Following the presentation, members indicated different methods of getting the word out about the WIRED grant and feedback for it including; schools that meet together and AMC District Meetings.

CERT Update: Bair reported that there were 8 application received for the SW CERT Grant Fund. The Steering Committee will be meeting on April 30, 2008 to review and make recommendation for funding to the SRDC. The applications were from the following entities: Lynd School District, Prairie Ecology Bus Center, RMEB, Hendricks School District, RTR School District, the Madelia Project, Minnesota Crumb Rubber in Lamberton, and a green restaurant in a Historical Bank building in Milroy. Bair also reported that she will be working with the county engineers and developing a template of standards for Wind Development projects which can potentially be used for other heavy objects that move down through the road network.

Other Business

- **Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group.** The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group has their final report now available on the internet at <http://www.mnclimatechange.us/index.cfm>.
- **Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI).** Cheryl Glaeser distributed the REDI information fact sheets and interest forms. They can also be found on SW Initiative Foundation website as follows: <http://www.swifoundation.org/renewableenergy.html>. Commissioners discussed that the LCCMR project would be a good candidate for this project.
- **YES Summit.** Cheryl Glaeser also reported that the Initiative Foundation is beginning its second year of the YES project and identifies several of youth teams that were successful this year and their projects.
- **Land lease.** Bair reported there appears to be significant activity in land lease activity. SWIF indicated they could assist with information meetings. RMEB members suggested Pipestone, Windom and Redwood Falls as meeting locations; Nobles Cooperative Electric representative said they also hold meetings as needed.
- **Sweet spot study.** Crocker with the North America Water Office reported that a report will be available/released June 15th. It appears that there could be approximately 600 MW of wind injected into the existing transmission system with little to no upgrade needed.
- **The Transmission Task Force.** The Transmission Task Force is moving forward to smooth the way for project to proceed that are entirely in Minnesota (generation, transmission and destination) to avoid going through the MISO queue. Crocker inquired if there were any commissioners that were interested on serving on that board? The board should include Economic Development, utility, and elected officials. Benson indicated that he had an interest in that board, Wortel reported that there is an individual in the region 9 Energy Task Force that may be appropriate for that board. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who has an interest in serving on the Transmission Task Force, let Bair know and that name will be forwarded to the Crocker.
- **Windustry Conference.** Benson reported that had attended the Windustry Conference in Albany, NY. There were several people from Minnesota present at the conference and presenting including; Dan Juhl.
- **MinWin Backup Generator.** Commissioner Hoime reported on distributing information on the Minin Backup Generator going in Rock County this summer. The batteries are a prototype and require reinforcements around it such as sandbagging. Currently the MinWin project has a transformer that has gone done and is currently waiting for a replacement.

Topics for May Meeting:

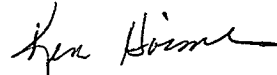
- LCCMR project, additional funding needs; Review of the 2008 budget; and 2009 dues
- Contact Chairman Kletscher or Bair regarding agenda or speakers for upcoming meetings.

NEXT MEETING DATES: Next meeting is scheduled for May 19 (4th Mon is Memorial Day 26th), July 28, September 22, and November 24

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am by Chairman Kletscher.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff. 

Minutes Reviewed By:


Energy Board Secretary Hoime

Minutes Approved By:


Energy Board Chairperson Kletscher