

**MINUTES**  
**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY JUNE 9, 2008, 9:30 A.M.**  
**Murray County Government Center, 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 .....	Tom Warmka	.....	Jim Keyes
Jackson County.....	Bob Ferguson	Redwood County.....	Brian Kletscher
Lincoln County.....	Larry Hansen	Renville County.....	Robert Fox
Lyon County.....	Bob Fenske	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Martin County.....	Jack Potter	Watowan County.....	Scott Sanders
Mower County .....	Absent	Yellow Medicine Co.....	Ron Antony
Murray County.....	Kevin Vickerman		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Pierson (USDA RD), Yvonne Simon (Senator Coleman), Randy Fordice (GRE/CAPX2020), Representative Doug Magnus, Annette Bair (Staff).

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:36 AM by Chairman Kletscher.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Bair passed around the following materials:

- Wind Energy Easement and Lease Agreements information (*Source: Windustry*)
- Rural Energy Marketing (Saturday Wtg Globe article about Loren Forest biomass project in Vermillion SD)
- June 13<sup>th</sup> Yankee to Brookings Transmission line Public hearing June 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at the Center for Wind energy (Hendricks)
- Lake Yankton to Marshall Transmission line Public hearing June 26<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled from June 12<sup>th</sup>) location Lyon County Government Center @ 6:30 pm.

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

**APPROVE THE AGENDA:**

**M/S/P** Warmka, Lopez to approve the agenda with the addition of a report on the Symposium on Small Towns.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Tinklenberg, Fox to approve the minutes of April 28, 2008.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Treasurer Hansen reviewed the 2008 Budget, the subcategories (General, Metro, and LCCMR). 2008 Revenues have been \$51,062, Expenditures upon approval of bills is \$16942.55. The following bills have been submitted for payment: SRDC April \$3,202.22; SRDC May \$1,800; Jamnik \$60; Fox expenses \$71.77; Fox expenses \$183.94; Genesys Conferencing \$65.12; Warmka expenses \$755.39.

**M/S/P** Oletjenbruns, Benson to accept Treasures report and payment of the bills as identified in the report.

**2009 DUES.** The RMEB members discussed 2009 dues and determined that they would set the dues at \$3000.

**M/S/P** Antony, Vickerman to set the CY 2009 dues at \$3000.

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

LCCMR Steering Committee. Project status – Meeting June 16<sup>th</sup> with Metro and Consultants to firm up contract and move forward with the project. Legislative HF 3585 Wording for the policy passed, tax exempt GO bond did not pass. RMEB thanked Warmka and Fox for taking the lead on this legislative initiative.

Funding for the project . The consultants proposal came in at \$220,000. Funding resources are: LCCMR grant \$200,000; of which \$5,000 to develop RFP and bring consultants on board. Also there are some restrictions for the LCCMR dollars – such as the funds cannot be used for attorney fees. There has been discussion with the MEPC for \$12,500. The RMEB submitted a \$5000 grant request to the SW CERT toward wind siting of the project – funding is favorable and the remainder of \$7500 would need to come from the RMEB.

REDI Interest form – staff has submitted an interest form as requested at the April RMEB meeting and has met with Cheryl Glaeser and George Crocker. It is not certain that the REDI program is a good fit with the project needs of the RMEB.

**CapX2020 Public Hearings.** Randy Fordice distributed information about the upcoming CAPX2020 meetings scheduled from June 17 to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. A schedule of meetings are available on the CAPX website: [www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com)

### **CERT Update**

Current Activities in SW CERT: Wind development and roads project – Staff will be working with a subcommittee of county engineers from MNDOT Districts 6, 7, and 8. This project is a result of the Wind and Roads meeting held in Windom in February. Staff has also been working with Murray County on a separate but related project, and are finding that the planning commission may be a good place to trigger contacting the County Engineers and other County staff early on with a wind development project. RMEB members also discussed Delegation Counties (permitting under 25 MW) – Bair to ask Lyon Co ZA (and Murray) to present at next RMEB meeting – and to invite all the Co Zoning Administrators.

CERT Grant Recipients: RTR, Lynd, Hendricks school districts at \$10,000 for geothermal feasibility; Prairie Ecology Bus for \$5,000 for energy efficiency outreach; the Madelia Project \$5,000 for community anaerobic digestion; RMEB wind siting (\$5,000), Mn Crumb Rubber \$7,500; and Milroy geothermal installation at the old Historic Milroy Bank \$7,500.

FARMFEST: volunteers for 3-4 hours of time at Farmfest (August 5, 6, 7<sup>th</sup>) at the CERT booth: Brian Kletscher (Tuesday), Ron Antony (Tuesday), Tom Warmka (Wednesday?), Larry Hansen (Thursday) – anyone else interested in volunteering is to contact Bair..

### **Other Business**

- Rep Magnus: Energy bill - A new financing option will provide market incentive to increase sales and installations of small-scale renewable energy technologies. Minnesota's \$20M microenergy loan program will allow local governments to finance renewable energy projects over a 15-20 year period through state-issued bonds. In addition, loans for microenergy projects will be available to residential property owners through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency. Microenergy projects include small-scale solar electric and solar thermal systems, ground source heat pumps, wind turbine, anaerobic digester and microhydro systems.
- Sweetspot study report to be released June 16<sup>th</sup>. Expect 15-40 MW projects . Bair is to contact Matt Schuerger regarding the Webinars and send information out to the RMEB members.
- AMC – MN Futures project – Kletscher and Bair will be in contact with AMC regarding participation.
- Small Town Symposium – Benson reported on the Conference – Morris project gasification of biomass. Benson will look into a tour of the facility for the RMEB later this year (September or November) as well as the Benson facility.

- Wortel – Blue Earth County – NACo Energy Efficiency. Wortel will report back next meeting. Energy Efficiency - Retrofits. Handout on template for what projects the counties are working on. GRE – LEED building – future tour? Sustainable buildings 2030 – state buildings
- Yvonne Simon (Sen Coleman staff). Simon will be working in the areas of Ag and Energy topics.
- GRE, Menards, and Minnesota Center for Energy and Environment. A free CFL recycling. (small residential bulbs) project through June.
- The Next Generation Board will be meeting next Thursday – focus biofuels
- Electric Energy Task Force - new committee formed Energy Commission
- E-85 discussion – price differentials, grocers lobbying against, blenders pumps. Kansas City NACo Conference will have a breakout session on ethanol.
- Round 2 of the USDA 9006 grants are due June 16<sup>th</sup>. Form 424 – intergovernmental reviews – only done in SW MN. It may be a way to provide more information about projects that are being considered.
- Heron Lake Ethanol Facility – Microwave of DDG's, energy audit, CO2 sequestration. August 23<sup>rd</sup> Open house.
- MinWind Towers not running – down for 5 months – cannot get a transformer.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> fire at Okabena windfarm.

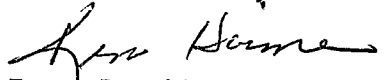
**Meeting Dates** – others on call by Chair: *2008 dates – July 28, September 22, and November 24, December (AMC)*

**Adjourn** at 11:30 am by Chairman Kletscher

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.



Minutes Reviewed By:

  
Energy Board Secretary Hoime

Minutes Approved By:

  
Energy Board Chairperson Kletscher