

**MINUTES - MONDAY, JUNE 03, 2019 AT 1:00 P.M.  
RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD  
CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SLAYTON, MN**

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**COMMISSIONERS ATTENDANCE:**

Blue Earth County ..... Will Purvis	Murray County.....absent
Brown County ..... Jeff VeerKamp	Nicollet County .....John Luepke
Cottonwood County . Tom Appel	Nobles County.....Gene Metz
Faribault County..... excused	Pipestone County.....excused
Freeborn County ..... Glen Mathiason	Redwood County .....absent
Jackson County..... absent	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.....Bob Rinne
Mower County ..... Tim Gabrielson	

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Annette Fiedler (SRDC), Jason Walker (SRDC), DeeAnne Newville (Renville-Sibley Coop Power Assn), Peder Mewis (Clean Grid Alliance).

**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:** shared around CWN 30 MW and Jeffers 20 Public meeting information; and 2019 Midwest Farm Energy Conference July 10-11 at WCROC in Morris

**AGENDA:**

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

**MINUTES:**

M/S/P Metz, VanDeVere to approve the minutes of March 25, 2019 as presented.

**FINANCIAL REORT:**

Treasurer Wildermuth was not present, Fiedler presented the financial report. All counties have submitted their dues, and noted that the \$1290.32 is the prorated share of Sibley County. Revenue is \$43,595.43. Bill were presented from the SRDC in the amount of \$1732.50; and Fryberger for March \$1662.50 and April \$2000. They are currently at 71% of the budgeted amount for a calendar year or will exceed the \$10,000 cap if using the FY of July through June.

M/S/P Gabrielson, Purvis to pay the Fryberger bill up to the FY cap of \$10,000.

M/S/P Mathiason, Purvis to approve the Treasurers Report and payment of bills with the exception of the Fryberger bill as noted previously.

**SUBCOMMITTEE AND RMEB BUSINESS:**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The committee met at 11:30 today to address and make recommendations on the following:

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- Request by Nicollet County to join the RMEB.

M/S/P Purvis, Mathiason to accept Nicollet County into the RMEB.

Discussion, the member will be John Luepke and alternate is Jack Kolars.

- Budget review. Fiedler review the line items of the draft budget. Executive Committee member recommended keeping the dues the same for 2020 for budget purposes; and to re-evaluate the dues at the November meeting.

M/S/P Appel, Gabrielson to approve the CY 2020 dues at \$2500 for county budgeting purposes, to be re-evaluated at the November meeting.

- Joint Powers Agreement changes. The Board was updated on several items that were inconsistent in the JPA, and which the assistance Nicollet County Attorney also identified as changes the Board should consider if they are updating the document. There was also the consideration of By-Laws. It was decided that Trusty should connect with Ann Goering for updating the JPA and development of Bylaws; that Goering is someone the county attorneys have worked with in the past.

M/S/P Purvis, Luepke to hire outside staff (Ann Goering) to review the JPA reduce as needed, and update (with consideration for the development of By-Laws).

**TOUR COMMITTEE.** Fiedler indicated that Jim Haler of south Central electric offered to come to the next RMEB meeting to give a presentation on EV's. He also plans to bring their EV to the meeting. Mathiason indicated the Alden school has a high mileage vehicle, and he could try to connect with them to see if they would be willing to come. A suggestions was to tour the MnSP at Brewster next year.

**PACE.** All RMEB Counties in good standing are eligible for businesses to apply for RMEB PACE. Discussion of the difference between St Paul Port Authority PACE and RMEB PACE. Use of ARRA money now; Metz reported that over \$1 million have been loaned. There is a potential project in Lyon County, however the paperwork has not been completed. There is currently less than \$100,000 to spend.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.** After a discussion of the Lobbyists expenses, the committee was tasked with developing specific points on what the RMEB want a lobbyist to do. Connect any of the legislative committee members for lobbying actions. This will be brought back to the RMEB at the July meeting. Connect with known lobbyist for short list of who would be appropriate

**CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE.** Peder Mewis discussed utility solar and other energy issues as well as legislative issues. A powerpoint presentation was available for the meeting.

**MEMBER UPDATES**

- Nicollet – some solar
- Rock – 200 MW in two parcels (120 and 80 Acres)
- Cottonwood – Jeffers Repower (2020), Big Bend (2022); Plum Creek (2022). Note Jeffers may be at the same time as TH 30 and TH 71 construction projects.
- Renville-Sibley Cooperative – there were several <40 kW wind thru 2017, but nothing in 2018-2019

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- Blue Earth – Small solar farm – people came to county board and were very opposed to the project, had all the talking points
- Freeborn – PUC okay the project, they plan the construction in fall or next spring
- Nobles – Nobles 2 to begin the base work this fall. 800 lb gorilla – about 30 people attended the meeting, have not heard anything since.
- Lincoln – 200 towers are still planned for 2019
- Question – how many acres for solar? 6-7 per MW + room for the inverter.

**SW CERT**

Fiedler indicated that there will be a new RFP for the Seed grants this fall. The Seed grants are for labor only for community energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. If anyone has ideas – please connect with staff so we can follow up.

**NEXT MEETING.** The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2019

**FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS.** MnWest and their Energy Trailer

**ADJOURN**

**M/S/P** VanDeVere, Veerkamp to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 P.M.

Reviewed by:

Mic VanDeVere, Secretary

Approved by:

Steve Flohrs, Chairman

