

**MINUTES - MONDAY, JULY 22, 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	Nicollet County	John Luepke
Faribault County.....	Tom Warmka	Nobles County	Gene Metz
Freeborn County	Glen Mathiason	Pipestone County	Dan Wildermuth
Jackson County.....	Don Wachal	Redwood County	Dennis Groebner
Lincoln County	Mic VanDeVere	Renville County.....	Doug Erickson
Lyon County	Steve Ritter	Rock County.....	Gary Overgaard
Martin County.....	Steve Flohrs	Watonwan County.....	Bob Rinne

OTHERS PRESENT: Tracey Haberman (NCE), Jim Haler (SCE), Jason Walker (SRDC), Annette Fiedler (SRDC).

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Flohrs called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Circulated Blue Earth Light and Power article, MN PUC Decommissioning Project report and public comment period

AGENDA: A break after the EV presentation to allow viewing of the EV and to answer questions was added after agenda item 9.

M/S/P VanDeVere, Erickson to approve the agenda as amended.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Gabrielson, Luepke to approve the minutes of June 3, with a correction to the meeting date.

FINANCIAL REORT:

Treasurer Wildermuth presented the financial report and bills. SRDC May and June bills totaled \$1985.35. There were no other bills, and funds after pending bills is \$121,261.56. Fiedler added that the new member dues from Nicollet County were received in July and would be reflected on the September report.

M/S/P Veerkamp, Wachal to approve the Treasurers Report and payment of bills.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND RMEB BUSINESS:

Executive Committee. Joint Powers Agreement update status – The current JPA and policies have been sent to Ann Goering; we anticipate hearing back by end of summer.

Tour Committee. The EV presentation and viewing the Tesla and Bolt from Nobles Cooperative Electric and South Central Electric served as the tour this year.

PACE. There is about \$70,000 in PACE from the original funds with the loan paybacks, plus approximately \$260,000 additional from the Department of Commerce for PACE loans. RMEB Staff was asked to send information / reminders to the utilities that there are PACE funds available and send the information to

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the Economic Development people the member counties as a reminder. There is no PACE outreach funds so, RMEB members are asked help share the word of the availability of the funds.

Legislative Committee. Discussion involved what the RMEB expects from a lobbyist. The legislative committee will be meeting with Walli who has offered to assist in developing an RFP in early August. One representative indicated they are part of the RMEB because of the legislative presence.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES. Jim Haler of South Central Electric Cooperative and Tracey Haberman from Nobles Electric Cooperative presented on Electric Vehicles. Their presentation included a PowerPoint presentation and a close up look at a Chevy Bolt and Tesla 3.

MEMBER UPDATES

- Renville – solar farms and looking at screening from farmsteads. Several solar farms appear to be same owner, but different LLC's. Fiedler indicated there had been something similar with wind that needed a legislation correction.
- Rock – Geronimo has acquired the land needed; 15 MW solar south of Magnolia (Omaha developer three 5 MW parcels), however the local coop has had no contact with the project proposer; Gevo is looking at a \$200 million remodel / expansion, two 2.4 MW towers and a methane pipeline to nearby dairy and feedlots.
- Cottonwood: Jeffers Repower, Big Bend, Plum Creek projects seem to be moving forward.
- Jackson – Tradewinds, in Jackson, Martin, and Iowa 150 towers for 300 MW. Solar seems to be proceeding.
- Blue Earth. Huntley – Wilmarth transmission line. Solar farm setbacks seems to be an issue, it was suggested their Zoning Administrator connect with Murray Co; \$500,000 to be spent on the Rapidan Dam.
- Mower – N Stat Power
- Nobles- Nobles 2 moving forward with the roads bases and towers.
- Pipestone – Stoneray moving forward, Pipestone county is in an area that is transmission constrained
- Redwood – Plum Creek wind project and transmission line to connect to CAPX2020 line is moving forward.
- Faribault – 345 Huntly to Wilmarth all overhead lines, much of it follows the old route.

SW CERT.

SW CERT Steering Committee. Fiedler reported that the SW SDP representative (David Benson) has been replaced. The new member, Eric Rathman is interested in service on SW CERT. Fiedler requested the RMEB consider approving that appointment. In addition, the following Steering committee members will be completing their third 2 year term: MnSCU representative Roxanne Hayenga and she has been asked if there is a suggested replacement; at large member Miron Carney; and RMEB Commissioners Steve Ritter and Steve Flohrs. Fiedler requested that two RMEB members consider volunteering to be part of the SW CERT Steering committee at the September meeting. Commissioner Wildermuth indicated that he had an interest.

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M/S/P Metz, Wildermuth to approve Rathman to represent MnSCU on the SW CERT Steering Committee.

Fiedler directed the RMEB member's attention to the CERT Seed grant post cards and requested they help get the word out in their respective areas. Seed grants are for labor only energy efficiency or renewable energy projects.

OTHER BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner inquired if there had been any word from Yellow Medicine County joining the RMEB. Fiedler indicated that there had not.

NEXT MEETING September 23

ADJOURN

M/S/P Luepke, Rinne to adjourn the meeting 3:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Annette Fiedler, SRDC Physical Development Director.

Reviewed by:

Secretary



Approved by:

Chairman

