

MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY July 24, 2006, 9:30 A.M.
CRD
SLAYTON, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County.....Katy Wortel	Murray County Al Gertsema
Cottonwood CountyJohn Oeltjenbruns	Nobles County David Benson
Faribault CountyLoren Lein Diane Thier
.....Tom Warmka	Pipestone County ...Jack Keers
Jackson County.....Absent Marv Tinklenberg
Lincoln County.....Larry Hansen	Redwood County ... Brian Kletscher
Lyon County.....Bob Fenske	Renville County Excused
Martin County.....Absent	Rock County..... Ken Hoime
Mower County..... Absent	Watonwan County.. Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Ron Antony (Yellow Medicine Co), Arlene Vee (MN Pollution Control Agency), George Crocker (NAWO), Jay Trusty (Staff), Annette Bair (Staff)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am by Chairman Keers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ? Bair reported that Chippewa County has expressed and interest in learning more about the Rural MN Energy Board. She will be sending information to them regarding the Joint Powers Agreement.
- ? Keers reported that he gave a presentation regarding the activities of the Rural MN Energy Board to the Regional Economic Development Professionals; and on Wednesday he will be interviewed by Newsweek Magazine.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Keers requested all present to introduce themselves.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: There were two additions to the agenda: website discussion under Joint Powers Board Operational Business and CAPX under Legislative.

M/S/P Gertsema, Hansen to approve the agenda as amended.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Benson, Oeltjenbruns to approve the May 22, 2006 minutes as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bair referred the Board to the handouts which provided an overall view of the Energy Board expenses to date in 2006, and a break out of general expenses in relation to work with the Metro Counties. There were four bills for the Energy Board review: Jay Trusty's time for May and June for the amount of \$2730 for Rural/Metro Activity, Bair's time in May and June in the amount of \$1855 for Rural Metro Activity, Support staff for May and June in the amount of \$1,593 for Rural metro Activity, and Bair's time for May and June Energy Board general activities in the amount of \$105 for a total in bills of \$6,283.

M/S/P To approve payment of the four bills and the Treasurer's Report as presented.

JULY 5th RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD VOTE: Chairman Keers reported that the Rural Minnesota Energy Board members present during the Pipestone stop of the Rural Metro Tour discussed the need for a decision on the RFP (if the RFP was acceptable for sending out) and whether to contribute \$20,000 of RMEB funds toward the project. Due to the limited time frame for a decision, members agreed that a vote on the two questions via email and phone would be acceptable. Fourteen of the fifteen counties responded, all with a yes to each question.

M/S/P Kletscher and Hoime to ratify the action of the July 5th vote for approval of the RFP language (proposals for a business plan) and a contribution of Rural MN Energy Board funds in the amount of \$20,000 for the project.

JOINT POWERS BOARD OPERATIONAL BUSINESS

Dues for Calendar Year 2007:

M/S/P Hansen, Lein to set the Rural MN Energy Board dues at \$2,000.

Website: Bair presented information regarding AMC's cost to develop and host a Website for the Rural MN Energy Board. There would be a \$1,000 set up fee and annual maintenance of \$500 as an affiliate of AMC.

M/S/P Fenske, Gertsema to contract with AMC to develop and host a website with design similar to the Metro County Energy Task Force website.

Discussion: Commissioner's discussed that a logo would be needed and directed Bair to try to Contact Char Kahler.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rural-Metro Energy Subcommittee Report:

? Tour of the Metro Energy Task Force and Rural MN Energy Board: A PowerPoint presentation was shown during the meeting and distributed on CD's to each of the member counties. Chairman Keers then updated the Energy Board on the status of the RFP process. Bair was instructed to send a schedule of the RFP process to the Energy Board members.

Discussion: Crocker indicated that the tour generated very good comments from the Metro sector. Arrangements are being made for September 7th to be a Joint Metro County Energy Task Force and Rural MN Energy Board meeting to be held in the Metropolitan area.

? Met-Council: Keers reported that Peter Bell, Executive Director of the Met Council would like to meet with Peter McLaughlin and Keers to discuss what is going on with the project.

Legislative Subcommittee: Chairman Keers reported that we can anticipate many Renewable Energy issues this year through the Legislative session. They will include:

? **Siting of different sized projects:** The Attorney General's ruling on aggregated projects over certain size. Renewable Development Standard (which needs to include C-BED or local ownership).

? **Sighting of towers on land - taxed at commercial or adjacent land use:** Taxation on Sub-stations. The Legislative Committee was informed that they should be getting ready for that session. Crocker reported that C-BED has about eight issues that the Energy Board Committee may wish to consider. Commissioners indicated that it maybe wise for the development of a white paper for locally owned facilities.

? **CAPX:** Crocker presented to the Energy Board information about the filing to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. He provided the North American Water Office request for comment regarding the transmission planning heading of the proposed newspaper ad text with a request that the Rural MN Energy Board consider supporting submitting reply comment stating "the Rural MN Energy Board supports the comment of the North American Water Office regarding the public notice language for the power line proceedings associated with the application for these certificates of need".

? The language submitted by North American Water Office is as follows; "whether the proposed power lines are actually needed is highly dependent upon the location of new generation brought on-line to serve new and existing needs of electric customers. This is a case with all

new proposed power lines identified on the Web at www.capx2020.com. The proposed power lines assume that most of the new generation will be centrally concentrated at a relatively few locations. If the new generation were instead assumed to be distributed and disbursed at strategic location throughout the region, existing power lines would be used more efficiently in the near term, and a different set of new power lines would be needed in the future."

Basically the three power line plan assumes that new power generation will be at a few locations and the Board supports also looking at it assuming distributed and disbursed generation. Reply comment must be submitted by August 10th. The cost to mail first class postage to the service list is approximately \$120.

M/S/P Olsen, Benson to send reply comment to the Public Utilities Commission supporting the language of the North American Water Office.

CERT UPDATE: Bair reported on the fall Rebuild Workshop which is meant for school and government facility managers and building operators. The workshop will be co-hosted with the Southwest Services Cooperative out of Marshall. More information will be sent out as the workshop material develops. Energy Board Commissioners will provide this information as they meet with school districts and other public entities in their respective areas. Current activities of the coordinator include meeting with GRE regarding energy efficiency projects potential of energy efficiency outreach through activities that currently occur in rural areas such as Seed Dealers Customer Appreciation Days where there is a potential of a seed company and the cooperative working together to show directly what energy efficiency methods are available to their customers. Other activities include the weekly to every two week CERT update, work on the state- wide CERT Planning Committee for the January conference, and providing technical assistance as requested.

- ? **Farmfest:** August 1, 2, 3, 2006. The SW CERT will be manning the booth this year. Board members suggested running a loop of the Rural/Metro Tour on a computer at the booth.
- ? **Wind Handbook status:** AURI has taken the lead with the Wind Handbook RFP. The notice is now out and we anticipate response to the RFP in mid August and the project should move forward from there. This project is funded through Southwest and Statewide CERT money as well as sponsorship from the Rural MN Energy Board through a grant application to AURI Initiative Foundation and other organization in the state.

Discussion: Commissioners discussed use of compact fluorescent bulbs. One Commissioner reported that he has been using compact fluorescent bulbs that have a five year warranty and marks the bulbs when he installs them and since they do not year last the five year time frame, he returns the bunt bulbs to the place of purchase where they are replaced.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- ? Benson reported on Community Wind South. They continue to take steps forward. They are working on lease options. They had a setback when they were doing their FAA study for runway airport runway and lost 12 of their original 15 sites. They have since looked at other sites and have been working with land owners to the north and west of Reading. They continue with their joint venture with MinWind.
- ? Commissioner Lein reported on switch grass to energy and the interest that they are looking at in the development of switch grass to ethanol.
- ? Trusty reported that National Association of Development Organization (NADO) has picked up a press release regarding the Wind Tour and it will be distributed nationwide and that Trusty will be the Key Note Speaker at the NADO Conference in Reno in August.

- ? Bair requested input from the Energy Board regarding the MRDO Conference this fall. The RDC is to put together an Energy Session for local elected officials. The Commissioners indicated that Benson and Keers maybe good speakers dealing with local ownership.
- ? Vee distributed information regarding the Ecoexperience at the Minnesota State Fair and that and ethanol guidance document is available on the MPCA Website. Also available on the MPCA Website is the storm water permit. It has speeded up the process from 48 days to 7 days. Vee also reported that the MPCA may have some competitive grant dollars which might be applicable for work the Rural MN Energy Board is doing. She was requested to send more information regarding that.

ADJOURNMENT:

There was no new business. Next meeting dates, The Joint Meeting scheduled for September 7th. More information will be sent regarding that meeting. September 25th is also identified as the next meeting date.

M/S/P Benson, Gertsema to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 am.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

Minutes Approved By:

Ken Hoime

Jack Keers

Energy Board Secretary

Energy Board Chairperson