

MINUTES

RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY September 22, 2008, 9:30 A.M.

Center for Regional Development, SLAYTON, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County	Katy Wortel	Murray County.....	Kevin Vickerman
Chippewa County.....	Jeffrey Lopez	Nobles County	David Benson
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	Bob Fenske	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Martin County.....	Jack Potter	Watonwan County	Scott Sanders
Mower County.....	Absent	Yellow Medicine Co	Ron Antony

ALSO PRESENT: Arlene Vee (MPCA), Gerald Woodley (Senator Coleman), Randy Fordice (CAPX2020), Dan Juhl (Juhl Wind Inc.), George Crocker (NAWO), Durgesh Manjure (Midwest ISO), Annette Bair (Staff).

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Bair reported that the Southwest Regional Development Commission has been awarded a 2008 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Wind Development, Roads, Bridges, and Land Use Initiative. This is from the work the SRDC and SW CERT has done with the County Planning and zoning Administrators and the County Highway Engineers.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Kletscher asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Additions under new business were a report by Arlene Vee on an MPCA RFP, and George Crocker on an information request.

M/S/P Fox, Benson to approve the agenda as amended.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Hansen, Oletjenbruns to approve the July 28, 2008 minutes as written.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Hansen reviewed the Rural Minnesota Energy Board financial report and presented the bills as follows: SRDC (June and July) \$925 & 1477.36; HGA \$62,500; Campbell Knutson \$45; Benson \$330.83; Kletscher \$283.48.

M/S/P Potter, Erichsrud to approve the Treasurers report and payment of bills as presented.

Treasurer Hansen also reported on the statement from MCIT Insurance. The MCIT insurance 2008 initial cost was \$2051, a dividend \$391 for a net cost of \$1660; 2009 initial cost \$2250. No action at this time needed. This will be on the November agenda for approval of payment in January.

JOINT POWERS BOARD OPERATIONAL BUSINESS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

LCCMR Steering Committee. The purpose of the project is to determine the feasibility of the effort between the RMEB and the MEPC to develop distributed wind generation within the 17 county areas covered by the RMEB and determine the most effective way for the MEPC counties to access this resource. Chairman Kletscher distributed a draft copy of the Business Concept and Assessment for the project. Between 5 to 10 MW have been initially identified in 3 locations. The consultants used the information they had received regarding county owned land, etc in identifying the locations. If

information was not received at the time of the draft report, it was not included. He reported that he will be meeting with the Lyon County Board regarding one of the sites identified in the assessment. Distributed to the RMEB members was a rough draft report on the business concept.

Also discussed was the Regional Radio Board, 800 MHz Department of Safety. These towers will need line a sight to be open or is creates disruptions. There may be a problem with mobile units. Both existing and proposed corridors need to be known by the counties as projects are developed. Juhl indicated that Mower County had theirs identified and it was easy to work with.

Legislative update (Production Tax and Levy limits, other)

- Need to separate the production tax from the levy limit. Perhaps treat the same a taconite. It needs to also be for both schools and Counties.
- PTC and passive income regulations – needs to include active income.

MIDWEST ISO QUEUE REFORM PROPOSAL. Durgesh Manjure from the Midwest ISO provided a presentation of the MISO reform. The reform is addressing bottlenecks in the queue process and will have the ability to fast track projects that have little to no constraints in the proposed area. On November 3rd, this new process will be implemented. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the RMEB website.

CERT Update Wind Development and Roads project initiative – referenced award and continued work with the county engineers and communication with NAWO and developers. Please let staff know if you have not been receiving the SW CERT update.

NEW BUSINESS AND OTHER BUSINESS

- Arlene Vee, MPCA Grant RFP for the 2009- Environmental Assistance Grant Program. \$40,000 grants with 25% match: topic area of climate change, behavior change, and emerging issues. If anyone would like a copy of the RFP – contact staff.
- Crocker of NAWO – Let RMEB staff know of a city or county Comprehensive Energy plan. The City of Austin is interested in developing one. NAWO is also interested in assisting with a pilot energy neighborhood project (footprint of a neighborhood).
- Randy Fordice, CAPX2020 distributed a route map for the southern CAPX2020 route. He will have more at the November meeting.
- Woodley reported that Yvonne Simon will be covering the RMEB meetings. This is the final week before recess. The production Tax credit will be addressed tomorrow, expected to be expanded through 2010.
- Presentation at the AMC Annual Conference. Kletscher was asked to give a presentation at AMC on the RMEB and its work with the Metro counties.

MEETING DATES AND FUTURE MEETING TOPICS / FIELDTRIPS / PRESENTATIONS

- **2008 dates** – November 24, December 8 (Joint meeting- Duluth). Topic for November meeting CAPX2020 and DRG Phase 2 Study.
- **2009 dates:** January 26th, March 23rd, May 18th, July 27th, September 28th, November 23rd. Early in 2009, a report about the 5 Governor's plan for Regional Transmission Studies.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Kletscher adjourned the meeting at Noon.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:


Energy Board Secretary Hoime

Minutes Approved By:


Energy Board Chairperson Kletscher