

MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY September 25, 2006, 9:30 A.M.
CRD
SLAYTON, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County.....Katy Wortel	Murray County..... Absent
.....Will Purvis	Nobles County..... David Benson
Cottonwood CountyJohn Oeltjenbruns Diane Thier
Faribault CountyLoren Lein	Pipestone County Jack Keers
Jackson County.....Absent	Redwood County Excused
Lincoln County.....Larry Hansen	Renville County Bob Fox
Lyon County.....Bob Fenske	Rock County Ken Hoime
Martin County.....Excused	Watonwan County Scott Sanders
Mower County..... Absent	Yellow Medicine Co.... Ron Antony

ALSO PRESENT: Maureen Boro (Congressman Gutknecht), Gerald Woodley (Senator Coleman), Scott Williams (Chippewa County), Donna Halvorson (Chippewa County), Arlene Vee (MN Pollution Control Agency), George Crocker (NAWO), Dan Juhl (C-BED), Dennis Timmerman (AURI), Annette Bair (Staff)

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ? Keers reported he would need to leave the meeting early and one of the Executive Committee members take over at that time.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Keers requested all present to introduce themselves.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: There were no changes to the agenda.

M/S/P Fenske, Oeltjenbruns to approve the agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Hansen, Lein to approve the July 24, 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. There were three bills submitted for the energy Board review: July and August time for staff completing details of the wind tour \$544; Staff hours from Bair with hours specific to the wind tour in the amount of \$805; and regular staff time for normal Energy Board business \$1255 for a total of \$2604.

M/S/P Benson, Wortel to approve payment of the three bill and the Treasurer's Report as presented.

JOINT POWERS OPERATIONAL BUSINESS:

County request to join the RMEB. Bair reported that two Counties have requested to join the Rural Minnesota Energy Board, Yellow Medicine County and Chippewa County.

Yellow Medicine County Commission Antony reported that his county is requesting membership to the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and will be paying the 2006 dues and the entry fee.

Chippewa County Commissioner Halvorson and the County Planning and Zoning Administrator Williams also requested membership to the Rural Minnesota Energy Board, effective January 1, 2007.

M/S/P Fenske, Hoime to approve membership of Yellow Medicine County effective September 25, 2006.

M/S/P Lein, Benson to approve membership of Chippewa County effective January 1, 2007.

Attorney. Keers reported that through recommendation of Jim Mulder of AMC, Attorney Joel Jamnik of Campbell Knutson in Eagan. He has worked for the League of cities and is very knowledgeable on Joint powers. He has agree to work with the RMEB, but at this time dollars has not been discussed.

M/S/P Hanson, Fox to hire Joel Jamnik to advise the RMEB on the joint powers elements that deals with the Business Plan development and implementation.

Discussion included several questions: Does Jamnik has experience with wind and energy? Will he be attending the RMEB meetings or the Joint meetings? (MCETF has an attorney on retainer - Peter Grills). Is there a budget and how much does the RMEB envision using him, should he be on a retainer? (No budget at this time and his hourly rate at this time are unknown). Will the Met Council relationship affect Jamnik working with the RMEB?

By-Laws. The RMEB gave direction to the Executive Committee to review by-laws and send out a draft recommendation for consideration at the November Board meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Rural Metro Energy Subcommittee:

- The Subcommittee recommends the proposal submitted by Lindquist Venum paired with Avant for the development of the Business Plan. This is also the recommendation made by the MCETF on September 7th. Funding for this project comes from the following sources: \$20,000 Minnesota Department of Commerce, \$20,000 MCETF, and \$20,000 RMEB. Keers reported on the assurances made by the Lindquist Venum representative during the interview and at the September 7th meeting that all possibilities of generation with no preconceived ideas about what would work best would be addressed.

Commissioner Benson asked if there was a conflict for the Nobles County representatives since they serve on the Community Wind South Board who has also worked with the law firm of Lindquist Venum. The firm is very large and CWS worked with other attorneys.

M/S/P Hansen, Hoime to engage Lindquist & Venum paired with Avant to develop the Business Plan.

- MTN Wind Energy Television Program. On September 13, RMEB Chair Keers, MCETF Chair Gary Kriesel, and Peter McLaughlin, Chair of the MCETF Wind Energy Workgroup were filmed for a ½ hour segment. Keers brought the 28 minute DVD to the meeting and asked if members would like a copy for local access television in their respective counties. Commissioners are to contact Bair.
- Met Council. Keers reported that he met with Peter Bell of the Met Council, MCETF Chair Gary Kriesel, and Peter McLaughlin, Chair of the MCETF Wind Energy Workgroup where Bell indicated the Met Councils request to become part of the MCETF.

Discussion involved the acknowledgement that Met Council is powerful. They are the largest energy purchaser in Minnesota and the 2nd largest purchaser of electricity from Xcel.

Legislative subcommittee.

- The Legislative Subcommittee has not met but another issue to be added is the rewrite of taxation rules on utilities.
- General discussion of CAPX. An individual visiting Chippewa, Yellow Medicine and Lac qui Parle County Boards requesting support for the Certificate of Need for the Big Stone II project to include 60 MW for each county. Discussion brought up the C-BED Transmission Study (dispersed generation with a few improvements). weblink <http://www.capx2020.com/about.html> and scroll down to where it says "Studies". Links to the 11 page report and to maps is located there.

10:50 am Chairman Keers hands to meeting over to Secretary Hoime.

CERT UPDATE:

- Oct 4th Energy Efficiency Workshop for Public Building and School facility operators.
- October 4th Western Community Action open house in Tracy on Energy Efficiency in Homes with a weatherization demonstration,
- September 27 EPP Workshop for environmental purchasing. January conference and future funding of CERT.
- Wind Handbook - Windustry was selected by a subcommittee of :SRDC, AURI, MN Corn Growers, The Minnesota Project and the SW MN Foundation. The handbook should be completed by the end of 2006. Commissioners commented that they liked receiving the AURI newsletters.

NEW BUSINESS

- RC&D Grants. Homine reported that the RC&D's do have grants from limited funding. Fox reported that It is anticipated that there will be 60 foundations at the end of January in St Cloud. This may be an opportunity for funding to the RMEB. He will send information the Bair.

Wortel asked who are partners? There are three RC&D's that cover the RMEB Counties, AURI, Minnesota Project, and Extension are some.

Lein reported that WesMin received a grant of \$200,000 for cellulose ethanol (switch grass).

At a recent crop insurance workshop, there was a discussion on switch grass.

OTHER BUSINESS

- County reports:
 - MPCA - RFP's will be out in October for the Environmental Assistance Grant (\$500,000) which advances renewable energy
 - Lincoln Co. A representative from GRE visited with the County Board regarding the proposed power lines (Big Stone to the Cities) and the advantages of working together. PPG has a proposed development for wind energy in Brookings Co (SD) and Lincoln Co.
 - Faribault - Dan Moore has 18 turbines up in the county and there is a lot of competition for the transmission lines. BioBlending plant in Winnebago coupling with Corn Plus for a wind generator.
 - Cottonwood Co - Mountain Lake has one tower up west of town, 1.25 MW which will supply 17% of Mountain Lake power. They cannot do any more because of the long term contracts that are in place to purchase coal power. Bingham Lake projects are up and running, status of Jeffers is unknown.
 - Blue Earth Co - BioFuel Expo on September 7th. Region 9 Task force meets monthly. The Justice Center soil tests came back and geothermal will work. LEED Standards. Blue Earth County is the 4th County to receive the Energy Efficiency Courthouse award in the US.
 - Yellow Medicine County - Are researching Zoning Ordinances. Bair will send the model ordinance and guidebook to Antony

- o Chippewa County - currently has one tower in place.
- o Watonwan Co - Siting of an ethanol plant and are currently looking at energy sources. Expect the plant to be on line in two years.
- o Lyon Co - nothing new to report.
- o Nobles Co - CWS status. The original project was too close to the airport zone of 10 miles. New location is 3.5 miles west of Reading and the leases are currently being signed. The project will be 3 - 10MW nodes with 5 2MW towers each. They have a management agreement with MinWind.
- o Renville Co - Ethanol plant and wind continues.
- o Congressman Gutknecht staff Boro - House Bill 424 2025 for 25% renewable energy by the year 2025.
- o Senator Coleman staff Woodley - when the Senator was in Slayton he was briefed on the Rural - Metro Project. If all goes well, the Senator's office in Mankato will be installing solar power.
- o NAWO - On Wednesday there will be a CERT meeting in Clinton where discussion will involve Big Stone Transmission.
- o NADO - Hansen reported that Trusty gave a presentation at the National Association of Regional Organizations which was well attended and well received.
- o AURI - requested for support for the development of a BioEnergy Center in Minnesota. It is estimated that there is funding for two centers in the US. Since the proposal is due in February, AURI was asked to provide the request in writing for RMEB consideration at their November meeting.

Next meeting dates.

- o 2006 meeting dates:
 - o November 27,
 - o December 4th 1:00-2:30 Joint RMEB & MCETF County mtg see AMC Website <http://www.mncounties.org/annconf06/agenda.htm>
- o 2007 meeting dates:
 - o January 29 (5th Monday),
 - o March 26th,
 - o May 21 (3rd Monday),
 - o July 23,
 - o September 24, and
 - o November 26.

ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/P Fox, Benson to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

Minutes Approved By:

Ken Hoime

Jack Keers

Energy Board Secretary

Energy Board Chairperson