

RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY November 27, 2017
CRD Office, Slayton, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County	Will Purvis	Mower County	Tim Gabrielson
Brown County	excused	Murray County	Gerald Magnus
Cottonwood Co.....	Tom Appel	Nobles County.....	Gene Metz
Faribault County	excused	Pipestone County.....	excused
Freeborn County.....	Glen Mathiason	Redwood County	Dennis Groebner
Jackson County.	Don Wachal	Renville County	Bob Fox
Lincoln County	Mic VanDeVere	Rock County.....	Gary Overgaard
Lyon County	excused	Sibley County	Gary Kruggel
Martin County	Steve Flohrs	Watonwan County	Scott Sanders

ALSO PRESENT: Annette Fiedler & Robin Weis (SRDC – RMEB Staff), Paul Pierson (SBDC) and Tracey Haberman (Noble Cooperative Electric).

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Mathiason.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Mathiason led the Pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS: All were asked to introduce themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fiedler passed around the 2017 Biennial Transmission report and the Nov 19, 2017 Star Tribune: Blowback on wind project.

AGENDA: Chairman Mathiason asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda.

M/S/P Fox, Gabrielson to approve the agenda as presented.

MINUTES:

M/S/P: VanDeVere, Flohrs to approve the minutes of September 27, 2017 as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Magnus reported on the financial status of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board. September and October bills were reviewed as follows: SRDC general cost \$1192.50; SRDC finance general cost \$332.50; PACE Admin were \$1713.73 and are being paid by the loan and interest fees; the finance cost for PACE is \$595; PACE Outreach \$1951.87; Wind Solar Decommissioning Project \$45 and invoice from Fryberger is \$867.30.

M/S/P: Purvis, Wachal to except the financial report and payment of bills as presented.

SUBCOMMITTEES & RMEB BUSINESS:

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee presented the revised 2018 budget. The 2018 budget retained the dues of \$2,500 to cover operation costs of the RMEB and the programs.

Discussion - It was noted that the lobbyists cost at present time is spent at 102%. Commissioner Metz will check with the lobbyist to determine if these costs are calculated on an annual basis or on a legislative season basis. The RMEB budget is calculated on a calendar year basis.

M/S/P Metz, Magnus to approve the 2018 budget as presented.

SRDC Contract: The contract for administrative services and PACE services was presented to the RMEB. The only changes made this year were the dates of the contract. To note however, in 2019 the contract rates will increase.

M/S/P Purvis, Wachal to approve the contract with the SRDC for CY2018.

Fryberger Letter of Engagement: At this time there is no letter of engagement and Metz will connect with the law firm to get clarification. This item is deferred to the January 2018 RMEB meeting.

MCIT Payment: Fiedler indicated that permission will be needed to pay MCIT prior to the next meeting since the bill is due before the next meeting.

M/S/P VanDeVere, Gabrielson to approve payment of MCIT prior to the January meeting.

Tour Committee: While there was no report under the Tour Committee, Fielder was directed to look into a possible MISO tour for 2018.

PACE Committee: Weis reported reviewed 4 applications, approved one that will result in \$9000 per year energy savings; the other 3 require additional information and a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday for their consideration. There is about \$204,000 for lending; December property taxes have not been included in that amount. To date there have been 18 PACE loans, 18 energy audits, and one audit has been requested. Staff is working on contract revision with East River and is working with the Department of Commerce on ARRA contract extensions. Help with outreach: Robin needs contacts to meet with – groups such as EDAs, mayors and clerks groups, bankers, etc. Residential Solar – McKnight Grant – 3 surveys have gone out please respond if you have not already.

Legislative Committee: Metz reported that in October, the Legislative Energy Commission met, and there was a speaker from Portugal who spoke to noise impacts on people.

Member Updates on Energy Projects and Issues from Respective Counties:

- Redwood – some solar is being installed.
- Sibley – 80 acre solar site near Gibbon
- Cottonwood – 3 solar farms, two appear to be competing for the same land. Discussion of power poles in the road right of way.
- Mower - have a couple of solar projects moving forward
- Rock - some talk of solar projects.
- Jackson - Trade 1 energy, northern Border
- Nobles – Nobles II
- Murray - 150 MW near Lake Wilson along TH 91; and a 33 MW solar project are in the works.; 2 CUP for substations, two 1 MW solar projects next year, and Stoneray in Pipestone and Murray Co.
- Lincoln - Red Pine 100 Towers (200 MW) online by December 15.
- Freeborn – petition against wind; Iowa has no restrictions on placement of turbines.
- Review of the PUC meeting in Marshall on 10-16-2017, including the topic of repowering.
- Paul Pierson – SBA reported that Brad Finstead will be the new head for USDA; SBA's provide free technical assistance to businesses – business can apply on the SBA website for assistance. <https://www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance/map/filter/789c2b2e492c49b5f2f5b3b2323736b5000024df0442>
- County discussion of wind and solar production tax and use (survey) Fiedler reviewed the survey information as requested by the counties at the last meeting. The Commissioners discussed the ways that they are using the production tax

SW CERT: Fiedler provided an overview of the 5 SW Cert seed grants received and the recommendations of the committee meeting (Nov 27) for the \$20,000 grant distribution. This will be going to the SRDC for funding approval at their December 2018 meeting.

Reminder that the conference is scheduled for March 28-29, 2018 in St Cloud.

2018 MEETING DATES: January 22, March 26, May 21, July 23, September 24 and November 26. Fiedler indicated she had been contacted by Adam Sokolski who would like to give a presentation to the Energy Board on Repowering of Wind.

ADJOURN: Chairman Mathiason adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff.



Minutes Reviewed By
Energy Board Secretary



Minutes Approved By
Energy Board Chairperson