

MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY November 27, 2006, 9:30 A.M.
CRD
SLAYTON, MN

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County.....	Katy Wortel	Murray County	Al Gertsema
Cottonwood County	John Oeltjenbruns	Nobles County.....	David Benson
Faribault County.....	Loren Lein	Diane Thier
Jackson County	Absent	Pipestone County	Jack Keers
Lincoln County	Larry Hansen	Redwood County	Brian Kletscher
Lyon County	Bob Fenske	Renville County	Bob Fox
Martin County.....	Jack Potter	Rock County	Ken Hoime
Mower County.....	Absent	Watonwan County	Absent
		Yellow Medicine Co....	Ron Antony

ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Woodley (Senator Coleman), Arlene Vee (MN Pollution Control Agency), George Crocker (NAWO), Dan Juhl (C-BED), Joel Jamnik (Campbell Knutson, PA), Annette Bair (Staff)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Chairman Keers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Keers reported the December 4th meeting time has changed from the 1pm start time to 1:30 and will run until 3:30 pm. The meeting location is not yet known and Bair was asked to send the information out as soon as it was known.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Keers requested all present to introduce themselves.

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

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

MINUTES:

M/S/P Gertsema, Potter to approve the September 25, 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. The bills submitted for the Energy Board review: September-October Time and Travel regarding the Rural-Metro Project in the amounts of \$840 and 343.10 for Jay Trusty; September Rural Metro Project time for Annette Bair in the amount of \$105; September - October General Staff time for Annette Bair \$2,485; September - October Finance time of \$137.50; Campbell Knutson - legal fees \$491.25; and AMC Website design, storage and maintenance of \$1000.

M/S/P Hansen, Benson to approve payment of the bills in the amount of 5,401.85 and the Treasurer's Report as presented.

JOINT POWERS OPERATIONAL BUSINESS:

- o Rural -Metro Energy Subcommittee report - Discussion of the progress of the consultants and questions have been asked that need to be discussed before the December 4th meeting. Juhl and Crocker were present and added to the discussion and understanding of certain aspects of the project model. Questions included PPA and wholesale meters.
- o Executive Committee (report on October 19, 2006 meeting) Keers reported on the need at time for persons with technical expertise to assist the RMEB.

M/S/P Antony, Fox to approve Dan Juhl and George Crocker to represent the RMEB with at least one RMEB member present regarding the Rural-Metro project.

Also brought up by Keers to assist in future leadership of the RMEB, that there should be separate chairs to the RMEB, and subcommittees (Rural-Metro, and Legislative).

- Legislative Committee (report on October 19, 2006 meeting). Discussion involved need to change the federal production tax credit - the passive income and alternative income tax rules limit those who can take advantage to big business and large corporations. Juhl indicated that he had some information about potential language change he would share with the RMEB. DOC has a subcommittee who includes John Biren (Lyon County) and Brian Green (Redwood County) to address permitting of wind farms. Mark Lindquist of Minnesota Project is chairing the subcommittee and a handout was distributed outlining the group's activity.

CAPX was discussed and Crocker indicated that the support of the RMEB was appreciated. The result was the PUC did not allow either the NAWO language, but it did not allow the utilities to prejudge that the transmission lines were the only way to solve the problem.

- SRDC staff and financial services contract for 2007. the RMEB review the draft contract for the SRDC to provide financial and staff assistance to the RMEB.

M/S/P Gertsema, Fox to approve the RMEB contract with the SRDC for staff and financial staff assistance.

CERT Update

- Current Activities of Coordinator. Bair covered the Rebuild workshop held in Marshall, the upcoming CERT conference in January 16-17, and staff has been in touch with the Retired Engineers Association who have expressed a willingness to conduct energy assessments for senior centers in the area. Staff will be working with the Area Agency on Aging regarding interest by senior centers in January. SW CERT has \$1000 for helping - but that amount of funds will not go very far.
- Wind Handbook status - Windustry received the contract and the work should be completed by the end of the year.

Other Business

- AURI request for support for the development of a BioEnergy Center in Minnesota - deferred to January meeting
- RC&D Grant opportunities - Jay will be developing a draft proposal for submittal. There are about 70 foundations that will be in St Cloud by the RC&D's on January 25th. a 1-2 page proposal is due, if accepted, a longer proposal needs to be submitted.

New Business

- Invitation to join Wind Energy Works www.windenergyworks.org - deferred to January meeting when we can learn more about the organization
- Suzlon inaugural opening on Wednesday Nov 29
- Lein reported on the increased interest in cellulose energy production. There is discussion of turning CRP acres into switch grass.
- CWS report - There are 9 voting members on the interim board and 2 advisory members. A development agreement has been completed with MinWind there will be three 10MW companies. The leases are nearly all signed and they anticipate the offering to be ready at the end of December or early January by the 160 original list and approximately 240 land owners. Minimum investment is \$2500 per share; maximum investment is 8% of a company.

- Are greater setbacks needed for turbines? Recent turbine accidents and debris discussed. Also setbacks recommended by a member from lakes and wildlife areas of 1 mile because of the 200 feet glide slope of geese
 - Jack Pottter reported he attended one of the transmission meetings where GRE indicated they currently distribute 2600 MW of power and cover about 60% of the Minnesota land area. They anticipate a growth of 1100 MW within 10 years
 - Loren Lein will be leaving the RMEB and Tom Warmka will be taking his place.
 - RMEB / MCETF statement of purpose was distributed.
 - RMEB members thanked Jack Keers for serving as the Chair for last two years.
- Meeting Dates - others on call by Chair
- **2006 dates** - *Joint meeting at AMC Dec 4th 1:30 - 3:30 PM - Rochester*
 - **2007 dates** - *Jan 29 (5th Monday), March 26th, May 21, July 23 , September 24 , November 26*

Adjourn

M/S/P Benson, Kletscher to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

Minutes Approved By:

Energy Board Secretary

Energy Board Chairperson