

## **RMEB Executive Committee Meeting Notes**

**March 23, 2020**

**1pm via Teleconference**

In Attendance via Tele-conference: Gene Metz(Chair) , Dan Wildermuth (Treasurer), Tom Appel (Vice-Chair), Tim Gabrielson (member), Dennis Welgraven (member), Mick VanDeVere (Secretary), Jason Walker (Staff)

Chair Metz called the meeting to order at 1pm followed by introductions

### **AGENDA:**

M/S/P Wildermuth/VanDeVere to approve the agenda as presented

### **MINUTES:**

Gabrielson/Appel to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020 as presented

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

M/S/P VanDeVere/Welgraven to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of the bills to Fryberger, \$3,500 and AMC for website, \$500.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE AND RMEB BUSINESS:**

#### **Executive Committee.**

Nothing to report at this time.

#### **Tour Committee.**

The Wilmarth facility tour is on hold until further notice.

#### **PACE Committee.**

No meeting since the last RMEB meeting. The \$15,000 in PACE money to a business in Nobles County was approved.

#### **Legislative:**

Chair Metz reported that legislators in the State Legislature are often very supportive of RMEB members when they are in contact over energy issues. He is keeping in contact, but everything is tough now that nothing is face-to-face and the issues presented by the COVID-19 continue to evolve and change by the minute. He does not expect much to happen this session in regards to energy because of the partisan divides on the issue.

VanDeVere mentioned that production tax revenue is being used for broadband updates in Lincoln County—a \$6 million project. He emphasized that the production tax money needs to stay in the county and not get pooled at the state level. Other members assured him that state consolidation is not a popular option at the state house.

There was some discussion about fees to upgrade lines. When the line is full, then the entity expanding has to pay 100% of the upgrade fees. This MISO policy is a bottleneck to transmission expansion.

Finally, it was mentioned that a more creative anti-wind argument has come from a hail insurance agent in Iowa that has claimed that locations where wind turbines are sited have a higher incidence of hail.

**Next Meetings:**

June 1<sup>st</sup> will be the next regular meeting, likely via Zoom (TBD). If a meeting is needed before June 1<sup>st</sup>, Chair Metz will convene the appropriate members.

The next scheduled meetings are: July 27, September 28, and November 23.