

MINUTES - MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.
RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD
CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SLAYTON, MN

COMMISSIONERS ATTENDANCE:

Blue Earth County Kevin Paap	Mower County..... Absent
Brown County..... Jeff Veerkamp	Murray CountyDennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County... Tom Appel	Nicollet CountyJohn Luepke
Faribault CountyJohn Roper	Nobles CountyGene Metz
Freeborn County Brad Edwin	Pipestone County Dan Wildermuth
Jackson County Don Wachal	Redwood County Dennis Groebner
Lincoln County Mic VanDeVere	Renville County Doug Erickson
Lyon County Steve Ritter	Rock County Gary Overgaard
Martin County Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County..... Bob Rinne

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Walker, Rose Patzer, Molly Malone, Bob Paplow, Dallas Roskamp, Christina Brusven & Chris Hill (Summit Carbon Solutions), Fritz Ebinger, Lissa Pawlisch, Jay Trusty

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair Appel called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions.

AGENDA:

M/S/P VanDeVere/Luepke to approve the agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Welgraven/Ritter to approve the minutes from November 22, 2021 as presented.

Election/Appointment of Officers for 2022:

M/S/P Luepke/Ritter Motion to elect the following:

Chair: Tom Appel

Vice Chair: Dan Wildermuth

Treasurer: Don Wachal

Secretary: Mic VanDeVere

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wildermuth presented the financial report and bills.

M/S/P VanDeVere/Overgaard to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

M/S/P VanDeVere/Overgaard to approve the payment of the bills pending from the months of November and December totaling \$1,800 all of which was for Fryberger. Due to staffing issues, invoicing was not completed for SRDC hours for the last two months.

Executive Committee: The committee met to discuss the questions they wanted to ask Summit Carbon Solutions. Staff submitted these questions to Summit in advance for their preparation.

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PACE: Wachal provided a report based on information from Robin Weis: Five loans paid off. Funds available are ARRA \$86,000 and \$266,000 in the other fund. In total, 31 loans closed so far. They are talking about restructuring the interest rate.

Legislative Committee: This committee did not meet. RMEB members have asked Fryberger to monitor and advise about getting production taxes for solar projects under 1 MB. Gene Metz will be at the capitol on February 25th if anyone wants to attend from the legislative committee.

Presentation from Summit Carbon Solutions: Christina Brusven and Chris Hill presented and answered questions on behalf of Summit Carbon Solutions for about 1 and a half hours. Thus far, they have over 30 facilities signed up to participate in their project. The basic idea is to take carbon from the scrubber to the pipeline after removing water and then transporting the liquified carbon via a pipeline to North Dakota where it will be injected deep into the ground for permanent sequestration. Ethanol plants in MN cannot inject carbon locally at site due to unfavorable geologic conditions.

The current plan includes approximately 153 miles of pipeline (between 4" and 8" in diameter) that would be in Minnesota (out of about 2,000 miles total). No mainline, trunk line or pump stations would be in MN. Lines would go through 6 counties: Jackson, Martin, Cottonwood, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Renville and Chippewa in Southwest Minnesota; and Otter Tail and Wilkin in West Central Minnesota.

The business model is built on getting 45Q credits from the federal government and from selling the ethanol produced at participating plants to low-carbon markets that pay a premium.

To acquire easements in Minnesota, they stated that they are not able to use eminent domain. Their presentation claims that "compensation is based on a fair market value for land in the county – Summit will be utilizing recent comparable sales data for each county to determine the fair market value. Summit is offering 100% of the fee value based on that comparable sales analysis for its permanent easement. Summit Carbon Solutions will pay for anticipated damages to crops or lands prior to construction and work directly with landowners to address their specific concerns related to the impact of construction on their property." They are paying 100% estimated crop loss in the first year; 80% estimated crop loss in the second year, and 60% estimated crop loss in the third year.

- Ms. Brusven requested that the RMEB act as a Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Board members stated that they would investigate procedures for making this decision and would take the information to their respective county boards for further input before voting.

Their presentation will be uploaded to rmeb.org.

Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – No updates
- *Brown* – No updates
- *Cottonwood* – The Plum Creek project is on pause due to interconnection issues with transmission – now slated for 2024
- *Faribault* – No updates
- *Freeborn* – No updates

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- *Jackson* – No updates
- *Lincoln* – No updates
- *Lyon* – No updates
- *Martin* – No updates
- *Mower* – No updates
- *Murray* – A repower project with 63 towers coming down and 45 towers replacing them; two solar garden projects; Plum Creek still moving forward, Honeycrisp NW 400 MW wind in the pipeline as well as a 150 MW solar + storage over by Lake Wilson.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – No updates
- *Pipestone* – No updates
- *Redwood* – No updates.
- *Renville* – Five to six 1 MW sites to approve for solar
- *Rock* – Walley Wind – construction slated for April 2022 start with an estimated end date of October 2022.
- *Wantonwan* – No updates

SW CERT: SWRSDP Ideas Briefs are due Feb 14th. Staff member Walker submitted a brief on behalf of WorldMart to investigate efficiency and solar for her bus.

Staff continue to work on electric vehicle education outreach. The next step is to contact all the utilities in the region to see what they are doing from EV programming (if anything) and then create a peer-to-peer event for them to share ideas and resources followed by outreach to area car dealerships.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING – March 28 -- will be in-person at the SRDC conference room. A Zoom link will be available for any persons unable to make it in-person.

FUTURE MEETINGS in 2022 – May 23, July 25, September 26, November 28.

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: NextEra to discuss future projects

ADJOURN

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jason Walker, Development Planner at SRDC

Reviewed by:

Secretary

Approved by:

Chairman