

MINUTES - MONDAY, MAY 23, 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..... Polly Glynn
Brown County..... Jeff Veerkamp	Murray County Dennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County... Tom Appel	Nicollet County John Luepke
Faribault County John Roper	Nobles County Gene Metz
Freeborn County Absent	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, Justin Schroyer SRDC, Molly Malone (Murray alternate)

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

AGENDA:

M/S/P Paap/VanDeVere to approve the agenda with the additions of PUC and Summit Carbon Solutions to other business.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Groebner/Metz to approve special meeting minutes from April 29, 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wachal presented the financial report and bills.

M/S/P Wildermuth/Erickson to approve the Treasurer's report as presented.

M/S/P Wildermuth/Erickson to approve the payment of the bills pending totaling \$7530.00

Executive Committee:

PACE: Commissioner Wachal reported that they have more interest in PACE due to lowering the interest rates. Will meet as necessary with Robin as need arises.

Legislative Committee: Metz mentioned new legislation to tax solar under 1 megawatt has not been approved this session. Metz presented a letter to MISO and adjustments were made.

M/S/P Wildermuth/Paap to send letter to MISO, Governors, and PUC.

Paap mentioned it is better to send it to too many people than not enough. Motion carried

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Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – 112-year-old dam to repair or to restore the flow of the river.
- *Brown* – No updates
- *Cottonwood* – updates on Big Bend Wind
- *Faribault* – No update on solar collector
- *Freeborn* – No updates
- *Jackson* – no update
- *Lincoln* – 40 New towers repower has started; construction hopefully finished by end of year.
- *Lyon* – No updates
- *Martin* – No updates
- *Mower* – No updates
- *Murray* – Repower wind project starting soon.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – Repower project has started
- *Pipestone* – decommission of Magellan pipeline
- *Redwood* – 1 year moratorium on new commercial solar construction
- *Renville* – 1 new 1 MW solar project. Has an old dam to repair. Requiring 2 rows of evergreen trees around solar projects.
- *Rock* – Walleye Wind having issues with decommissioning,
- *Wantonwan* – St. James Schools received Solar Schools grant. Rooftop solar should cover 40-45% of electrical needs.

SW CERT:

Updates on Solar Schools-Using up funding and requesting more rounds from the legislature.

Currently redeveloping 5-year plan. Met most goals on last plan.

Working with World Mart on RSDP grant for food trucks.

Approved for new AmeriCorps volunteer for CERTs in our region.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS:

Summit Carbon Solutions: Commissioner Appel said the PUC has decided they have authority over carbon pipelines and are having a hearing for rule making. Discussion was had regarding the closure of the Magellan Pipeline comparing it to a CO2 pipeline. Metz asked if Summit could challenge the PUC and Wachal shared a Star Tribune article about CO2 pipelines.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING – July 25 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 –September 26, November 28.

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Possible tour: Marmen – wind tower manufacturing in Brandon, SD – maybe with a stop at EROS Center in Sioux Falls. Mankato waste to energy.

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: Senator Bill Weber

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 13:46 PM.

Minutes prepared by Justin Schroyer, Planning Assistant at SRDC.

Reviewed by:

Secretary

Approved by:

Chairman