

MINUTES - MONDAY, JULY 25, 2022 AT 1:00 P.M.
RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD
CENTER FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, SLAYTON, MN

COMMISSIONERS ATTENDANCE:

Blue Earth County Absent	Mower County..... Polly Glynn
Brown County..... Jeff Veerkamp	Murray CountyDennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County... Tom Appel	Nicollet CountyJohn Luepke
Faribault County John 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 Gary Crowley	Rock County Gary Overgaard
Martin County Absent	Watsonwan County..... Absent

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Walker, Justin Schroyer SRDC, Molly Malone (Murray alternate), Dallas Roskamp (Pipestone Alternate), Sam Ritchie, Peder Mewis, Senator Bill Weber, Loria (Zoning Admin Faribault), Madelyn Smerillo, Barb Jacobs

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 VanDeVere/Wildermuth to approve the agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Luepke/Welgraven to Approve Minutes from May 23, 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wachal presented the financial report and bills.

M/S/P Metz/Overgard to accept the financial report.

Discussion on Budget and county contributions with county contributions remaining the same for 2023 along with moving fund balance to the MAGIC Fund or looking for a better interest rate.

M/S/P VanDeVere/Erickson to set 2023 Budget at \$43,518 with county dues remaining at \$2,500 annually and an increase for Fryberger's services going from \$15,800 to \$18,000. Passed unanimously.

Executive Committee: Nothing to report.

PACE: Commissioner Wachal reported on PACE and will meet with Robin before the next meeting.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Metz met with lobbyists, and they are preparing for the change in committee chairmanships that may come after the election. Update on transmission line in Lyon county and Excel's plans.

Senator Bill Weber: Senator held a Q&A session. The Senator stated that there is no doubt that the transmission system needs to be updated. Weber said that there has been no committee discussion regarding the taking of production tax from the counties. He discussed that more people are voicing opposition to renewable projects. Wildermuth asked if curtailment could be looked at from a commerce

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or agricultural standpoint as it is getting a product to market. Weber thought that there would not be a special session this year but felt that next year's session will hit the ground running and be over quickly depending on the governor.

Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – No updates
- *Brown* – No updates
- *Cottonwood* –updates on Big Bend Wind
- *Faribault* – Update on Winnebago Solar and Storage at 1208 acres will be in the top 10 nationally for size.
- *Freeborn* – No updates
- *Jackson* – no update
- *Lincoln* – 40 New towers repower has started; construction hopefully finished by end of year.
- *Lyon* – Update on Xcel transmission project
- *Martin* – No updates
- *Mower* – No updates
- *Murray* – Repower wind project underway, concerned about disposal of blades.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – Repower project has started blades are being cut and recycled
- *Pipestone* – none
- *Redwood* – 1-year moratorium on new commercial solar construction
- *Renville* – Has issued 20 conditional use permits since 2017 -- nine for solar projects. 40 turbine wind project near Fairfax to be starting soon.
- *Rock* – Walleye Wind hopes to be done by the end of October.
- *Wantonwan* -None

SW CERT: Walker gave update on CERTs and discussed search for AmeriCorps member to serve as a Sustainability Coordinator.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS: Tour of Wilmarth Waste-to-Energy facility in Mankato 8/24/22.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING – September 26

FUTURE MEETINGS in 2022 –November 28.

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: Senator Dahms

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 2:37 PM.

Minutes prepared by Justin Schroyer, Planning Assistant at SRDC.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Secretary

Chairman