

**MINUTES - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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 CountyDennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County... Tom Appel	Nicollet CountyJohn Luepke
Faribault County John Roper	Nobles CountyAbsent
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, Molly Malone (Murray alternate), Dallas Roskamp (Pipestone Alternate), Richard Davis and Jamie MacAlister (Dept of Commerce).

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 Wildermuth/Welgraven to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing whether to present at an upcoming Public Utilities Commission meeting.

MINUTES:

M/S/P VanDeVere/Erickson to Approve Minutes from July 25, 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wachal presented the financial report and bills.

M/S/P Wildermuth/Welgraven to pay the bills.

M/S/P Wildermuth/VanDeVere to accept the financial report.

Executive Committee: This committee did not meet. Wildermuth asked if they had any updates about the Summit Solution Carbon Pipeline. The most recent news is that the company just submitted paperwork for a permit to the Public Utilities Commission. In South Dakota landowners are suing about the use of eminent domain.

PACE: Commissioner Wachal reported on PACE. Three potential applicants in the works. Robin will present to Faribault County next month. Currents funds are \$76,930 (ARRA) and \$276,000 (SEP).

Legislative Committee: Nothing to report.

Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – No updates
- *Brown* – No updates
- *Cottonwood* –updates on Big Bend Wind – approved in August.

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- *Faribault* – Update on Winnebago Solar and Storage at 1208 acres – won't be largest in MN for long. A 3,000-acre project is being planned around the St. Cloud area. Surveyors have been on site, but no construction yet.
- *Freeborn* – 150 MW Solar farm in the works.
- *Jackson* – no update
- *Lincoln* – 40 New towers repower has started – all the bases are poured and about ½ are completed. Construction hopefully finished by end of year.
- *Lyon* – No updates.
- *Martin* – No updates
- *Mower* – Big wind by Dexter – 200 MW
- *Murray* – 1,500 Acres of solar is potentially going in between Slayton and Lake Wilson.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – No updates
- *Pipestone* – none
- *Redwood* – If approved, the Xcel Sherco transmission line would go through Redwood County
- *Renville* – No updates
- *Rock* – Walleye Wind wrapping up.
- *Wantonwan* -None

Wilmarth Waste-to-Energy Tour: Participants found the tour interesting and informative. During discussion, members felt that it would be beneficial to have a similar facility in the region, but cost and logistics are major hurdles to overcome. Two of the member counties, Martin and Faribault, take loads to the Mankato facility. Other counties could explore transporting some of their waste there as well.

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

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS: Walker updated the board about work with the MISO Communities and Cities Coalition that the Great Plains Institute has organized.

NEW BUSINESS: After discussion, Tom Appel agreed to find members who could present at the December 13th Public Utilities Commission meeting from 10-11:30am. The meeting will include discussion of the MISO Tranche 1 transmission projects, the MISO-SPP Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue study, and how transmission and interconnection issues affect energy projects in Minnesota.

NEXT MEETING – November 28

FUTURE MEETINGS in 2022 –November 28.

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS:

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 1:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by Jason Walker, Development/Energy Planner at SRDC.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

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Secretary

Chairman