

**MINUTES - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 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 County John Roper	Nobles CountyGene Metz
Freeborn County Absent	Pipestone County Dan Wildermuth
Jackson County Don Wachal	Redwood County Dennis Groebner
Lincoln County Mic VanDeVere	Renville County Randy Kramer
Lyon County Steve Ritter	Rock County Gary Overgaard
Martin County Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County..... Absent

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Walker, Justin Schroyer, Molly Malone (Murray alternate), Rachel Stuckey, Scott Reimer, Sam Richie, Mark Lennox, Danelle Herzig, Clay Cameron, Brittany Paxton.

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.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Ritter/Flohrs to Approve Minutes from September 26, 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wachal presented the financial report and bills.

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

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

SRDC SERVICE CONTRACT:

M/S/P VanDeVere/Overgaard and carried unanimously to approve 2023 SRDC Service Contract

Executive Committee: Malone, Appel, and Walker will meet with PUC in December, reviewed slideshow for the PUC. Walker reported on more funding coming from federal grants to improve grid resilience and “seam” connections between SPP and MISO.

PACE: Commissioner Wachal reported on PACE. Potential applicants are still awaiting ReTAP assessments. SRDC staff has been working on outreach.

Legislative Committee: Sam Richie gave updates on new legislators and the various committee changes. Metz reported on transmission line issues in Dodge County and how Senator Weber has been involved in bringing large data centers to the area to use the renewable energy locally.

Speaker-Mark Lennox with NextEra: Lennox presented a slide show explaining the investment NextEra has made in the region and highlighted the new projects coming online. Lennox also explained the

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difficulty in permitting and how the use of right of ways isn't always consistent. Solicited support from RMEB.

Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – Update on 114-year-old dam and questioned if it is a county service to provide power. Installing solar on new public works building.
- *Brown* – No updates
- *Cottonwood* –updates on Big Bend Wind anticipated to come online in 2024
- *Faribault* – Update on Winnebago Solar and Storage at 1208 acres – on hold until 2023
- *Freeborn* – No update
- *Jackson* – Project to start soon after 4 years.
- *Lincoln* – 40 New towers repower will be online on December 1, 2022
- *Lyon* – No updates.
- *Martin* – Big Bend is on its way into Martin county
- *Mower* – No updates
- *Murray* – Repower project is coming online soon. Murray will receive wind energy production estimates several times throughout the year so they can estimate the tax and budget accordingly.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – Two windfarms in county do not always synchronize FAA warning lights. NextEra stated it is a learned technology and may take 6-12 months.
- *Pipestone* – Extended CUP for a 1 MW solar project west of town. Delayed due to supply chain issues.
- *Redwood* – Ended moratorium for small scale solar.
- *Renville* – Solar Farm north of Bird Island is in the works.
- *Rock* – Walleye Wind online the end of December.
- *Wantonwan* -None

SW CERT: Walker gave update on New Energy Foundation Grants for \$75,000 to the SRDC to assist organizations in the region with both application and implementation of new federal funds from the IRA.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS: None

NEXT MEETING – January 23

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: Invite legislators to learn about the work the RMEB is doing.

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 2:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by Justin Schroyer, Planning Assistant at SRDC.

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

Secretary

Chairman