

**MINUTES - MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 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..... Dan Sparks
Brown County..... Jeff Veerkamp	Murray County Dennis Welgraven
Cottonwood County... Tom Appel	Nicollet County Kurt Zins
Faribault County John Roper	Nobles County Gene Metz
Freeborn County Dawn Kaasa	Pipestone County Dan Wildermuth
Jackson County Don Wachal	Redwood County Dennis Groebner
Lincoln County Mic VanDeVere	Renville County John Robinson
Lyon County Todd Draper	Rock County Gary Overgaard
Martin County Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County..... Scott Westman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Walker, Molly Malone (Murray alternate), Dalla Roskamp (Pipestone alternate), Rose Patzer (MnWest), Rich Davis (Commerce), Ross Lexvold, Trish Duncan and Randy Fordice (Xcel)

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/Flohrs to approve the agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Paap/Overgaard to approve minutes from January 23, 2023.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Wachal presented the financial report and bills.

M/S/P Metz/VanDeVere to pay the bills in the total amount of \$7,012.50.

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

Executive Committee: The committee did not meet, but Chair Appel and Gene Metz were asked via email whether the RMEB wanted to sign on to support comments from the MISO Cities and Communities Coalition (MISOCCC) regarding wind and solar accreditation. Currently, renewable energy does not get reliability credit. To adequately value these resources, the MISOCCC believes that MISO needs a formula for assigning reliability credit to renewable energy. After discussion, M/S/P Wildermuth/Wachal to support the comments.

PACE: Commissioner Wachal reported on PACE. Robin Weis gave a 10-minute, PACE 101, presentation, which will be uploaded to the website and sent out with the minutes.

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Metz reviewed a memo from Sam Richie with Fryberger, which will be uploaded to the website and sent out with the minutes. Highlights include an energy budget target of \$255 million over the existing base, a proposal to expand C-PACE to ag land and water conservation, and funds to leverage federal dollars.

Molly Malone requested that the RMEB support passage of SF 2591/HF 2570 to allow usage of MnDOT right-of-way for transmission. M/S/P Overgaard/Metz to support these bills.

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Xcel Presentation: Randy Fordice, along with Trish Duncan and Ross Lexvold, all representatives of Xcel Energy, presented about Minnesota Energy Connection from the retiring Sherco power plant near Becker to Lyon County (in-service expected in 2028) and MISO Long Range Transmission Plan projects. They also provided a congestion update. Some improvements that have helped recently include substation upgrades, breaker configurations, temperature and weather rating changes, and, soon, adding a second circuit to the Brookings line. Their presentation will be uploaded to the website and sent out with the minutes.

Member Updates:

- *Blue Earth* – None
- *Brown* – Comfrey is working with Region 9 Development Commission on a sustainability plan
- *Cottonwood* – Production tax revenue up about \$100,000. Big Bend Wind is set to go with 52 turbines, 300 MW, and the solar component has been scrapped
- *Faribault* – Possible 300 MW solar project with Invenergy
- *Freeborn* – Solar farm in the works near Hayward
- *Jackson* – Production tax revenue up about \$436,000
- *Lincoln* – Production tax revenue up about \$300,000, one of the wind farms that was under maintenance came back online
- *Lyon* – No updates.
- *Martin* – Compliments on the Senator Frentz meeting
- *Mower* – Production tax revenue up about \$500,000
- *Murray* – Production tax revenue down a bit, but due to Chanarambie being down most of the year.
- *Nicollet* – No updates
- *Nobles* – Production tax revenue up about \$310,000; repowered biggest field this year.
- *Pipestone* – Production tax revenue comparable to last year. Permitted small solar on west side of town
- *Redwood* – No updates
- *Renville* – No updates
- *Rock* – Production tax revenue up about \$250,000 or 21%. Oak Creek Solar for 160 MW with a projected online year of 2024. New solar company from North Carolina looking to build a 400 MW solar farm. Offering \$1,300 an acre leases to landowners.
- *Wantonwan* – No updates

SW CERT: Updated the board on grant writing assistance for energy projects and the co-director model at CERTs until legislative funding is determined.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS: None

NEXT MEETING – May 22, 2023

FUTURE TOPICS / GUESTS: Rich Davis with Mn Dept of Commerce to present. As a topic, Rose Patzer suggested something on the new hydrogen economy.

Chair Appel adjourned the meeting at 2:49 PM.

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

Reviewed by:

Secretary

Approved by:

Chairman