

**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY May 18, 2015, 1:00 p.m.**  
**CRD Office, Slayton, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County .....	Will Purvis	Mower County .....	Tim Gabrielson
Brown County .....	Dennis Potter	Murray County .....	Gerald Magnus
Cottonwood County...	Tom Appel	Nobles County .....	Gene Metz
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	Pipestone County .....	excused
Freeborn County .....	Glen Mathiason	Redwood County .....	Sharon Hollatz
Jackson County.....	David Henkels	Renville County .....	Bob Fox
Lincoln County .....	Mic VanDeVere	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lyon County .....	Steve Ritter	Sibley County.....	Gary Kruggel
Martin County .....	absent	Watsonwan County ...	Scott Sanders

**ALSO PRESENT:** Marcus Grubbs (U of MN), Luke Hellier (Secure Energy Future), Jim Nichols (Lake Benton), Annette Fiedler (Staff)

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Purvis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Purvis asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairman Purvis asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** none.

**M/S/P** Hoime, Gabrielson to approve the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Fox, Ritter to approve the Minutes of March 23, 2015

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Henkels gave the financial report and presented the following bills: Metz \$485.74 (legislative); Fryberger March and April lobbyist \$3138.80; SRDC March and April staff \$1860 & 555.08; SRDC March and April PACE staff 761.50 and 688.00.

**M/S/P:** Henkels, Ritter to approve the financial report and payment of bills.

**RMEB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PACE Subcommittee report:** There is \$876,676 in the account; the committee approved a loan for \$5175 in Tyler; a second request was withdrawn because the bank could provide a loan for 3.2% (PACE is 4 %). Discussion of homestead businesses (difficult) and encourage ag business to apply. Discussed the St Paul Port Authority and is a financing option if a business does not fit within the parameters of the RMEB PAC. Weis also connects businesses with the local RLF as well as REAP grant. The St Paul Port Authority requires a Joint Powers Agreement with the County or city where the business is located.

Tour Committee –*defer the tour until next year. Check on project liberty in the spring.*

Legislative Committee – Metz summarized the session and the progress of the legislation to remove the levy limit (very little forward motion); and SF 1036 that would have changed the production tax and replaced all the solar and wind production tax. Members discussed speaking with their legislators, as well as checking with AMC to see if they would help with the lobbying interests. The 40x30 bill did not go anywhere. The senate tried to increase it, the house decrease it. Legislative committee was asked to meet and bring forward a resolution / language for the July 27 RMEB meeting so it would be ready for the September 17-18 AMC meetings.

**AGRICULTURAL BIOMASS FOR RENEWABLE FUELS AND HIGH-VALUE FEED .** Marcus Grubbs is with the local bioeconomy collaborative at the University of Minnesota. They work in communities—through participatory processes and decision support tools—to apply ongoing research and innovation towards economic growth and development, improved environmental outcomes, and community well-being. There are currently working in 7 mile creek in Nicollet county. Appt of the presentation will be posted on the website.

**SECURE ENERGY FUTURE.** Presenter: Luke Hellier provided information and background on energy in Minnesota, changes occurring at the state and federal level for energy policy, and overall message on importance of an all of the above energy policy for Minnesota. The information involved inclusion of all energy sources (including coal) in the energy future mix. Discussion of EPA 2015 Rules which are supposed to be ready in June (more likely September). Goals for all states were different, Minnesota's was set at 40% and there was no credit for energy goals in 2007. There was also information about the Rate Payer Production Act. Why didn't Minnesota get credit? EPA has not answered that. There was discussion of Minnesota suing EPA.

#### **MEMBER UPDATES ON ENERGY PROJECTS AND ISSUES**

- Freeborn County 200 MW Wind with 2 MW turbines. They will need 40,000 acres, have 29,000 signed up. Fiedler will look into the MISO Queue for projects and their status.
- Mower County, there are 40 turbines being built, which will be bring the total of turbines to 360 in the county. Mower is looking at solar information. Fiedler will send out the list of issues identified in the project review recently completed on the Lyon County Project solar project
- Lyon County 2 solar projects one is 22 MW the other 65 MW.
- Faribault asked about how farmland is taxed with solar – Magnus said land is taxed commercial and there is also a production tax.
- Blue Earth County reported Waseca County EDA was interested in PACE, Weis presented there and there may be an interest in joining.
- Membership fee questions:
  - 2015 membership is \$1000 there is not prorated
  - There is also a \$1000 entry fee
  - If a county would like a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement, have them connect with Fiedler.

**SW CERT** - There was a write up on the solar thermal pool heating project:

<http://www.mndaily.com/news/campus/2015/04/23/student-advises-solar-pool-heating>. Solar energy for pools was discussed. A community solar garden workshop is being planned in Pelican Rapids. The workshop morning will be for Muni's and coops regarding community solar gardens, the afternoon session and tour is open to the public. SW CERT is developing a questionnaire for coops, so CERT can get a better understanding of coops and to see if there is anything CERT can provide in outreach assistance.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS** (none)

**NEW BUSINESS** (none)

**MEETING DATES** – September 28, November 23. Discussed speakers for next meeting.  
**M/S/P** Mathiason, Potter to ask Franklin Energy to speak at the September meeting.

**ADJOURN**

**M/S/P** VanDeVere, Ritter to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 pm

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff.

  
Minutes Reviewed By  
Energy Board Secretary

  
Minutes Approved By  
Energy Board Chairperson