

**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY May 23, 2016 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 Co ..... Tom Appel	Nobles County ..... Gene Metz
Faribault County .... Tom Warmka	Pipestone County .... Dan Wildermuth
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 ..... excused	Watonwan County . Scott Sanders

**ALSO PRESENT:** Stuart Dankers (Sun Dance Energy Solutions), Josh Fiala (Line Loss Pro), Robin Weis (SRDC), and Annette Fiedler (SRDC – RMEB staff).

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

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None

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

**AGENDA:**

**M/S/P:** Ritter, Hoime to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P:** Purvis, Potter to approve the March 28, 2016 Minutes with one correction.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Henkels reviewed the financial report, after payment of pending bills, there will be \$142,644.10. The following bills will be submitted for board review and approval. \$1200 SRDC; 1853.24 PACE; 3640 PACE Outreach; \$3670.15 Lobbyist; \$315 Fiscal management- SRDC.

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

**RMEB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Executive Committee:** No report

**PACE:** Weis reported that there is about \$600,000 for PACE loans, 10 loans have been made; USDA funds for assisting defray energy audits for private business are now available; and the CERT Accelerator is also available to help defray energy audit costs for nonprofits. Assistance from the Counties is requested to help identify groups or businesses in the respective RMEB counties that Weis should connect with. Staff continues to work with the DOC Staff to modify the agreement to be able to use the interest earned on the loan dollars as well as funding stand alone projects such as solar.

**Tour Committee:** Commissioner Fox indicated he has had communication with the Redwood-Renville Water Facility regarding tours. Commissioners asked if the tour could be earlier in September (the 26 is near bean harvest time). Staff was asked to send a doodle poll to help determine the best date for a tour and to coordinate with Solid waste commission Staff to send a similar survey to Commission members.

**Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Metz reported on activities. Much of the discussion was on Property tax; discussion of property tax on transmission lines; the noise pollution bill (3480); partner with others, such as AMC, WOW, and others); Walli may be out in SW MN – if the timing is right, he could meet with the RMEB (July or September).

**Sundance Energy Solutions. Energy Efficiency Savings Program.** Stu Dankers from Sundance Energy Solutions described how ESP Energy solutions can reduce energy use, optimize energy management software and provide third party financing. A handout was provided to the Commissioners.

**Member Updates on Energy projects and issues from your respective counties**

- Rock – MinWind Bankruptcy was discussed.
- Redwood – no report
- Jackson – Odell Wind and the ITC Transmission line is still under construction; there is some small solar going in
- Sibley – the school will be getting 40 kW. The County Attorney was happy with the information RMEB staff sent regarding solar permitting and they are moving forward with ordinance development and adoption process.
- Cottonwood - Odell wind
- Renville – Solar is a hot topic, several small projects; one larger one
- Nobles – reported on discussion with Nobles Cooperative regarding line loss pro – even using to identical hog facilities, the use rates would be different, so a comparison is not feasible. The 2018 Nobles II Wind project ( 250-300 MW) has lots of wildlife land within the footprint, may be too costly to string the lines from turbines to substation.

- Mower – Pleasant Valley – they are working on a solar ordinance
- Murray – county, city and hospital have signed a 25 year commitment to use electricity – savings for the hospital is estimated to be \$20,000 per year.
- Faribault – coming close to approving the new solar ordinance – similar to the WECS; ITC construction, used the development agreement
- Blue Earth – signed 25 year agreement with Sun Edison; there are several wind farm projects; continue to improve the Dam
- Watonwan – no report
- Brown – RMEB Staff came and gave a presentation to the Brown County P and Z on Solar; the County is working on the development of the solar code.
- Lyon – no report
- Lincoln - 2 large wind power projects
- Freeborn – no report
- Fiedler encouraged that the counties all use the development agreement – or parts of it whenever there is development. Also to watch the conditional use permits – if the only conditions are placing a dumpster or port-a-potty during construction, this can be done through the permit requirements. As solar is permitted, watch the thresholds where conditions are needed for permits.

**SW CERT:** Fiedler reported that reported on the status of the SW CERT Seed grants and that 4 churches have applied for the Seed grant accelerator funds. She is giving a solar presentation in Appleton and gave one in Brown County.

**MEETING DATES 2016:** Chairman Mathiason referred the Board to the meeting dates in 2016: September 12 or 19 (tour) and November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURN:**

**M/S/P:** Fox, Warmka to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff.

  
Minutes Reviewed By

Energy Board Secretary

  
Minutes Approved By

Energy Board Chairperson