

**MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY June 4, 2012 1:00 P.M.
CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County	Will Purvis	Murray County.....	Kevin Vickerman
Brown County	Dennis Potter	Nobles County	David Benson
Cottonwood County.....	John Oletjenbruns	Pipestone County	Marv Tinklenberg
Faribault County	Tom Warmka	Redwood County	excused
Freeborn County	Glen Mathiason	Renville County.....	Bob Fox
Jackson County.....	Dave Henkels	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lincoln County	Larry Hansen	Sibley County	Jim Nytes
Lyon County	Steve Ritter	Watsonwan County	Scott Sanders
Martin County	Jack Potter	Yellow Medicine Co	absent
Mower County	Ray Tucker		

ALSO PRESENT: Bob Johnson (R-9), Jon Hammel (RDC 9), James Dontje (R9 Renewables) Paul Pierson, USDA; Yvonne Simon, CRPD; Representative Schomacher; Annette Bair, Staff.

CALL TO ORDER : The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Warmka.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Warmka asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

M/S/P Fox, Ritter to approve the Agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Tinklenberg, Benson to approve the minutes of March 26, 2012 as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Hansen referred the Commissioners to the finance handout and reported that all dues have been received as well as dues from Sibley County. He also reviewed the bills that had been received for the meeting. It was noted that the revenue for the financial report is updated to reflect reporting requirements to MCIT as new members join the RMEB. The original CY 2012 budget revenue was \$32,000; the addition of Brown and Freeborn county it was changed to \$8,000; and the addition of Sibley County will be reflected as \$41,000

M/S/P Potter, Hoime to approve the financial report and payment of the following bills:

- \$132.50 to Fryberger for March services
- \$927.30 to Fryberger for April services
- \$2217.00 to SRDC March staff and financial staff
- \$1596.98 to SRDC April staff and financial staff
- \$230.00 to SRDC May staff and financial staff

Dues for CY 2013. Commissioners discussed dues for CY 2013. In 2011, the dues had been \$2500 and were reduced to \$2000 for 2012. The dues are always revisited in November.

M/S/P Ritter, Benson to set the dues at 2000 for CY 2013

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT: In March, Sibley County was accepted as members of the RMEB. A revised Joint Powers Agreement was sent to the Counties on April 3, 2012 as per the 30 day review period identified in the Joint Powers Agreement.

M/S/P D Potter, Ritter to approve the Joint Powers Agreement change reflecting the membership addition of Sibley County.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee. Commissioner Benson reported that the changing of the Production Tax language was not successful. Representative Schomacker will be in Luverne with Representative Greg Davids will in Luverne on June 18, 2012 from 1-2:30 at the Rock county Library in Luverne. Members were encouraged to come to that meeting and speak to Rep Davids. Bair was asked to put together a packet of information (history of production tax, map of projects, etc), would there be time for the Representatives to visit one of the Minnwind Turbines? Commissioners discussed production Tax and Levy limits primer.

Also discussed was wind is the only renewable energy affected by the production tax. How are, and should other renewables be affected – such as solar, Isobutanol, etc. Isobutanol was discussed. Gevo and the Corn Growers have approached the Renewable Energy Board where there is a two year time from before legislation could be changed to allow the sale of Isobutanol in MN (2014).

Strategies on how to convey to Legislators the importance of the Production Tax for the 2013 Legislative session was discussed.

REGION 9 RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE PRESENTATION. Jon Hammel, Jim Dontje (Chair), Bob Johnson (Vice-Chair). The presentation will be posted on the RMEB website.

ITV SURVEY. Commissioners reviewed the information and requested Bair to find 3 – 4 geographic nodes where the meeting could be held, report back at the September meeting, and try for the November meeting to be an ITV Session.

REAP LETTERS. Bair reported that several letters of support have been signed for REAP projects in the RMEB area.

REPORT ON NADO PRESENTATION. <http://www.nado.org/rpo-america-peer-symposium-sharing-innovations-in-regional-transportation-planning/> media release sent to the 19 counties – the award is in both SRDC and RMEB .

MEMBER UPDATES ON ENERGY PROJECTS AND ISSUES

- Rock: Gevo, Geronimo project moving forward – in both rock and Pipestone Counties, Feedmill in Magnolia
- Jackson: Geronimo Wind is looking to put up 12 towers, Clipper Wind is also looking to develop e project. Iberdrola continues to move forward with another project in Martin and Jackson counties. The ITC Midwest transmission line from Lakefield (through Jackson and Martin Co) to Faribault Co. is moving forward.
- Renville: CAPX2020 under construction, lots of construction traffic
- Sibley: the wind project is looking for an energy buyer.
- Freeborn: Shell Rock is at a standstill
- Brown: CAPX2020 is under construction
- Blue Earth: visited the McLeold Landfill where Waste management is recovering methane from the landfill. Cost was \$4.5 million, 15 yr payback, provide 30% of the electric in Gaylord. Blue Earth Co has been researching methane recovery at their landfill.
- Nobles: the Community Wind South Project is moving forward. The 2.06 MW Repower machines will arrive in September in Duluth, and be placed on 100 meter towers. ARMER – discussed siting of towers and the impact study.

- Murray: there has been some talk of an energy facility in the north part of the county; the solar farm was to begin construction at the end of May – nothing is moving yet.
- Faribault: Turbine bases, lines, everything is in place for the turbines; they estimate that the towers will be coming in September.
- Yvonne Simon discussed the Franklen biomass facility that heats 3 of the municipal buildings. They have paired up with Jeff Vetsch of WC CERT to identify what small communities have to have their fuel delivered and develop a calculator that any community could use.
- Region 9 Renewables representatives are interested in PACE, could it be defined to include farmers which would provide a good financing tool for renewable energy projects?

SW CERT UPDATE

- April 2 Energy Efficiency workshop. Commissioners were referred to the handout – write up of PACE, PBEEEP, and GESP programs (to be posted on the RMEB website).
- Seed grants update – The AURI Seed grant of \$6000 has been completed, MRES and Region 9 Bulk Buy are still working on their projects. With new CERT funding, a new round of the CERT grants has begun. <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/rfp>. There will be up to \$10,000 for renewable energy or energy efficiency projects available (labor only). The grant deadline is July 2, 2012. We are looking for the Steering Committee to meet the week of July 16. The SRDC normally approves the recommendations of the Steering Committee. Due to the timing they will not be meeting until September and will be requesting the RMEB to approve the projects for funding.
- Steering committee status update – The Steering Committee makeup will remain the same until January for two reasons: the short turn around for the seed grants – members are familiar with the application process; and second - elections may affect who are members.
- B-3 Benchmarking – members were referred to a handout on benchmarking. Also , SW CERT Staff is conducting interviews on the EECBG (ARRA Funding) funded projects – benchmarking is part of the funding process and follow up.
- Energy Network Mapping. In the near future, members may be contacted to assist with some energy network mapping.
- All handouts were reviewed: Right Light Guide, Rural MN Solar Initiative, and CERTs flyer.

OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS Rep. Joe Schomacker was asked if he would like to speak – discussed 25x25 model and that he liked the idea of bringing metro area people out for a one-on- one discussion of what is going on.

NEW BUSINESS (5 min) Commissioner Ritter asked if a Map of the 19 counties and of Minnesota could be available for the members to refer to as we discuss projects.

MEETING DATES – 2012 meeting dates (usually 4th Mondays of odd months) – 1:00 PM:

- * July 23
- * September 24, tour (& mtg) of CAPX2020 project in Fairfax
- * November 26, revisit the 2013 dues set in June, develop draft 2013 budget, potential ITV meeting

ADJOURN. Chairman Warmka adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm

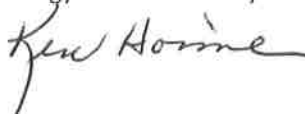
Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.



Minutes Reviewed By:

Minutes Approved By:

Energy Board Secretary



Energy Board Chairperson

