

**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY July 25, 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	excused *
Faribault County	Tom Warmka	Pipestone County	Dan Wildermuth
Freeborn County.....	Glen Mathiason	Redwood County	Sharon Hollatz
Jackson County.....	David Henkels	Renville County	excused
Lincoln County.....	Mic VanDeVere	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lyon County	Steve Ritter	Sibley County.....	excused
Martin County	Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County ...	Scott Sanders

ALSO PRESENT: Robin Weis (SRDC), Paul Pierson (USDA), Vince Robinson, (Lincoln County Enterprise Development Corporation), Kevin Walli (Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick), Max Kaufman, (SRDC Staff), and Annette Fiedler (SRDC – RMEB staff). * Gene Metz joined via phone.

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: Fiedler indicated she had received some information about Calpine in Blue Earth County as passed to over to Purvis.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chairman Mathiason asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

AGENDA:

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

MINUTES:

M/S/P: Warmka, Potter to approve the May 23, 2016 Minutes.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Henkels reviewed the financial report, after payment of pending bills, there will be \$137,515.51. The following bills will submitted for board review and approval. \$680 SRDC; 1324 PACE; 1920 PACE Outreach; \$996.30 Lobbyist; \$285 Fiscal management- SRDC. In addition, the official bill \$300 for the CY 2015 audit along with the page for the audit was included in the financial report.

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

RMEB SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee: Chairman Mathiason reported that since some of the Counties had requested the dues amount for CY 2017 for budgeting purposes, the Executive committee determined that the dues should remain the same, as CY 2016. This amount was \$1,000.

M/S/P: VanDeVere, Warmka to set the CY 2017 dues at \$1,000.

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 to.

Tour Committee: Fiedler reported that Commissioner Fox has made some arrangements for the tour at the Redwood-Renville Recycling Facility. The date for the tour will be September 12. The number of people and timing of the tours is still being worked on. The Solid Waste commission will need to meet following the tour to take care of a few business items; it is likely the RMEB will also need to do the same. It was proposed that these meetings could be held back to back during the noon meal. Meeting spaces were discussed; SRDC Staff will check on the facilities. It was decided that the Marshall Solar Farm would be a good location for a tour when it is completed (spring).

Legislative Committee: Commissioner Metz joined the meeting via phone call for the legislative report. Kevin Walli reported on the status of the legislative session. The levy Limit language is not likely to be addressed until the legislature has legislation to place limits on again. There may be a special session close to Labor Day. Walli discussed several of the bills that were introduced, some had companion bills, other not. It is likely the best approach will be to monitor the bills as they are introduced.

Member Updates on Energy projects and issues

- *Jackson and Cottonwood – Odell nearly completed, clean up under way.*
- *Redwood – 3 community solar farms*
- *Martin – transmission line under construction*
- *Pipestone StoneyRay*
- *Lincoln – projects moving forward for 2017-2018*
- *Lyon – Tracy solar status unknown - Fiedler indicated she saw that it was listed as withdrawn in the MISO queue*
- *BE Calpine 345 MW expansion*
- *Freeborn – wind turbines and noise*
- *Discussion of turbines not producing power and not generating production tax; are they decommissioned? are they curtailed?*
- *Decommissioned turbines (750 kW cost out of the pocket \$8000 to remove – much of cost is the crane as well as removing the concrete 3' below grade.*

- 2015 Wind Energy Production Tax – **handout**. Fiedler shared the wind production tax numbers that were sent to her from the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

SW CERT Report

- 5 projects moving forward
 - Mobile Renewable Energy. This was the solar heating for outdoor community pools. Unless there are other facilities that can use the solar during the year, seasonal use of solar may not be the best use of resources at this time.
 - Worthington with youth. SW CERT served as a YES! Team Judge; recommended Cottonwood County to connect with Westbrook Walnut Grove regarding Zero Waste.
 - PACE Outreach.
 - Energy on the Farm – assisting the individual as requested who was working on a project to improved hog barn circulation.
 - Community solar. Worthington to provide information about solar workshops and tours.
- Seed grants – The Region 9 Energy Task force has scheduled 3 workshops:
 - August 23 in Winthrop from 6-8 pm
 - August 30 in Waseca from 6-8 pm and
 - September 7 in St James from 6-8 pm
 - Slayton has completed their LED solar powered entryway signs
 - Trimont completed their heating and cooling + LED streetlight project
 - The SW Minnesota Housing partnership project is on hold until they get a new staff person on board.
 - SW Clean Energy Accelerator has authorized funding for 4 energy audits at non profits.

NEW BUSINESS

- Robinson reported that on August 10, there will be an open for a community solar garden in Lincoln County from 2-5 pm.
- Pierson reported on USDA grants in the area


2016 MEETING DATES: September 12 tour, November 28.

ADJOURN:

M/S/P: Ritter, Hoime 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