

RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY November 24, 2014, 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...	John Oeltjenbruns	Nobles County.....	Gene Metz
Faribault County	Tom Warmka	Pipestone County.....	William Johnson
Freeborn County.....	Glen Mathiason	Redwood County	John Schueller
Jackson County.	Dave Henkels	Renville County	Bob Fox
Lincoln County	Absent	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lyon County	Rodney Stensrud	Sibley County	Jim Nytes
Martin County	Steve Flohrs	Watsonwan County	Scott Sanders

ALSO PRESENT: Annette Fiedler (SRDC) and Dan Larson (MRCC) and Jack Potter.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

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: Chairman Purvis identified nominating committee be placed under other business.

M/S/P Warmka, Fox to approve the amended agenda.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Mathiason, Potter to approve the Minutes of August 25, 2014 as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Henkels reviewed the Financial report and bills for payment.

M/S/P Warmka, Magnus to approve the financial report and payment of the following bills to the SRDC: \$30 - July staff services, \$720 - August staff services, \$330 - September staff services, \$80 - August staff services, \$160 - October staff services.

SUBCOMMITTEE & RMEB BUSINESS

Executive Committee: The Executive committee met prior to the RMEB meeting to develop the 2015 draft budget. The Executive Committee reviewed the lines items that they were discussing including lobbyist and dues.

M/S/P Henkels, Metz to approve the calendar year 2015 budget as presented.

M/S/P Fox, Schueller to approve the dues set for 2015 at \$1,000.

Treasurer Henkels also provided an update on the bereavement fund status of \$31.87.

CY2015 SRDC and RMEB Staff Contract: Fiedler referred the Board to the proposed contract. There were 3 areas that were modified to the contract. On page 1 of the draft contract, under 4: Payment of Services C, language addressing PACE was included; page 3, the 5th bullet identify activities with PACE under professional services; and on page 5, the last bullet identifies support service activities in relation to PACE. The other changes to the contract were to the dates of the contract itself.

RMEB members had several questions regarding PACE. SRDC Executive Director Jay Trusty, came into the meeting during this time to help address the questions. The questions involved the PACE filing fee, which is the clients responsibility, but is different in every county. The Administration Fee being charged, we are hopeful that will cover the costs, however, that fee can be adjusted and it is not done through the contract with the RDC and the Energy Board is done through the PACE loans. Trusty was asked, who was responsible or liable if the assessment is not filed with the counties? The contract indicates the RMEB is held harmless and the SRDC would be responsible. Also asked was regarding the removal of a lien if not paid in full. If there was a change in property, that may need to come back to the PACE Committee and ultimately the RMEB Board but if they just transfer it, then the ownership also transfers.

PACE: The PACE Committee reported they met via phone call to review an application in Cottonwood County with a multi-unit housing facility. The project is currently going through SHPO before the finalized loan documents can be completed. The process in reviewing this second application has resulted in identifying some areas of streamlining the application and pairing it up with the Energy Audit to allow easier administration and review of the PACE Application for Loan. The SRDC will have a new staff person, Robin Weis, who will be doing the administration of the PACE loans come December.

Tour Committee: Fiedler reported that DNR has offered a tour of their New Ulm office that is using geothermal wells as well as 70kw of solar pv. If the board wishes to tour that facility, they may wish to pair it up with other projects in that area. Suggested was Zinniel Electric who has put up several solar facilities.

Legislative Committee: Discussions involved exploring a lobbyist and getting the tax issues resolved to prevent future levy limits. The committee would like to meet with Juhl to gain more information on solar, wind and battery storage.

M/S/P Mathiason, Sanders to give the Legislative Committee the authority to move forward the RMEB legislative issues within the confines of the 2015 RMEB legislative budget.

Minnesota Rural County Caucus, Dan Larson: Larson provided a presentation on what the Rural Minnesota County Caucus is. They began in 1996 and have a membership of 30 counties. Currently of the RMEB members, Redwood and Cottonwood Counties are members.

Discussion after Larson left included: The need for AMC to stay cohesive and AMC has task forces that already deal with these issues that the Rural Minnesota County Caucus identified.

Member Updates on Energy Projects and Issues:

- Blue Earth County has two million in bonding for the Rapidan dam.
- Faribault county reported that Geronimo is looking at developing a wind farm. They also identified the ITC rebuild.
- Jackson County reported on the Odel Wind Farm. They anticipate 2015 construction and being on line in the fall of 2015. The project has changed ownership.
- Lyon County reported there are three large solar farms moving forward.

SW CERT:

Fiedler reviewed the campaign and initiatives. Those being the gas station canopy being paired up with PACE and moving forward asking gas station owners to consider putting in LED lights in their canopies, as well as toasty turkey which is placing LED lights in turkey barn.

Projects moving forward include PACE, solar thermal for pools, education of youth, Seed grants and their status. We have three that are left to complete their projects. A church in Slayton has installed their windows and they will be completing their reports but the end of December. Slayton had 3 LED street lights to get retrofitted. They have now identified the three light poles that the city owns for the retro fit. Lyon, Lincoln Electric is completing installation of LED street in Lynd and Arco.

A reminder that the CERT conference is going to be held on March 10, & 11, 2015 in St. Cloud. There is a new program, the former PBEEEP is now going to be called LEEP (Local Energy Efficiency Program).

Other Business and Reports: Nominating Committee was identified as Tom Warmka, Bob Fox and Scott Sanders. Outgoing commissioners, Bill Johnson, John Oeltjenbruns and John Schueller were recognized for their service on the RMEB.

Fiedler was asked to collect updated information that had been provided to Representative Davids a couple of years ago.

ADJOURN:

M/S/P Warmka, Schueller to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff. 

Minutes Reviewed By:
Energy Board Secretary


Minutes Approved By:
Energy Board Chairperson