

**MINUTES**  
**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY January 28, 2013 @ 1:00 pm**  
**CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County .....	Will Purvis	Murray County .....	Gerald Magnus
Brown County .....	Dennis Potter	.....	Jim Jens
Cottonwood County...	John Oletjenbruns	Nobles County .....	Gene Metz
.....	Kevin Stevens	Pipestone County .....	William Johnson
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	Redwood County ... ..	excused
Freeborn County .....	excused	Renville County.....	excused
Jackson County.....	David Henkels	Rock County.....	Ken Hoime
Lincoln County .....	Larry Hansen	Sibley County .....	excused
Lyon County .....	Steve Ritter	Watsonwan County ....	Scott Sanders
Martin County.....	Steve Floers	Yellow Medicine Co ..	absent
Mower County .....	excused		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jay Trusty, Staff; and 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.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairman Warmka asked everyone present to introduce themselves

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

**M/S/P** Hansen, Potter to approve the agenda.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Purvis, Ritter to approve the minutes of November 26, 2012.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurer Hansen reviewed the financial report. He identified the pending bills. MCIT, \$2,106, SRDC for November \$1,030 & December \$1,350 (this includes \$300 for the SRDC audit), Fryberger \$490.25. Also included in the financial report was the SRDC audit findings. The Commission was reminded that the audit is completed in its entirety on the SRDC, and the RMEB figures are included in as a compilation. The RMEB policies and procedures are not audited.

**M/S/P** Hoime, Oletjenbruns to approve the financial report and payment of bills.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Commissioner Purvis reported that he, Fox and Sanders were on the nomination committee. Upon discussion with officers of the RMEB, Hoime, Warmka and Hansen indicated a willingness to serve another year and that Purvis would be willing to serve as Vice-chair.

**Chair:** Chair Warmka asked for nominations for RMEB Chair.

**M/S** Purvis, Hansen to nominate Tom Warmka as RMEB Chair.

**M/S/P** Oletjenbruns, Potter to cast a unanimous ballot for Warmka as RMEB Chair.

**Vice-chair:** Nominations were asked for Vice-chair.

**M/S** Hoime, Henkles to nominate Will Purvis as Vice-chair.

**M/S/P** Oletjenbruns, Potter to cast a unanimous ballot for Will Purvis as Vice-chair.

**Secretary:** Nominations were asked for Secretary.

**M/S** Oletjenbruns, Ritter to nominate Ken Hoime as Secretary.

**M/S/P** Henkels, Metz to cast a unanimous ballot for Ken Hoime as Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Nominations were asked for Treasurer

**M/S** Oletjenbruns, Hoime to nominate Larry Hansen to serve as Treasurer.

**M/S/P** Potter, Flores to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Larry Hansen.

**LEGISLATIVE DISCUSSION:** Chair Warmka identified the Production tax and levy limits issue the RMEB has been working on for several years. There was a request for other legislative issues. A question was asked of whether solar included in the production tax. Commissioners commented it was something that should be something to consider or watch for. Henkels reported that Jan Fransen (Jackson Co Administrator) will be testifying before the House Energy Committee January 29, 2013. Staff was asked to provide legislative committee and RMEB Legislative information out to the Commissioners.

Legislative subcommittee appointments were made as follows: Fox – Chair; Saunders – Vice Chair; Metz; Magnus; Hansen; Warmka

**PACE PRESENTATION:** **PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy)** – Jay Trusty provided an update on PACE and a potential opportunity for RMEB Counties. The difficulty with PACE so far has been, counties are not willing to spend money to pass a bond if no businesses are interested in energy retrofits. Businesses do not want to commit if they don't know what the interest is. After Jay met with a group of County Administrators, they suggested having a pool of funds and test it to see if it works. Jay has had conversations with East River and will be meeting with Great River regarding a pilot project with funds. The SRDC would administer the upfront end and write the loan to for the business; the business would pay off the tax to the county; the county would pay dollars to the utility(ies) to pay the load off. Depending on interest of counties, one vehicle that could be used is through the RMEB structure where member counties could choose to participate (the JP allows for this). Jay will be meeting with the county Administrators in February. Jay was instructed to write up a brief synopsis that helps explain this potential project. Counties beyond the nine SRDC Counties were interested in learning more about PACE and potential participation. This would be for retrofits, not new build.

**MEMBER UPDATES:**

- Faribault co – Big Blue is operational. There is talk of more turbines going in. Fagan now owns the project.
- Rock – 119 towers are up west of Hardwick in 6 months' time. Geronimo began the project and was bought out by another company. Minwind has a new battery that is going on line; the old one was shut down. New Vision with the feed mill west of Magnolia cost \$16-20 million, 20-25 jobs. The Isobutanol / ethanol plant has been shut down for 2-3 months. They plan to start back up when the price of corn goes down.
- Lincoln – No report
- Murray – solar Farm is up and running.
- Cottonwood – Geronimo has some acres near Mountain Lake, they are looking at 85-125 towers, but need more land. Land payments will be \$1.3 million per year; and they will have a community fund of about \$40,000 per year for local projects. They plan to build in 2015.
- Martin Co – no report
- Nobles – CWS 15 Towers are up and running
- Watonwan – no report
- Pipestone – Couple of turbines on the south side of the county, also radio towers are going up.
- Jackson – Sale of the Heron Lake Bio energy to Guardian energy. Jackson county closed a county road for the soybean plant (rail crossing is now gated for the farmers) but room now there 110 rail cars
- Blue Earth – hydroelectric has been down since fall – using the down time to do repairs
- Brown Co – No turbines yet, comfrey area to renew permit soon
- Lyon – no report
- SRDC – Bair asked for input regarding the ITC. There has been no objection. The ITC has had good interaction with the public and local units of government. One commissioner suggested it would make the most sense for the route to be parallel with the existing line – including spanning Fox Lake.

**SW CERT: SW CERT Steering Committee.** RMEB Commissioners added to the Steering Committee are Steve Ritter, Steve Flores, Ken Hoime; at large: Brian Christiansen, Mark Lindquist, Julie Rath, Jen Prins, and David Benson. Anne Dybsetter will be replacing Holli Arp.

The RMEB also felt it was appropriate to make changes to the Steering committee Roles and Responsibilities document: to include Eureka Recycling to the list of CERT Statewide partners and to remove the Resource Conservation Development Council as a position and transfer that member to the at large membership, increasing the number of at large from 6 to 7.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND REPORTS** : None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**MEETING DATES – 2013 meeting dates (usually 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of odd months):** March 25, June 3, July 22, September 23, November 25 (tour date(s) TBD. Commissioners Ritter and Purvis will assist staff in identification and logistics of a tour this summer. Discussed were: Ecos Energy (timing – on a date when the solid waste commission does not meet prior to the RMEB meeting); Deer Creek (Natural Gas facility); Lake Mills, Iowa Landfill that generates methane, collects it and ships it out; Minwind battery; and GEVO. Depending on the tour that is chosen, the Solid Waste group may also be interested in participating.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Warmka at 2:25 PM

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff. 

Minutes Reviewed By:

  
Energy Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:

Energy Board Chairperson 