

**MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY July 27, 2009, 9:30 A.M.
CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County	Excused	Mower County	Absent
Chippewa County	Jeffrey Lopez	Murray County	Kevin Vickerman
Cottonwood County ...	John Oletjenbruns	Nobles County	Diane Thier
Faribault County	Tom Warmka	Pipestone County ...	Marv Tinklenberg
.....	Butch Erichsrud	Redwood County.....	Absent
Jackson County	Roger Ringkob	Renville County	Robert Fox
Lincoln County	Larry Hansen	Rock County	Ken Hoime
Lyon County	Absent	Watonwan County ...	Absent
Martin County	Jack Potter	Yellow Medicine Co ...	Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Ryan O'Connor (AMC - Phone), Randy Fordice (CAPX2020), Jay Trusty (Staff) and Annette Bair (Staff).

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION: Chairman Fox asked those present to introduce themselves. Following introductions, Chairman Fox indicated several people are missing from today's meeting because of a conflict with the annual Minnesota River Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were no announcements.

AGENDA:

M/S/P Tinklenberg, Warmka to approve the agenda as written.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Oeltjenbruns, Potter to approve the May 18th minutes as written.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BILLS: Treasurer Hansen reviewed the financial report and presented the bills as follows: HGA: period ending March 27th in the amount of \$5,375, period ending May 22nd in the amount of \$3,762.50, period ending June 26th in the amount of \$5,912.50, and period ending June 30th in the amount of \$2,150; SRDC: for May 2009 in the amount of \$2,450.20 and for June 2009 in the amount of \$932.29; and Stoel Rives for April and May services in the amount of \$3,517.50.

M/S/P Hoime, Thier to approve the 4 HGA bills paid using the LCCMR funds.

M/S/P Thier, Warmka to approve the Stoel Rives bill, paid from the RMEB/MEPC designated funds.

M/S/P Warmka, Tinklenberg to approve payment of the bills from the SRDC.

Rural Metro Project-Joint Wind Initiative: Trusty reported that there had been some confusion regarding the LCCMR grant extension and referenced members to a letter that was provided as a handout at the meeting. It had been understood by the RMEB that when the Winona County language was extended that the RMEB would also be included

with that extension. Fox and Trusty have met with LCCMR staff and are scheduled to meet with the LCCMR Board on July 28th to formally request an extension. Until an extension is granted all work on the project was stopped as of June 30th. Bair was asked to send an e-mail regarding the results of the July 28th meeting with LCCMR to the member counties.

Counties who have expressed an interest in the joint project will be called into a meeting once a proforma has been developed. Commissioners indicated they are working with the 2010 budget and they need to know numbers for any funding needs in 2010.

WEBSITE: The RMEB website has changed to the following address: www.rmeb.org.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Chairman Fox reported that the RMEB Legislation did pass this last session as a revenue bond, not a general obligation bond as requested. Commissioners asked about the ability to do CREB funds. It was indicated that one of the attorneys from the Metro Counties is looking into that.

- **Production Tax and Levy Limits:** Upon discussion, the language is confusing. A clarification on exactly what the impact of the Levy limit and the production tax needs to be developed and shared among member counties. Commissioner Vickerman first reported that production tax was line item vetoed but there was support for removing the production tax from the Levy limits.

SW CERT UPDATE: Bair reported that for the upcoming funding cycle, the SRDC will be contracting with the University of Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnerships rather than The Minnesota Project. The reason for the change is the SW CERT area is similar in nature to the other 6 rural CERT areas and they have more in common. Of current concern are one year contracts that the Department of Commerce is going to be working with. The reason that is difficult is that trying to administer the Seed Grants makes the timing difficult for administration.

- **Green Core Applications:** Bair and O'Connor described the application and potential for getting competent labor to assist current county staff with energy areas such as inventorying energy efficient measures in the counties. Along with potential of the Energy Board considering a Green Core Member would be a proposal by the Solid Waste Administrators to the Solid Waste Commission to consider solid waste assistance for those 12 counties. After much discussion, it was decided that due to the tight deadlines there was not enough and background needed to make a decision. It was decided that Bair is to work with O'Connor for the potential of applying for a Green Core Member next year. ,

O'Connor indicated that the West Central Initiative Foundation currently has an Energy Intern who is working and it is thought that the work of a Green Core Member maybe something similar to what that Intern is doing. Bair will check with the West Central Initiative Foundation to find out how that Intern is working out.

OTHER BUSINESS:

O'Conner reported that AMC is looking at doing about 5 workshops in Minnesota called the County Energy Innovation Seminar. The closest ones for this area would be in

Mankato and in Alexandria. These workshops and seminars are going to be ½ day seminars held sometime between mid-September and October. Commissioners indicated that once it gets into October it gets difficult for the farm community.

Bair provided an update on the USDA REAP Applications that are due on August 31st. As of July 17th, USDA has received 84 applications of which 49 were from Southwest Minnesota and the majority were for grain dryers.

Bair provided an update on the activities of the County Wind Work Group and how they are interacting with Developers and Zoning Administrators. Commissioner Ringkob indicated his County Zoning Engineer and Administrator have been meeting with the developers on that large wind project that is coming down into Jackson and Martin County over the next year. He believes that the meetings have been beneficial for the counties who have participated in the Wind Work Group. Bair explained that she shared the information about the Engineers checklist and the website information to the member County Engineers and Zoning Administrators as soon as she knows of a Wind Project that is going through the Public Utilities Commission wind sighting process which has assisted in increasing the knowledge to the county personnel hired to a project being permitted.

Fordice provided an update on CAPX2020 and the Biennial Transmission Plan hearing. The hearings are planned to be Webcasts this year.

NEW BUSINESS: The Legislative Committee needs to be meeting early this year, maybe November/December and meeting with the Governor candidates on RMEB issues. Commissioners commented that AMC is looking at finalizing their legislative agenda in September. There will be two items for each AMC Policy Committee.

It is reported that Walz and Peterson have a bill to modify passive the income tax rules for wind turbines so more people can take advantage of it.


Next Meeting: The next meeting dates will be on September 28th and on November 23rd. Fox indicated that he plans to meet with the MN River Board Director to discuss scheduling meetings so that they do not conflict in calendar year 2010. There are normally conflicts in January and May. Bair asked if there are any thoughts on presentations or speakers for the September 28th meeting. Fordice indicated that the second phase of the distributed generation study should be coming out in early September that may be a good presentation for the RMEB.

Adjourn: Chairman Fox adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

Minutes Approved By:



Energy Board Secretary

Energy Board Chairperson