

**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY May 21, 2018
CRD Office, Slayton, MN**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County Will Purvis
Brown County Dennis Potter
Cottonwood Co..... Tom Appel
Faribault County absent
Freeborn County..... Glen Mathiason
Jackson County Don Wachal
Lincoln County Mic VanDeVere
Lyon County Steve Ritter
Martin County excused

Mower County Tim Gabrielson
Murray County Gerald Magnus
Nobles County..... Gene Metz
Pipestone County Dan Wildermuth
Redwood County Dennis Groebner
Renville County Bob Fox
Rock County..... Gary Overgaard
Sibley County Gary Kruggel
Watonwan County absent

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Pierson (SBDC), Cheryl Glaeser (WOW / Achieve TFC), Christina Yagjian (Tradewind Energy), Jean Christoffels (Murray County), Jordan Burmeister (Geronimo Energy), Annette Fiedler & Robin Weis (SRDC – RMEB Staff)

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Vice Chairman Metz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chairman Metz led the Pledge.

INTRODUCTIONS: All were asked to introduce themselves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none.

AGENDA: Vice Chairman Metz asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. The item under Other Business and Reports was removed because the guest was unable to attend today's meeting. They will be added to a future agenda.

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

MINUTES:

M/S/P: VanDeVere, Purvis to approve the minutes of April 2, 2018 as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Magnus reported on the financial status of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board. Pending bills are as follows: *General \$1305, finance for PACE, \$245, Pace outreach \$2275.98, Lobbyist 3606.20, Fiscal management – Finance 332.50.* The total RMEB funds available after pending \$120,794.27.

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

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Executive Committee: no report.

PACE Committee: Gerald Magnus, Gene Metz (new chair), Will Purvis, Scott Sanders, Bob Fox, Robin Weis. Weis reviewed the material regarding the scenarios for the future of PACE brought forward from the PACE subcommittee, as requested at the April 2, 2018 RMEB meeting. PACE was a pilot project for the RMEB and funding sources were loans which require being paid back, some with interest. Each county was asked to report on if they had spoken to their Board and what the initial response was, as well as questions. This was a lengthy discussion with many questions. Weis will be presenting at AMC 7 and 8; and will be working to arrange for communication (meeting/call) for the three counties that are not in the two AMC Districts (Renville Freeborn and Mower).

Tour Committee: Ritter, Purvis. Fiedler provided information about the cost of the tour bus with three options and prices, as well as potential bus stops, lunch menu, HERC Visitor Agreement, Lunch choices.

M/S/P Ritter, Wachal to approve the 48 passenger bus with restroom at \$1536.50, which will include the non-refundable 10% down.

Bus stops were discussed, Stop 2 at TH 59/14 should be changed if we do not have permission to Garvin Park, one mile north on TH 59; Ritter will check with the Lyon County Parks to make sure we have permission to park there. Commissioners also identified the roundabout that will have a detour north of Sleepy Eye, stop 3 may need to change. Fiedler will work with the bus company.

It was planned that there will be two short business meetings during lunch at the HERC facility to address bills by both the RMEB and the Solid Waste Commission. After a brief discussion, it was decided by the RMEB that the Executive Committee address payment of bills – as per policies, and recommend the Solid Waste Commission also do the same.

M/S/P Fox, VanDeVere to approve Executive committee address payment of bills the RMEB would normally review at their July meeting.

Legislative Committee: Gene Metz (chair), Gerald Magnus, Tom Warmka, Steve Flohrs. There was not a lot of activity that occurred related to energy at the legislature this year. There has been some issues regarding union and local jobs – and the definition of local needs to be cleaned up.

GERONIMO ENERGY: Jordan Burmeister provided an update on projects in the area. Geronimo is a Mn based company; all their solar and wind projects have a community or education fund for local benefit. Burmeister discussed several of the wind and solar projects (Blazing Star 1 and 2, Plum Creek with a 25 mile transmission line to the north connecting to the CAPX line, Prairie Rose 2. Energy storage if used is likely to be lithium ion, and located for solar near the substations. Elk Creek solar (200 mw) in Rock county is would be about 1600 acres. Pipestone Solar (50 mw) proposed to be operational in 2021.

WIND ON THE WIRES UPDATE: Cheryl Glaeser has been working to help counter wind opposition; she asked that if you come across any anti wind billboards, to let her know the location so work can be done to counter them. She noted that with the Freeborn project, the ALJ has recommended to the PUC 1500' setbacks, a 50 decibel ambient noise limit, and ice throw monitoring devices. Several projects are being planned – EDF near Marshall and Luverne, APEX in Cottonwood/Martin (300mw), Nobles 2 (260 mw) and Faribault (200 mw). WOW has applied for an LCCMR grant to assist in convening of communities where there is wind opposition. Also discussed was the tower lights being triggered by aircraft, rather than always blinking at night. There was also the caution that at some point there may be a saturation point for the turbines, and lighting may be one way to reduce any opposition to turbine development.

TRADEWIND ENERGY: Christina Yagjian provided an introduction to Tradewind Energy, based in Kansas, they have about 150 employees and are growing. She wanted to introduce herself to the RMEB and let them know that they are in the early stages (land leases and MISO queue) of the 4 Mile Wind, a 300 MW

project in Jackson and Martin Counties (planned for 2021 in service). Also Fillmore County with 50 MW solar project.

Member Updates on Energy Projects and Issues from Respective Counties:

- Discussion on production tax and generation. What affects generation? Not as windy the last two years, and turbines lose 12-5% efficiency per year due to age. This was discussed and thought to be due to down time and repairs.
- County reports on what is happening with Energy and Transmission projects and issues.
 - Cottonwood: Plum Creek, APEX, Nextra, Jeffers repower.
 - Sibley – solar south of gibbon not operational yet.
 - Freeborn – some small solar going in. Glaeser mentioned that some of the solar arrays being installed are for large dairy operations to reduce their energy load.
 - Jackson – Trimont repower
 - Rock Prairie Rose, Elk Creek, and EDF (Walleye 100 mw south of Beaver Creek and near Hills.)
 - Pipestone Stone Ray 102 mw under construction

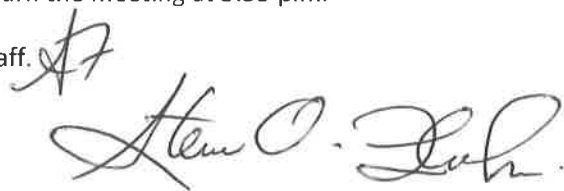
SW CERT: Fiedler shared information about the outreach CERT will be assisting with in the MERC communities regarding the free water kits for residents with natural gas.

2018 MEETING DATES: July 23 (tour), September 24 and November 26. Presenters at September meeting may include: Josh Fiala

ADJOURN:

M/S/P Groebner, Young to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By Annette Fiedler, Staff.



Minutes Reviewed By
Energy Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By
Energy Board Chairperson