

**MINUTES**  
**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY January 26, 2009, 9:30 A.M.**  
**Center for Regional Development, SLAYTON, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County .....	Mark Piepho	Murray County .....	Kevin Vickerman
Chippewa County.....	Absent	Nobles County.....	David Benson
Cottonwood County.....	John Oletjenbruns	Pipestone County.....	Marv Tinklenberg
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	.....	Jim Keyes
.....	Butch Erichsrud	Redwood County .....	Excused
Jackson County.....	Roger Ringkob	Renville County.....	Robert Fox
Lincoln County .....	Larry Hansen	Rock County. ....	Ken Hoime
Lyon County .....	Steve Ritter	Watsonwan County .....	Scott Sanders
Martin County.....	Jack Potter	Yellow Medicine Co .....	Ron Antony
Mower County .....	Absent		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Arlene Vee (MPCA), Randy Fordice (CAPX2020), Al Kokesch (Redwood Co. Commissioner), Sarah Doty (Rochester Post Bulletin), Corey Juhl (Juhl Wind Inc.), Dan Juhl (Juhl Wind Inc.), Jay Trusty (Staff), Annette Bair (Staff); Ryan O'Conner join the meeting via phone from 9:55 to 11:15.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Vice Chairman Fox

**INTRDUCTIONS:** Vice-Chairman Fox asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

**M/S/P** Vickerman, Hoime to approve the following changes to the agenda: Moving the Rural Metro report to item 6A and including C-BED legislation and a report on Congressman's Walz's meetings in the area.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Benson, Warmka to approve the minutes of November 26, 2008.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Treasurer Hansen reviewed the financial report which included the following bills: MCIT insurance for \$2,250 for CY 2009; SRDC Nov. and Dec. invoices for \$1,600 & \$1,100; and Campbell Knutson for \$225. The financial report included the audit report which had no findings.

**M/S/P** Warmka, Benson to approve the financial report and payment of bills as identified.

**JOINT POWERS BOARD OPERATNAL BUSINESS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**LCCMR Project Status:** Trusty reported that Xcel Energy may be interested in being the utility for the PPA, as well as a potential equity partner and is interested in the Production Tax Credit. There were 3 ownership models to choose from: public, private, combination. Time line: the project is progressing within the LCCMR timeline. In mid-February, the feasibility study on

methane for the Lyon Co Landfill will be completed. MEPC are working on legislative language for legislation that did not pass last year. If all goes forward, the project will be completed within the LCCMR timeline. If not, then Winona County is asking for an extension – which if granted will automatically include this project.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

**Chair:** Vice-Chairman Fox turned the meeting over to the Nominating Committee of Hansen, Hoime, & Benson. The Nominating Committee has put forward the name of Bob Fox as RMEB Chair. Nominating Committee Chair Hoime asked for other nominations.

**M/S/P** Potter, Benson to cast a unanimous ballot for Bob Fox to serve as RMEB Chair.

**Vice-Chair:** Chairman Fox requested the Nominating Committee recommendations for Vice-Chair. Hoime reported there are two individual names brought forward for Vice-Chair, Commissioner Tom Warmka and Commissioner Kevin Vickerman. The Nominating Committee requested a ballot vote. Chairman Fox asked for other nominations.

**M/S/P** Benson, Antony to close nominations. Members were reminded one vote per county. The ballots were collected and Nominating Committee Chairman Hoime counted the ballots. Tom Warmka is RMEB Vice-Chairman.

**Secretary:** Chairman Fox asked for nominations for the position of Secretary. Vickerman, Hansen to nominate Ken Hoime.

**M/S/P** Tinklenberg, Warmka to cast a unanimous ballot for Ken Hoime to serve as RMEB Secretary.

**Treasurer:** Chairman Fox asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer. Warmka, Sanders to nominate Larry Hansen as RMEB Secretary.

**M/S/P** Benson, Antony to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Larry Hansen to serve as RMEB Secretary.

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS** The Executive Committee will be meeting before the next Energy Board meeting to develop a draft budget. Chairman Fox reported there are four subcommittees existing membership of the subcommittees are as follows:

**Legislative:** Warmka who will now be assigned as Chair, Fox, Benson, Thier, Vickerman. There is room for additional members.

**Rural Metro:** Warmka, Fox, Hanson, and Hoime.

**LCCMR:** Fox, Warmka, Benson

**Legislative Committee:** Fox reviewed HF 3585 from last year. It gave the counties the right to participate in C-BED projects, but the authority to bond did not pass. Benson (SRDC Legislative Com chair) reported moving forward with the correction of the Production Tax, have support from Vickerman, Frederickson, Hamilton, and Falk. Juhl described legislation for C-BED that will use a standardized contract for the PPA. This will help CBED projects move forward (reducing the delay of negotiating a PPA). The RMEB was requested to support this CBED initiative for standardized PPA contracts.

**M/S/P** Warmka, Benson to approve resolution 1-2009 in support of a standard C-BED PPA contract provision.

**Discussion:** Bair was requested to send a copy of this resolution to member counties for their consideration of support.

Fox asked if any other Commissioner would be in Washington during the NACo Legislative conference. Antony indicated he would be there for work force council on the same dates.

#### **MEMBER COUNTY UPDATES ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

- **Blue Earth County:** New Justice Center should be open by April or May.
- **Cottonwood County:** Jeffers area land leases. Currently 50 MW in the Jeffers area and Outland energy is looking to develop another 100 MW.
- **Faribault County:** Law enforcement Center – geothermal is being installed. Very happy with the insulation package – it is easy to heat.
- **Jackson County:** Will consider delegation. Developers are contacting landowners regarding wind rights leases. May need a workshop focusing on leases. Bair will contact the SW Initiative Foundation REDI program to see if they could assist in facilitating a workshop.
- **Lincoln County:** Discussion with MnDOT as a partner for a small wind turbine – there is not a good payoff, and MnDOT will not be considered a refurbished generator for cost effectiveness.
- **Martin County:** Another 100MW of wind are in the works (currently have 200 MW installed).
- **Murray County:** Currently, there is a lawsuit with a wind company and the county because the county permitted a small wind project with lesser setbacks than a large wind facility permitted by the state. The delegated county wind ordinance has just been adopted. MnDOT and the Murray County Hospital are considering working together on a wind project, they currently spend \$120,000 in electricity. The payoff would be 15-20 years.
- **Nobles County:** Working on an energy efficiency project (insulation) on the third floor of courthouse.
- **Renville County:** 40 MW Wind Project with National Wind near Bird Island is in the process of being developed.

- **Rock County:** Geronimo Wind is looking at installing 80-133 wind turbines (up to 200 MW) by 2010.
- **Yellow Medicine County:** Plan to adopt a new wind ordinance in February.
- **CAPX 2020:** Brookings to Hampton. Potentially anticipate meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March. Fox indicated that information should be gotten into local libraries.

**CERT Update**

- **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Wind forum in Redwood Falls:** Bair reported that the forum went well. There were 150 people registered and about 130 come to the event.
- **SW CERT Conference Feb 10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Hand-out and Brochure:** Commissioner indicated Tuesdays do not work well for County Commissioners.
- Bair reported she continues to work with the County Engineers in southern Minnesota to look at constant policies and guidance on working with wind development. - Indicated that Communication at all levels is being worked on. Bair is on the state energy facility mailing list and contact the Highway Engineer and ZA in the respective SW CERT or Energy Board County to make sure they are getting the information. She is encouraging other Regional entities to also do the same. Nobles County has a good document for guidance to Townships that was developed for powerlines – but much is also applicable for wind power development. Bair distributed a draft matrix of county permit, ordinances, and policies and asked if it would be appropriate to post on the RMEB website. The Matrix is to be posted on the RMEB website.
- **CERT Mini Grants:** Bair reported that only one grant request for \$500 was received. We have about \$3100 in mini grant funds that were not used with other projects; and there is a potential second round project funded at \$7500 that will not be able to use the funds. SW CERT will be asking if there can be an extension.

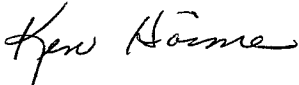
**NEW BUSINESS:** Waltz meeting dates January 29<sup>th</sup> Mankato, Rochester, Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Luverne. RMEB members were encouraged to attend and encourage the PTC to be extended.

**MEETING DATES:** Others on call by Chair.  
2009 dates – March 23<sup>rd</sup> (tentatively @ Highwater Ethanol), May 18<sup>th</sup>, July 27<sup>th</sup>,  
September 28<sup>th</sup>, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.

Minutes Reviewed By:

  
Energy Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By:

  
Energy Board Chairperson