

**MINUTES**  
**RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY July 23, 2012 1:00 P.M.**  
**CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Blue Earth County.....	Will Purvis	Murray County .....	Kevin Vickerman
Brown County.....	Dennis Potter	Nobles County.....	absent
Cottonwood County .....	John Oletjenbruns	Pipestone County .....	Marv Tinklenberg
Faribault County .....	Tom Warmka	Redwood County ... ..	John Schueller
Freeborn County.....	Glen Mathiason	Renville County.....	Bob Fox
Jackson County.....	Dave Henkels	Rock County .....	Ken Hoime
Lincoln County.....	Larry Hansen	Sibley County .....	excused
Lyon County.....	Steve Ritter	Watonwan County .....	Scott Sanders
Martin County .....	Jack Potter	Yellow Medicine Co .....	absent
Mower County.....	absent		

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gene Short; Annette Bair, Staff.

**CALL TO ORDER :** The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Chair Warmka.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Warmka asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda

**M/S/P** Tinklenberg, Schueller to approve the agenda as presented.

**MINUTES:**

**M/S/P** Fox, Ritter to approve the Minutes of June 4, 2012 as presented.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Hansen referred the Commissioners to the finance handout and the bills submitted.

**M/S/P** D. Potter, Vickerman to approve the financial report and payment of the following bills:

- Benson \$ 98.85 (testimony at Luverne – Rep Davids)
- SRDC \$1519.38 (June)
- Fryberger \$61.05 (May)
- Campbell Knutson \$30 (May)

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Legislative Committee.** The Board discussed legislative issues worked on over the past two years, including the production tax and the levy limit issue; the Rural Metro project that was partially funded through a grant from LCCMR; and the fact that the Energy Board covers more than just wind, but also solar, biofuels (soy diesel, isobutonal, ethanol), CERTs, hydro power, and methane from landfills. Dist 22A candidate Short asked questions about issues and the RMEB clarified issues.

The RMEB has a lobbyist who has worked on the production tax issue. The RMEB plans to invite all the respective legislators to the November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to help them understand the energy issues from the RMEB member county perspective.

**SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> TOUR.** Commissioner Fox is assisting in making arrangement for the RMEB tour of the CAPX2020 line in Renville County the morning of September 10<sup>th</sup>. The tour begins at 9:30 in the Fairfax area and is planned to end at 11:30. A limited number of vehicles will be taken, Fox is arranging for 2-3 bus / vans. A location for lunch is being arranged and the RMEB will meet following lunch. Bair needs the number of commissioners planning to attend from each county by August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**ITV DISCUSSION.** Bair reported that Commission Nytes was unable to attend today, but indicated that his preference is face to face meetings. The RMEB discussed ITV for the November meeting and decided that since they plan to meet with the legislators, the November meeting would not be a good forum to try the new technology. Bair will contact the ITV facilities that had been tentatively reserved and cancel the reservations.

**MEMBER UPDATES ON ENERGY PROJECTS AND ISSUES**

- Freeborn: Shell Rock wind farm has interconnect issues slowing them down.
- Renville: Buffalo Lake Ethanol plant has reopened
- Murray: Commissioner discussed an extension of the permit for the solar farm. There have been issues with material back orders and property ownership.
- Faribault: Fagan is the construction manager; they expect to have the wind farm up and running this year yet. There has been talk of large wind farm in the area.

**SW CERT UPDATE**

- Seed grants. Due to a low number of applications statewide, the deadline was extended to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Bair asked the Commissioners if they would help get the word out about the Seed Grants. Commissioner Hansen asked Bair to get in touch with the RTR Principal.
- Energy Network Mapping Bair outlined that the Commissioners who are CERT Steering Committee members were identified in the network mapping that will help identify people and their connections with renewable energy and energy efficiency around the state.
- New initiatives: the Spray Valve campaign will again be worked on this fall.
- Lighting Audits. Minnesota Center for energy and Environment are contracted with Xcel Energy and Alliant Energy to do free lighting audits for small businesses. They also help package rebates with the power company (if the contractor works with CEE to make sure the retrofits identified by CEE are ordered and completed). Audits are encouraged, and businesses should contact their local utilities so see if there is no cost or low costs audits that they can do. Bair was asked to send the information out to commissioners who will forward it to the city and county EDA's.

**NEW BUSINESS.** Commissioner J Potter reported that Xcel Energy has about 32% of their power from Coal plants, 32 from Natural gas, and 20% from nuclear. They are increasing their natural gas plants. It appears there will not be any more coal plants permitted.


**MEETING DATES – 2012 meeting dates** (usually 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of odd months) – 1:00 PM:

- September 10, tour (& mtg) of CAPX2020 project in Fairfax
- November 26, revisit the 2013 dues set in June, develop draft 2013 budget, meeting with legislators

**ADJOURN.**

**M/S/P** Purvis, D Potter to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff 

Minutes Reviewed By:  Ken Hoome

Energy Board Secretary

Minutes Approved By: 

Energy Board Chairperson