

**MINUTES
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD MEETING
MONDAY November 28, 2011 9:30 A.M.
CRD, SLAYTON, MN**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Blue Earth County	Will Purvis,	Murray County	absent
Cottonwood County	John Oletjenbruns	Nobles County	David Benson
Faribault County	Tom Warmka,	Pipestone County	Marv Tinklenberg
Jackson County.	Roger Ringkob	Redwood County.....	John Schueller
Lincoln County	Larry Hansen	Renville County	Bob Fox
Lyon	Steve Ritter	Rock County	Ken Hoime
Martin County	Jack Potter	Watsonwan County	Scott Sanders
Mower County	Absent	Yellow Medicine Co	absent

ALSO PRESENT: Vince Robinson, Lincoln County Enterprise Services; Yvonne Simon, Center for Rural Policy and Development; Dennis Potter, Brown County Commissioner; Jim Nytes, Sibley County Commissioner; Glen Mathiason, Freeborn County Commissioner; Annette Bair, Staff,

CALL TO ORDER : The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS:

- Dec 5, the RMEB is meeting from 11:30 to 1:00 in Greenway E at the Minneapolis Hyatt, the RMEB will finalize the Agenda later in the meeting
- AMC Outstanding Service Award - Congratulations to Commissioner Tinklenberg of Pipestone Co

AGENDA:

M/S/P Tinklenberg, Benson to approve the Agenda as presented.

MINUTES:

M/S/P Sanders, Purvis to approve the Minutes of September 26, 2011 as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Treasurer Hansen reviewed the RMEB general operating financial report and the bills submitted for payment. Bills are: Benson \$307.62 and \$295.95 legislative and MEPC presentation of RMEB materials; Sept and October SRDC \$1290 and 1263.23; Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith, Frederick, PA Sept and Oct 214.6 and 414.40, \$25 AMC for Bair's presentation expense at D7 AMC mtg.

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

M/S/P Hansen, Ritter to approve the CY 2012 contract with the SRDC to staff the RMEB at the same rates as CY 2011.

M/S/P Ritter, Hansen to approve the CY 2012 Letter of Engagement with Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith, Frederick, PA that specifies lobbying work in relation to the levy limit and the wind production tax.

Discussion: Concern was expressed regarding the narrow focus of the Letter of Engagement. If other areas of concern to the RMEB come up, could the RMEB be notified? Can changes to the Letter of

Engagement be made at a later date to address the concerns? Commissioners decided they could speak with Walli at AMC when he comes to address the RMEB Dec 5th meeting regarding the levy limit and production tax legislative initiative.

Sub Committee Reports

Executive Committee – draft Budget for CY 2012 Bair was asked to review the draft budget with the RMEB members. All items were described. The last item (potential NADO presentation in Vermont) was discussed at length.

M/S/P Benson, Purvis to approve the line item of \$2050 for Bair to attend the NADO Peer Conference to present on the Development Agreement if the project is selected.

Discussion: the estimated cost of the trip is \$4100, the SRDC would cover the other part of the costs. An abstract must be submitted before January 20, 2012 for presentation consideration. Bair was also asked to give the Development Agreement Presentation during the RMEB meeting at AMC. This is the same presentation given at the D7 AMC meeting.

M/S/P Fox, Ritter to approve the CY 2012 budget as presented.

Discussion: the RMEB discussed potential new members and requested Bair to send the Counties of Freeborn, Sibley, and Brown copies of the joint Powers Agreement and the Policy document. Also discussed was if a presentation was needed before a County Board if it could be arranged during a County Board Work Session, so a RMEB Commissioner would not miss their own respective Board meeting.

Legislative Committee – Legislative Committee Chair reviewed the Nov 21st meeting Two items that were identified for RMEB work / support were: Wind Production Tax in relation to the Levy Limits and support of continued of CERT funding. Topic of legislative breakfast shared with the SRDC was also discussed. Commissioners provided some history for guests about the original 4 county Wind Task Force moving into the current 16 county RMEB, and the Wind Production Tax and the levy limit.

M/S/P Fox, J. Potter to ratify the CWS Resolution.

Discussion: The due to limited time constraints for the CWS project, the RMEB Executive Committee approved the Chairman to sign a resolution for Community Wind South. The Resolution is the same as previously approved by the RMEB this year; however the Developer needed a very recent signature to move forward with the financing of the project. CWS and CWN are the two locally developed projects that satisfy 60 megawatts of “small locally-owned wind projects”, a condition placed on Certificates of Need granted by Order of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission under Docket No. EW-002/CN-01-1958.

December 5th draft Agenda. Bair reviewed the draft agenda for the AMC Dec 5th meeting. Under sharing of projects, Bair reviewed a developed a handout that has information about two of the three projects listed, Purvis was asked to assist with information regarding the Landfill to Methane project. Members also indicated they would like to see Gevo added.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONERS Purvis, Ringkob, and J Potter were appointed to the nominating committee.

POTENTIAL 2012 FIELD TRIPS. Potential tours identified were: Lake Mills, Iowa – methane gas from landfill, Prairieland Facility from composting to RDF, GEVO, Morris, MN, GRE in Maple Grove, MISO in St Paul. If dealing with solid waste perhaps also include Solid Waste Commission.

MEMBER AND GUEST UPDATES

Faribault Co – Wind project has an aggressive work schedule, wires underground, 4” gravel on haul roads, the hope to get 18 tower bases installed if weather holds. The development agreement first developed in Freeborn county and modified by Jackson was used in Faribault county and their template. In Martin co, Prairieland composting facility has moved from Composting to RDF. They have a grinder and processer and are looking at other counties to join.

Rock Co – In December a helicopter will be adding a line to the 345 line between Sioux Falls and Lakefield Junction.

Sibley County – Invite RMEB members to come and speak with their board for potentially joining the RMEB. Bair is to communicate with County staff to identify dates that may work for an RMEB member to meet with the Sibley County Commissioners.

Pipestone Co. NE part of the county was hit by the summer storm, near Ruthton. Suzon has a maintenance crew for compliance with the JOBZ parameters.

Lincoln Co. Need to support additional transmission development or there will be very long term expensive transmission upgrades.

Lyon Co: New library. When Lyon Co approved providing funds for the Marshall library, they stipulated that the funds were designated for geothermal.

Jackson Co: Lakefield project has a little over 300 towers. What are other counties doing with the production tax funds? Jackson is using some for general budget and the rest for capital improvements. RMEB asked Bair to send that request to the counties to find out how they use the production tax.

Brown Co: There are a couple of permitted wind farms, not yet built. Region 9 has assisted the County with economic development prioritization. Easy Energy is working on a project in the county for ethanol production at a cannery.

Freeborn County:

Center for Rural Policy and Development – Yvonne Simon. The Center is a 501 c 3 non-profit. Two research papers they are working on are below. If you have any thoughts on these please forward them to Bair who will forward to Simon.

- Local Government Transformation – services paired and shared.
- Regulations affecting the survival of City, Township, county for any projects.

Blue Earth Co: Geothermal system continues to be the best decision they have made. The Rapidan dam is not flowing due to low water – but \$1.3 in repairs were made with FEMA funds which will make the dam last many more years.

Martin Co: Prairieland before they went to RDF, 30-40% of their intake was taken to the land fill, now with the RDF, 90% goes to RDF.

Renville Co: Norfolk wind project looks to start in about a year.

Nobles Co: Energy review of county buildings. They are looking at implementing measure s over 3 years. CWS – has the document signed and anticipate to be running by August 2012. They are working with a German firm Juwi.

St Johns report. Fox toured the St Johns 575,000 kW solar farm. Westwood Renewable installed the system, Xcel Energy was a partner and provided a \$2 million grant and get the credits. Our solar

resource is equal to that of Miami, Florida; Germany has 7 times more solar (2 yrs ago) and has the equivalent solar access as Alaska; The solar farm is 3.9 acres (fenced), there are 1820 3' x 5' panels that move. They provide 4% of St Johns electricity and 20% during peak use. The panels are built to withstand hailstones at 100 mph, but get damaged by stones thrown by lawnmowers. The tour took about 45 minutes.

Smart Grid. Warmka reported that a speaker he heard at AMC is will to come to the RMEB to give a presentation the Smart Grid, and how the grid needs to be improved by the year 2040.

SW CERT update

- Green Step Cities – Recommend cities in your counties who would be interested in becoming a GreenStep city – brief presentation http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/sites/default/files/GreenStepPresentation_SW_0.pdf
- Upcoming initiatives – RAM light up your holidays
- SW CERT Steering Committee – A Seed Grant review meeting is scheduled for December 15; however there were applications for less than the \$10,000. Steering committee members are looking to remove the 25% match, but keep the parameters of non profit and unit of government, and re issue the RFP. RMEB members voiced had no objections. The meeting will likely be shifted to a date when more applications have been received.

Meeting Dates – 2012 meeting dates (usually 4th Mondays of odd months):

- January 23, election of officers, legislative issues
- March 26,
- June 4, set dues for 2013.
- July 23,
- Summer tour
- September 24,
- November 26, revisit the 2013 dues set in May, develop draft 2013 budget
- Discussion of Technology possible moving of start time to reflect travel for new members. This will be discussed at the January meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Warmka at 11:45 am

Minutes Prepared By Annette Bair, Staff.



Minutes Reviewed By:



Energy Board Secretary



Minutes Approved By:

Energy Board Chairperson