

MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
Aitkin, MN 56431

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative was held at its office in Aitkin, Minnesota on December 21, 2023. All board members were present with Derik Midthun attending virtually.

President Harold Harms called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

All team leaders except Cory Brix, MLEC Construction & ROW Manager, were present for their reports. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nicole Kramer, Assistant to the Administrative Assistant, was introduced to the board.

These minutes being transcribed by or under the direction of Secretary/Treasurer, Aileen DeMenge, the following proceedings were had: (all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board, or without dissenting vote or abstention, unless otherwise stated).

M/S/P to approve consent agenda items, expense vouchers for the period ending December 21, 2023, agenda of the December 21, 2023 regular board meeting, and minutes of the November 22, 2023 regular board meeting.

The team reports, financial reports, and monthly recommended write-offs in the amount of \$3,539.41 for the month of November 2023, were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

Board Resolution

The following resolution was discussed by the board and approved.

M/S/P to approve a board resolution to amend the Pension Plan Deferral to accelerate the remaining five years on the deferral plan.

Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

Preliminary 2024 Budget Review

An updated 2024 Preliminary Budget was presented for Board review and discussion.

M/S/P to approve the 2024 Budget presented by MLEC Management Team.

VOTING

2.1 Policy Review

M/S/P to approve the following revised policies:

- Policy No. 201 – Financial Policy
- Policy No. 201A – Petty Cash
- Policy No. 201B – Checks Under \$25
- Policy No. 201C – Corporate Credit Card
- Policy No. 202 – Investment Policy
- Policy No. 202A – Investment Procedures
- Policy 203 – Bank Depositories

2.2 Activity Reports

- GRE – The December 2023 GRE Board Minutes as submitted by Harold Harms were reviewed.
- MREA – MREA 4th Quarter 2023 Report was reviewed.
Aileen DeMenge gave a verbal report on MREA's December 2023 Board Meeting.
- RUS – none
- CFC – MLEC earned a rebate of \$2,152.25 for CFC's One Card Program.
- NRECA – none
- MAC – none
- FEDERATED – none.
- NRTC – none
- RESCO – none
- NISC – none
- OTHER – CRC 2024 Voting Delegate
- M/S/P to approve Harold Harms as the 2024 CRC Voting Delegate and Aileen DeMenge as the Assistant Delegate.

2.3 MLEC Community Trust Update

M/S/P to approve the appointment of Mavonne Prokop for District 3 and the re-appointment of Bethany Sellers for District 4 and Charles Schotzko for District 5 to Mille Lacs Community Trust Board of Directors as recommended by the Trust Board of Directors.

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

Blue Ethos presented Active Threat Training for all employees on December 13th. CRMC conducted CPR/First Aide Training for all employees on December 14 and 19. Deanna Soderberg presented Hearing Conservation/Oil Spill Cleanup on December 19th.

The 2023 Safety Cross was reviewed. The 2024 Safety Meeting Schedule is being worked on.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

4.1 NRECA BLC Summit

January 16 – 18, 2024, Maple Grove, MN
Attending: Aileen DeMenge

GRE Regional Meeting

February 7 – 8, 2024, Onamia, MN
Attending: Mark Anderson, Aileen DeMenge, Mike Reem and Bruce Robinson.
Harold Harms will be attending as GRE Director.

4.2 NRECA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas

March 1 – 6, 2024

Attending: No one

4.3 CoBank Regional Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

Thursday – Friday, March 14 – 15, 2024

Attending: Harold Harms, Mike Reem, Bruce Robinson, and possibly Aileen DeMenge.

4.4 MREA Annual Meeting, St Paul, MN

March 19 – 20, 2024, Tuesday - Wednesday

Attending: Aileen DeMenge will be attending as MREA Director.

March 18th pre-conference BLC Seminar – Increasing Influence and Building Board Consensus

Attending: Aileen DeMenge

4.5 NRECA Director's Conference

April 6-9, 2024, Nashville, TN

Attending: Possibly Aileen DeMenge

GRE Monthly Meeting

June 5 - 6, 2024

Guest Director invited. Attending: Mike Reem

4.6 CoBank Energy Director's Conference

July 17 – 19, 2024, Boston, MA

Attending:

4.7 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Training

December 4 – 5, 2024

Wednesday – Thursday, Maple Grove

Attending: Derik Midthun

4.8 Other Information:

Three months look ahead @ MLEC Board meeting NON-Reoccurring Agenda Items:

- January 25th:
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article
- February 22nd:
 - Year End Presentation
 - Annual Report to Board on Policy 517
 - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article

Regular Board Meeting Minutes
December 21, 2023

- March 28th:
 - Annual Cogeneration Filings
 - ACRE-REPAC Donations
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

4.9 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, January 25, 2024
- Thursday, February 22, 2024
- Thursday, March 28, 2024

M/S/P to approve Thursday, March 28, 2024 Board meeting date.

M/S/P to approve director participation at all scheduled meetings.

Confidential Discussion/Update

Sarah updated the Board on confidential issues.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Aileen DeMenge Secretary/Treasurer



Harold Harms, President