

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 March 28, 2024. All board members except Aileen DeMenge were present.

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

All team leaders were present for their reports with MLEC CEO Sarah Cron attending virtually. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

These minutes being transcribed by or under the direction of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Robinson, 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 March 28, 2024, agenda of the March 28, 2024 regular board meeting, and minutes of the February 22, 2024 regular board meeting.

M/S/P to approve write-offs in the amount of \$1,285.69 the month of February 2024.

The team reports and financial reports were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

PRESENTATIONS

Eide Bailly, LLP representative Brian Stavenger attended the meeting virtually to review the 2023 MLEC Audit Report. MLEC Attorney Heinrich Brucker also attended.

M/S/P to accept the 2023 MLEC Audit Report.

Economic Development

Jeff Borling, GRE Economic Development Lead, attended the meeting virtually. Jeff and Lincoln Messner presented an economic development proposal and resolution to approve Godward Wild Rice, LLC economic development loan. Bruce Robinson excused himself from the meeting and abstained from voting.

M/S/P to approve the loan and resolution.
Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

VOTING

2.1 Policy Review

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

- Policy No. 107 – Whistle Blower Policy
- Policy No. 309A – PC & Communication Resources Use
- Policy No. 311 – Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence Policy

- Policy No. 312 – Drug & Alcohol Policy for DOT Regulated Employees
- Policy No. 313 – Unpaid Leave of Absences
- Policy No. 314 – Outside Employment for Another Employer
- Policy No. 315 – Drug & Alcohol Policy for All Employees
- Policy No. 316 – Anti-Harassment Policy
- Policy No. 322 – Procurement Conflict of Interest

2.2 Activity Reports

- GRE – The March 2024 GRE Board Minutes submitted by Harold Harms were reviewed.
- MREA – MREA Legislative Bulletins from February 24, March 1, 8, and 15, 2024 were reviewed.
Minnesota House file 3895 was reviewed.
- RUS – none
- CFC – none
- NRECA – NRECA February 2024 Board Update was reviewed.
- MAC – none
- FEDERATED – Notice of Federated 2023 Amount Credited to Member Equity Account and Statement was reviewed.
- NRTC – none
- RESCO – none
- NISC – Notice of NISC 2023 Patronage Capital Credit retirement in the amount of \$6,008.05 was reviewed.
- OTHER – CoBank notice of 2023 Patronage was reviewed. MLEC received an ACH deposit in the amount of \$52,871.68.

M/S/P to accept the board reports.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

Deanna Soderberg of PLS conducted a *Field Audit* on February 22nd and March 14th. MREA presented *Tree Trimming Safety Review, Chain Saw Safety and Safe Use of Clippers* on February 28th. The next safety training is scheduled for April 17th with Deanna Soderberg presenting *Hazard Recognition* for all employees.

The 2024 Safety Meeting Schedule was reviewed.

The 2024 Safety Cross was reviewed.

3.2 Annual Cogeneration Filings

MLEC's 2023 CoGeneration Report was reviewed.

3.3 America's Electric Cooperatives PAC & REPAC Donations

Board members and employees will make PAC and REPAC donations if they wish.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- 4.1 GRE Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Attending: Harold Harms.
Harold is the 2024 Voting Delegate.
- 4.2 Aitkin Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting
Friday, April 26, 2024
Attending: Harold Harms
- 4.3 GRE Monthly Meeting
June 5 - 6, 2024
Guest Director invited. Attending: Mike Reem
- 4.4 MREA District 2 Meeting
Friday, July 12, 2024, Lake Country Power, Cohasset, MN
Attending: Harold Harms, Mike Reem, Bruce Robinson, and Mark Anderson.
Aileen DeMenge will be attending as MREA Director
- 4.5 NRECA Legal Seminar
July 15 – 17, 2024, Traverse City, MI
Attending: Henry Brucker
- 4.6 CoBank Energy Director's Conference
July 17 – 19, 2024, Boston, MA
Attending:
- 4.7 MREA Energy Issues Summit
August 7 – 8, 2024, Bloomington, M
Attending: Harold Harms, Mark Anderson, Mike Reem, and Bruce Robinson.
Aileen DeMenge will be attending as MREA Director.
- 4.8 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Training
December 4 – 5, 2024
Wednesday – Thursday, Maple Grove
Attending: Derik Midthun
- 4.9 Other Information:
Three months look ahead @ MLEC Board meeting NON-Reoccurring Agenda Items:
- April 25th:
 - 2023 Allocation
 - MLEC 990 Review
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

- May 23rd:
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

- June 27th:
 - Board Fees
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

4.10 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, April 25, 2024
- Thursday, May 23, 2024
- Thursday, June 27 2024

4.11 2024 MLEC Annual Meeting and Open House

Thursday, September 19, 2024, MLEC New Headquarters

Neighboring Cooperative Annual Meetings

Crow Wing Power, Saturday, June 15, 2024

East Central Energy, Braham Event Center, Thursday, April 18, 2024

Lake County Power, Mountain Iron, MN, Thursday, April 25, 2024

M/S/P to approve Thursday, June 27, 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 Board met in Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Bruce Robinson, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Harold Harms, President