

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 October 27, 2022. All board members except Don Appel were present.

New employees Nichole Kraemer, Member Service Representative and Rebekka Erdman, Billing Representative were introduced to the board members.

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

All team leaders except Lincoln Messner were present for their reports. Executive Assistant Debra Chute was also present. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 October 27, 2022, agenda of the October 27, 2022 regular board meeting, and minutes of the September 22, 2022 regular board meeting.

The team reports and financial reports for the month of September 2022 were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

BOARD RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were discussed by the board and approved.

M/S/P to approve board resolutions needed so MLEC can apply for the ReConnect Grant. Said resolutions are attached to these minutes.

VOTING

2.1 Unclaimed Property

Capital Credit Unclaimed Property available to schools is \$22,942.95. This amount will be distributed in 2022 to seven area schools.

M/S/P to approve the distribution of Unclaimed Property to schools as recommended by MLEC Finance Team.

2.2 RUS Work Plan

Sarah Cron reviewed documents required for MLEC's 4-Year RUS Work Plan with the board.

M/S/P to approve and sign the documents required to submit the work plan.

2.3 2022 General Retirement of Capital Credits

MLEC Management Team recommended retiring capital credits in the amount of \$305,935.40 in MLEC capital credits and \$498,994.99 in Great River Energy capital credits to be applied to the bills of active members or by check in December.

M/S/P to retire capital credits as recommended by the Management Team.

2.4 Preliminary 2023 Budget Review

The 2023 Preliminary Budget was presented for Board review and discussion.

2.5 Monthly Recommended Write-Offs

M/S/P to approve the recommended electric and fiber write-offs for this month in the amount of \$4,044.63.

2.6 Policy Review

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

- Policy No. 311 – Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence Policy
- Policy No. 312 – Drug & Alcohol Policy for DOT Employees
- Policy No. 313 – Unpaid Leave of Absences
- Policy No. 314 – Outside Employment for Another Employee
- Policy No. 315– Drug & Alcohol Policy for All Employees

2.7 Activity Reports

- GRE – The September and October 2022 GRE Board Minutes as submitted by Harold Harms were reviewed.
- GRE 2023 Proposed Budget as submitted by Harold Harms was reviewed and discussed.
- GRE Resolution – Discussion was held on a resolution for Great River Energy. M/S/P to approve resolution. Said resolution is attached to these minutes.
- MREA – October 2022 Board Minutes were reviewed. MREA Resolutions Review and Call for Resolutions were reviewed.
- RUS – none
- CFC – none
- NRECA – none
- MAC – none
- FEDERATED – none
- NRTC – none
- RESCO – none
- NISC – none
- OTHER – none

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

Deanna Soderberg presented Highway Safety/Load Safety on September 14th. MREA presented Regulators and Controls on October 12th. Deanna Soderberg conducted a Field Audit on October 12th.

The next safety meeting is scheduled for November 15th with Deanna Soderberg presenting Incident Command System, ICS Emergency Restoration Plan and ERP. Deanna

will conduct a *Field Audit* on October 18th.
The 2022 Safety Meeting Schedule and 2022 Safety Cross were reviewed.

3.2 Cold Weather Rule Appeals Committee Update

Committee members were contacted by MLEC's directors. Larry Hamdorf has indicated a desire to step down from the committee. Derik Midthun contacted Lance Baumann as a replacement committee member. All other members agreed to continue serving on the committee.

M/S/P to appoint the committee members who agreed to serve on the committee.

3.3 Quarterly Articles/By-Laws Review

As part of the quarterly update, the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were reviewed.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

NRECA Director Online Courses

A list of online courses was reviewed. Please let Deb Chute know if you would like to take any of the courses. Aileen DeMenge is registered to attend Governance Challenges of the Evolving Distribution Cooperative, November 16 and 17.

4.1 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Training

November 16 – 18, 2022 AND November 30 – December 2, 2022

Wednesday – Friday, Maple Grove

Attending: Mark Anderson and Derik Midthun

Hotel reservations are done for the first session – November 16-18.

4.2 NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Training

November 30 – December 1, 2022

Wednesday – Thursday, Maple Grove

Attending: Mark Anderson and Derik Midthun

Hotel reservations for the second week will be made in October.

4.3 MREA Annual Meeting, St Paul RiverCenter

February 21 – 22, 2023, Tuesday - Wednesday

Final decision on the directors attending will be made at a future meeting.

Voting delegate and alternate will be voted on at the November board meeting.

4.4 NRECA Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN

March 5 – 8, 2023

Aileen DeMenge expressed an interest in attending. A final decision on who will attend will be made at a future meeting.

4.5 CoBank Regional Meeting, Minneapolis, MN

Thursday – Friday, March 16 – 17, 20223

Final decision on the directors attending will be made at a future meeting.

4.6 Other Information:

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

- November 23rd:
 - Updated Preliminary 2023 Budget Review
 - Mille Lacs Community Trust Board Update
 - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article

- December 22:
 - 2023 Budget Review and Approval
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

- January 26th:
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article

Remaining MREA 2021 Board Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday – Wednesday, December 20-21

NOTE: If anyone is interested in attending a MREA Board meeting, please let Deb Chute and Director Aileen DeMenge know so arrangements can be made.

4.7 Board Meeting Dates

- Wednesday, November 23, 2022
- Thursday, December 22, 2022
- Thursday, January 26, 2023

M/S/P to approve Thursday, January 26, 2023 Board meeting date.

4.8 2023 MLEC Annual Meeting Discussion on date and location of the 2023 Annual Meeting was tabled until the November meeting.

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

David Saggau, President and CEO of Great River Energy was a guest presenter. David provided an update on Great River Energy projects and budgets.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Aileen DeMenge, Secretary/Treasurer

Harold Harms, President