

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 28, 2021. All board members were present.

President Harold Harms called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

All team leaders except Operations Manager William Fillion were present for their reports. The Operations Team was represented by Ann Espeseth, AMR/OMS/DIS Specialist. Executive Assistant Debra Chute was also present. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scott Veitenheimer, Board President from Cooperative Light and Power was a guest attendee. Board members and managers introduced themselves.

These minutes being transcribed by or under the direction of Secretary/Treasurer, Barbara Welty, 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 28, 2021, agenda of the October 28, 2021 regular board meeting, and minutes of the September 23, 2021 regular board meeting.

The team reports and financial reports for the month of September 2021 were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

#### 2021 General Retirement of Capital Credits

MLEC Accounting and Finance Manager recommended retiring capital credits in the amount of \$300,000 in MLEC capital credits and \$700,834 in GRE capital credits to be applied to the bills of active members or by check to inactive members in December.

M/S/P to retire capital credits as recommended by the Accounting and Finance Manager.

2022 Preliminary Budget was presented for Board review and discussion.

#### VOTING

##### 2.1 Monthly Recommended Write-Offs

M/S/P to approve the recommended electric write-offs for this month in the amount of \$3,024.01.

##### 2.2 Policy Review

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

- Policy No. 206 – Patronage Capital Credits
- Policy No. 518 – Interconnection Policy for Distributed Resources
- Policy No. 518A – Rider for Standby Service
- Policy No. 519 – Cooperative Line Maintenance Program

- Policy No. 520 – Cooperative Line Construction Program
- Policy No. 521 – Stray Voltage (Neutral to Earth Voltage)

### 2.3 Activity Reports

- GRE – The September 2021 GRE Board Minutes as submitted by Harold Harms was reviewed. Harold gave a verbal report on October's GRE board meeting.
- MREA – September 2021 MREA Report was reviewed. Barb Welty gave a verbal report on the October MREA Board meeting.
- RUS – none
- CFC – none
- NRECA – NRECA September 2021 Board Meeting Report was reviewed.
- MAC – none
- FEDERATED – none
- NRTC – none
- RESCO – none
- NISC – none
- OTHER – CoBank
  - CoBank 2021 Election results was reviewed. Robert (Mac) McLennan was elected in Central Region.
  - Matt Hale was recently hired as CoBank Relationship Manager for MLEC.

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

## REPORTS

### 3.1 Safety Control

There was no safety training between the September and October board meetings. The October 21<sup>st</sup> Field Audit with Deanna Soderberg of PLS will be rescheduled.

The next safety meeting is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup> with MREA presenting *Hot Line Work with Emphasis on Rubber Gloving*. Field Audit with Deanna Soderberg is tentatively scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup>.

The 2021 Safety Cross was reviewed.

### 3.2 Cold Weather Rule Appeals Committee Update

Committee members were contacted by MLEC's directors. All members agreed to continue serving 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.

### 3.4 Unclaimed Property

\$22,894.70 will be distributed in 2021 to seven area schools.

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- 4.1 MREA Legislative Summit, Online, Wednesday November 10, 2021  
Attending: Harold Harms, Carol Pundt, Mike Reem and Barb Welty will be attending at MLEC Office.
- 4.2 NRECA Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN and Online  
March 6 – 9, 2022  
Preconference workshops – March 4 - 6, 2022  
A final decision on who is attending will be made at a future meeting.
- 4.3 MREA Annual Meeting, St Paul RiverCenter  
March 15 - 16, 2022, Tuesday - Wednesday  
A final decision on who is attending will be made at a future meeting.
- 4.4 CoBank Regional Meeting, JW Marriott Mall of America, Minneapolis, MN  
Thursday – Friday, March 17 – 18, 2022  
A final decision on who is attending will be made at a future meeting.

4.5 Other Information:

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

- November 30<sup>th</sup>:
  - Updated Preliminary 2022 Budget Review
  - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article
- December 28:
  - 2022 Budget Review and Approval
  - Mille Lacs Community Trust Board Update
  - NRECA Governance Video or Article
- January 27<sup>th</sup>:
  - NRECA Governance Video or Article

Remaining MREA 2021 Board Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday – Wednesday, December 21 – 22

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

4.6 Board Meeting Dates

- Tuesday, November 30, 2021
- Tuesday, December 28, 2021
- Thursday, January 27, 2022

M/S/P to approve Thursday, January 27, 2022 Board meeting date.

4.7 2022 MLEC Annual Meeting

Discussion was held on a place and date for MLEC 2022 Annual Meeting. The board gave the committee direction as to dates and the preferred location. As the committee gets more information, it will be brought back to future board meetings.

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

Confidential Discussion/Update

CEO Sarah Cron updated the Board on confidential issues.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

---

Barbara G. Welty, Secretary/Treasurer

---

Harold Harms, President