

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 November 22, 2023. All board members except Mike Reem were present.

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

All team leaders except Mary Ward were present for their reports. 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 November 22, 2023, agenda of the November 22, 2023 regular board meeting, and minutes of the October 26, 2023 regular board meeting.

The team reports, financial reports, monthly recommended write-offs in the amount of \$5,557.45 for the month of October 2023, and an Economic Development Update were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

M/S/P to approve 3.59% for the remaining 2023 estate capital credit retirements with the rate going to 4.5% as of January 1, 2024.

Board Resolution

The following resolution was discussed by the board and approved.

M/S/P to approve a board resolution needed so MLEC can apply for the DEED (Department of Employment and Economic Development) Border-to-Border or Lower-Density Population Broadband Infrastructure Grants.

Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

Preliminary 2024 Budget Review

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

VOTING

2.1 Policy Review

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

- Policy No. 105 – Fees and Expense Reimbursement
- Policy No. 106 – Cooperative Records
- Policy No. 107– Whistle Blower Policy
- Policy No. 501 – Membership and/or Electric Service
- Policy No. 502 – Line Extensions and Service Rebuilds
- Policy No. 503 – Underground/Overhead Primary Line Installations
- Policy 504 – Meter Testing
- Policy No. 504A – Meter Test Agreement
- Policy No. 505 – Meter Equipment and Installations

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- Policy No. 505A – Meter Installations
- Policy No. 505B – AMI Opt Out
- 505B – AMI Opt Out Form
- Policy No. 506 – Motor Policy – Single and Three Phase Motors
- Policy No. 507 – Outdoor Lights, Public Street & Highway Lighting Installations
- Policy No. 507A – Cooperative-owned Outdoor Lighting Maintenance and Retrofits

2.2 Activity Reports

- GRE – The November 2023 GRE Board Minutes as submitted by Harold Harms were reviewed.
GRE Resolution – M/S/P to approve the bylaw changes as recommended by Great River Energy. Said resolution is attached to these minutes.
M/S/P to approve Harold Harms as the delegate at GRE's December board meeting.
- GRE – A letter submitted to GRE from USDA RUS was reviewed,
- MREA – MREA October 2023 Board of Directors Meeting Informal Summary Report was reviewed.

MREA Resolutions need to be submitted by December 8, 2023.

M/S/P to appoint Harold Harms as the 2024 Voting Delegate and Aileen DeMenge as the alternate for MREA annual and district meetings.

- RUS – none
- CFC – none
- NRECA – none
- MAC – none
- FEDERATED – none.
- NRTC – none
- RESCO – none
- NISC – none
- OTHER – none
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M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

Deanna Soderberg conducted a Field Audit on November 14th.

The next safety meeting is scheduled for December 13th with Blue Ethos presenting Active Threat Training for all employees. CRMC will conduct CPR/First Aide Training for all employees on December 14 and 19. Deanna Soderberg

presenting *Hearing Conservation/Oil Spill Cleanup* on December 19th.

The 2023 Safety Meeting Schedule and 2023 Safety Cross were reviewed.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- 4.1 NRECA BLC Summit
January 16 – 18, 2024, Maple Grove, MN
Attending: Aileen DeMenge
- 4.2 NRECA Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
March 1 – 6, 2024
Attending: Possible Aileen DeMenge
- 4.3 CoBank Regional Meeting, Minneapolis, MN
Thursday – Friday, March 14 – 15, 2024
Attending:
- 4.4 MREA Annual Meeting, St Paul RiverCenter
March 19 – 20, 2024, Tuesday - Wednesday
Attending:
- 4.5 NRECA Director's Conference
April 6 9, 2024, Nashville, TN
Attending:
- 4.6 CoBank Energy Director's Conference
July 17 – 19, 2024, Boston, MA
Attending:
- NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director Training
December 4 – 5, 2024
Wednesday – Thursday, Maple Grove
Attending: Derik Midthun

4.7 Other Information:

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

- December 28th:
 - 2024 Budget Review and Approval
 - Mille Lacs Community Trust Board Update
 - NRECA Governance Video or Article
- 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

Remaining MREA 2023 Board Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday – Wednesday, December 12 - 13

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.

4.8 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, December 28, 2023
- Thursday, January 25, 2024
- Thursday, February 22, 2024

M/S/P to approve Thursday, February 22, 2024 Board meeting date.

M/S/P to approve Thursday, September 19, 2024 as the 2024 Annual 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 11:39 a.m.

Aileen DeMenge Secretary/Treasurer

Harold Harms, President