

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 July 22, 2021. All board members were present.

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

CEO Sarah Cron and Executive Assistant Debra Chute were also present. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

These minutes being transcribed by or under the direction of Secretary/Treasurer, Barbara Welty, the following proceedings have 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 July 22, 2021, minutes of the June 24, 2021 regular board meeting, minutes of the July 1, 2021 special board meeting, and agenda of the July 22, 2021 regular board meeting.

Management team and financial reports for the month of June 2021 were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

#### VOTING

##### 2.1 Recommended Write-offs

M/S/P to approve the recommended electric and internet write-offs for this month in the amount of \$3,208.94.

##### 2.2 Policy Review

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

- Policy No. 507 – Outdoor Lights
- Policy No. 507A – Cooperative-Owned Outdoor Lighting Maintenance & Retrofits
- Policy No. 508 – Non-Standard Service: Neutral Isolation
- Policy No. 509 – Right-of-way Clearing and Reclearing
- Policy No. 510 – Work on Member's Property

##### 2.3 ACTIVITY REPORTS

GRE – June 2021 GRE Board Report submitted by Harold Harms was reviewed.

MREA – June 2021 Board of Directors minutes were reviewed.

MREA June 2021 report was reviewed.

July 2, 2021 MREA Legislative Update was reviewed.

RUS - None

CFC - None

MAC - None

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FEDERATED - None

NRTC – None

RESCO – 2021 Director Election Ballot and candidates were reviewed.

M/S/P to vote for Erick Heinz as RESCO Director.

RESCO's 2020 patronage update was reviewed.

MLEC received a check in the amount of \$7,552.00.

NISC – None

Other – None

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

2.4 GRE Delegate for July 30<sup>th</sup> Meeting

M/S/P to appoint Harold Harms as GRE Delegate and to appoint Carol Pundt as Alternate for the July 30<sup>th</sup> GRE Special Meeting.

2.5 Board Fees

Board of Directors fees and expense reimbursement were discussed.

Per diem is currently \$299 per day. Retainer is currently \$511 per month.

M/S/P to increase meeting per diem from \$299/day to \$350/day as of July 1, 2021.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

MREA presented *Pole Top and Bucket Rescue and Mayday* training on July 15<sup>th</sup>, and Deanna Soderberg of PSL conducted a *Field Audit* on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The next scheduled Safety Training will be August 17<sup>th</sup> with Deanna Soderberg of PLS presenting *Defensive Driving* to inside staff. Barb Welty will be attending.

The 2021 Safety Cross was reviewed.

3.2 Quarterly Articles/Bylaws Review

The quarterly review of the Articles and Bylaws included the last third of the By-laws.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

4.1 MREA Board Chair Roundtable, Radisson Blu Mall of America

Tuesday, August 10, 2021,

Harold Harms is attending.

4.2 MREA Energy Issues Summit, Bloomington, Wednesday – Thursday

August 11- 12, 2021, Radisson Blu Mall of America

Attending: Harold Harms, Barb Welty, Mike Reem, Bruce Robinson, Carol Pundt and Sarah Cron will be attending in person. Don Appel will attend via Livestream.

July 22, 2021

4.3 NRECA Regional Meeting

Minneapolis, MN, Wednesday – Friday, September 15 – 17, 2021

Online dates – September 16 – 17, 2021

(Dates may change)

Attending: All directors will be attending via online.

M/S/P to appoint Harold Harms as NRECA voting delegate and Aileen DeMenge as voting alternate.

4.4 Other Meeting Information

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

- August 26<sup>th</sup>:
  - NRECA Board Governance Article – “Cooperative Directors Asking Necessary Questions”.
  
- September 23<sup>rd</sup>:
  - Cold Weather Rule Appeals Committee
  - Budget Parameters for 2022
  - NRECA Board Governance Videos
  
- October 28<sup>th</sup>:
  - System Tour
  - Unclaimed Property
  - NRECA Board Governance Videos

Remaining MREA 2021 Board Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday – Wednesday, August 17 - 18
- Tuesday – Wednesday, October 19 - 20
- 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.

4.5 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, August 26, 2021
- Thursday, September 23, 2021
- Thursday, October 28, 2021

M/S/P to approve Thursday, October 28, 2021 Board meeting date.

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

Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2021

A governance article titled “Cooperative Directors Asking Necessary Questions” was reviewed by board members. The article will be looked at in depth at future board meetings.

Confidential discussion/Update

Sarah updated the board on confidential issues.

M/S/P to approve a resolution allowing Great River Energy to move forward with the sale of Coal Creek Station.

Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

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Barbara G. Welty, Secretary/Treasurer

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Harold Harms, President