

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 January 17, 2020. All board members except Aileen DeMenge were present.

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

All team leaders were present for their reports. Also, in attendance were Accountant Tom Meyer and Ann Espeseth, AMR/OMS/DIS Specialist. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 January 17, 2020, agenda for the January 17, 2020 regular board meeting, and minutes of the December 20, 2019 regular board meeting.

The team reports for December 2019 and financial reports for the month ending November 30, 2019 were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

Ann Espeseth of MLEC's Operations Team gave a demonstration on checking new RF meters for outages, remote disconnection and reconnection and checking voltage remotely.

M/S/P resolution to receive Community Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant funds from RUS (Rural Utilities Service) in the amount of \$1,953,464.00. Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

M/S/P to pass Certification of Authority to set up a new account at Security State Bank, Aitkin, MN for funds received relating to the Community Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant. Persons authorized to requisite funds from RUS are Sarah Cron, Tom Meyer and Barbara Welty. Said certification attached to these minutes.

VOTING

2.1 Recommended Write-offs

M/S/P to approve the recommended electric, long distance, and internet, write-offs for this month in the amount of \$3,668.42.

2.2 Board Activity Reports

GRE – Harold Harms presented the December 2019 GRE Board Report.

MREA – The December 2019 newsletter and the December 2019 MREA Board meeting minutes were reviewed.

RUS – No report
CFC – December 2019 CFC Report from the Boardroom was reviewed.
NRECA – No report
MAC – No report
FEDERATED – No report.
NRTC – No report.
RESCO – No report.
NISC – 2019 Capital Credit Summary from NISC was reviewed.
OTHER – Barb Welty reported on Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe State of the Band Address she attended.

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

REPORTS

3.1 Safety Control

MREA presented *Fall Protection* on January 8th.

The next safety training is scheduled with Deanna Soderberg presenting *AWAIR, Bloodborne Pathogens, Emergency Action Plan and Right to Know* to all employees on February 11th.

The 2020 Safety Meeting Schedule was reviewed.

The 2019 Safety Cross was reviewed.

3.2 Quarterly Articles/Bylaws Review

The first third of the By-Laws was reviewed as part of the quarterly update.

M/S/P to approve a resolution to adopt two Amendments to MLEC Bylaws. The First Amendment is to allow use of electronic signatures and communications. The second Amendment is to change the title from General Manager to CEO. Bylaw Amendments will be voted on at the next director election that requires voting.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

4.1 Aitkin Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner and Meeting

Friday, January 24, 2020, 40 Club Convention Center, Aitkin, MN

Attending: Don Appel, Bruce and Lorelie Robinson, Lori Packer, Sarah and John Cron.

4.2 Onamia Area Civic Association Annual Meeting and Dinner

Monday, February 3, 2020, Onamia Vets Club

Attending: Barb Welty

4.3 GRE Region Meeting, Hinckley

February 12, 2020

Attending: Don Appel, Bill Bernard, Mike Reem, Bruce Robinson, Barb Welty, Aileen DeMenge and Sarah Cron.

Harold Harms will be attending as GRE Director.

4.4 GRE Monthly Board Meeting, Maple Grove

March 11 – 12, 2020

Guest director attending: Bill Bernard

4.5 MREA Annual Meeting, St. Paul, MN

March 16 – 18, 2020, Monday - Wednesday

Attending: Aileen Demenge, Bill Bernard, Harold Harms, Don Appel, Mike Reem, Bruce Robinson, and Sarah Cron.

Stacy Cluff will be attending March 16th CoBank Broadband Symposium.

Barb Welty is attending as MREA Director.

2020 Voting Delegate is Harold Harms; Don Appel is Alternate.

4.6 CoBank Regional Meeting, JW Marriott Mall of America, Minneapolis, MN

March 23 – 24, 2020, Monday – Tuesday

Attending: Barb Welty, Don Appel, Mike Reem, Bill Bernard, Bruce Robinson, Aileen DeMenge, Harold Harms, Sarah Cron and Tom Meyer.

4.7 Other Meeting Information:

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

- February 21st:
 - Year End Presentation
 - Annual Report to the Board on Policy 517
 - NRECA Governance Videos

- March 19th:
 - Residential Survey Presentation
 - Annual Audit Report
 - Internal Control Evaluation Report

- April 16th:
 - Policy 203 – Annual Safety Deposit Box Inspection

MREA 2020 Board Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday – Wednesday, January 21 – 22
- Tuesday – Wednesday, April 21 – 22
- Tuesday – Wednesday, June 16 – 17
- Tuesday – Wednesday, August 18 – 19
- Tuesday – Wednesday, October 20 – 21
- Tuesday – Wednesday, December 15 - 16

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.

4.8 Board Meeting Dates

- Friday, February 21, 2020
- Friday, March 19, 2020
- Thursday, April 16, 2020

4.9 MLEC Annual Meeting - Thursday, April 23, 2020, 40 Club Convention Center, Aitkin, MN
4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Registration; 5:00 p.m. – Light Meal; Registration closes at 5:30 p.m.;
5:45 – p.m. Start Meeting.

Attending: All Directors

M/S/P to approve Friday, April 16, 2020 Board meeting date.

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

Confidential Discussion Update

CEO Sarah Cron updated the Board on confidential issues.

M/S/P to approve Mille Lacs Health System applying for an Economic Development Loan through MLEC's Revolving Loan Fund with interest rate of 1 % and a 1% service fee.

The Board and CEO viewed and discussed the NRECA Board Governance Video "Building a Relationship Between the Board and the CEO".

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Barbara G. Welty, Secretary/Treasurer

Harold Harms, President