

MILLE LACS ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
Aitkin, MN 56431

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative was held at Appledoorn's Sunset Bay Resort in Isle, Minnesota on September 23, 2020. All board members except Don Appel, Bill Bernard and Bruce Robinson were present.

President Harold Harms called the regular monthly meeting of MLEC Board of Directors to order at 12:50 p.m.

All team leaders 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, 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 the consent agenda items – Expense vouchers for the period ending September 23, 2020; agenda for the September 23, 2020 regular board meeting; and minutes of the August 21, 2020 regular board meeting.

The team reports and financial reports for the month of August 2020 were reviewed and accepted upon motion.

A Broadband Development Grant Resolution was presented for board consideration. M/S/P to approve Broadband Resolution. Said resolution is attached to these minutes.

A Banking Authorization Resolution was presented by Lincoln Messner, Accounting and Finance Manager. Said resolution approves the opening of a new account at Neighborhood National Bank. M/S/P to approved Banking Authorization Resolution. Said resolution is 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 \$1,793.52.

### **2.2 Policy Review**

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

- Policy No. 204 – Contributions
- Policy No. 205 – Required Signatures
- Policy No. 206 – Patronage Capital Credits
- Policy No. 207 – Office-Field Safety and Security
- Policy No. 208 – Record Retention
- Policy No. 209 – Identity Theft Prevention
- Policy No. 209 Attachment – Identity Theft Red Flags Incident Report

### **2.3 Activity Reports**

GRE – Harold Harms gave a verbal report on the recent GRE Strategic Business Plan Meeting.

MREA – 2020 August Board Meeting Notes were reviewed.

MREA August 2020 Report was reviewed.

August 28, 2020 MREA Legislative Update was reviewed.

RUS – None

CFC – CFC District 6 Meeting Notice and ballot. Ballot needs to be received at CFC by October 8<sup>th</sup>.

M/S/P to vote for Jaren Echternach.

Notice of CFC 2020 Patronage Capital Disbursement was reviewed.

NRECA – None

MAC – None

FEDERATED – None

NRTC – None

RESCO – None

NISC – None

Other –

Crow Wing Power – CWP 2020 Annual Meeting Report was reviewed

2020 Touchstone Energy – Voting Delegate for Touchstone Energy’s Annual Electronic Business Meeting.

2020 Voting Delegate name needs to be submitted to Touchstone Energy by October 30, 2020.

Barb Welty was the 2019 Voting Delegate.

M/S/P to name Barbara Welty as voting delegate for Touchstone Energy.

M/S/P to accept the activity reports.

## REPORTS

### 3.1 Safety Control

Deanna Soderberg of PLS conducted Crew Observation Field Audit on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

MREA will present *Digger Derrick Safety* on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The monthly Safety Cross was reviewed.

### 3.2 Cold Weather Rule Appeals Committee Update

Committee members were identified for the next cold weather season. The directors will contact the member in their district to confirm their willingness to serve.

### 3.3 2021 Budget Parameters

As the Management Team begins to work on the 2021 budget, input was shared.

### 3.4 MLEC 990 Review

As part of the board’s due diligence, the 990 Tax Report was reviewed prior to filling.

## SCHEDULED MEETINGS

4.1 MLEC Strategic Planning Meeting, with CFC, was held Tuesday – Wednesday, September 22 – 23, 2020 at Appledoorn’s Sunset Bay Resort with directors and senior staff attending.

4.2 NRECA Regional Meeting, Online, October 12 – 16, 2020

Delegate – Harold Harms, Alternate – Sarah Cron

Garrison Commercial Club Annual Meeting, Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Attending: No one.

4.3 MREA Legislative Summit, Thursday, November 12, 2020  
MREA office, Maple Grove, or conference call

4.4 Other Meeting Information

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

- October 15<sup>th</sup>:
  - Unclaimed Property
  - Preliminary 2021 Budget Review
  - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article
  
- November 19<sup>th</sup>:
  - Updated Preliminary 2021 Budget Review
  - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article
  
- December 17<sup>th</sup>:
  - 2021 Budget Review and Approval
  - Mille Lacs Community Trust Update
  - NRECA Board Governance Video or Article

Remaining MREA 2020 Board Meeting Dates:

- 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.

4.5 Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, October 15, 2020
- Thursday, November 19, 2020
- Thursday, December 17, 2020

M/S/P to approve Thursday, December 17, 2020 Board meeting date.

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

The Board reviewed the NRECA Board Governance article titled "IRS Form 990 Explained".

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Barbara G. Welty, Secretary/Treasurer

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Harold Harms, President