



Summary of Board Minutes

August 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (“FMEC”) took place at FMEC’s headquarters office, located at 3366 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007, on Tuesday, August 27, 2024.

All board members were present for this meeting.

Dennis Anderson, Vice Chair	District 1
Jay Neitzell, Joined Via Remote Connection	District 2
Steve Garbisch, Treasurer	District 3
Richard Schaufler	District 4
Frank Fryer, Secretary	District 5
Matt Maras	District 6
Jack Korman, Chair	District 7
Bill Trygstad	District 8
Larry Irvine	District 9

Call To Order: Jack Korman, FMEC Board Chair, opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Youth Tour Delegates: Kaci Wallin joined this meeting in person to give a report on the recent NRECA Youth Tour event held in Washington, D.C. Nolan Brooks joined by remote connection. Both students were appreciative of the chance to represent FMEC on this tour.

Agenda Approval: Chair Korman called for any additions or edits to the agenda. Hearing none, the board voted to approve the agenda for the monthly meeting on August 27, 2024, as presented.

The Board of Directors entered into Executive Session at 8:30 a.m.

In the Executive Session, Jim Krueger updated the board on pending litigation involving a current FMEC employee accused of defamation. In addition, there was a conversation regarding the President & CEO’s annual evaluation.

The Executive Session concluded at 9:00 a.m.

Legislative Update: For the August Governance Discussion, the FMEC Executive Team and Board of Directors met with our local legislators, Peggy Bennett and Gene Dornink. Brent Ridge and Joyce Pepin from DPC, and Darrick Moe and Jenny Glumack from MREA, also presented on legislative issues that will be covered in the next session.

Energy Market Update: Following the legislative update, Brent Ridge and Joyce Pepin joined our regular board meeting to discuss the current energy market.

Safety Share: Matt Maras, District 6 Director, updated that excessive heat can be quite dangerous and can lead to several health issues, including:

1. Heat Exhaustion: Symptoms include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headaches. Move to a cooler place, drink water, and rest if you experience these symptoms.

2. Heat Stroke: This is a severe condition with symptoms like a high body temperature (above 103°F), confusion, rapid pulse, and possible unconsciousness. Immediate medical attention is crucial.

3. Dehydration: Excessive sweating can lead to dehydration, causing dry mouth, extreme thirst, and reduced urine output. Drinking plenty of fluids is essential.

4. Heat Cramps: These are muscle spasms due to heavy sweating and salt loss. Resting in a cool place and drinking electrolyte-rich fluids can help.

5. Sunburn: Prolonged sun exposure can cause painful, red skin that may peel. Use sunscreen and wear protective clothing to prevent sunburn.

6. Heat Rash: This occurs when sweat ducts become blocked, leading to discomfort and itching. Keeping the skin cool and dry can help alleviate symptoms.

To stay safe during extreme heat, it's important to stay hydrated, avoid strenuous activities during the hottest parts of the day, wear light clothing, and seek shade or air-conditioned environments whenever possible.

NRECA RC3 Cyber Goals Program: Peter Nelson, Director of Information Technology, referred to the resource document posted on Call To Order titled *RC3 Cybersecurity: An RC3 Guidebook for Electric Cooperative Board Members*. This document was prepared by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and provides support for electric cooperatives to use in their efforts to improve cybersecurity. The program also provides education, training, and opportunities to collaborate in support of "cooperation among cooperatives". Peter is appreciative of the lateral opportunity to do what is needed to keep all FMEC information safe.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: The motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was passed. This includes the approval of the prior monthly board minutes and executive session, the approval of new members, the authorization for payments to estates, the acceptance of the audit committee and treasurer's reports, and the safety and management team reports.

Director Reports: Bill Trygstad presented the board with Dairyland Power Cooperative's July 2024 financials. Jack Korman updated on the Board Chair Roundtable meeting which was held as a preconference prior to the Energy Issues Summit.

FMEC Financials: Jim Krueger, President & CEO, presented the financial reports for July 2024, and then fielded questions.

990 Reviews: There is a new process for filing 990 Reviews in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. FMEC will not file these documents until all are content with the new process.

Load Forecast: Motion carried to accept the Load Forecast as presented by Jim Krueger, President & CEO.

Capital Credit Retirement: To review the Capital Credit Retirement, a conference call will be scheduled for 7:30 a.m. on September 3, 2024. Before the call, a meeting notice and supporting documents will be sent to the board for review.

2025 NRECA Youth Tour: Motion carried to approve sending two student delegates to attend the 2025 NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

CFC Delegate: Jim Krueger will remain the FMEC CFC Delegate and will cast his vote at the NRECA Region VI Meeting in September.

Policy 4.012: Motion carried to amend policy 4.012 - Construction Standards.

Rate Policies: Motion carried to amend the rate policies to reflect the new rates effective September 1, 2024.

Work Orders #1292 & #990724 and Special Equipment #614 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

Motion carried to adjourn this meeting at 2:30p.m.