



Summary of Board Minutes

December 30, 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 Monday, December 30, 2024.

All board members were present for this meeting.

Dennis Anderson, Vice Chair	District 1
Jay Neitzell	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

Guest: Scott Johnson, BENCO Electric Cooperative

Call To Order: Jack Korman, FMEC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 December 30, 2024, as presented.

Safety Share: Winter driving can be hazardous, especially in Minnesota. Dennis Anderson, Director of District 1, shared the below three P’s to enhance safety and aid in emergencies.

Prepare:

- Maintain your vehicle: Check the battery, tires, antifreeze, and wipers.
- Pack an emergency kit: Include blankets, food, water, and a first aid kit.
- Plan your route: Check the weather and allow extra travel time.

Protect:

- Drive carefully: Reduce speed and increase the following distance.
- Buckle up: Ensure everyone is wearing seat belts.
- Clear visibility: Remove snow and ice from windows, mirrors, and lights.

Prevent:

- Avoid distractions: Stay focused on driving.
- Stay informed: Keep up with weather updates.
- Pull over if necessary: Do not overdrive in worsening conditions.

Governance: Succession planning for the Board of Directors NRECA governance video generated a mixed response from the FMEC board; however, it led to a constructive dialogue regarding the existing leadership and anticipated vacancies in the upcoming years.

Resolution Adopting the Amendment and Restatement of the 125 Plan: The resolution to adopt the Amendment and Restatement of the 125 Plan was approved, empowering Jim Krueger, President & CEO, to take all necessary actions for its effective implementation and administration.

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, 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.

General/Strategic Discussion: The topics below were discussed, with no action taken.

- FMEC has approximately 114 DG solar accounts as of today.
- Dairyland Power Cooperative's Voltwrite platform boosts electric distribution efficiency and reliability through advanced analytics, real-time monitoring, and enhanced communication, facilitating renewable energy integration and voltage management.
- Letter sent by NRECA CEO, Jim Matheson to the Trump administration regarding the impact of the 2024 election and how this could affect utilities.
- Upcoming FMEC employee retirements.

Director Reports: Bill Trygstad presented the board with the financial report of Dairyland Power Cooperative for November 2024 and offered an update on the meetings he attended at DPC since the previous FMEC board meeting.

Guest: Scott Johnson, a board member at BENCO Electric Cooperative, joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m. to express his interest in the MREA Board of Directors for District 6, focusing on Safety, Legislative Initiatives, and Education.

MREA Voting Delegate: The motion was approved to elect Steve Garbisch as the MREA voting delegate and Jack Korman as the alternate delegate.

MREA Pre-Conference: Richard Schaffler received approval to attend the NRECA Board Leadership Certificate Program titled "The Road to Resilience – The Board's Responsibility" at the MREA Annual Meeting on February 17, 2025.

FMEC Financials: Jim Krueger reviewed the FMEC financial reports for November 2024, as well as the Commercial & Industrial Usage Comparison and Year-to-Date Usage reports.

Policy Reviews: The below policies were reviewed with no edits being made.

3.002 – Authorized Signatures	4.014 – Meter Tampering
3.003 – Rural Economic RLF	4.022 – Late Payments
3.004 – CEO's Authorization for Capital Expenses	4.024 – Checks Returned
4.001 – Continuity of Service	4.026 – Electronic Funds Transfer
4.002 – AMI Opt Out	6.034 – Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis-Free
4.011 – Neutral to Earth / Stray Voltage	6.035 – DOT Drugs & Alcohol

Policy 4.010: Motion carried to amend policy 4.010 – Charges for Meter Tests to increase the fees for meter test requests.

Work Orders #1296 & #991124 and Special Equipment #618 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

A motion was carried out to adjourn this meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Frank Fryer, Secretary