



**Summary of Board Minutes**  
**June 24, 2025**

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, June 24, 2025. All board members were present at this meeting.

Dennis Anderson, Vice Chair	District 1
John Penkava	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, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Approval:** Chair Korman asked for any additions or edits to the agenda. Hearing none, the board approved the agenda for the June 24, 2025, monthly meeting as presented.

**Safety Share:** Jack Korman, district 7 director, provided an update on knowing the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke amid rising temperatures. Here are key tips:

**Heat Exhaustion Signs:**

- Heavy sweating
- Weakness or fatigue
- Dizziness or fainting
- Nausea or vomiting
- Cool, pale skin

**Heat Stroke (Emergency):**

- Body temperature over 103°F
- Hot, red, dry skin
- Rapid pulse
- Confusion or slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness

If heat stroke is suspected, call 911 and start cooling the person down with cold cloths or a cool bath.

**Governance Discussion:** As of June 2025, the EPA under the current administration has proposed repealing the Biden-era greenhouse gas standards for power plants, targeting the 2024 rule and 2025 standards for fossil fuel plants. The EPA claims these regulations caused excessive costs and that emissions from U.S. power plants do not significantly contribute to dangerous air pollution, contradicting earlier assessments. If finalized, the repeal could save \$19 billion over 20 years, remove carbon capture requirements, and likely increase emissions from coal and natural gas plants. Public comments are open until August 7, 2025.

### **The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:16 a.m.**

Jim Krueger provided an update on the status of the legal action taken against the cooperative, claiming defamation. An Order for Summary Judgment was filed in District Court on April 25, 2025, and was granted by Judge Ross L. Leuning of Freeborn County, Minnesota. FMEC counsel submitted a Notice of Motion for Rule 11 Sanctions on June 9, 2025. The latter filing is still pending.

### **The Board left the Executive Session at 8:25 a.m.**

**Federated Rural Exchange Notice of Nomination and Election:** The Notice of Nomination and Election was sent on behalf of the Board of Directors of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, notifying Region 6 directors of a meeting that will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, during the Region 5/6 meeting in Madison, WI.

**Albert Lea Healthcare Coalition:** A motion was approved to grant the Albert Lea Healthcare Coalition's request to defer their monthly loan repayment installments, including principal and interest, through the end of 2025. The original loan amount was \$150,000, with the current principal balance approximately \$90,000.

**Alliant Energy Wholesale True-Up:** Jim provided an update on the wholesale power true-up, which impacts both Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) and Alliant Energy by making sure that actual electricity costs align with the forecasted or contracted amounts. Any differences are settled financially before the transfer of assets to Dairyland Power Cooperative on July 31, 2025.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** The motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was passed. This approval includes the following items: the minutes from the previous monthly board meeting, the addition of new members, authorization for payments to estates, acceptance of the audit committee and treasurer's reports, and the reports from the safety and Executive Team.

### **General/Strategic Discussion:**

- **Strategic Plan Update:** A final meeting with Matt Gilley from GreatCo-ops has been scheduled for August 14 to include the FMEC Executive Team. The Strategic Planning Retreat, where the plan will be discussed with the board, is scheduled for August 28 from 8:00 – 2:30 at the FMEC HQ building.
- **Transferring Load from Alliant Energy to Dairyland Power Cooperative:** Al Stadheim, Director of Operations and Engineering, provided a detailed overview of the work required to transfer the load from Alliant Energy to DPC successfully. This project started in 2015 and is expected to be completed by July 31, 2025.
- **Cooperative Network:** After discussion, the FMEC board unanimously agreed to end our membership with Cooperative Network because our statewide organization, MREA, handles the same legislative work for us.
- **DPC Power Plant Tour:** Arrangements are being made for a Member Engagement Group event to tour the John P. Madgett Generating Station in Alma, Wisconsin, later this fall.

**Director Reports:** Bill Trygstad, FMEC Dairyland Power Cooperative Director, provided an update on the DPC Board of Directors Reorganization. Because of the DPC Annual Meeting, there was no monthly DPC gathering, so he had limited information to share. The DPC financials were reviewed, and Bill addressed any questions that came up. Additionally, he was re-elected to the Executive Committee and chosen as the DPC delegate for the MREA Annual Meeting.

**MREA District 6 Meeting:** All FMEC directors will attend the MREA District 6 Meeting held on Tuesday, July 15, at People's Energy in Oronoco, MN.

**Strategic Planning Retreat:** On August 28, 2025, Matt Gilley from GreatCo-ops will be at the cooperative to facilitate our Strategic Planning Retreat. All board members should plan to attend.

**FMEC Financials:** Jim Krueger reviewed the FMEC financial reports for June 2025, along with the Commercial & Industrial Usage Comparison and Year-to-Date Usage reports.

**4H Livestock Auctions:** Motion approved to support both the Freeborn and Mower Counties 4H Livestock Auctions with a donation of \$2,000 for each county.

**Employee Volunteer Program (VOLIPAY):** The motion was approved to establish a new program for FMEC employees, allowing them to volunteer for up to eight hours each year during their regular work hours while continuing to receive their regular pay. This program will run as a trial from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. At the end of this period, we will reassess the program to ensure it is beneficial to the cooperative.

**Policy 6.039:** Motion carried to adopt policy 6.039 – (VOLIPAY) Employee Volunteer Program.

Work Order #1302 and Special Equipment #624 were presented to the Treasurer for his signature.

A motion was carried out to adjourn this meeting at 11:38 a.m.

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Frank Fryer, Secretary