



**Summary of Board Minutes**  
**March 25, 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, March 25, 2025.

All board members were present for this meeting.

Dennis Anderson, Vice Chair	District 1
Jay Neitzell, joined remotely	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:** Dave Holt, Brady Martz & Associates

**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 March 25, 2025, as presented.

**Audit Update:** Dave Holt from Brady Martz & Associates attended the meeting and provided an update on the audit of FMEC's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2024. A motion was made and seconded to accept the audit report, which was then approved as presented. After this, all staff members left the meeting to allow the FMEC board members to discuss any thoughts or concerns privately.

**Safety Share:** Richard Schaufler from District 4 spoke about gas can safety. As of 2023, the law requires that all gas containers be equipped with flame arrestors. He demonstrated two models that meet these safety standards. Since gas vapors can be hazardous, storing containers safely is essential. Always place a gas can on the ground and adhere to all safety precautions when filling it.

**Governance:** This month's governance topic focused on Net Metering Reform, which is very important to Minnesota cooperatives. Jim sent letters to our local legislators and the House and Senate Energy Committees encouraging them to support the reform.

**The Board entered into Executive Session at 9:15 a.m.**

During the Executive Session, the FMEC board received an update on the status of ongoing pending litigation against the cooperative. Bill Trygstad provided an update from the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board’s Executive Session.

**The Board left the Executive Session at 9:30 a.m.**

**Strategic Plan Timeline:** Jim discussed the timeline for the Strategic Plan, which Matt Gilley, CEO of GreatCo-ops, is developing. A draft may be ready for review at the April board meeting.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** The motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented was passed. This approval encompasses 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 management teams.

**MREA Annual Meeting:** This meeting occurred on February 18-19, 2025. During the MREA Legislative Day, FMEC attendees met with Senator Gene Dornink and Representative Patricia Mueller in the Minnesota Senate Building to discuss legislative priorities crucial for rural cooperatives. Each legislative participant received a folder containing information about these topics.

**General/Strategic Discussion:**

- Update on Green Group Reprocessing
- HomeServe letters were mailed in March

**Director Reports:** Bill Trygstad updated the board on the DPC meetings he has attended since the February 2025 board meeting. The DPC February Financials were also reviewed.

**FMEC Financials:** Angie Kolker, the Director of Finance, reviewed the FMEC financial reports for February 2025, along with the Commercial & Industrial Usage Comparison and Year-to-Date Usage reports.

**990 Questionnaires:** Each board member completed and returned the IRS Form 990 Questionnaires during the meeting. These questionnaires contain a section where tax-exempt organizations must disclose details about their governance, financial activities, and compliance with regulations.

**Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC):** The Director of Finance at FMEC, Angie Kolker, reviewed the Officer's Certificate of Compliance Worksheet and Certification for 2024 with the board. By submitting this document, FMEC confirms to CFC that for the year ending December 31, 2024, and for the 12 months before that date: (1) The cooperative's governing board has received a complete and accurate report on the cooperative's performance and activities for the reporting period, (2) all information FMEC provided to CFC in this OCC during the reporting period is true and correct, and (3) unless disclosed in this OCC, the Cooperative has met all its obligations under its loan agreements and mortgage and security agreements with CFC during the reporting period.

**Policy 6.019:** Motion carried to adopt policy 6.019 – Nursing Mothers, Lactating Employees, and Pregnancy Accommodations.

**Policy 6.020:** Motion carried to adopt policy 6.020 – Minnesota Pregnancy and Parental Leave.

**5.Rider CIP:** Motion carried to amend 5.Rider CIP – Conservation Improvement Program, Cost Recovery Adjustment – All Classes.

Work Orders #1299 and Special Equipment #621 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

A motion was carried out to adjourn this meeting at 11:43 a.m.