



Summary of Board Minutes

November 26, 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, November 26, 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: Steve Hovey, Attorney

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 November 26, 2024, as presented.

Safety Share: Larry Irvine gave a safety share on the dangers of driving drowsy. Drowsy driving is dangerous. When you feel sleepy behind the wheel, your reaction time slows, and your judgment suffers. Here are some key points about the risks of drowsy driving:

- **Impaired Thinking:** Lack of sleep affects your ability to focus and make decisions, just like alcohol does.
- **Higher Crash Risk:** Drowsy driving increases the chance of accidents, especially at night or on long trips.
- **Health Problems:** Ongoing sleep loss can lead to serious health issues like heart disease and diabetes.

For safety, aim for at least 7 hours of sleep each night. Take breaks during long drives and avoid driving when you usually feel sleepy. If you feel drowsy, pull over to rest or switch drivers.

Monthly Governance Discussion: This month's governance discussion centered on the 2024 Presidential election and its potential impact on the Energy Sector. For Minnesota, MREA has identified four main legislative initiatives: Net Metering Reform, Property Tax Clarification, the Elimination of the Nuclear Moratorium, and Advocating for No New Mandates.

Attorney Steve Hovey joined this meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaw Changes: Attorney Steve Hovey reviewed the proposed amendments to Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. During the regular board meeting on November 26, 2024, the Board of Directors approved the proposed amendments as presented.

PPA's for Solar Projects: The motion was approved to authorize Jim Krueger, President & CEO, to sign the Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) between STAG MOOSE SOLAR, LLC and FREEBORN MOWER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE. These agreements outline the terms and conditions under which FREEBORN MOWER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will purchase electricity generated by STAG MOOSE SOLAR, LLC, contributing to the cooperative's renewable energy initiatives and commitment to sustainable practices.

2025 Budget: Angie Kolker, Finance Director, presented the proposed budget for 2025. She shared important financial forecasts and explained how funds will be allocated to different departments. After discussion, a motion was made on the budget. This motion received strong support and was approved, finalizing the budget for 2025.

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

- **Member Concern:** A member expressed concern about a disconnect notice he received. FMEC will consider amending the language on its disconnect notices to make the message clearer.
- The MREA Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 17-19, 2025. All directors have registered to attend. On February 18, we will meet with our local legislators.
- The discussion on the current Operation Round Up Funding Guidelines confirmed that there will be no changes for 2025.

SMEC Resolution: Motion carried to adopt the resolution appointing Jim Krueger, FMEC President & CEO to the Southern Minnesota Energy Cooperative (SMEC) Board of Directors.

RUS Loan Application Documents: Motion was approved to authorize Jack Korman, Board Chair, Frank Fryer, Board Secretary, and Jim Krueger, President & CEO, to sign the necessary documents to begin the loan application process with RUS. The total amount of the loan is \$11,475,000. Following are the loan documents that were signed.

- Assurances Required by 47 CFT Section 24.2(A)
- Federal Debt Delinquency Certification
- Assurance Agreement (Under the Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964)
- Lobbying Certification
- Construction Work Plan Amendment #4
- 740C Cost Estimates and Loan Budget
- Useful Life Statement

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.

Director Reports: Bill Trygstad presented the board with Dairyland Power Cooperative's financials for October 2024 and provided an update on the Audit & Risk Management and DPC monthly meetings he attended since our last board meeting.

FMEC Financials: Angie Kolker, the Director of Finance, reviewed the FMEC financial reports for October 2024, along with the Commercial & Industrial Usage Comparison and Year-to-Date Usage reports.

December 2024 Board Meeting: Motion carried to change the December board meeting date from December 31 to December 30, 2024.

Policy 4.016: Policy 4.016 – Privacy for Member Information was reviewed with no changes.

Work Orders #1295 & #991024 and Special Equipment #617 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

A motion was carried out to adjourn this meeting at 1:40 p.m.