



Summary of Board Minutes

September 24, 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, September 24, 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, 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 September 24, 2024, as presented.

Safety Share: Jack Korman, District 7 Director, reminded those present that driving during the fall harvest season requires extra caution due to the increased presence of farm equipment on the roads. Here are some tips to help you stay safe:

1. **Slow Down:** Reduce your speed when approaching farm equipment. These vehicles often move much slower than regular traffic.
2. **Keep a Safe Distance:** Maintain plenty of space between your vehicle and farm equipment. Be prepared to stop suddenly if necessary.

3. **Be Visible:** Ensure your headlights are on, even during the day, to increase your visibility to other drivers and farm equipment operators.
4. **Avoid Distractions:** Stay focused on the road and avoid distractions like mobile phones or adjusting the radio.
5. **Pass with Caution:** Only pass farm equipment when it is safe and legal to do so. Make sure the operator is not preparing to turn.
6. **Be Patient:** Understand that farmers are working hard to bring in their crops. Relax and enjoy the scenic views of the countryside.

Governance: The director election process was discussed and explained in detail. If districts are contested, up to four ballots will be created: one for each district up for election and one for all members who do not have a director election in their district. Their ballot will only reflect the changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

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

- Jim updated the board on his past month, which was full of meetings.
 - NRECA Region 6 meeting
 - MREA CEO Conference
 - DPC Finance Committee
 - DPC Wholesale Rate Task Force

MREA 2025 Budget Proposal: Jim Krueger reviewed the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's proposed budget for 2025.

DNR Resolution: Motion carried to adopt the resolution authorizing Al Stadheim, Director of Operations & Engineering, to prepare and execute permit and/or license applications and such other documents necessary to secure the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources permission and authorization for the use of DNR controlled premises.

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 September 2024 financials. Trygstad also commented that he will be a guest at the October DMA meeting in LaCrosse and noted that there will be a tour of Rock Gen on October 15, 2024. If anyone is interested, they are to give the office a call. For those attending, a motion carried that a one-day per diem would be paid.

FMEC Financials: Angie Kolker, Director of Finance, reviewed the financials for August 2024.

Remote Work: FMEC employees Dawn Schroeder and Amanda Anderson introduced a concept where the FMEC lobby would be closed to members on Fridays unless an appointment has been made. Employees would still work an eight-hour day and have the choice to come into the office to work or work from home. The motion to allow the lobby to be closed on Fridays was approved on a vote of 8-1. This will become effective on January 1, 2025.

The Board of Directors entered into Executive Session at 12:45 p.m.

- It was agreed upon that the Executive Session documents would have a new CTO tab that the board would access for Executive Session resource documents.
- Jim Krueger provided a review of the 990 filing process.
- The board and Jim Krueger met to discuss the President & CEO's performance evaluation.

The Executive Session concluded at 1:30 p.m.

Work Orders #1293 & #990824 and Special Equipment #615 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

Motion carried to adjourn this meeting at 1:30 p.m.