



## Summary of Board Minutes

February 28, 2023

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Freeborn Mower Electric Cooperative (“FMEC”) was held at FMEC’s headquarters office, located at 3366 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN 56007, on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

All board members attended the meeting, with Director Neitzell joining by a remote connection.

Dennis Anderson, Vice Chair	District 1	
Jay Neitzell	District 2	Remote connection
Steve Garbisch, Treasurer	District 3	
Richard Schaufler	District 4	
Frank Fryer, Secretary	District 5	
Joe Pacovsky	District 6	
Jack Korman, Chair	District 7	
Bill Trygstad	District 8	
Larry Irvine	District 9	

Chair Korman called for any agenda changes, edits, or additions. Hearing none, the board voted to approve the agenda for the February 28, 2023, monthly board meeting.

A Safety Share was provided by Joe Pacovsky, District 6 Director, on tire safety. He noted the importance of checking the tire pressure, tread depth and rotating the tires on a maintenance schedule. Keeping tires in alignment is also of high importance.

Mary Nelson, Director of Cooperative Relations, updated the board on the current Political Action Plan and discussed ways to keep legislatively active.

General discussion topics included;

- Personnel updates on retirements, hires, and open positions
- Status of Austin Annexation discussion
- Rate change update that will be in effect on April 1, 2023
- Solar Energy discussions

Motion carried to enter into Executive Session at 8:20 a.m. During this session, pending litigation was discussed. A motion was then carried to exit the Executive Session at 8:35 a.m. *Minutes have been recorded and are filed at the cooperative office.*

FMEC staff has worked with GreatCo-ops on an Enterprise Risk Management Plan and strategies to recognize and mitigate risks. Jim Krueger gave a status update.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to unanimously approve the consent agenda, which includes minutes from the previous month, approval of new members, authorization of capital credits, the Audit Committee & Treasurer's report, and the management and safety reports.

Bill Trygstad reported on the Dairyland Power Cooperative meetings he attended within the past month. The DPC financials and monthly update reports were also reviewed. He noted that the newer format might look different but contains the same information.

Angie Kolker, FMEC Director of Finance, provided the financial report for the month of January.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990 Questionnaires were provided and reviewed.

The NRUCFC Officer's Certificate of Compliance Worksheet and Certification for 2022 was provided and reviewed.

Mary Nelson and Allen Hendriks presented a new scholarship opportunity formed by Riverland Community College to benefit high school seniors in Freeborn County. After discussion, a motion was made and carried to support the Freeborn County Community Promise Scholarship initiative with a \$15,000 pledge for five years. The dollars used will be taken from the Unclaimed Capital Credit fund.

Motion carried to eliminate policy 5.057 – Collection of Electric Bills as the entire text from this policy will be added to policy 5.051 – Late Payments.

Motion carried to adopt policy 1.001 – Executive Session.

Motion carried to amend the below policies.

5.051 – Late Payments

8.001 – Public Photos

9.006 – Retirement

9.008 – Expense Reporting Guidelines

The policies below were not changed but moved to the Membership section of our policy listing.

Name	Current Policy Number	New Policy Number
Controlled Water Heater Service	5.009	4.029
Controlled Central Air Conditioners	5.011	4.030
Late Payments	5.051	4.022
Disconnections & Reconnections	5.052	4.023
Checks Returned	5.053	4.024
Line Extension	5.054	4.009
Electronic Funds Transfer	5.059	4.026
CoGeneration - DER	5.061	4.031
Deposit Policy	5.065	4.027
Budget Billing	5.066	4.028
AMI Opt-Out & Attachments	5.067	4.002

The below policies were reviewed with no changes.

4.017 – Limited English Proficiency Plan

8.002 – Joint Use Agreement

8.003 – Use of Mailing List

8.004 – Charges for Work Related to Accidents & Emergencies / Charges for Work Related to Equipment being Moved in Co-op Service Area.

A status update was given on the District 6 election. The ballots have been mailed, and voting emails have been sent to members in District 6. Reminder emails will be sent on March 7 & 14, with all ballots due by March 22. The results will be sent to Jack Korman, FMEC Board Chair, and Jim Krueger, President & CEO, by March 27.

Work Orders #1274 and Special Equip. #596 were presented to the Treasurer for signatures.

Chair Korman adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.