



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2021**

**Dakota Electric Association Board Members in Attendance:**

**District 1**

John DeYoe  
David Jones  
Jerry Pittman

**District 2**

Bill Middlecamp  
Clay Van De Bogart

**District 3**

Ken Danner  
Bill Holton  
Margaret Schreiner

**District 4**

Paul Bakken  
Judy Kimmes  
Stacy Miller

**Staff in Attendance:**

Melissa Cherney  
Mike Fosse  
Adam Heinen

Corey Hintz  
Betty Jo Kiesow  
Sara McGrane

Greg Miller  
Joe Miller  
Mjyke Nelson

Jeff Schoenecker  
Craig Turner

**Guests and Members in Attendance:**

Michael Berndt

Dave Bernhardson

Mary Kreger

Peter Olson-Skog

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**Call to Order**

Chair Jerry Pittman called the regular virtual meeting of the Dakota Electric Association Board of Directors to order at 8:38 a.m. and presided. A quorum was present.

**Agenda Adoption**

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt the agenda.**


**2021 Non-Scholarship Educational Donations**

The 2021 school district and college recipients of Dakota Electric's unclaimed capital credits non-scholarship educational donations were ISD 199 Inver Grove Heights School District, ISD 197 West St. Paul/Mendota Heights School District, ISD 196 Rosemount/Eagan/Apple Valley School District and Inver Hills Community College. Representatives ISD 199 Superintendent Dave Bernhardson, ISD 197 Superintendent Peter Olson-Skog, ISD 196 Mary Kreger and Inver Hills Community College President Michael Berndt were present to share with the board their appreciation and how the donations will be utilized for their school.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda**

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Consent agenda.**

- Minutes of September 30, 2021 Board Meeting
- Attorney's Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-10-1
- Attorney's Monthly Fees
- Attorney Annual Fees Proposal

<b>Board Chair Update</b>	Chair Pittman provided an update regarding various events and activities during the month of October.
<b>President &amp; CEO Report/ Strategic Planning Update</b>	<p>Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse provided updates regarding new construction. Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Hintz noted after a decrease in delinquent balances in September, as of October 19 balances have increased over \$400,000 bringing concerns of a possible trend due to the start of the Cold Weather Rule. Vice President of Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker briefed the board on COVID-19 impacts to the Utility Services department. He also noted a current influx of vacancies within the department and is working closely with Human Resources on solutions and hiring.</p> <p>Vice President of Engineering and Administrative Services spoke to the continued obstacles Dakota Electric is facing with higher supply costs and lead time issues. She also shared the implementation of the volunteer employee led group Employee Network geared towards fostering an engaged and inclusive workplace aligned with Dakota Electric's Mission and values. Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson provided updates related to AGi and the enterprise resource planning system replacement progress.</p> <p>Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen provided a regulatory update. He noted that natural gas costs are predicted to go up in all areas as heating season ramps up anticipating members may start utilizing electric space heaters. CEO Miller concluded with a safety update, budget process and the influx in staff turnover due to retirements and resignations, noting Dakota Electric's proactive approach in working to fill or combine positions.</p>
<b>Minnesota Integrated Distribution Planning Report Summary</b>	Senior Principal and Regulatory Engineer Craig Turner presented the Integrated Distribution Plan (IDP). The IDP was created in response to an order from the Minnesota Public Utilities and is required every two years for Dakota Electric. Mr. Turner noted the report did not change much from 2019. He reviewed planning objectives, report requirements and Dakota Electric report goals including future of DER installations, analyzation of beneficial spending of capital dollars, general learning and baseline development.
<b>Quarterly Financial Update</b>	CFO Hintz provided a third quarter financial update noting operating expenses are 2.4 million or 5.4 percent favorable to budget and total revenue is 7.6 million or 4.6 percent favorable to budget. Residential sales increased due to an unusually warm summer while commercial sales remain unfavorable.
<b>Capital Credit Retirement Resolution</b>	 <b>A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Capital Credit \$5.2 million – Resolution – 21-10-2.</b>

- Great River Energy** Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a Great River Energy (GRE) update. Director Van De Bogart provided an overview of the 2022 GRE budget. Director Van De Bogart also provided an update regarding the proposed terms of the Connexus exit and also the sale of Coal Creek noting GRE has selected to purchase 368 MW of power after the sale to Rainbow initiating a dual member vote approving the change later this year. This is a change from the previous 300 MW of power dictated in reports in July. Director Schreiner noted North Dakota Association Rural Electric Cooperatives CEO Josh Kramer and Board Chair Bob Grant were present for October's meeting to express gratitude for GRE's partnership and contributions to the North Dakota lineworkers training center.
- Election Committee** Chair Bill Middlecamp presented proposed policy and election complaint form changes reviewed by the Committee and provided an overview of election communications.
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Policy Book Section I, Policy 4.6 Director Rules Governing the Election of Directors, with the edits noted, – effective 10-28-2021.**
- Minnesota Rural Electric Association** Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update noting NRECA has seen a significant increase in registrations for training sessions since offering online training and will plan to continue those offerings moving forward. MREA can provide directors their previous course list to review what they have taken if considering registering for training in the future. Director Miller also noted the upcoming NRECA Power Exchange event taking place in Nashville, TN March 4-9, 2022 and the Director's Conference in Austin, TX April 2-5, 2022.
- Attorney Update** Attorney Sara McGrane provided a legal update noting work this month on election policies and specifications regarding the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Adjournment** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 12:48 p.m.**

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Melissa Cherney, Recorder