




---

**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING  
MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2021**

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

<u>District 1</u>	<u>District 2</u>	<u>District 3</u>	<u>District 4</u>
John DeYoe	Bill Middlecamp	Ken Danner	Paul Bakken
David Jones	Jim Sheldon	Bill Holton	Judy Kimmes
Jerry Pittman	Clay Van De Bogart	Margaret Schreiner	Stacy Miller

**Staff and Others in Attendance:**

Vijendra Agarwal	Mike Fosse	Betty Jo Kiesow	Mjyke Nelson
Jon Brekke	Adam Heinen	Greg Miller	Jeff Schoenecker
Melissa Cherney	Corey Hintz	Joe Miller	Steve Yoch

---

- Convene**                    The regular virtual meeting of the board of directors of Dakota Electric Association convened via video conference.
- Call to Order**            Chair Jerry Pittman called the regular virtual meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and presided.
- Executive Session**      ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into Executive Session.**
- Great River Energy (GRE) Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke joined as a guest to provide an update related to Coal Creek Station. Attorney Steve Yoch, directors and staff were present.
- Recess**                      The board recessed from 10:34 a.m. until 10:40 a.m.
- Executive Session**      Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson provided an update regarding cybersecurity.
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move out of Executive Session at 11:14 a.m.**
- Recess**                      The board recessed from 11:14 a.m. until 11:20 a.m.
- The meeting convened into regular session at 11:20 a.m. and continued with the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was present.

<b>Changes to the Agenda</b>	Chair Pittman requested additions or changes to the Agenda. There were none.
<b>Agenda Adoption</b>	✓ <b>A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.</b>
<b>Visiting Member</b>	Member Vijendra Agarwal was in attendance.
<b>Approval of the Consent Agenda</b>	Chair Pittman requested additions or changes to the Consent Agenda. There were none.  ✓ <b>A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Consent agenda.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Minutes of May 27, 2021 Board Meeting.</li><li>■ Attorney’s Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-6-1.</li><li>■ Attorney’s Monthly Fees.</li><li>■ 2022 DEA Board Meeting Dates.</li></ul>
<b>Board Chair Update</b>	Chair Pittman provided an update regarding various events and activities during the month of June.
<b>President &amp; CEO Report/ Strategic Planning Update</b>	CEO Miller noted the written report and referred to the Senior Management Team for review of assigned departments.  Vice President of Engineering Services Betty Jo Kiesow stated current employee COVID-19 vaccination rates. Vice President Kiesow then provided a status update related to the acquisition of the new Cedar Substation in Lakeville, Minnesota.  Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse noted that member activity increased in June due to disconnect letters that began to go out to those members with delinquent accounts. Dakota Electric has added an additional payment dropbox outside by the main entrance doors since the lobby is still closed due to continued COVID-19 safety precautions.  Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson highlighted the hiring of Dakota Electric’s one thousandth employee Nathaniel Roush who was hired as a Computer Support Specialist to fill the IT help desk vacancy due to a retirement.  Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen provided a special session legislative update noting proposed changes regarding the Cold Weather Rule and disconnects. Two weeks would be added to extend current dates both in October and April and remote disconnects would be allowed, but not required.

Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz provided an update regarding delinquent accounts noting Dakota Electric has waived over \$1.2 million in late fees since the beginning of April 2020. CFO Hintz stated that 16,231 accounts or 14 percent of total accounts had waived late fees last month. CFO Hintz highlighted that in June the total delinquent balance has gone down and 148 COVID-19 designated payment plans have been set up by members working to resolve those delinquent balances.

Vice President of Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker shared details related to Dakota Electric's annual pole top rescue training completed by Powerline Specialists, noting the critical importance of this training in life saving situations. Vice President Schoenecker then spoke to reliability, recent outages and the daily System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI).

CEO Miller concluded with updates on safety, continued work on Dakota Electric's return to office plan and 2021 board retreat planning.

**AGi Update**

CIO Nelson reviewed the AGi budget and timeline noting the project remains under budget, the majority of meter installs will be complete by year end and a decrease in member call volume.

**Form 990**

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2020 Draft Form 990.**

**Great River Energy**

Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a GRE update. Director Van De Bogart spoke to critical peak pricing and a possible future agenda item related to escalating renewable energy costs. Director Schreiner discussed the upcoming strategic planning session in July and GRE's return to office planning.

**Minnesota Rural Electric Association Update**

Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update and noted NRECA's upcoming online summer school in July which offers the opportunity to earn your Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate through a one week CCD Seminar.

**Board Retreat Committee Update**

Director John DeYoe provided a board retreat update noting a meeting venue has been secured, GreatCo-Ops has requested documents for review and a survey will be sent out to directors and key staff to complete prior to individual interviews that will be scheduled for early August.

**Attorney Update**

Attorney Steve Yoch provided a legal update related to the firm's work on current Dakota Electric projects and legal needs.

**Adjournment**

✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Melissa Cherney, Recorder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Gerald Pittman, Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kenneth Danner, Secretary**