



**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF JULY 29, 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	Bill Holton	Paul Bakken
David Jones	Jim Sheldon	Margaret Schreiner	Judy Kimmes
Jerry Pittman	Clay Van De Bogart		Stacy Miller

Staff in Attendance:

Melissa Cherney	Corey Hintz	Sara McGrane	Mjyke Nelson
Mike Fosse	Betty Jo Kiesow	Greg Miller	Jeff Schoenecker
Adam Heinen	Brandon Lunde	Joe Miller	

Guests and Members in Attendance:

VJ Agarwal	Chris Erickson	Veda Kanitz	Debra Riggs
Jon Brekke	Karl Forsberg	Tom Luse	Amy Sutton
Laurie Bolin	Girma Hassen	Jeff Mortensen	Don Vasatka
John Chatelaine	Jennifer Harrison	Debbie Nelson	Susan Wehrenberg
John Donner	Luke Hellier	Greg Oxley	Ian Ziese
Craig Edstrom			

Call to Order	Chair Jerry Pittman called the regular virtual meeting of the Dakota Electric Association Board of Directors to order at 8:30 a.m. and presided. A quorum was present.
Great River Energy	Great River Energy (GRE) Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke joined as a guest to address member and board questions related to the sale of Coal Creek Station.
Agenda Adoption	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.
Visiting Member Comments	Members in attendance provided statements to the board related to the sale of Coal Creek Station.
Sharing Success Grant	CoBank representative John Donner was present to provide an overview of the annual Sharing Success Grant program and their partnership with Dakota Electric to match donations to distribute grants to local non-profit organizations. This year's recipients were Hastings Family Services, Dakota Woodlands and 360 Communities.

- Sale of Coal Creek Vote** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried by an 8-3 majority vote in favor of the Transaction and the PPA related to the sale of Coal Creek Station – Resolution 21-7-1.**
- Safety Update** Manger of Safety Services Brandon Lunde presented the annual board safety update noting the safety theme for 2021 is “Be Present” in the task at hand.
- Approval of the Consent Agenda** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Consent agenda.**
- Minutes of June 24, 2021 Board Meeting.
 - Attorney’s Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-7-2.
 - Attorney’s Monthly Fees.
 - Recognition of Retiring Employee – Linda Landwehr – Resolution 21-7-3.
- Board Chair Update** Chair Pittman provided an update regarding various events and activities during the month of July.
- President & CEO Report/ Strategic Planning Update** 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 provided a status update related to the acquisition of the new Cedar Substation in Lakeville, Minnesota.
- Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz noted Dakota Electric received a \$247 thousand refund this month from GRE and anticipate a \$824 thousand refund next month. He provided an update regarding delinquent accounts noting that total delinquent balances continue to decrease, and members are engaging to resolve those balances.
- Vice President of Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker highlighted recent building improvements noting phase two of the parking lot update is complete. He then discussed reliability and the continued success of the tree trimming ticket project.
- Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse noted the large influx of activity this month in member services related to disconnect letters sent to members with delinquent accounts; and highlighted the department’s great work in handling that increase.
- Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson reviewed additional cybersecurity precautions noting employees will not be able to connect to the Dakota Electric network when outside of the United States.
- Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen noted the Cold Weather Rule extension was approved and will now be in effect October 1 through April 30.
- CEO Miller concluded with updates on Dakota Electric’s return to office plan and noted employee health insurance renewal discussions have begun.

- AGi Update** CIO Nelson reviewed the AGi budget noting the project remains favorable to plan, LCR installations are lower than expected but on track and there was an increase in member call volume.
- Quarterly Financial Update** CFO Hintz provided a second quarter financial update noting warmer than average weather increased sales and a higher than average rate of employee retirement has decreased labor and benefit costs contributing to favorable operating expenses.
- Charitable Organization Report Form** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Minnesota State Charitable Organization Annual Report Form – Resolution 21-7-4.**
- Great River Energy** Director Clay Van De Bogart was selected as Dakota Electric’s GRE Special Meeting voting delegate. Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a GRE update noting the 2022 board meeting dates were approved, the annual budget process has begun, and Director Schreiner will now serve on the Transmission Committee.
- Minnesota Rural Electric Association** Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update and noted the upcoming Energy Issues Summit scheduled for August 11-12.
- Board Retreat Committee** Director John DeYoe provided a board retreat update noting 2:1 consultant interviews have been scheduled with directors and staff for early August.
- Attorney Update** Attorney Sara McGrane provided a legal update noting the firm’s work on policy reviews and member requests for cooperative information.
- Adjournment** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 3:28 p.m.**

Melissa Cherney, Recorder