



**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 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
Allie Shetler

Guests and Members in Attendance:

Vijendra Agarwal

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.

**Resignation
Notice**

Chair Pittman announced that Jim Sheldon has resigned his position as a board representative of District 2, effective August 24, 2021. Mr. Sheldon is no longer a member of Dakota Electric Association following a change in permanent residence resulting in a loss of eligibility. This board seat will remain vacant until a new director is elected by members following the 2022 annual board election.

**Agenda
Adoption**

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

**Approval of the
Consent Agenda**

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

- Minutes of July 29, 2021 Board Meeting.
- Attorney's Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-8-1.
- Attorney's Monthly Fees.

Board Chair Update	Chair Pittman provided an update regarding various events and activities during the month of August.
President & CEO Report/ Strategic Planning Update	<p>CEO Miller noted the written report and referred to the Senior Management Team for review of assigned departments.</p> <p>Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse noted the continued influx of activity this month in the call center as members with delinquent balances set-up payments plans that will help bring them out of arrearage.</p> <p>Vice President of Engineering Services Betty Jo Kiesow noted a company-wide initiative to diversify supplier spending starting with a focus on Tier 1 supplier's and tracking vendor practices.</p> <p>Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz noted Dakota Electric has waived a total of 1.4M in late fees since April 2020. He then provided an update regarding delinquent accounts noting total delinquent balances continue to decrease this month as members engage to resolve those balances.</p> <p>Vice President of Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker provided an update on reliability and highlighted a near miss regarding an incident with a fuse and how Dakota Electric then takes the opportunity to share the information learned with other cooperatives to help prevent the same issue or incident from happening elsewhere.</p> <p>Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson presented the results of Dakota Electric's Cybersecurity audit that focused on four key areas including admin controls, physical controls, external technical controls and internal technical controls. Dakota Electric received very favorable results, largely exceeding our 2020 risk assessment (S2) score goal by over 44 points.</p> <p>Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen noted formal tariff changes were made on August 2 for the Cold Weather Rule and updates to Dakota Electric member brochures and notices have already been completed to comply with the law.</p> <p>CEO Miller concluded with COVID-19 and safety updates; an overview of the Dakota Electric work from home pilot program; and a prelude to upcoming website and communication updates.</p>
AGi Update	CIO Nelson reviewed the AGi budget noting the project remains favorable to plan, member calls decreased, meter exchanges were less than anticipated in July.
Communications Review	Public Relations Director Joe Miller provided the annual review of the Dakota Electric Emergency Communication Plan .

- Natural Gas Price Investigation** Vice President Heinen discussed the natural gas investigation that stemmed from the February 2021 national cold snap, noting Dakota Electric could be impacted if an increase in natural gas costs impact a member's ability to pay for electric services.
- Identify Theft and Data Protection** Vice President Heinen reviewed data protection and noted some instances of recent identify theft that impacted Dakota Electric and reviewed nest steps to prevent future incidents.
- Website Update** CEO Miller and Communications Specialist Allie Shetler reviewed website changes to the Dakota Electric board page to implement a more user friendly format; and the addition of a power supply page to provide member's with the ability to access that information directly on our website.
- Great River Energy** Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a GRE update noting a revised 2022 meeting schedule, revised budget and updated rates for the remainder of 2021.
- Minnesota Rural Electric Association** Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update noting next steps in the process to fill the Director of Government Affairs & General Counsel position are underway.
- Unclaimed Capital Credits Donation** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the donation and distribution of \$210,000 in unclaimed capital credits to local school districts and colleges for the 2021/2022 school year to be used for approved scholarships and educational initiatives.**
- Audit Committee Update** Director Bill Middlecamp provided an update noting the Committee approved the 2021 audit engagement letter with Eide Bailly and discussed a policy language change to be brought for review at next month's meeting.
- Attorney Update** Attorney Sara McGrane provided a legal update noting the firm's work on policy revisions, website updates and a director resignation.
- Adjournment** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 1:06 p.m.**

Melissa Cherney, Recorder