



**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 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

Guests and Members in Attendance:

Vijendra Agarwal

Fran Bator

Mark Ethen

Greg Ridderbusch

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.

Executive Session

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to move into Executive Session.**

Connexus Energy Board Chair Fran Bator, President and CEO Greg Ridderbusch and Vice Chair Mark Ethen were present to provide an overview regarding their recent letter to Great River Energy requesting to end their membership contract. Dakota Electric directors, staff and legal counsel were present.

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to move out of Executive Session and convene into open session at 10:20 a.m.**

**Agenda
Adoption**

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

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

- Minutes of August 26, 2021 Board Meeting.
- Attorney's Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-9-1.
- Attorney's Monthly Fees.
- Support of the 2021 Dakota Cares Campaign Resolution 21-9-2
- Recognition of Retiring Employee – Glenda Hewitt – Resolution 21-9-3

Visiting Member Comments

Member Vijendra Agarwal was present and addressed the board.

Board Chair Update

Chair Pittman provided an update regarding various events and activities during the month of September.

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 Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker briefed the board on the recent storm that swept through Dakota County noting there was an issue with the phone system preventing the ability to report outages that was quickly resolved. He reported there were no injuries to staff as crews worked to resolve outages. He then highlighted Communication Specialist Allie Shetler's proactive approach to reach out to members directly via social media during and after the storm to help communicate updates, answer questions and alleviate member frustrations. Vice President Schoenecker then later provided a reliability update and overview of the Diffley Road Project.

Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse provided a reminder regarding the Energy Expo taking place this evening noting sixty DEA members are registered to attend. Vice President Fosse then provided an overview of DEA's upcoming participation in Great River Energy's load management pilot program.

Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz noted that DEA has resumed charging late fees. DEA had previously waived all late fees since April 2020. CFO Hintz then highlighted the continued trend of decreasing total delinquent balances this past month. However, CFO Hintz reported that two-thirds of members currently participating on a plan with the Arrearage Forgiveness Program have already missed a payment. Per program requirements after a second missed payment, the member's plan would be rendered void and the member would become ineligible to participate in the future.

Vice President of Engineering and Administrative Services spoke to next steps with the Dodd Park Substation, solutions to combat continued supply lead time issues and reviewed resolutions to purchase a transformer and primary cable.

Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson provided an update regarding Dakota Electric's preliminary Cybersecurity audit results presented last month, noting our final S2 score increased over forty points moving Dakota Electric's audit standings from good to excellent.

Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen provided a regulatory update, noted the Integrated Distribution Plan (IDP) Stakeholder Group met on September 15 in preparation of Dakota Electric's IDP that will be filed with the Commission on November 1, 2021.

CEO Miller concluded with a safety update.

AGi Update

CIO Nelson reviewed the AGi budget noting the project remains favorable to plan, member calls decreased, and highlighted Dakota Electric hit the 100,000 mark with meter installs.

Long Range Financial Forecast

Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz presented the DEA ten-year financial forecast. Annual projections are designed to calculate a high level ten year forecast noting several considerations that can impact the forecast such as weather, member growth and power costs

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Long Range Financial Forecast – Resolution – 21-9-4.**

Purchasing Requests

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Dodd Park Substation Transformer – Resolution – 21-9-5.**

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the Primary Cable – Resolution – 21-9-6.**

Great River Energy

Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a GRE update noting the CEO Evaluation and an increase in board director stipends was approved. It was also noted that Director Schreiner will chair the Transmission Committee and Director Van De Bogart will chair the Power Supply Committee.

Election Committee

Chair Bill Middlecamp provided an update noting Judge Richard Spicer has been appointed arbitrator for the 2022 election, there will be no bylaw changes on the ballot and reviewed suggested language changes to policy 4.6, Rules Governing the Election of Directors. Chair Middlecamp then confirmed the following incumbents will be seeking reelection in 2022: David Jones, Stacy Miller and Bill Holton.

Audit Committee

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Policy Book Section I, Policy 4.1 Director Compensation and Expense Reimbursement – effective 9-30-2021.**

- Minnesota Rural Electric Association** Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update noting the upcoming MREA Legislative Session in November and resolutions due in December to be considered for annual review by the Committee in January.
- Board Retreat Committee** Chair John DeYoe presented the Committee’s recommendation to postpone the October board retreat until May 2-3, 2021 due to COVID-19 safety concerns and the desire to hold the retreat in-person to ensure a successful environment and full engagement.
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried with one abstention to postpone the board retreat until May 2022.**
- Attorney Update** Attorney Sara McGrane provided a legal update and presented a policy for approval.
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve Policy Book Section I, Policy 1.4, Delegations from the Board of Directors to the President & Chief Executive Officer – effective 9-30-2021.**
- New Business** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to direct the corporate attorney to look for possible discrepancies related to Dakota Electric Association conflicts of interests and recommend improvements if needed.**
- Adjournment** ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 2:41 p.m.**

Melissa Cherney, Recorder