



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**DAKOTA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION®
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 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
Greg Miller

Joe Miller
Mjyke Nelson
Davin Peterson

Jeffrey Rainey
Jeff Schoenecker
Steve Yoch

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.

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 October 28, 2021 Board Meeting
- Attorney's Monthly Fees – Resolution 21-11-1
- Attorney's Monthly Fees

Board Chair Update

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

President & CEO Report/ Strategic Planning Update

Vice President of Financial Services and CFO Corey Hintz provided a department COVID-19 impact then noted an 11 percent increase in delinquent balances comparable to last month and a significant decrease in member participation in the Arrearage Forgiveness Program. Vice President of Engineering and Administrative Services Betty Jo Kiesow provided an overall company COVID-19 impact noting an increase in employee positive cases and a return to some additional preventive protocols. Vice President Kiesow then reviewed the continued supply and lead time issues noting some suppliers declining to bid due to unknown future costs.

Vice President of Energy and Member Services Mike Fosse noted an agreement with Carbon Solutions and the City of Lakeville resulted in the installation of 36 EV charging stations with five placed in the Dakota Electric service area. Vice President Fosse provided an update on solar rebates and then noted the departments current difficulties with staffing the member services department due to an inability to garner interest for the position in today's employment climate. Vice President of Information Services and CIO Mjyke Nelson provided updates related to the department's COVID-19 impact, meter exchange and the enterprise resource planning system replacement progress noting a vendor has been selected. Vice President of Utility Services Jeff Schoenecker briefed the board on COVID-19 impacts to the Utility Services department and provided an update on the Dodd Park Substation.

Vice President of Regulatory Services Adam Heinen provided a regulatory update noting the Public Utilities Commission anticipates the expected increase in heating season prices should be temporary. CEO Miller concluded with updates related to safety, budget process, staffing and upcoming changes to the scorecard and board report templates.

**Economic
Development
Update**

Economic Development Director Jeffrey Rainey provided an overview of his position including both internal and external facets. He detailed the benefits and impacts of networking, community relations, surveying the surrounding member cities' wants and needs, attending city planning and council meetings and working with internal key accounts representatives.

**Bad Debt Write
Off**

✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2020 Bad Debt Write Off – Resolution – 21-11-2.**

**2022 Annual
Meeting Speaker**

The board began discussion and planning of the 2022 annual meeting including suggested speakers. Follow-up at a future meeting.

**Great River
Energy**

Directors Clay Van De Bogart and Margaret Schreiner provided a Great River Energy (GRE) update. Director Schreiner noted all committee meetings were shortened in response to a COVID-19 breakout and safety concern, the 2022 GRE budget was approved, Connexus discussion is ongoing with term sheet expected by yearend. Director Van De Bogart provided an update regarding the sale of Coal Creek noting opposition has lessened and PUC expected to approve the transmission. Director Van De Bogart also noted the Buffalo Wind project and upcoming member vote on the resolution.

**Minnesota Rural
Electric
Association**

Director Stacy Miller provided a Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) update including items on the legislative/regulatory agenda, federal updates and noting the upcoming events and trainings including the NRECA Power Exchange event taking place in Nashville, TN March 4-9.

**2022
Construction
Budget**

Engineering Services Manager Davin Peterson presented a summary of the 2022 construction budget and overview of 2022 projects. The net 2022 construction budget is \$16,350,800 which includes \$4.43M for capital investments associated with the AGi project. Mr. Peterson noted some of the contributing trends and components that affected the budget include material costs, increased lead times, increase in development, large load interconnections and an increase in Distributed Energy Resources (DER) interconnections.

- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the 2022 Construction Budget – Resolution – 21-11-3.**
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Meter Purchase – Resolution – 21-11-4.**
- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Transformer Purchase – Resolution – 21-11-5.**

Attorney Update

Attorney Steve Yoch provided a legal update noting work this month on employment issues, easement issues and conflict of interest policy.

Executive Session

The board convened into closed session to discuss the NRECA Pension Restoration Plan Split Payment and the CEO Goal Setting and Performance Appraisal timeline.

**NRECA Pension
Restoration Plan
Split Payment**

The board reconvened into open session.

- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried by a 9-2 majority to approve the NRECA Pension Restoration Plan Split Payment (PRP) – Resolution – 21-11-6.**

Adjournment

- ✓ **A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn at 12:49 p.m.**

Melissa Cherney, Recorder