

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ONTONAGON COUNTY R.E.A.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WAS HELD AT 500 JAMES K PAUL STREET
ONTONAGON MICHIGAN

Minutes
July 19, 2024, 9:30 A.M.

First meeting after the Annual Meeting to Elect Officers

Attorney Pat Greeley called the election of officers meeting to order at 9:28. William Hodges and Calvin Koski were both nominated for President. Treasurer and Secretary were uncontested. Ballots went out for the President position. Attorney Greeley asked each candidate to give a short presentation and asked the director to vote. He tabulated the votes, five for Hodges and two for C. Koski. C Koski agrees to remain as Vice President. Attorney Greeley turned the meeting over to Hodges.

1. Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:32.
2. Roll Call – Hodges, C. Koski, Myhren, Gasperich, P. Koski, Gaunt, Lehto. Others Present: CEO Aho, Attorney Greeley and Tom Sobeck.
3. At 9:35, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Urbis were present for the member comment session. Mr. Urbis passed around a list of questions. He asked the questions be answered before the August meeting. They left the meeting at 9:38, There were no further member comments.
4. **M/S Lehto and Gaunt to approve the agenda**, with the addition of the rebate program.
5. **M/S Myhren/Gaunt to approve the Minutes** of June 13th regular meeting, all in favor, motion passed.
6. The Attorney Reported he is finishing up the review of the policies and had questions regarding some of the initial policies that were reviewed between 2019 and 2021. Gaunt will review what was submitted and provided updated policies. Greeley has been in regular communication with CEO Aho on the legal aspects as the CEO comes across them. Gaunt will work with Staff and Greeley on the list of questions presented during the member comments.
7. The Operations' Report was presented by Justin Sironen and is attached. The update to the report includes a second pole was placed in the Misery Bay area. Those two poles will have service provided to them in the coming weeks. He also explained the outage report. If 20 accounts have a power outage for 15 minutes, that outage has an accumulated amount of 300 minutes. He also noted the outages are in areas the vegetation management crew has not cleared. These areas are on the vegetation list.
8. The CEO's Report was presented and is attached. The auditors have not been able to gain off-site access to the computer system and are unable to complete the audit. Suggestions were provided on ways to accomplish their access. The Times Interest Earned Ration was discussed at length. These are the monthly numbers. They will fluctuate based on the invoices paid for the month.
9. Financial Report were reviewed and discussed.
 - a) Financial Statements for period ended 05/31/2024
 - b) PSCR Over/Under Collection for period ended 06/30/202
 - c) RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 04/30/202 for \$99,382.15
 - d) List of Bills – **June 2024**

M/S Myhren/Gaunt to approve and accept the reports as presented and discussed, all in favor, motion passed.

10. Business Requiring Board Action
 - a) Board Signatures for June 13, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - b) Removal of Eugene Soumis as an account signer at Citizens State Bank
 - c) Add Justin Sironen as an account signer at Citizens State Bank
 - d) Add Alex Watson as an account signer at Citizens State Bank
M/S C Koski/Lehto to go forward with b, c, and d, all in favor, motion passed.
 - e) Board Signatures for RUS Form(s) 674, 675, and 87
 - f) Board Signatures for Resolution for Form 674 and RD Apply
 - g) CEO completed and submitted the Nonprofit Corporation Annual Reports for 2022, 2023, and 2024
11. Other Business
 - a) IT Vendor – RFP Update – A request for proposals has been submitted to alternative IT agencies in the area.

- b) **M/S Myhren/Gaunt to approve the consulting retainer for Tom Sobeck, all in favor, Motion passed.**
- c) For the August meeting all directors should review the Financial Strategic Plan determinations and be prepared to discuss them.
- d) Board Policy Update – see attorney report.
- e) **NRECA Regional Meeting September 6-8, 2024 M/S Gasperich/Gaunt to send up to four to the meeting, as long as it is within budget, discussion, all in favor, motion carried.**
- f) NRECA Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP) **M/S Gasperich/Gaunt to support CEO to attend the training in 2025 and sign up immediately, all in favor, motion passed.**
- g) Net Metering Review The contract with Wolverine needs to be reviewed for any qualifiers that would limit Ontonagon REA from increasing our current cap.
- h) **M/S Myhren/Gaunt to accept the CEO Contract as presented with a few minor word changes, all in favor, motion passed.**

12 Around the Table Discussion

Lehto – Nothing at this time.

Gaunt – Thank you Paul Koski for taking the district 2 opening and being here today.

C Koski – Welcome back to the board Mr. Koski!

P Koski – Nothing at this time

Myhren - please call me when the document has been prepared to answer the questions.

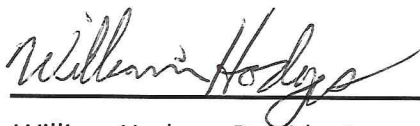
Gasperich – Asked when Aaron Stallings would be coming to the meeting to go over our financial status and the other 125 items he looks at. She also inquired if Justin Sironen will be joining us during the board meetings.

Hodges – Welcomed back Paul Koski and thanked all of the Directors for their continued participation and enthusiasm.

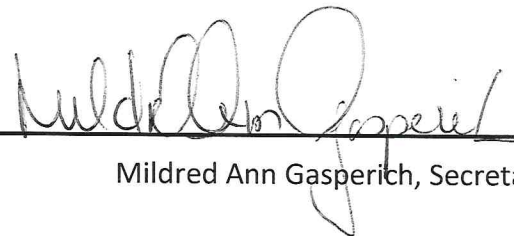
13. Executive Session Called by the Chair at 11:57 and returned to regular session at 12:32.

14. Next Meeting Date: August 16, 2024

15. 12:33 Adjournment called by Myhre, Sine Die

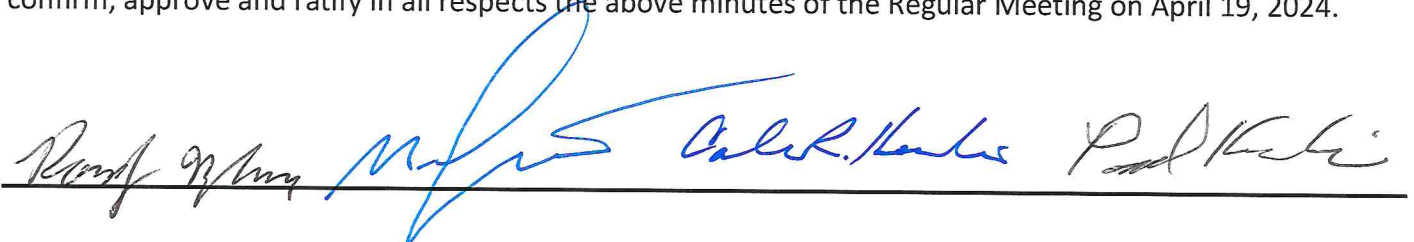


William Hodges, President



Mildred Ann Gasperich, Secretary

We the undersigned Directors of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association do hereby confirm, approve and ratify in all respects the above minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 19, 2024.





Ontonagon REA

THE ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

CEO/General Manager Report – July 2024

1. Miscellaneous Business Updates

- 1.1 2023 Audit remains open. Nitro Consulting (IT) is working with Bauman Associates to set up a remote desktop to allow auditors access to Ontonagon County REA financials.
- 1.2 Successfully migrated our Secure Payments IVR system to the new NISC Multi-Channel Messenger (MCM) Payment's solution. The new payment solution is active.
- 1.3 Completed the RUS – Form 7 and submitted it to RUS, CFC and CoBank.
- 1.4 Justin and Dallas are working on completing the MPSC – R460.731 Annual Report
- 1.5 Completed the Public Utility Assessment (PUA) for the Michigan Public Service Commission.
- 1.6 Justin and Dallas met with Claire Christen from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community about Potential Solar Projects.
- 1.7 Justin and Dallas met with Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to go through dispatch protocols and an overview of the service they provide. Added in some new services at zero cost that the REA had not been utilizing.
- 1.8 Established a weekly call with Tom Sobeck to go over expectations, goals, concerns, and general questions.

2. Metering AMI Project Update

- 2.1 One new collector pole was set in Toivola
- 2.2 22 new vision meters were installed since last month. Bringing the total to 3,979.

3. Staffing Updates

- 3.1 Hired a lineman for the L'Anse Journeyman Lineman opening. His start date is 7/22/2024.
- 3.2 Posted the Administrative Assistant vacancy. Received 7 applications to date. Tentative start date of 9/2/2024.

4. Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) and Margins Update

1.1 TIER – Operating	Target Range: >1.1	Actual: 5.04
1.2 TIER – Net	Target Range: >1.25	Actual: 5.67
1.3 TIER – Modified	Target Range: >1.35	Actual: 5.06
1.4 Current Assets to Current Liabilities	Target Range: 1 to 1	Actual: 1.74 to 1
1.5 Margins and Equities to Total Assets	Target Range: > 30%	Actual: 29.42%
1.6 Long-Term Debt to Total Utility Plant	Target Range: > 50%	Actual: 46.22%

500 J.K. Paul Street - Ontonagon, Michigan 49953 - (906) 884-4151

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Ontonagon REA

THE ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

2024 July Operations Report

1. Safety

- 1.1 There were 0 accidents and zero near misses reported in June.
- 1.2 The MECA Safety Meeting was held on June 27th. The safety meeting included Pole top/Bucket rescue, and review of Accidents/Near Misses
- 1.3 The July MECA Safety Meeting was held on July 10th. The safety meeting included grounding for the protection of the employee.

2. Trucks and Equipment

- 2.1 Tree crew bucket 21v is down with hydraulic pressure issues
- 2.2 Vermeer cable plow 47 is waiting for new turbo to be installed.
- 2.3 Two windshields were replaced on trucks 20v and 12v.

3. Service Interruptions

- 3.1 In the month of May, we had 16 outages with a total duration of 484 Minutes.

4. Vegetation Management

- 4.1 Tree Crew: Mowed 138 spans. Trimmed 28 Spans. Removed 405 Trees.

5. Miscellaneous Items

- 5.1 New hire Starting in L'Anse 7/22
- 5.2 New Service Inquiries so far in July – 13

Metering System

- 5.3 Current total of 3,979 new vision meters installed. +22 from June
- 5.4 New meter pole installed in Toivola area

6. Maintenance

- 6.1 OCR, Regulator, and Substation Inspections continue each month.
- 6.2 Reviewing coordination of protective devices to ensure minimal members effected by an outage.

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