

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

Minutes

February 21, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

1. Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:32
2. Roll Call – Hodges, Cal Koski, Myhren, Gasperich, Paul Koski, and Gaunt, and Lehto. Others Present: General Manager Aho, Justin Sironen, Kelsey Preiss. Consultant Tom Sobeck and Attorney Greeley also participated via teams.
3. Member Comment Session – Mr. and Mrs. Mike Urbis were present, as well as a deputy from the Ontonagon Sheriff Department as requested by Mr. Urbis. Mr. Urbis read a letter from member Pat Kitzman, requesting it be entered into the minutes, no letter was provided. Mr. Urbis then read from a paper referencing administrative policies, inquired to the location of the five-minute speaking policy, and spoke to his dislike of the way the board operates. He chose not to leave a copy of his document.
4. **M/S Gaunt/Lehto** to approve the agenda with the addition of Rate Review Discussion, all in favor, motion passed.
5. **M/S Myhren/Lehto** to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2025, as presented. All in favor, motion passed.
6. Attorney Reports The attorney provided updates to items of interest.
7. The Operations' Report - Vision Metering is 92.6 % complete, zero accidents, zero near misses in January.
8. CEO Report – was presented. The audit for 2023 is complete. The audit for 2024 will take place the end of March or first of April.
9. Financial Report
 - a) Financial Statements for period ended 12/31/2024
 - b) PSCR Over/Under Collection for period ended 1/31/2025
 - c) List of Bills – January, 2025

M/S Myhren/Lehto to accept the reports including the 2023 audit as presented, all in favor, motion passed.

10. Business Requiring Board Action
 - a. Board Signatures for December 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes.
11. Other Business
 - a. Net Metering was discussed again. The tariff remains “one for one.” If 87 kWh are generated and banked, 87 kWh are available to the member.
 - b. Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) Update – Casie Clark from Michigan Energy Cooperative Association (MECA) provided the update via teams. We have always participated in EWR. Historically, through a contracted provider, recently, on our own. A provider plan will be available for review during the March 21st meeting.
 - c. Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) on Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The Governor will sign the new legislation. **M/S Gaunt/Myhren** to opt into the new energy assistance program, which provides more flexibility when customers are unable to pay their power bill, all in favor, motion passed.
 - d. Michigan Electric Cooperative Symposium in Grand Rapids – Reservations are being made for Hodges, Cal Koski, Gaunt and CEO Aho.
 - e. Metering Policy review – Additional request to opt out of smart metering system discussed. The current policy was reviewed and reaffirmed. The REA is not required to provide an opt out option for AMI Metering. Allowing member to rely on old meters will increase line loss and potential liability. Members may request that the REA place AMI meters on a pole with the cost of configuration changes borne by the homeowner.
 - f. Rate Review – As a board we will continue to review existing rates annually for all types of service. This will remain an agenda item.

12. Around the Table Comments —

Gasperich inquired if Country Lines would consider doing an article on the Energy Waste Reduction, and the Michigan Energy Assistance Program as both impact everyone in the state.

Myhren asked if Country Lines could do an article on our amazing vegetation management three-man crew and discuss the positive impact we have had.

Hodges mentioned we will look at the calendar for the April meeting, during the March meeting. The April meeting falls on Good Friday.

Again, the Staff was thanked for the amazing job they are doing.

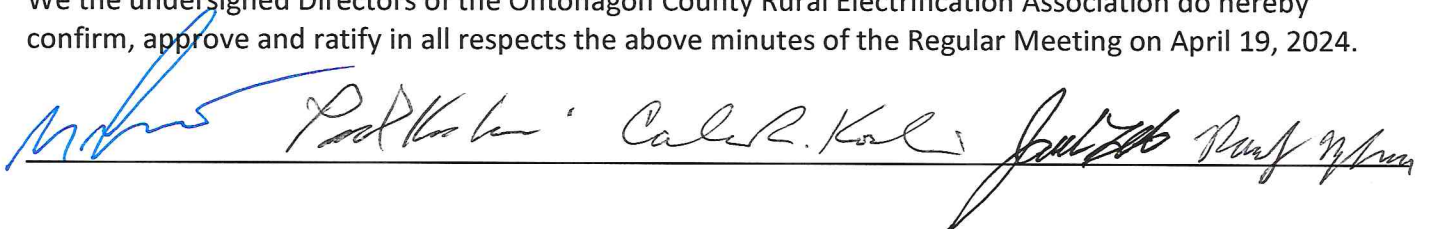
13. Next Meeting Date: March 21, 2025

14. Adjournment Myhren/P Koski at 12:05, meeting adjourned

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.

 Four handwritten signatures in blue ink are written over a horizontal line. From left to right, the signatures appear to be: William Hodges, Paul Koski, Charles Koski, and Mildred Ann Gasperich.