

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

MINUTES
April 21, 2023 9:30 A.M.

1. Call regular meeting to order at 9:30 by: President Hodges
2. Roll Call – Bill Hodges, Calvin Koski, Randy Myhren, Ann Gasperich, Mike Urbis, Mike Gaunt, Jack Lehto Others Present: General Manager Eugene Soumis, and Attorney Pat Greeley, via zoom.
3. Member comment session -- None
4. Approval of the Agenda -- Change name on Item 14.1 from Director School Review Continued to MECA Meeting and Symposium, **M/S Myhren/Gaunt**, motion passed.
5. Executive Session -- None
6. **M/S Myhren/Lehto** to Approve Minutes of the March 17 Board Meeting, passed.
7. Cloverland Electric Arc Power Presentation via zoom – Mike Heise, Pat Frazier and Kyle Stabile provided the background of ARC, American Rural Cooperative Power out of Sault St. Marie, a generation and transmission(G&T) cooperative. ARC is part of Cloverland Electric. Heise CEO and Frazier COO explained their background at American Municipal Power, AMP Ohio, G&T. With G&T background they started ARC in January of 2022. Stabile is the Sr. Power Supply analyst. ARC Power is another supplier available while reviewing future purchase power contract pricing.
8. Attorney Reports -- After the presentation, Greeley will review the existing power contract for elements to be aware of as we move forward with proposals for power.
9. Metering Update – GM Soumis stated we are at 30% distribution and provided the Gantt chart with the time frame for complete implementation. Full conversion expected by year end. Collector poles are ready to be installed in the L'anse area, just waiting for road restrictions to be removed.
10. Line Superintendent's Report was provided. The contract for purchase of a bucket truck was able to be set aside due to another delay. This enabled Mark to purchase another new bucket truck from Texas. It will be picked up in the next two weeks, and final destination is the Hancock Garage. Vegetation continues to clear danger trees and member reported tree tickets. They are currently working in Trout Creek and Ontonagon. Grounding is the topic for the April safety training session. One new service was connected, 2 reconnected and 3 services transferred. There are numerous new services planned, again waiting for road restrictions to come off.
11. Financial Report
The Financial Statements for period ended 02/28/2023, PSCR Over/Under Collection for period ended 03/31/2023, List of Bills – March 2023, Special Equipment Summary for period ended 2/28/2023 for \$11,090.71 and RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 1/31/2023 for \$90,971.07 were reviewed, discussed and **M/S Koski/Myhren to accept and approved, motion passed.**
12. Managers' Report
Eugene presented the Metering Schedule, a letter sent to municipalities, spoke to the grant he applied for using wind and solar generation, reminded the board the rate study will begin May 1st, spoke to concerns over commercial account in arrears, the Annual meeting set for June 17th at 10:00 AM in Chassell, updates for Country Lines, and reminded the two Directors to make sure their petitions are in by May 1st.
13. Business Requiring Board Action
 - 13.1 **M/S Koski/Myhren** to authorize the President to sign the RUS Form 219, passed.

13.2 **M/S Gaunt/Lehto** Roll call vote to approve 2023 Budget adopted in December 2022; Hodges, yea, Koski, yea, Myhren, yea, Gasperich, yea, Urbis, yea, Gaunt, yea, Lehto, yea, motion passed.

14. Other Business


- 14.1 MECA Meeting/Symposium – Hodges provided an update on the challenges facing coops in Michigan. These include rate increases, cyber security, renewable energy decarbonization legislation and increasing demand.
- 14.2 Board Meeting Attendance Policy- the policy was reviewed, discussed and will stand as is.
- 14.3 Director Education, Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) opportunity is scheduled for October in Marquette. It is a five-day training and all directors are encouraged to attend.
- 14.4 Board Per Diem Review Continued, no action taken.
- 14.5 Board Policy progress update Gaunt met with Soumis to review the many documents and put together a digital file of all the policies. The next policy to be worked on is 400-3.
- 14.6 Annual Meeting Review and Update-June 17, 10:00 AM Chassell, food catered by Syls and door prizes are being collected.
- 14.7 Cooperative Generation and Growth Grant – discussed during manager report.
- 14.8 The audit is 90% complete. A final report will be available in 60-90 days.


Around the Table Discussion

Lehto related an incident where he received a call from a member regarding a downed power line. The member had tried all methods or emergency contact. Eugene will contact the call center to determine the problem with the emergency number.
Hodges spoke to the possibility of using our collector sites to co-host 5G, and suggested we do a demographic study with our members to get their pulse on future projects.

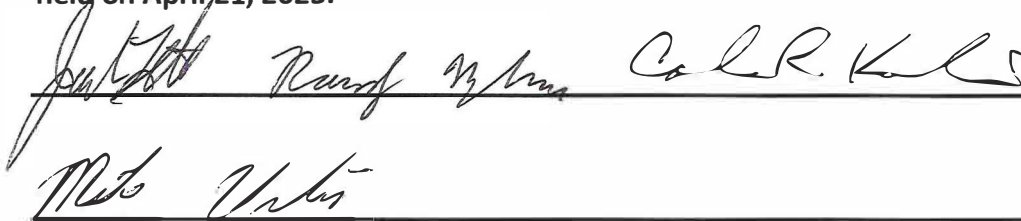
15. Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2023

16. Motion to adjourn by Lehto at 12:25, 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 held on April 21, 2023.



Being, all of the Directors of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association