



M-RETS efficiently tracks and verifies renewable energy generation in collaboration with stakeholders, facilitating renewable energy development in the public interest.

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9th, 2013

1:30 P.M. Central

Via GoToMeeting Webconference

Board Members

Present:

- (1) Deborah Erwin, **WI-PSC**, *President*
- (2) Pat Keily, **We-Energies**, *Vice President*
- (3) Brian Rounds, **SDPUC**, *Secretary*
- (4) Eric Jensen, **IWLA**
- (5) Ron Franz, **Dairyland Power Cooperative**
- (6) Janet McGurk, **IUB**
- (7) Susan Mackenzie, **MNPUC**
- (8) Dan Heim, **Exelon**
- (9) Larry Johnston, **SMMPA**
- (10) Jeffery Cottes, **Manitoba Province Energy Division** (arrived at 2:10 during item 4e)

Absent:

None

Others Present:

- (1) Amy Fredregill, **M-RETS, Inc.**, *Executive Director*
- (2) Zara Scharf, **M-RETS, Inc.**, *Program Analyst*
- (3) Eric Schroeder, **GPI**, *Treasurer*

Proceedings

Open Session

After taking roll, Deb called the meeting to order at 1:34 PM.

1. Approval of Draft Agenda and Minutes
 - a. Deb suggested possibly moving the Governance items down because Jeffery was unable to make the call until after 2 PM. No one was opposed.
 - b. No changes were suggested to the August 13, 2013, minutes.
 - c. MOTION by Deb to approve the August 13, 2013, minutes – 2nd by Pat. Motion passed on a voice vote.
 - d. MOTION by Pat to approve the agenda as discussed – 2nd by Susan. Motion passed on a voice vote.
2. President's Report
 - a. Deb discussed the progress being made on the APX contract. She also mentioned that the Executive Committee hasn't met in a while but will be meeting next week and beginning work on the E.D. annual review.
 - b. Deb noted that this will be Susan's last board meeting as a director and thanked her for her many years of service to M-RETS; others chimed in with additional thanks. Susan said she was grateful and thanked everyone.
3. Management Report

- a. Amy walked through her Management Report slides, asking for feedback.
- b. Amy elaborated about the RPS Status presentation that she gave at LSI's Renewable Energy in the Midwest conference, mentioning that it was a good outreach opportunity, as many of our stakeholders and subscribers were in attendance. Some key themes were DG aggregation and long-term opportunities.
- c. She also highlighted that staff is beginning to track time based on Strategic Plan goals, and Zara hosted a successful aggregation working group call.

Closed Session – Board, Officers and Staff only

4. 2014 Budget

- a. Ron discussed the FC recommendation on the budget-setting approach, goals and plan for 2014. The 2013 actuals are ahead of budget. At the October meeting, the board will be doing a check-in on the strategic goals and how we can support them in the budget. To meet our goals for 2014, the FC recommends the board approve the use of some reserves, leading to a deficit for 2014. In November, the FC will submit a draft budget to the board for high level discussion purposes, and the board will plan to approve a budget in December. The FC called for comments on this proposed approach, goals and plan for the next fiscal year. Board member comments on FC's approach were positive.
- b. Ron also called for any ongoing comments on reserves and how those are managed.
- c. To operationalize the fixed fee business model and meet our strategic goals, Amy presented four potential budget scenarios for personnel levels for the remainder of FY 13 and FY 14. The FC recommended including the full time staff addition into the budget. Amy outlined that her approach would be to begin with adding a temporary contractor for flexibility reasons. The board had a number of questions and comments regarding the timeline and details around using a temp agency, but no opposition to the FC's budget recommendation was voiced.
- d. Ron called for any comments on the board's use of deficit budgeting. Previously the board had approved deficit budgeting for one-time expenses where appropriate, and given our high reserve level and higher than estimated revenues continuing to come in, the FC is likely to plan a deficit again next year. Following discussion, no opposition was voiced. Additional big picture discussion will be held in October.
- e. Ron mentioned that the FC is available to take feedback, answer questions, etc. outside the meetings as well.

5. Governance Committee (GC)

- a. Jeffery presented the results summary from the Board Meeting Evaluations the board recently filled out. Key takeaways included that the board liked that we are being strategic, growing and taking new business services in-house. We will continue to work on having strategic conversations during board meetings to make the best use of the meeting agenda time.
- b. Jeffery walked through the GC's rewritten workplan which should be used to hold the committee accountable and also set priorities for the future. He also requested any feedback or direction the board may have.
- c. Jeffery called for formal officer nominations. A statement of interest must be sent to Amy by October 4th, and the GC will present those to the board at the October board meeting.

Executive Session – the Board entered into Executive Session at 3:19 PM.

6. Adjourn

- a. The board adjourned by unanimous consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM. Minutes submitted by Brian Rounds.