



*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, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013

1:30 P.M. Central

Via GoToMeeting Webconference

### **Board Members**

#### *Present:*

- (1) Brian Rounds, **SDPUC**, *President*
- (2) Ron Franz, **Dairyland Power Cooperative**, *Vice President*
- (3) Pat Keily, **We-Energies**, *Secretary*
- (4) Deborah Erwin, **WI-PSC**
- (5) Dan Heim, **Exelon**
- (6) Larry Johnston, **SMMPA**
- (7) Michelle Rebholz, **MNPUC**
- (8) Jeff Cottes, **Manitoba Province Energy Division**
- (9) Eric Jensen, **IWLA** (Joined meeting at 1:34 PM)

#### *Absent:*

#### *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**

Brian called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

1. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - a. No changes were suggested to the November 17, 2013, minutes.
  - b. MOTION by Larry to approve agenda – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb. Motion passed on a voice vote.
  - c. MOTION by Jeff to approve 10/22/13 minutes - 2<sup>nd</sup> by Eric J.
2. President's Report
  - a. Brian worked with Deb and Amy to transition to role of President. Brian is planning on calling board members to discuss the board and receive input from board members.
3. Management Report
  - a. Thanks to Deb for her service as President and assistance in the transition.
  - b. New format for the Management report is to provide visual alignment with the Strategic Plan and provide information on time spent by Strategic Goals. Bold items are to highlight top priority items in the Strategic Plan. Amy plans to add another category to group the work done that does not directly tie to Strategic Goals.
  - c. Amy highlighted a few key items in her written report, including clarifying the MRETS role with stakeholders as a result of the recent solar rules in MN, work with bookkeeper on roles and responsibilities as a result of work moving from APX to MRETS Inc. Further work involved follow up from Stakeholders Meeting based on the evaluations. Met with PJM GATS for lessons learned on DG, backloading, policy neutrality, funding etc. This

- will help in discussion with Minnesota on the implementation of the recent solar legislation.
4. Rochester meeting follow-up
    - a. Takeaways from Strategic Planning discussion
      - (1) Small group breakouts worked well
      - (2) Strategies highlighted will help Amy and committees
      - (3) Strategies will be a good starting point for planning next year.
    - b. Takeaways from Governance discussion
      - (1) MRETS needs to serve compliance markets in the region
      - (2) Having a regulator majority may not be the best, board structure
      - (3) We need to develop other possible solutions that will keep MRETS serving compliance markets.
    - c. Delegation of government majority bylaw edits to Governance Committee
      - (1) Suggestion from Brian was for states that require MRETS for RPS compliance to have veto vote. Discussion was held around this suggestion. The following questions were asked and discussed. What is the impact of this? What if these states disagree (status quo will remain)?
      - (2) It was suggested that MRETS get feedback from the states. It was requested that the Governance Committee craft a survey of the regulatory participants to get their leadership's feedback and concerns on the idea. Deb will assist the Governance Committee on this.
  5. Committee vacancies
    - a. Need to have a non-officer on the Finance Committee
    - b. Need additional members on both committees.
    - c. Information on the committee charters is on Central Desktop in the "Governance and Organization Policy" folder as file "Committee purpose and charter edited for MRETS.pdf"
  6. Enhancements
    - a. The Enhancement Committee is requesting release of \$75,000 from the Enhancement Fund for releases 11.6 (Accounts Receivable implementation) 12.0 (RRC conversion elimination and WI regulator reports to legislature) and 12.1 (administration release). Staff has requested flexibility to move items between releases to minimize costs.
    - b. MOTION by Deb to approve release of \$75,000 from the Enhancement Fund per above, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian, passed by voice vote.
    - c. Review of flowchart and roles and responsibility for approval of enhancements.
    - d. MOTION by Brian to approve staff flexibility as laid out in flowchart for how board incorporates input on enhancements and ask Enhancement Committee to update charter to reflect changing roles. Motion failed due to lack of 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - e. Discussion on the process and how to articulate the process. It was requested that staff refine the flowchart and process to provide a clearer understanding for the board and bring to a future meeting.

### **Closed Session – Board, Officers and Staff only**

7. 2014 Budget
  - a. Preliminary discussion of draft budget at high level
    - (1) Finance Committee requested input from the board on the 2014 draft budget.
    - (2) It was noted that the surplus at the end of 2013 was about \$675,000 less than approved budget, due to unforeseen revenue from certificate retirements.
    - (3) The use of the currently large reserve is driven by Strategic Plan to provide increased value to users in areas of system improvements that increase user efficiency and streamline use of the system.

- (4) The 2014 draft budget includes about \$51,000 for one-time expenses to improve processes for use of the MRETS by stakeholders.
  - (5) Staff continues to update the fee structure model based on experience to provide more precise estimates for budgeting.
  - (6) Discussion of budget and level of reserves the board is comfortable with and possible actions that would be taken if reserves fall below a predetermined level. Possible budget for development of infrastructure for future legislative requirements or markets as well as methods to recover costs incurred due to regulatory requirements was discussed.
- b. The Finance Committee will review the above discussion points and refine the draft 2014 budget.

**Executive Session – Cancelled by President.**

8. Adjourn
  - a. MOTION by Brian to adjourn – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat. Motion passed on a voice vote.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM. Minutes submitted by Patrick Keily.*