



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021

Lifesize Virtual Meeting

Committee Members	City	Present/ Absent	KMEA Staff Present	Other Attendees Present
Tyson McGreer	City of Colby	Present	Gerry Bieker	Sarah Steele, Gilmore & Bell Colin Hansen, KMU
Jennifer Cunningham	City of Garden City	Absent	Paul Mahlberg	
Robert Mills	City of Garnett	Present	Sam Mills	
Jonathan Mitchell	City of Hoisington	Present	Jennifer Moore	
Ira Harrison	City of Holton	Present	Mike Schmaderer	
Greg DuMars	City of Lindsborg	Present	Joni Shadonix	
Dennis Tharp	City of Ottawa	Present		
Jon Quinday	City of Russell	Present		

Item No. 1 – Call the Meeting to Order

President Greg DuMars called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 2 – Seek Approval of the following items:

- **Minutes from the January 13, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting**
Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to approve, as written, the minutes of the January 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Dennis Tharp and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations for January 2021 and Financials for December 2020**
Jennifer Moore reviewed the appropriations for January 2021 and financials for December 2020. She noted that KMEA’s audit is being conducted virtually this year and is going well.

Robert Mills made a motion to approve the appropriations for January 2021 and financials for December 2020. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Mitchell and carried unanimously.

Item No. 3 – KMU Legislative Update

Colin Hansen provided the KMU legislative update. He indicated that he may survey KMU’s membership in a couple of weeks to help determine how to proceed with KMU’s 2021 Annual Conference.

Item No. 4 – General Manager Report

Paul Mahlberg provided an update on the following topics:

- **COVID-19 Update** – KMEA opened the office on a voluntary basis on Monday with heightened hygienic practices.
- **ARR Optimization Results** – Paul provided the ARR optimization results for February.

- **Renewable Energy Credits** – Paul reported that ACT, a broker that trades RECs, has approached KMEA about the potential of optimizing renewable energy credits for our members by selling them into the state of Ohio where the market is much greater than the national voluntary market. He explained how the process would work if the Buckeye and Marshall wind farms qualify in Ohio and asked the Committee if they would like KMEA to continue negotiations with ACT. Following discussion, the Committee directed KMEA staff to continue to explore this opportunity.
- **Employee Injury** – Paul reported that a KMEA Mid-States employee fell on the job and broke his wrist. He is recovering well and working light duty.
- **SPP Presentation to Kansas State Utilities Committee** – Paul reviewed several slides of a recent SPP presentation by Mike Ross, Senior VP of Government Affairs, to the Kansas Senate Utilities Committee.

Item No. 5 – Member Services Update

Gerry Bieker reported that most of his time has been spent on lineman services. He recapped his efforts in SE Kansas and Western Kansas. Staff will meet with the City of Altamont’s City Council tomorrow night to see if they want to move forward as the anchor city for the SE Kansas project. Discussion was held by the Committee on several matters pertaining to the lineman services project.

Item No. 6 – Operations Update

Sam Mills reported that the operations group has been busy as the cold weather has caused the market to become extremely volatile. Natural gas prices have increased, pipelines have issued Operational Flow Orders, units have been taken out of the market because we cannot get gas to the units, and many wind turbines have shut down due to cold and icy conditions.

Item No. 7– Mid-States Update

- **Staffing Needs** – Mike Schmaderer provided an update on current, pending, and potential projects. Paul indicated that prior to purchasing the assets of Mid-States, KMEA was aware of the need to manage Mid-States backlog, which continues to grow. KMEA staff recently held a mini strategic planning meeting and recommends the addition of two additional Mid-States positions to manage the growing backlog. Mike discussed the need to hire a mechanical person and a person that can handle the electrical/controls side. He indicated that with additional staff, Mid-States could potentially provide maintenance services for substations and power plants and additional staff would help with succession planning. Staff has identified and conducted virtual interviews with two potential candidates that live in the Salina area.

Following discussion, there was a consensus of the Executive Committee to proceed with the hiring of two additional Mid-States employees.

Item No. 8 – Old Business

None.

Item No. 9 – New Business

- **Discuss open Secretary/Treasurer position** – President DuMars stated that with Matt Rehder’s resignation as Secretary/Treasurer, he is recommending the appointment of Jonathan Mitchell to fill the open position. Paul and Sarah Steele reviewed the provisions in the Bylaws for the replacement of Secretary/Treasurer.

Following discussion, Jon Quinday made a motion to approve President DuMars appointment of Jonathan Mitchell to the Secretary/Treasurer position. The motion was seconded by Robert Mills and carried unanimously.

President DuMars informed Committee members that moving Jonathan to the Secretary/Treasurer position creates an at-large vacancy on the Executive Committee. He noted that Matt Rehder desires to stay on the Executive Committee, but to be on the Executive Committee you must be an appointed director for the city you are serving. President DuMars further stated that Matt Rehder begins employment with lola March 1 and indicated that if Matt's governing body appoints him as a director during the month of March, he will recommend him to fill the at-large vacancy on the Executive Committee. If that does not happen in March, then President DuMars indicated that in April he would recommend a candidate to serve on the Executive Committee in that position.

Item No. 10 – Executive Session, if needed

None.


Item No. 11 – Discuss and set date, time, and location for the next Executive Committee Meeting

The next KMEA Executive Committee meeting will be held virtually at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Item No. 12 – Adjourn Meeting

Prior to adjournment, Paul thanked President DuMars and the entire Executive Committee for nominating him to serve on the APPA Board of Directors. President DuMars explained the APPA selection process and encouraged those interested in attending this year's conference to notify KMEA staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.



Jonathan Mitchell, Secretary/Treasurer