



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

Committee Members	City	Present/ Absent	KMEA Staff Present	Others Present
Rob Culley	Baldwin City	Present	Gerry Bieker	Sarah Steele, Gilmore & Bell
Barack Matite	Eudora	Present	Neal Daney	
Mike Muirhead	Garden City	Present	Laurie Brock	
Dustin Bedore	Goodland	Present	Paul Mahlberg	
Ira Harrison	Holton	Present	Tyson McGreer	
Jonathan Mitchell	Hoisington	Present	Mike Schmaderer	
Dennis Tharp	Ottawa	Present	Joni Shadonix	
Jon Quinday	Russell	Present		
Stacie Eiche	Wamego	Present		

Item No. 1 – Call the Meeting to Order

President Jon Quinday called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. via Lifesize. A quorum was present.

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

- **Minutes from February 9, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting**
Mike Muirhead made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Mitchell and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations for February 2022 and Financials for December 2021 and January 2022**
Laurie Brock reviewed the appropriations for February 2022 and financials for December 2021 and January 2022. She noted that the December financials are preliminary and have not yet been audited.

Dennis Tharp made a motion to approve the appropriations for January 2022 and financials for December 2021 and January 2022. The motion was seconded by Ira Harrison and carried unanimously.

Item No. 3 – General Manager Report

Paul Mahlberg provided the General Manager report, which included:

- **Bruce Marihugh** – Paul recognized the positive impact Bruce made to Kansas municipals, Mid-States and KMEA over the years.
- **Staffing update** – James Sanders hired as system operator; DJ Smith to move to day operator once James is trained; meeting with three potential candidates next week for open attorney position.
- **APPA Legislative Rally** – met with Senators Moran and Marshall and staff on the House side; topics discussed at rally included tax-exempt advance refunding, bond refunding, climate

change, cyber security, Infrastructure Bill, supply chain issues, direct payments or the availability for municipals to tap the investment tax credit for municipals.

- **Evergy Transmission Formula Rate** – we have joined with KEPCo and the KPP to dispute the Evergy transmission formula rate and are working on a formal complaint at FERC. The estimated financial impact on our Evergy-Weststar cities is approximately \$300,000/year.
- **Valley Center** – Valley Center continues efforts to municipalize and has issued an RFP for a consultant, legal, and engineering team to help them through the process.
- **City of Pratt** – Pratt selected Tyr Energy to be their energy provider for the next three years.
- **TEA Optimization Results** – reviewed February and March results and projected results for the 2021-2022 TRC year.

Items No. 4 – Operations Update

Gerry Bieker provided the Operations update, which included:

- **Generation projects update**
- **Lineman services update** – meeting scheduled in Osage City tomorrow.
- **Dighton crew** – City of Montezuma will be utilizing the Dighton crew.
- **Tantalus press release** – KMEA has partnered with Tantalus Systems to provide our members access to an AMI Platform and save on one-time and ongoing maintenance costs. Tyson added that there may be funding available through the Infrastructure Bill to help pay for the AMI Platform.

Item No 5 – Member Services Update

Tyson McGreer provided the Member Services update, which included:

- **Infrastructure Bill** – we have contacted a consultant in DC that works primarily with non-profits and municipals to explore the possibility of her helping KMEA and our members. We are still working on the scope of the services and will provide an update at a later meeting.
- **Joint EMP and KMEA & KMGGA Executive Committee meetings** – to be held June 8-9th in Overland Park; will include golf and KC Royals game.
- **KMEA/KMGGA Board meetings** – to be held April 27th in conjunction with KMU's Annual Conference in Wichita.
- **Model solar ordinance** – discussed the need to meet with KMU to review the model solar ordinance.

Item No. 6 – Mid-States Update

Mike Schmaderer reported that Bruce Marihugh's funeral was last Friday and that he would be sorely missed. He then provided an update on recently completed, pending, and future Mid-States projects.

Item No. 7 – Old Business

- **CAT Financing Update** – Paul reported that we received a draft commitment letter from CAT Financing. We meet with CAT later this month and hope to bring the proposed commitment letter to the Executive Committee next month.

Item No. 8 – New Business

- **KMEA Public Power Manager Certification Program Discussion** – Discussion was held on the proposed criteria and application for the KMEA Public Power Manager Certificate Program. Tyson will incorporate the recommended changes (eligibility requirements and selection process) and present the revised criteria next month.
- **Summer hedging product** – Neal Daney reported that he is looking at a summer hedging product for interested members.

- **GRDA/WAPA Communications** – Neal informed the committee that GRDA and WAPA recently sent out communications detailing their cost recovery plans.
- **Community/Large Scale Solar** – Neal reported that Evergy is reaching out to cities interested in community solar. We are also looking into a large-scale solar project as well.
- **Lineman School** – Discussion was held on how KMEA/members might be able to reach out to lineman schools to attract employees. Discussion was also held on the possibility of KMEA offering a lineman scholarship. This topic will be discussed further at a future meeting.
- **Supply Chain Discussion** – Paul reported that supply chain issues for joint action agencies and utilities was a hot topic at the recent APPA meeting. Following discussion on possible solutions it was decided that KMEA will start the process of determining what inventory each city has. Staff will also see if KMU has a software product that could be used to track inventory. Garden City and Russell indicated that they would be willing to share in the cost of getting this project off the ground.

Item No. 9 – Executive Session, if needed

None.

Item No. 10 – Discuss and set date, time, and location for the next Executive Committee Meeting

The next KMEA Executive Committee meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at the Meridy's Restaurant in Russell, KS.

Item No. 11 – Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.



Mike Muirhead, Secretary/Treasurer