



**Kansas Municipal Energy Agency**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 13, 2022**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Present/ Absent</b>	<b>KMEA Staff Present</b>	<b>Others Present</b>
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	Absent	Joni Shadonix *	
Jon Quinday	Russell	Present	Dan White	
Stacie Eiche	Wamego	Present		

\* Participated via Lifesize

**Item No. 1 – Call the Meeting to Order**

President Jon Quinday called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. at Meridy’s Restaurant in Russell, Kansas. A quorum was present.

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

- **Minutes from March 9, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting**  
Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Ira Harrison and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations for March 2022 and Financials February 2022**  
Laurie Brock reviewed the appropriations for March 2022 and financials for February 2022.

Mike Muirhead made a motion to approve the appropriations for March 2022 and financials for February 2022. The motion was seconded by Barack Matite and carried unanimously.

Paul Mahlberg reported that we received approximately \$1,700 in contributions for the KMU Hurt Lineman Fund in memory of Bruce Marihugh. Paul suggested that KMEA potentially match the contributions that came in. There was a consensus of the Executive Committee for KMEA to contribute \$1,700 to the Fund.

- **EMP Line of Credit (LOC)** – Paul provided background information for the EMP Line of Credit (LOC) documents the EMPs have maintained for the past 12 years as protection for delayed payment or non-payment by one or more of the EMP members. Approval of the LOC documents have been presented to the KMEA Board of Directors for action each year due to the interest rate associated with the LOC. The current EMP LOC expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. Going forward, KMEA staff is recommending that the KMEA Board of Directors consider a motion to give authority to the Executive Committee to approve future LOC documents for the EMP groups, subject to certain parameters. Mike Muirhead made a motion to recommend to the full Board that the Executive

Committee have the authority to annually approve the EMP line of credit, subject to certain parameters. The motion was seconded by Barack Matite and carried unanimously.

### **Item No. 3 – Presentation of 2023 Preliminary KMEA Budget**

Paul reviewed the 2023 Preliminary KMEA Budget and explained that the purpose of the Preliminary Budget is provide information for cities so they can prepare their 2023 budgets. The Budget will be fine-tuned over the next few months and presented to the full Board for approval in September.

### **Item No. 4 – General Manager Report**

Paul Mahlberg provided the General Manager report, which included:

- **Staffing Update** – Terri Pemberton, accepted the position of General Counsel and starts next Monday.
- **Solar Survey** – K-State received a grant to do a survey focusing on rural areas related to roof top and community solar. KMEA, KEPCo, and the KPP have agreed to assist them in this effort. Surveys will be sent to members in mid-May.
- **Evergy Transmission Formula Rate Filing** – KMEA, KEPCo, and the KPP filed a formal complaint at FERC regarding Evergy’s transmission formula rate filing.
- **Sunflower Depreciation Rate Filing** – With the assistance of Deb Roby, Jennings Strouss, KMEA, KEPCo, and KPP will intervene in Sunflower’s depreciation rate filing.
- **TEA Optimization Results** – Paul reviewed the results of TCR/ARR Optimization Program since its inception and shared each city’s share based on load. TEA will visit KMEA next month.

### **Items No. 5 – Operations Update**

Gerry Bieker provided the Operations update, which included:

- **Dighton Lineman Services** – KMEA staff met with Dighton staff yesterday and they are pleased with the KMEA line crew. Yesterday, KMEA hosted a regional meeting in Garden City and six cities joined to learn more about the services the Dighton crew can offer their community.
- **Osage/Pomona Lineman Services** – Gerry updated the Committee on the concept/proposed structure of the Osage/Pomona lineman services project with the goal of the crew to be self-sufficient. A three-man crew opens the door for other nearby cities to utilize their services. Paul received a consensus of the Committee to proceed with the development of an agreement with Pomona and Osage City, subject to Executive Committee review and approval.
- **CAT Financing Update** – we received an updated commitment letter from CAT. Staff and legal counsel will review the letter and report back at a future meeting.

### **Item No. 6 – Member Services Update**

Tyson McGreer provided the Member Services update, which included:

- **Infrastructure Bill** – Tyson is participating in multiple webinars to learn more about the Infrastructure Bill and potential funds that are available to our members.
- **Supply Chain Issues** – In May, Tyson will participate virtually in APPA’s two-day Supply Chain & Management Summit to get updates on current disruptions, learn how other utilities are managing their risks, and share strategies for dealing with these challenges. Tyson is also in the process of updating the list of transformers utilized by our members.
- **KMU Annual Conference (Pump House)** – all are invited to the Pump House the evening of Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Tantalus Webinar** – On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, KMEA members are invited to participate in a “Smart Meter Solutions” Webinar, presented by Tantalus, to learn more about Tantalus AMI solutions. Consultant Amanda Wood with Becker & Poliakoff will also review upcoming Infrastructure Bill funding for improving community smart grid capabilities.

- **Joint Meetings** – to be held June 8-9; includes KMEA and KMGA Executive Committee meetings, Joint Board meeting, Joint EMP meeting, golf, and KC Royals game.
- **KMEA 101** – Plans are underway to hold a KMEA 101 meeting for our newer members.

**Item No. 7 – Mid-States Update**

Mike Schmaderer provided an update on recently completed, pending, and future Mid-States projects.

**Item No. 8 – Old Business**

- **CAT Financing Update** – Discussed in Item No. 5 above.
- **KMEA Public Power Manager Certificate Program Discussion** – Tyson reviewed the red-line of the criteria and application for the KMEA Public Power Manager Certificate Program. He reported that staff explored bringing the training in-house, but it is not cost effective to do so.

Mike Muirhead made a motion to approve, as presented, the criteria and application for the KMEA Public Power Manager Certificate Program. The motion was seconded by Barack Matite and carried unanimously.

**Item No. 9 – New Business**

Paul encouraged committee members to attend APPA's National Conference to be held June 10-15, 2022, in Nashville.

**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 at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at the KMU Training Center in McPherson, KS.

**Item No. 12 – Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.



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Mike Muirhead, Secretary/Treasurer