



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023

Committee Members	City	Present/ Absent	KMEA Staff/Guests
Rob Culley	Baldwin City	Present	Gerry Bieker
Mike Muirhead	Garden City	Present	Neal Daney
Dustin Bedore	Goodland	Present	Paul Mahlberg
Ira Harrison*	Holton	Present	Tyson McGreer
Jonathan Mitchell	Hoisington	Present	Mike Meyer
Dave Hunsaker	Ottawa	Present	Terri Pemberton
Jon Quinday*	Russell	Present	Tom Saitta
Stacie Eiche	Wamego	Present	Mike Schmaderer
			John Seck
			Dan White
			Jeff Winkler

* Participated via Lifesize

Item No. 1 – Call the Meeting to Order

President Jon Quinday called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., in Wamego Kansas. A quorum was present.

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

- **Minutes from December 15, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting**
 Jonathon Mitchell moved to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Muirhead and the motion carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations for December 2022 & Financials for November 2022**
 Mike Meyer presented the appropriations for December and the financials for November 2022. Mike explained the change in format, which is designed to make the financials appear more professional and easier to digest. The Committee was receptive to the changes. Mike also pointed out some key highlights within the financials and noted that the auditors will be on-site for the annual audit beginning February 6, 2023.

Mike Schmaderer provided some discussion regarding the Mid-States’ financials and the status of various projects. Gerry Bieker noted that as the new services contracts for the Dighton line crew commence, the revenues for Mid-States will continue to show additional improvement.

- **Letter Confirming City of Belleville’s action and request for termination of assignments**
 Paul Mahlberg gave an overview of Belleville’s request to bring its WAPA allocation back under its own control and explained that Belleville has the right to do so under the WAPA contract. Neal

Daney noted that while there will be a slight financial impact, there are a few other cities coming on board, which will offset that impact. Dave Hunsaker moved to authorize Paul to sign the letter, Jonathon M seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 3 – General Manager Report

Paul reminded the Committee of Joni's retirement and advised that Lisa Ferguson has been hired as Joni's replacement, and she will begin work on Monday January 30, 2023.

Paul updated the Committee on the Caterpillar Financing ballot question, noting that the question passed 62-0. Staff will be working the financing team of Columbia Capital, Gilmore & Bell and Piper Sandler on the tax-exempt bonding option and will compare that to the Caterpillar Financial lease/purchase option to determine and select the best option.

Paul updated the Committee on the electric transmission Right of First Refusal bill that has been proposed by Great Plains ITC. We are working with KMU on our position and will keep the Committee apprised.

Paul discussed the current status on the Winter Storm Uri State Loans and advised the Committee that the interest rate had gone up for 2023. The program assumes an annual interest rate at 2% less than what the State can invest its money.

Paul gave a brief update on APPA staffing developments, and reminded everyone about the KMU Day at the Capitol on February 1, 2023.

Item No. 4 – Regulatory Update

Terri provided an update on the following matters:

- Evergy TFR/GFR dockets
- Evergy Planning Criteria
- Sunflower Depreciation
- Sunflower PPP
- SPP Zonal Planning
- SPP Planning Reserve Margin

Item No. 5 – Operations Update

- **Winter Storm Elliot Recap**

Tom Saitta provided an operational overview from Winter Storm Elliott, highlighting the operational communications with SPP and KMEA membership, in addition to some notable challenges that SPP faced during the event. Discussion was held regarding coal plant de-rates and outages as well.

- **Line crew services**

Gerry inquired of the Committee whether there is any interest in KMEA employing a single line person who would be located within a specified geographic area that could handle many service issues. The city(ies) within the region would reimburse KMEA for that line person's salary. On projects that require more than one person, Mid-States' crew would be dispatched to assist. The Committee was supportive of KMEA exploring this option further.

Item No. 6 – Member Services Update

- Tyson McGreer noted that membership paperwork has been sent to the cities of Savonburg and Elsmore. He also noted that Muscotah may also be interested in membership.
- Infrastructure webinars – there is another funding webinar on February 9, 2023. Some programs are starting to get released, but many do not apply to us. A few cities have applied for grid grants.
- The next “KMEA 101” presentation is scheduled for February 8, 2023, at 10:30 at KMEA offices in Overland Park.
- KMEA is moving away from the LifeSize platform and toward Microsoft Teams. Teams training will take place in February.
- Jon Quinday noted the current status on Russell’s federal grant proposal.

Item No. 7 – Mid-States Update

- **Training Trailer Update**

Mike S. showed the Committee a video out of Georgia of a training trailer similar to the one that Mid-States is building. The idea is to use the trailer at fairs and other locations to raise public safety awareness and otherwise train people. Mike S. will circulate a list of items still needed for completion of the project. It is anticipated that the trailer will be completed in the Spring.

- **Mid-States Facilities Discussion**

Mike S. gave an update on a potential land purchase opportunity adjacent to the current Mid-States location and potential upgrades to the current shop that Mid-States was considering prior to the KMEA acquisition of Mid-States. A discussion was held around the lot and the shop upgrades and the potential for a new site for the Mid-States operation. The Committee directed staff to find out the sales price for the lot and the cost to fence and gravel such lot and bring that back to the Committee at a future meeting.

- Dan White gave an update on the projects completed in 2022, and the projected projects for 2023.

Item No. 8 – Old Business

- Jon Q. recommended appointing Brett Glendening to the open position on the Board. Jonathon M. moved to accept Jon’s recommendation. Rob Culley seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 9 – New Business

- **TEA Contract for ARR/TCR Optimization**

John Seck gave an overview of the ARR Optimization program, noting that natural gas prices are likely contributing to the positive results.

Paul explained that the current TEA Task Order is reaching its conclusion, so he and John S. met with TEA to explore sharing options. TEA agreed to increase KMEA’s percentage share by 2% in exchange for a three-year commitment. The Committee discussed the attributes of such an arrangement and the Committee was supportive of exploring a three-year amendment/task order. That document will be brought back to the Committee for approval.

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

The next executive Committee meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m, Thursday February 23, 2023 in McPherson at the KMU Training Center, if available, and if not, then in Overland Park at the KMEA offices.

Item No. 11 – Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.



Mike Muirhead, Secretary/Treasurer