



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 18, 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
Jonathan Mitchell	Hoisington	Present	Lisa Ferguson*
Chris Lindholm	Lindsborg	Present	Mike Meyers
Bret Glendening*	Osawatomie	Present	Terri Pemberton
Dave Hunsaker	Ottawa	Present	Mike Schmaderer
Stacie Eichem*	Wamego	Present	
Jon Quinday	Russell	Absent	

*\*Participated virtually via Microsoft Teams*

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

Vice-President Jonathan Mitchell led the meeting due to President Jon Quinday's absence. The meeting was called to order at 2:16 p.m. in Garden City, KS. A quorum was present.

**Item No. 2 – Seek approval for the following items:**

- **Minutes from the June 27, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting**  
Jonathan Mitchell entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting. Chris Lindholm moved to approve the motion. The motion was seconded by Dave Hunsaker and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations Report for June 2023**  
Mike Meyer presented the Appropriations Report as provided in the agenda packet. Dustin Bedore moved to approve the June 2023 Appropriations Report. The motion was seconded by Chris Lindholm and carried unanimously.

**Item No. 3 – Staff Updates**

- **Regulatory Update**  
Terri Pemberton provided a regulatory update on the following items:
  - KCC – No new updates
  - FERC – The 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit is working through an appeal from Evergy.
- **Operations Update**  
Gerry Bieker provided an operations update on the following topics:
  - Gerry and Tom Saitta are attending a council meeting in the City of Moran this evening to discuss a new substation and generation. The City of Garnett took action to begin the process of adding generation and to complete upgrades to two existing units.

- Storms over the past weekend caused damage statewide and KMEA received several phone calls about the damage. Lineman crews have been working to repair the damage in the City of LaHarpe, among other cities. The KMEA office in Overland Park lost power for several hours due to the storm and service operators had to work from home.

Due to the KMEA office losing power during the recent storm, a discussion ensued as to why KMEA didn't have a back-up generator onsite. Paul Mahlberg mentioned that KMEA had looked into getting a generator a few years ago, but due to costs and complications associated with changes necessary to be in compliance with Overland Park code, the project was delayed and nothing ever came to fruition. In light of the recent outage, KMEA will resume looking into getting a back-up generator in order to be more prepared for future power outages.

- **Member Services Update**

Paul Mahlberg provided the following updates on behalf of Tyson McGreer:

- The Annual Gathering is scheduled for September 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be meetings during the day and an appreciation dinner that evening. More details forthcoming.
- Planning for the Annual Conference is underway and guest speakers are being lined up for the event. More information to come.
- Tyson submitted a letter of interest to the PACE program on July 10<sup>th</sup> for solar farm funding. This is a joint initiative between KMEA and KPP. More info to follow as it becomes available.
- Paul mentioned the "Solar for All" program. This is a new program that will be awarding funding to one entity per state.

- **Mid-States Update**

Mike Schmaderer provided updates on the following topics:

- Mid-States celebrated their 3 year anniversary of being acquired by KMEA on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Lineman crew worked in the City of LaHarpe to repair damage after the recent storm.
- The generator for the City of LaCrosse should be delivered in August. LaCrosse has also recently signed an agreement for lineman services.
- The City of Colby's generator should be here in September.
- A trans sub (?) was delivered to the City of Lucas recently.
- Site approval has been given to the City of Augusta for a substation.

Neal Daney provided some solar updates:

- Several cities have submitted information for WAPA Allocation. Status is currently "on hold".
- No news on any price changes with SPA, and nothing on the horizon at the moment.
- A term sheet is being passed around between NextEra, KEPCo and KMEA. The term sheet needs to be finalized before moving forward with the PPA.
- Due to ongoing volatility in gas prices, there is concern that energy prices could be affected by the unstable gas market. Talking with NextEra about other energy options (need more info?)
- GRDA has been discussing a different type of resource planning with a group based out of Canada.

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

Paul Mahlberg updated members on the following:

- The Neodesha Bond Project had its closing with no issues.

- The City of Herington's board has passed an ordinance authorizing a new Caterpillar generation unit.
- The City of Garnett and the City of Moran both want to install new Caterpillar generation units.
- KMGa has approved a one-supplier option, Wood River, for a 1-year contract. It is hopeful that this move will provide more protection to cities in the event of another Winter Storm Uri equivalent.
- The Strategic Planning Session is taking place next week on July 26-27 in Salina, KS.
- An awards committee is being formed ahead of the Annual Conference in October, as well as a nominating committee for upcoming elections. More information to follow.
- Joint Board – Paul would like to set up a meeting to elect a replacement for Mike Shook on the Joint Board, possibly at the beginning of August.
- Net Metering – There's been a push to change net metering laws & statutes by several "clean energy" businesses. KMEA, KMU and KPP recently had a call with this group and a task force comprised of KMU members is being assembled. There is talk of potentially inviting this group to an educational seminar.
- The EPA has put out a new proposal on RICE-NESHAP and non-emergency use of emergency diesel units. The proposal would eliminate the opportunity for those units to be run for testing purposes, and instead allow the units to only run during an emergency. The problem being that there would be no way to know for sure whether the units could run during an emergency if there is no way to test them during the year.
- Paul mentioned what an honor it is for Mike Muirhead to have received the Mark Crisson Excellence in Management and Leadership Award at the APPA conference in Seattle recently. The award is one of the top awards that the APPA hands out annually.

**Item No. 5 – Old Business**

None.

**Item No. 6 – New Business**

None.

**Item No. 7 – Discuss and set date, time, and location for the next Executive Committee Meeting**

The next Executive Committee Meeting will be on August 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in Hoisington, KS. More details to come.

**Item No. 8 – Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.



Mike Muirhead, Secretary/Treasurer