



**Kansas Municipal Energy Agency**  
**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**August 29, 2024**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Present/ Absent</b>	<b>KMEA Staff/Guests</b>
Jeff Winkler	Baldwin City	Present	Paul Mahlberg
Mike Muirhead	Garden City	Present	Terri Pemberton*
Dustin Bedore	Goodland	Present	Gerry Bieker
Chris Lindholm	Lindsborg	Present	Neal Daney*
Bret Glendening*	Osawatomie	Present	Mike Meyer*
Dave Hunsaker	Ottawa	Present	Lisa Ferguson*
Jon Quinday	Russell	Present	Tyson McGreer
Jeff Scott	Stockton	Present	Mike Schmaderer
Stacie Eichen	Wamego	Present	Sam Mills*
			Manny Milbers – Beloit
			Dave Sturgeon - Russell

*\*Participated virtually*

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

President Jon Quinday called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m., which was held in Russell, KS, and virtually.

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

- **Minutes from the July 25, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting**  
 President Quinday entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. Mike Muirhead moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Chris Lindholm and carried unanimously.
- **Minutes from the August 20, 2024, Special Executive Committee Meeting**  
 President Quinday entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2024, Special Executive Committee Meeting. Mike Muirhead moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dave Hunsaker and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations Report for July 2024**  
 Mike Meyer presented the Appropriations Report for July 2024. Stacie Eichen made a motion to approve the Appropriations Report for the month of July 2024. Dustin Bedore seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously. Discussion followed about interest income and if certain funds are the basis for such interest income. is reported. Staff will look into this matter and will report back to the Executive Committee at a future meeting for their consideration.

**Item No. 3 – Staff Updates**

- **Regulatory Update**  
 Terri Pemberton provided updates on several regulatory items.

- **Operations Update**

Gerry Bieker provided updates on the following topics:

- The financing for the new Caterpillar generation units going in the Cities of Garnett and Herington, respectively, is nearly completed and should close today.
- Gerry announced to the Committee members that he plans to retire at the end of the year and that December 23, 2024, will be his last day at KMEA.

- **Member Services Update**

Tyson McGreer provided the following updates:

- Registration for the 2024 Annual Conference on October 23-24 is now open.
- A date for the Annual Gathering has been set, it will take place on September 26, 2024, in Overland Park.
- There are studies being conducted in multiple member cities to do with Community Solar.
- Another meeting recently took place between KMEA, KPP and Arthur Gallagher to discuss the possibility of insurance pooling.

- **Mid-States Update**

Mike Schmaderer provided updates on the following topics:

- The Dighton crew spent the last week working in the City of Cimarron.
- The Osage crew's work for other cities has been a little slow lately which allows them to catch up on work around Osage and Pomona.
- The foundations for the CAT generators has been completed in the City of Neodesha.
- Final work on the substation for the City of Lindsborg will be completed later this fall.

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

Paul Mahlberg provided updates on the following topics:

- Mike Shook, former Utility Director with the City of Coffeyville, will begin working at KPP in October.
- Large Scale Solar Update – A meeting was held last Tuesday with NextEra at the KMEA office to go over PPA. KMEA was originally given exclusivity until October 15<sup>th</sup> and is asking for an extension of exclusivity until the first part of December. KMEA is also trying to negotiate another 15 megawatts; this is an ongoing development.
- The KMEA Awards Committee met recently, and this year's nominees have been chosen.
- KACM, an organization that hands out scholarships for individuals wanting to get into city management, reached out to KMEA with an interest in developing an ongoing relationship, after KMEA made a one-time donation of \$1000 to the organization. KACM provided some options for KMEA to get more involved, and Paul shared those options. Discussion ensued as to the benefits to KMEA of strengthening this relationship. Paul will take the considerations of the Executive Committee and work with KACM to see if there is a plan that could work for both entities.
- Paul provided a brief TCR/ARR Optimization update compiled by John Seck.

#### **Item No. 5 – Old Business**

None.

#### **Item No. 6 – New Business**

- **Wildfire Mitigation Plans**

Some time ago, a wildfire that occurred in California was traced back to a malfunctioning electric utility, and the lawsuit that followed recently settled for \$4 billion. California now has regulations in place on utilities to prevent wildfires. KMEA has been investigating whether the risk in Kansas warrants similar actions being taken. Terri Pemberton provided some background on KCC and efforts in Colorado.

KMEA is thinking about creating a taskforce to investigate the matter further and asked the Executive Committee for their thoughts. The Committee feels this matter would be worth pursuing, and KMEA will be reaching out to KPP and KMU to discuss the possibility of a task force.

- **KMEA Facility Needs Discussion**

Paul Mahlberg provided an overview of current maintenance that's needed at the KMEA office in Overland Park, which includes roof repair or replacement and removal of a berm around the property that's trapping water and causing it to leak into the building. Estimates for roof repair are around \$37k and for berm removal around \$22k. Paul provided several options to fund these expenses including use of cash reserves, the special projects fund, or push back repairs until next year where they could be budgeted. The Executive Committee advised that repairs should not wait as that could cause more damage and more expense in the long run. Mike Muirhead made a motion for KMEA to make the necessary repairs to the KMEA office building (roof repair or replacement, berm removal) by utilizing cash reserves and not to exceed \$75k in cost. Jeff Winkler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Paul also discussed the needs of the Mid-States facility in Salina. The current building has become too small for the growing needs of the company, which includes the needs for more space for office and storage, better separation between the shop and office for the sake of noise and cleanliness, and a more professional looking facility with room to expand in the future. Paul provided options which included use of the existing property or relocating to a new site around Salina. Paul presented information about two potential new sites including location and cost, as well as staying at the current site. Discussion ensued, with the consensus of the Executive Committee being that a new site provides more long-term advantages than staying at the current property. Jon Quinday made a motion directing the KMEA General Manager and staff to select a site sufficient for a new Mid-States facility, including a shop and future growth needs; to negotiate a purchase price and agreement; and to bring back to the Executive Committee for consideration. Mike Muirhead seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Chris Lindholm announced that he will be retiring in December 2024, exact date pending.

Paul took a moment to thank Jon Quinday for his many years of dedicated service to both the City of Russell and KMEA, as Jon officially retires from the City on September 1, 2024. He will continue to serve in his role as President of the KMEA Executive Committee until elections are held in October 2024.

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

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place on September 26, 2024, during the Annual Gathering at the KMEA office in Overland Park.

**Item No. 8 – Adjourn Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.



Stacie Eichem, Secretary/Treasurer