



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 19, 2024

Committee Members	City	Present/ Absent	KMEA Staff/Guests
Jeff Winkler	Baldwin City	Present	Paul Mahlberg
Mike Muirhead	Garden City	Present	Tyson McGreer
Dustin Bedore	Goodland	Present	Gerry Bieker
Jonathan Mitchell	Hoisington	Present	Brooke Kistler*
Jeremy Johnson*	Moundridge	Present	Mike Meyer*
Bret Glendening	Osawatomie	Present	Neal Daney
Dave Hunsaker	Ottawa	Present	Lisa Ferguson*
Jeff Scott	Stockton	Present	Sam Mills
Stacie Eichem*	Wamego	Present	Tom Saitta
			Terri Pemberton
			Darren Prince*
			Mike Schmaderer
			Manny Milbers - Beloit
			Mitch Gibbs - Stockton

*Participated virtually

Item No. 1 – Call the Meeting to Order

President Mike Muirhead called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., which was held in Stockton, KS.

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

- **Minutes from November 21, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting**
 President Mike Muirhead entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Hunsaker and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations Report for November 2024**
 Mike Meyer presented the Appropriations Report for November 2024. Bret Glendening made a motion to approve the Appropriations Reports for November 2024. Dustin Bedore seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- **Grand River Dam Authority Power Supply Agreements**

 - *Third Amendment to the Service Power Purchase and Sale Agreement between Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and KMEA*
 Staff sought pre-approval from the Executive Committee to give authority to the General Manager to sign the *Third Amendment to the Service Power Purchase and Sale Agreement between Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and KMEA*. The agreement won't be signed until all back-to-back agreements have been returned by the cities. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to give the General Manager pre-approval to sign the *Third Amendment to the Service Power Purchase and Sale Agreement between Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and KMEA*, once all agreements are back from the cities. Jeff Winkler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- *Power Purchase Agreement (GRDA Project No. 2) between respective member cities and KMEA*
Staff sought approval from the Executive Committee to authorize the General Manager to sign the back-to-back agreements for the *Power Purchase Agreement (GRDA Project No. 2) between respective member cities and KMEA*. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to authorize the General Manager to sign the back-to-back agreements for the *Power Purchase Agreement (GRDA Project No. 2) between respective member cities and KMEA*. Jeff Scott seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Ninnescah Flats Solar Project Agreement between respective member cities and KMEA**
Staff sought approval from the Executive Committee to give the General Manager authority to approve the back-to-back agreements for the *Ninnescah Flats Solar Project Agreement between respective member cities and KMEA*. Neal Daney provided a table listing the members that have already signed the agreements with a couple cities planning to get approval from their governing bodies next week. Dustin Bedore made a motion to give the General Manager authority to approve the back-to-back agreements for the *Ninnescah Flats Solar Project Agreement between respective member cities and KMEA*. Jeff Winkler seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Item No. 3 – Staff Updates

- **Regulatory Update**

Terri Pemberton provided updates on various Evergy dockets at FERC and the KCC. She also said that KMEA, Evergy, KEPCo and KPP would be meeting to discuss a network operating agreement and a delivery point facility agreement.

Paul Mahlberg mentioned that KMEA would be meeting with ITC to discuss the ROFR bill and to discuss possible partnership on transmission ownership.

President Mike Muirhead updated the committee about a company called Voltus that is a demand response company operating in various RTOs, including SPP. Currently, Voltus is assisting a cryptocurrency mining operation that wants to locate in Garden City. Voltus is quite active within SPP and may try contacting customers within member cities and President Muirhead wanted the cities to be aware.

- **Operations Update**

Gerry Bieker has been in the process of delegating his job responsibilities to several KMEA staff, ahead of his retirement on December 23, 2024.

Paul Mahlberg said he's working on some staffing reorganization within the company considering Gerry's retirement, with more information to come later.

- **Member Services Update**

Tyson McGreer has been assisting Neal Daney by traveling to multiple member cities to discuss large scale solar project and opportunities, he also provided an update on the 40101 D grant.

- **Mid-States Update**

Mike Schmaderer provided updates related to the Dighton and Osage City line crews. In addition, he provided updates on several generator and substation projects for various cities including Baldwin City, Neodesha, Osborne, Wamego, Chapman and Moran. Mike also recently met with Manny Milbers to do some work in Beloit when an emergency breaker repair was needed. In addition, Mike mentioned that a new employee, James Remley, started two weeks ago and a second new employee will start in January.

Item No. 4 – General Manager’s Report

Paul Mahlberg provided an update about a recent KACM luncheon he attended where KMEA’s Rising Star Scholarship was announced with KMEA receiving positive exposure. Paul also mentioned that Southwest Power Pool has announced their new CEO as Lanny Nickel, and KEPCo has announced their new CEO as Kevin Noblet.

Paul also gave an update about the ongoing land purchase efforts for the new Mid-States facility. After some delays, a land offer that KMEA made was accepted, with the exception that the tree line must be cleared by KMEA. Sam Mills is heading up efforts on any required environmental studies and working with a surveyor to define boundaries. KMEA is currently looking for architects/engineering teams to lead the design phase. The closing on the land purchase most likely won’t occur until sometime in March or April 2025 timeframe, and KMEA is recommending using the Special Projects Fund for the land purchase but that can be considered at a date closer to the closing.

- **Purchase of Digger Derrick Truck for use with the Osage/Pomona Line Crew (line item originally listed under “New Business” on agenda, bumped up for discussion during General Manager Report)**

Gerry Bieker said the Osage City/Pomona line crew needs a new Digger Derrick truck, as the current equipment is past due for an upgrade. A replacement will cost about \$290,000, including outfitting it with equipment. Paul and Gerry suggested that KMEA could buy the equipment outright with use of operating reserves and then charge the Osage City project over a five-year period including interest at 4.0%. This would be less expensive than leasing the truck from Altec.

Discussion ensued regarding the options available to pay for the Digger Derrick truck, with Paul Mahlberg recommending the use of the Operating Reserves Fund for the purchase of the Derrick Digger truck. Bret Glendening made a motion to authorize KMEA’s use of the Operating Reserves Fund to purchase a new Derrick Digger truck for Osage City project with costs not to exceed \$300,000. Dave Hunsaker seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item No. 5 – Old Business

- **Recommendation on Rate Study Fee Structure**

Paul Mahlberg gave a presentation on the proposed new Rate Study Fee Structure with recommendations to implement the new Rate Study Fee Structure beginning January 1, 2025, pending Executive Committee approval. Discussion ensued, including a thought to have the Non-EMP Member minimum and maximum rates be double what is offered to EMP Members, so that the Non-EMP Member minimum is \$6,000 and the maximum is \$30,000. The Executive Committee also discussed the discount rate for cities requesting updated studies, and the consensus was to allow the discount during the first five years, but after five years, the non-discounted rate would once again apply because the underlying data would be stale, and a fresh study would need to be conducted. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to approve the new Rate Study Fee Structure “as presented, with the discussed adjustments”. Jeff Scott seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously. Paul mentioned that he will present something similar to the KMGGA Executive Committee for gas system rate studies.

- **Update on Overland Park Office Needs**

Sam Mills provided an update on ongoing repair work being done at the KMEA Overland Park office. Recently, several companies were brought in to evaluate moisture issues resulting from the roof and sprinkler issues. Mold was found in four to five offices in the building, but air quality testing was performed, and the air quality was deemed good. Subsequently, Sam took bids for remediation. Of the three companies that offered bids, Sam is recommending First Call Restoration. Paul Mahlberg mentioned that no approval is needed for this item as a budget had already been previously approved for current building repairs. Updates will be given as the process moves forward.

Item No. 6 – New Business

- **Purchase of Digger Derrick Truck for use with the Osage/Pomona Line Crew**
This item was bumped up and discussed under the General Manager’s Report.

President Mike Muirhead congratulated Jeff Scott on his impending retirement, recognized his career success and thanked him for his contributions to both the EMP and KMEA Executive Committee groups. As Jeff will be stepping down from his role on the KMEA Executive Committee due to his retirement, President Muirhead nominated Manny Milbers of Beloit to fulfill the remainder of Jeff Scott’s current term. President Muirhead also asked the Executive Committee if anyone present had any other nominations to submit. Hearing none, President Muirhead made a motion to appoint Manny Milbers as an at-large member of the KMEA Executive Committee to fulfill the remainder of Jeff Scott’s current term. Jonathan Mitchell seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item No. 7 – Executive Session, if necessary

None.

Item No. 8 – Discuss and set date, time, and location for the next Executive Committee Meeting

The next Executive Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at the KMU Facility in McPherson, pending availability.

Item No. 9 – Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 p.m.



Dustin Bedore, Secretary/Treasurer