



Kansas Municipal Energy Agency  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 3, 2025

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

*\*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 at the City Office in Wamego, KS, and virtually.

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

- **Minutes from February 20, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting**  
President Mike Muirhead entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Manny Milbers and carried unanimously.
- **Appropriations Report for February 2025**  
Mike Meyer presented the Appropriations Report for February 2025. Bret Glendening made a motion to approve the Appropriations Report for February 2025. Manny Milbers 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 the FERC and the KCC. Terri also provided an update on Winter Storm Uri related to the class-action lawsuits and said a notice of appeal has been filed. Lastly, Terri updated the Executive Committee on the status of the new rate analyst position at KMEA, the job listing was posted online and received over 300 applicants. The pool has been narrowed to a select few and interviews will start next week.
- **Operations Update**

Tom Saitta shared that Summer 2025 Resource Adequacy data was recently submitted to and accepted by SPP with no issue, and the process will happen again this winter. Tom also mentioned that starting next summer WAPA will no longer offer planning reserves with each city's respective WAPA allocation. Tom also said KMEA is working on a policy to sell RECs (Renewable Energy Credits) forward by one to two years. Additionally, he provided an update on behind the meter generation. SPP is exploring the option to study all generation being installed including behind the meter generation. KMEA is currently not in favor of this as it will likely cause increased cost and delays in project completion. At present, the transmission provider is notified by the city or KMEA of any generation being installed. KMEA will continue to monitor the situation.

- **Member Services Update**

Tyson McGreer shared that KMEA has revitalized its quarterly newsletter and a new Power Factor issue was emailed to members yesterday. The newsletter will feature community interest stories from member cities as well as timely industry-related updates. He also mentioned that a KMEA 101 was held yesterday in the City of Girard for southeastern Kansas member cities and had a decent turnout, and planning is underway for more KMEA 101 sessions to take place soon. In addition, Tyson said the Cities of Seneca and Girard continue to explore financing options for new substation & generation work, and on the grant side things are starting to move slowly again after being at a standstill recently due to actions under the new Presidential administration.

- **Mid-States Update**

Mike Schmaderer shared updates related to the Dighton and Osage City line crews with work being completed recently in the Cities of Dighton, Cimarron, Sharon Springs, Bronson, Neodesha and Sabetha. He also provided updates on several generator and substation projects for various locations including the Cities of Neodesha, Garnett, Cimarron, and Augusta and said substation work would begin shortly in the City of Chapman.

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

Paul Mahlberg shared a reminder that the next KMEA Board of Directors meeting will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, in conjunction with the KMU Conference in Wichita, KS. He also provided an update on the City of Hugoton and mentioned an analysis is currently being performed by Darren Prince to help the city with their path forward after a fire that occurred last November resulted in a lineman fatality and destroyed equipment.

Providing an update on KMEA office building repairs, Paul said all mold remediation work has been completed but some sections of wall removed during that process revealed underlying structural damage that is projected to cost an additional \$50,000 to repair and will involve removing the stone from the outside of the building. Paul also mentioned that the office exterior could use a new paint job, and the interior will probably need remodeling soon to create more individual office space for KMEA's growing staff. He mentioned he is planning to use the same architect that was hired for the new Mid-States facility to help with the remodel of the KMEA office but acknowledged that these additional projects may exceed the \$100,000 that was included in the 2025 budget for KMEA office repairs. The Executive Committee recommended having all work done at once to streamline the process and possibly save on total cost and recommended revisiting the costs at a future meeting when more information on proposed repairs/remodeling is known.

#### **Item No. 5 – Old Business**

- **Update on Mid-States Proposed New Facility**

Paul Mahlberg reported that KMEA signed a contract amendment with the Chamber of Commerce to extend the land purchase by 120 days to allow for more time to complete our due diligence related to environmental work as well as preliminary design and cost estimate. Paul reported that



the Phase 2 assessment of the environmental review to check for air, groundwater, and soil contamination was completed and the results of the ground samples were found to contain arsenic and lead that exceeded the allowable limit for each in one of four borings. The recommended path is to apply for a "Certificate of Environmental Liability Release" (CELR) which would be issued from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and will release KMEA from environmental liability for contamination existing at the site prior to the land purchase. KMEA also plans to put a vapor barrier down on the new building when it's constructed.

- **Update on Ninnescah Solar and GRDA**

Neal Daney provided an update on large-scale solar project with final agreements completed for the three off-takers – KMEA, KEPCO and KCBPU. KCBPU is interested in battery storage technology at the site and KMEA is in the process of evaluating that possibility. Paul Mahlberg also mentioned that KMEA has a call scheduled with Goldman Sachs next week on utilizing a pre-pay for this project.

Neal also shared that while the GRDA extension continues to move forward with a self-imposed deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the City of Osage City recently lost a large industrial customer so there may be some last-minute changes to the project quantity. In addition, the city of Larned is expected to consider the GRDA extension with the City Council next week. KMEA is still hoping to receive all necessary city approvals by next week.

#### **Item No. 6 – New Business**

- **SPP Letter of Credit and EMP Line of Credit**

KMEA is asking the Executive Committee to recommend to the Board of Directors that the SPP Standby Letter of Credit, which auto-renews annually, be increased from \$5 million dollars to \$6 million dollars to protect from exposure/over-limit as exposure is projected to keep increasing and a higher letter of credit would offer more protection. Manny Milbers made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that the SPP Letter of Credit be increased from \$5 million dollars to \$6 million dollars. Jonathan Mitchell seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

In addition, Paul Mahlberg provided some background on the EMP Revolving Line of Credit. In 2022, the Board adopted a resolution that provided the Executive Committee authority to approve future lines of credit if they met certain parameters including (i) a maximum principal amount, (ii) a limit on the interest rate, and (iii) fees not exceeding \$500 per year. UMB has notified staff that the fees for the line of credit will not be based on a percentage of unused capacity (i.e. principal amount). This change will require a new resolution for the full Board to approve. Jonathan Mitchell made a motion to recommend to the Board of Directors a new resolution that will provide the Executive Committee with the authority to approve the EMP Letter of Credit annually with certain parameters including the new fee structure. Bret Glendening 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, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. and will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams.

#### **Item No. 9 – Adjourn Meeting**

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



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Dustin Bedore, Secretary/Treasurer