

Unapproved Minutes
Services Committee Meeting
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska
Younes Conference Center South - 416 W Talmadge Road, Kearney, Nebraska
August 16, 2023

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Services Committee met on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, beginning at 3:31 p.m. (CT), at the Younes Conference Center South located at 416 W Talmadge Road in Kearney, Nebraska, the designated meeting site. Notice of the meeting was given to committee members by e-mail, and the public was advised by publication both in print and online in the Lincoln Journal-Star newspaper and website on July 29, 2023. The notice and agenda were posted upon issuance at the NMPP Energy office, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska, and kept continually current and available for public inspection. Meeting information and the current version of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act were made available on NMPP Energy's Public Meeting Information website.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Edward Dunn called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. (CT). Pursuant to Section 84-1412 (8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room and made available to the public.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was declared with five of seven committee members in attendance.

1. James DePue – Wray
2. Edward Dunn – Grant
3. Bill Hinton – Kimball
4. Duane Hoffman – Oxford
5. Mike Palmer – Sidney

Absent: Dave Hrabanek – Pierce, and Janine Schmidt – Morrill

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Public Comment Period was announced, and a review of the rules applicable to the public participation process at MEAN public meetings was provided. There were no public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

Minutes of the May 17, 2023, meeting were previously distributed and included as Attachment A of the meeting packet. There were no changes to the minutes.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MEAN Services Committee will be held on November 15, 2023, at the Younes Conference Center North, Crown Plaza located at 707 W Talmadge St. in Kearney, Nebraska.

Consent Resolution

Motion: James DePue moved to approve the following Consent Resolution. Duane Hoffman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.

WHEREAS, certain business of the MEAN Services Committee of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of a controversial nature; and,

WHEREAS, roll-call votes on each individual issue greatly extended the meeting time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEAN Services Committee that in the interest of economizing time, yet complying with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska, which requires roll-call voting, the following issues are hereby consolidated in this Consent Resolution:

- 1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the MEAN Services Committee that the minutes of the May 17, 2023, meeting are hereby approved; and,*
- 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the MEAN Services Committee that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the Younes Conference Center North, Crown Plaza, 707 W Talmadge St., Kearney, Nebraska.*

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL POWER POOL SERVICES DISCUSSION

Presenter: Bob Poehling, Executive Director/CEO, and Brad Hans, Director of Wholesale Electric Operations

Staff has been reviewing contracts and services offered by Nebraska Municipal Power Pool (NMPP) over the past several months. As a result of the sale of PowerManager software and the recent passage of LB565 that allows MEAN to provide additional services, staff is planning to present a modernization initiative to the NMPP Board of Directors at its September meeting. More information will be presented to the MEAN Board in November once the NMPP Board has had an opportunity to review the initiative and finalize some decisions regarding the transition of services.

The transition of Electric Distribution Services (EDS) from NMPP to MEAN was previously approved. During the transition additional structure will be added to the service to include updated pricing for non-MEAN communities, evaluating the service rate structure for Total Requirements Participants and development of a Master Services Agreement.

POWERMANAGER VALUE SUPPORT PLAN FUNDING PROCESS FOR 2024

Presenter: Jamie Johnson, Director of Finance and Accounting

MEAN's fiscal year 2023-2024 budget includes funding of 50% of the annual cost of the Value Support Plan (VSP) associated with the PowerManager Software for Schedule M Participants. The recent sale of the PowerManager software will result in a change in the process for MEAN to provide funding. MEAN will no longer have access to annual invoices or be aware of any changes made by communities to their VSP. Due to these issues and lack of information, the 2024 funding will be based on the amount paid for 2023 and will require communities to confirm a number of items before MEAN provides the payment.

SERVICE CONSIDERATIONS FOR ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS

Presenter: Jamie Johnson, Director of Finance and Accounting

The Services Committee will make a recommendation to the Board directing them on what services to include in the 2024-2025 Budget at a later date due to undetermined changes still anticipated with the transition of services.

The majority of services in the current budget are provided by staff but beyond staff costs there are services with incremental costs, e.g., tools, resources, and payments to other parties. A review of services with outside costs was presented and their anticipated status in the 2024-2025 budget. Some items will not change or are still being evaluated. Program plans are being developed for Cost of service/rate design study funding, net metering/Customer owned generation resource guide, and the cybersecurity program. MEAN will retain the Learning Management System but due to underutilization, budgeting for additional trainings will be discontinued. Staff expects the computer software Value Support Plan funding will be discontinued.

Discussion ensued.

Overviews of scholarship program disbursements over the past five years and common use requests, MEAN Energy Efficiency Program utilization and modernization, and a status report of the cybersecurity program were presented.

THIRD PARTY OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

Presenter: Tim Cervený, Manager of Assets and Utility Services

Staff visited facilities in several communities, inspecting their systems, interviewing employees, and meeting with contractors to identify operations and maintenance issues and strategies for resolution. Some issues identified were risks to the public and employees. Causes included having too many projects, undertrained employees, financial constraints, and a lack of routine maintenance.

Next steps will include staff meeting again with Great Plains Power to solidify pricing, and meeting with each potential community participants to review details of individual systems and costs, seek letters of intent, and then facilitate interaction between participants and Great Plains Power.

Discussion ensued and included that MEAN will only be involved as a facilitator and there will be no fiscal impact to MEAN. Two contractors have been evaluated so far. If members are aware of any additional contractors that may be interested, they were encouraged to direct them to MEAN staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Prepared by:
Stacy Hendricks
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

Submitted by:
Brad Hans
Director of Wholesale Electric Operations
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska