

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE ONTONAGON COUNTY R.E.A.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE HELD AT 500 JAMES K PAUL STREET  
ONTONAGON MICHIGAN

May 17, 2024, 9:30 A.M.

1. President Hodges called the regular meeting to order at 9:31.
2. Roll Call – President Hodges, Vice President Koski, Treasurer Myhren, Secretary Gasperich, Directors, Gaunt and Lehto.  
Others Present: Attorney Greeley, and Interim General Manager (GM) Aho.
3. Member comment session - none
4. Approval of the Agenda to include two zoom calls, 9:35 with Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) and again at 10:00 with Wolverine Power, **M/S Lehto/Gaunt to accept the agenda with additions, all in favor**, passed.
5. Approve Minutes of the April 19, 2024 regular Board meeting **M/S Gaunt/Lehto**, passed.
6. Attorney Report -- Attorney Greeley asked for an update on the status of the policy manual. Gaunt said he was still fine tuning it. Attorney Greeley brought us up to speed on the personnel issue, the attorney appointed from the Insurance company is now lead council.
7. Operations Report  
Justin Sironen introduced himself to the Board and gave his report, asked for questions and provided the following update: The vegetation crews have been combined into one team of three, they will be working up north, Rice Lake Road, for a significant portion of the summer,
8. Metering Update –  
Four collector poles still need to be installed, two around Misery Bay, one in Keweenaw Bay and the fourth on the Mayflower Road, North of Calumet. System is currently at 80% completion. When the remaining poles are installed, we will reevaluate the need for additional collectors.
9. Manager's Report – Kudos to Dallas for doggedly following up with the Times Interest Earned Ratio margins and update to more accurately reflect our current status.
10. Financial Report
  1. Financial Statements for periods ended 03/31/2024 were reviewed;
  2. PSCR Over/Under Collection for period ended 04/30/2024 was discussed;
  3. RUS Form 219 Inventory of Work Orders for period ended 02/29/2024 for \$4,400.47
  4. List of Bills – April 2024  
**M/S Myhren/Koski** to accept the reports of the Attorney, Operations, Interim Manager, approve the payment of the bills, and RUS work orders, all in favor, motion passed.
11. Business Requiring Board Action –  
Board Signatures for April 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes
12. Other Business
  1. **Wolverine Purchase Power Contract – M/S Gaunt Koski** to authorize Interim GM Aho to sign the contract after the amendment is changed to reflect the current purchase power rate structure is valid through the start of the new contract in January of 2026, all in favor, motion passed.
  2. MECOA Review  
Dallas and Justin attended the Michigan Electric Coop Operations and Administrator (MECOA) conference. They both were able to introduce themselves face to face with people which they had only spoken with in the past. They requested to make this an annual event.
  3. UPPCO meet and greet.  
Koski and Hodges met with Gradon Haehnel (CEO) and Bill Nelson (COE) of UPPCO. The UPPCO representatives agreed to provide mutual aid to each other whenever possible.
  4. **Michigan Electric Cooperative Association Dues Restructuring – M/S Koski/Gaunt**, discussion on the change from dues based on power sold to a meter base structure. This will eliminate the

fluctuations per coop if a large user is brought in as a new customer or a large user leaves. Vote called, all in favor, passed.

5. Annual Meeting Preparation

Set for the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. **M/S Myhren/Gasperich to set the regular June Meeting for the 13<sup>th</sup>.**, all in favor, motion passed.

Hodges is asking Tom Sobek or Eric Baker to be our main guest speaker.

Gasperich hopes to have our fleet equipment at the meeting with more staff included.

Introduce all staffing.

Justin will track down some photos from brushing when we started and where we are now.

Dallas will speak to the change in the security payment for online bill pay.

Members do have the opportunity to purchase a shield or place the meter at the edge of the property if they are concerned about Vision Meters.

Request to get nice gifts for the drawing!

13. Around the Table Discussion

Gasperich asked that the net metering cap be placed on the agenda after the annual meeting.

Gaunt appreciates the atmosphere of the office.

Lehto stated the work continues on the underground to Prickett Dam

All of the Directors wish to show our thanks for the support we have received from other cooperatives and the MECA organization as we traverse this new path.

14. Executive Session -- NONE

15. Next Meeting Date: June 13, 2024

16. Adjournment Myhren Sine Die at 12:08

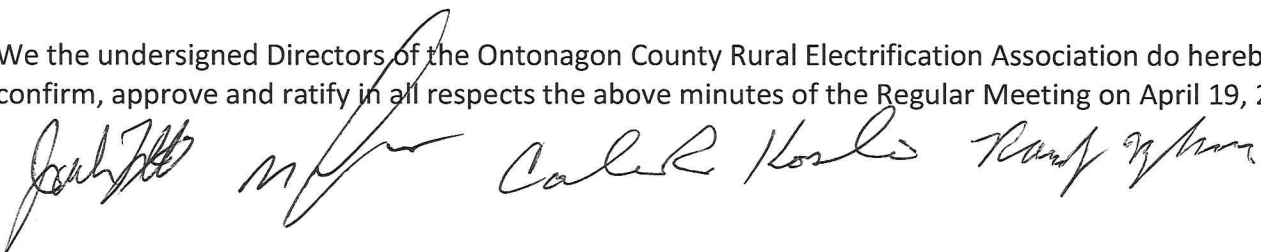


William Hodges, President



Mildred Ann Gasperich, Secretary

We the undersigned Directors of the Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association do hereby confirm, approve and ratify in all respects the above minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 19, 2024.





THE ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

2024 May Acting General Manager Report

1. Miscellaneous Business Updates
- 1.1 Dallas is actively working on the 2023 audit and has been in contact with Bauman Associates. The plan is to have 95% or more of audit documents completed by 5/21.

1.2 Began US Bank Transmission Testing to expedite credit card expense uploads and tracking.

1.3 Implementing bank reconciliation process with NISC for financials.

1.4 Dallas and Justin attended the MECOA conference in Harbor Springs, MI. Networked with several electric cooperatives and vendors.

1.5 Beginning renewal discussions for SEMCO lease at L’Anse location. Dallas has a meeting with Michael Clyne from SECMO on 5/21/2024.

1.6 Sent in the RSVP for the Polaris for the Ribbon Cutting and Event Celebration at Hamilton’s North Coast on 6/6/2024. Working with LeLabs Group for the event website and the potential of setting up a booth.

1.7 Dallas will be attending the MECA CEO Golf outing on Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and the MECA Board Meeting on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

1.8 Working with NISC to migrate our Secure Payments IVR system to their Multi-Channel Messenger (MCM) Payment’s solution.
2. Metering AMI Project Update
- 2.1 Currently 3,957 New Vision Meters are installed. The new Metering System is approximately 80% complete, based on 4,964 Active Meters.
3. Staffing Updates
- 3.1 Adam Hawkins JMAP Apprentice class was delayed until September or October of 2024 due to lack of applicants.

3.2 Currently posted on Indeed, LinkedIn, our website and Facebook for the Journeyman Lineman opening in L’Anse. We will be posting the Apprentice Lineman opening on 5/20/2024.
4. Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) and Margins Update
- 1.1 TIER – Operating

Target Range: >1.1

Actual: 6.67

1.2 TIER – Net

Target Range: >1.25

Actual: 7.83

1.3 TIER – Modified

Target Range: >1.35

Actual: 6.69

1.4 Current Assets to Current Liabilities

Target Range: 1 to 1

Actual: 1.68 to 1

1.5 Margins and Equities to Total Assets

Target Range: > 30%

Actual: 29.65%

1.6 Long-Term Debt to Total Utility Plant

Target Range: > 50%

Actual: 46.62%



Ontonagon REA

## THE ONTONAGON COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

### 2024 May Operations Report

#### 1. Safety

- 1.1 There were zero accidents and zero near misses reported in April.
- 1.2 The MECA Safety Meeting was held on April 24th. The safety meeting included review of Accidents/Near misses, and crews cleaned/tested all insulated tools
- 1.3 The May MECA Safety Meeting will be held on May 29th.

#### 2. Trucks and Equipment

- 2.1 All line trucks are getting ANSI and Dielectric testing completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 2.2 All annual trailer and vehicle MDOT inspections are complete.

#### 3. Service Interruptions

- 3.1 In the month of April, we had 11 outages with a total duration of 394 Minutes.

#### 4. Vegetation Management

- 4.1 Tree Crew # 1 Mowed 67 spans = 3.35 Miles. Trimmed 32 Spans = 1.6 Miles. Removed 307 Trees.
- 4.2 Tree Crew # 2 Mowed 76 spans = 3.8 Miles. Trimmed 6 Spans = 0.3 Miles. Removed 183 Trees.
- 4.3 Tree Crews are working as one, three-man crew and have moved to the Houghton Area.

#### 5. Miscellaneous Items

- 5.1 New services are coming in at a steady pace, crews are actively working to complete each in a timely manner.
- 5.2 Journeyman Lineman job in L'Anse has been posted.

#### 6. Metering System

- 6.1 Current total of 3,957 new vision meters installed.

#### 7. Maintenance

- 7.1 OCR, Regulator, and Substation Inspections continue each month in all service territories.

500 J.K. Paul Street - Ontonagon, Michigan 49953 - (906) 884-4151

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*