

Minutes of the Montana Renewable Energy Association
Quarterly Meeting, January 12, 2005
DEQ Building, 1100 Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT

Present:

Dave Ryan (National Center for Appropriate Technology)
and carrying Kathy Hadley's proxy
Chris Borton (Sage Mountain Center)
Chris Daum (Oasis Montana)
Patrick Judge (Montana Environmental Information Center)
Kathi Montgomery (Montana Department of Environmental Quality)
and carrying Georgia Brensdal's proxy
Bob Quinn (WindPark Solutions America)
Wendy Kleinsasser (WindPark Solutions America)
Dirk Ellis (Strawhouse Market)

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm.

An important announcement was made that NorthWestern Energy had just contracted for 135-150 MW of wind energy from the Judith Gap Project, subject to PSC approval. This will be Montana's first large-scale wind project, and will place on the state on the map, in terms of significant wind development. Congratulations were delivered to Bob Quinn and Wendy Kleinsasser, for their many years of hard work to bring this project to completion. Bravo!

Patrick Judge reported the election results. Seventeen of twenty voting members voted, and elected the following board members for 2005:

Dave Ryan
Chris Borton
Chris Daum
Patrick Judge
Georgia Brensdal
Marla McCombie
Roy Nollkamper
Kathy Hadley
Mikey Strickland

Patrick Judge reported that Marla McCombie had indicated that she would be willing to step aside as Chair, if someone else wished to serve. Judge reported that it is unusual for an all-volunteer non-profit to have both a "President" and a "Chair."

Kathi Montgomery moved that MREA eliminate the position of "Chair," and vest the President with those duties. She further moved that the President could appoint a member each meeting to act as chair. Patrick Judge seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Judge later confirmed that the Board does have the power to amend the By-Laws with no “notice” or other procedures. Also note that the By-Laws may be observed at:

<http://www.montanagreenpower.com/mrea/MREA%20Bylaws.html>

Bob Quinn moved that the current officers be re-elected. Kathi Montgomery seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. The officers of MREA’s board for 2005 are:

Dave Ryan, President
Chris Borton, Vice President
Chris Daum, Treasurer
Patrick Judge, Secretary

Kathi Montgomery moved to accept the minutes from the October 13, 2004 meeting. Dave Ryan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Chris Daum reported that as of 1/1/05, there was \$5421.37 in the account. As of 1/12/05, there was \$5230.30. Dave Ryan said he still has 4 cases of LED Christmas lights, which he would bring to the Harvesting Clean Energy Conference. Kathi Montgomery has some lights still too. Chris Borton said he has \$70 he needs to bring in. Chris Daum will be mailing out invoices for 2005 memberships by the first part of February, at the latest.

Membership Recruitment: Patrick Judge reported that Paul Farley had offered to work with the group to offer “1/2 off subscriptions” to Home Power magazine as an incentive for MREA membership. The group agreed that the offer sounded promising, and that we would ask Paul for more details. Chris Borton asked about any conditions that might apply to this offer (e.g., could he do something similar as part of his site assessments?)

Solar Video: Dave Ryan agreed to send the Solar Video to those who had not seen it, or who wanted a copy. Also, NCAT/NWE have a new guide to wind energy in Montana that is now available. Chris Borton also mentioned that the “Bright Ideas in Renewable Energy” is getting pretty dated. Chris had sent suggested revisions to John Campbell at NWE.

USB Status Report: Dave Ryan reported that John Campbell had informed him that he would not be able to make this meeting of MREA. There was considerable discussion about the role of NWE’s USB Advisory Committee, and how MREA can best work with it (or become a member of it). Dave Ryan agreed to draft a letter. Patrick Judge agreed to urge the Renewable Subcommittee of the USB Advisory Committee to have a meeting sometime soon to discuss project funding for 2005. Dave Ryan reported that several NCAT projects were recently funded with 2004 USB dollars: 12 x 2 kW residential demonstration @ \$4 per Watt, the fire station project, and the “Solar Energy Star” housing project.

Chris Daum gave an overview of her business performance for the year 2004. There was talk about how geothermal energy was going to become a “hotter” topic, with more installers of ground source heat pumps and radiant heating systems. Kathi Montgomery reported that DEQ has a contract with Sage (out of Missoula) to assemble a database of geothermal resources (from DEQ’s energy library).

Harvesting Clean Energy Conference: Dave Ryan reported on the (re)charging of the solar trailer. Kathi Montgomery reported on the “biobus,” and that there were 215 registrants already. There was also discussion about various materials that needed to find a way to Great Falls, like the Wind Guide discussed earlier, and MEIC’s E+Green sign-up cards for NWE.

Chris Daum moved that MREA offer (a maximum of 2) Harvesting Clean Energy Conference scholarships for members who haven’t registered yet, and who cannot otherwise gain entry (by working a booth, for example). Dave Ryan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Patrick Judge delivered a legislative update, and offered to set up a “MREA” bill tracking account. This is an online tool, known as a “preference list,” to help track bills of interest as they move through the process. The current “mtenergy” preference list has 119 bill drafts on it, and can be a bit unwieldy. The “mrea” list will be much shorter. Most of the legislative discussion focused on HB 136, Rep. Olson’s bill to terminate USB funding for grid-tied renewable energy systems.

The group agreed that the next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at the same location: 1100 N. Last Chance Gulch (the new DEQ digs, in the old Armory Building), Room 112. It will begin at 11:30 am, to allow more time for the meeting and still accommodate for afternoon legislative committee hearings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

These Minutes were prepared by Patrick Judge, Secretary.

Date: Mon, 17 Jan 2005 14:36:22 -0800

Thread-Topic: Draft Minutes from 1/12/.05 MREA Meeting

Thread-Index: AcT5z9RCamQb47LtQ4y5nF8cV4U5owDFH/5w

From: "Paul Farley" <paul@energyoutfitters.com>

To: "pjjudge" <pjudge@meic.org>, <bob.quinn@kamut.com>, <wendy@windpark-solutions.com>, <jason@capphanes.com>, <daver@ncat.org>, <daver@ncat.org>, <smc@sagemountain.org>, <info@oasismontana.com>, <mlmccombie@bpa.gov>, <solplex@montana.com>, <royn@glacierelectric.com>, <gbrensdal@state.mt.us>, <kmontgomery@state.mt.us>, <dearbornsolar@yahoo.com>, <leslie@aesolar.com>, <mlb1@qwest.net>, <bob.quinn@kamut.com>, <wlbryce@pineridgeproducts.com>, <insolar03@yahoo.com>, <tbishop@sunelco.com>, <tboniface@montanadsl.net>, <chasday@bridgeband.com>, <dan@oasismontana.com>, <Claud@mcn.net>, <esroe@juno.com>, <johnw@ncat.org>, <kathyh@ncat.org>, <lyleneiss@hotmail.com>, <uhigb@montana.edu>, <timengleson@lincolnelectric.coop>, <horton@montana.com>

Greeting all,

I will get more details on the Homepower deal. Essentially it is half off of subscriptions. Homepower stated that typically the Non-profit would pick up the other half and offer a free year subscription for new or existing members. I will get cost details and see if it is something we can do.

I would like to attend the Clean Energy Conference and would be willing to sit in the MREA booth if there are not enough volunteers. Either way I will be attending so I hope to see some of you there.

Regards

Paul Farley