



May 17, 2023
 STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT DEPARTMENT
 REGULAR SESSION
 MEETING MINUTES



DATE: May 17, 2023

LOCATION: SMLD, Rear Board Room
 50 Main Street, Sterling, MA

BOARD MEMBERS: Joe Curtin (Curtin), Chairman
 Eric Darlington (Darlington), Vice Chair
 Andy Gonsorcik (Gonsorcik), Clerk

SMLD STAFF: Matt Stelmach (Stelmach), General Manager
 Bill Underhill (Underhill), Network Coordinator
 Sean Hamilton (Hamilton), Interim General Manager

MINUTES: Patty Page

6:00 pm. Meeting called to order; Curtin stated that the meeting is subject to audio recording. Roll Call Attendance: Darlington present, Gonsorcik present, Curtin present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board members in attendance pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Safety Announcement - Equipment in office.

Approval of Agenda - Darlington made a motion to approve agenda. Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, all in favor, Gonsorcik aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. (3-0).

Reorganization of the Board: Darlington made a motion that Gonsorcik will be clerk, Darlington to be Vice Chair, and Curtin remain as Chair. Gonsorcik seconded. All in favor, 3-0.

Manager's report

1. MWECC – Summer generators to be delivered by May 24, 2023.
2. Quarter 1 Rate Comparisons from MWECC – First 3 months of 2023 includes the rate increase. SMLD is not the highest and not the lowest but is consistently in the lower 1/3 of all rate classes. Overall SMLD is in a very good position.
3. SMLD Crews have been diligently working on sprucing up the grounds of SMLD properties. The goal is to be done prior to the Memorial Day parade and ideally the SMLD Open House. Hopeful to repair the retaining wall out from of 50 Main as well is fixing the front steps. Stelmach stated it is important for the crew to be involved as it builds pride and ownership of the facilities.
4. NextZero Rebate Program – Currently have a summary of 2022 participation in different programs. Starting Q1 2023, tracking participation right now.
5. Minutes – there has been inconsistency in logging and tracking of minutes. Now working with a spreadsheet to allow the Board to review quarterly and update the release of executive minutes.

6. Meeting Recordation and Broadcast – Stelmach met with SLCT to discuss options. They would like to broadcast meetings via ZOOM. The recommendation is to invest in an “Owl” – a ZOOM tool with new technology that can record sound and video the entire room. Currently working on pricing.
7. MWECC has made videos available on Chapters 164 and 177 via ZOOM. These are educational and very informative.
8. Activities – Stelmach and Hamilton both participated in the MWECC annual conference. The theme of the conference was “The Future Grid.” Additional topics discussed were: small modular nuclear reactors – there is one planned in the Midwest; “Wakefield Energy Park” which is a microgrid with solar on 2 schools plus a natural gas peaking unit and grid scale battery storage system. Additionally, Hamilton received the James E. Baker award. Stelmach also participated in the MWECC orientation with other new managers.
9. Upcoming – ISO NE, Stelmach will be attending next week to learn more about power supply.

Unfinished Business

- a) ERP Billing Software – NISC had a problem with a section of the RFP that requested vendors to hold pricing for one year. They countered with 90 days. Stelmach has received the most recent quote and will update the Board next meeting.
- b) Sectionalizing – Reviewed with engineer Friday. Faults are still getting through and trying to determine a fix.
- c) 2015A Update – Peaking plant in Peabody. Another delay and pushing commercial operation to July.
- d) Digger/Derrick Replacement – Has been ordered. No delivery date at this time, but at least a couple years out.
- e) Staff Accountant – Stelmach was very pleased to announce the hiring of John Kwasniewski with a June 26, 2023 start date.

New Business

- a) Fiber Update – Mr. Underhill updated the Board on the number of customers: 224 customers installed with 31 being businesses, several on a waiting list and the list of interested is at 353. The integrative map is ready, but has not been launched. Underhill also reviewed the financials with the board.
- b) Fiber Grants and Expenditures – Hamilton presented a spreadsheet of the grants. It showed where we are, where we’re going and tracking all financials. SMLD has no debt.
- c) Quarterly Financials – Discussion topic – in the past, the quarterly reports contained an overwhelming amount of data. Stelmach was looking for feedback from the board on what they want to see in the reports going forward. Some thoughts were: sales/revenue, how electricity is being sold over different types, and projections of spending and what we spent.
- d) SMLD Website – the current website is not user friendly and hard to maneuver. Stelmach has reached out to local utilities for web designers that they have used. Most likely this will be a 30B procurement which requires 3 quotes with written scope.

APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES: Table until next meeting.

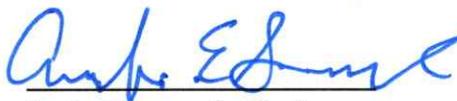
Customer Comments: An attendee at the meeting asked if the new billing software will show a graph of usage. That will continue as well as being more user friendly.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SCHEDULE NEXT BOARD MEETING: Future agenda items to include ERP Billing, Sectionalizing Study, 2015A Project, Fiber Update, Fiber Grants, Quarterly Financials, Website design. Next meeting June 26, 2023 @ 5 pm.

The Board welcomed Mr. Gonsorcik to the Board

At 7:43 pm Darlington made a motion Darlington made a motion to go into Executive Session (1) under M.G.L. Chapter 30A: Section 21(a), (to discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier.) 10.1 MMWEC 2023A Project, 10.2 BlueWave Energy, and to return to regular session only to adjourn. Gonsorcik seconded, no discussion, Roll Call Vote, Gonsorcik aye, Darlington aye, Curtin aye. All in favor.

ATTEST:



Andy Gonsorcik, Clerk

DATE:

6/27/23

BOARD APPROVAL FOR RELEASE:

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