

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Laven called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at South Central Service Cooperative, North Mankato, MN.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Berry, Andrea Boettger, Dave Borchert, Jim Branstad, Steve Cooling, Marie Dranttel, Lyle Femrite, Robert Goblirsch, Paul Harris, Stephanie Hilpipre, Katelynne Kratz, Dawn Kratzke, Mike Laven, Tom Loveall, Mary Milbrath, Bob Nielsen, Lisa Norton, Shanon Nowell, Gary Richter, Steve Rohlfig, Scott Schlueter

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Elliot Belgard, Chris Dalton, Patty O'Connor, Ayan Omar, Mike Pfeil, Phil Schafer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Holmseth, Christian Lilienthal, Michele Miller, Matt Peterson

OTHERS PRESENT: Ken Smith, Nicole Griensewic, Ky Battern, Joel Hanif, Sabri Fair, Nate George, Paola Ferrario, Mercedes Sempe, Mireille Ghassan

There was a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Norton moved to approve the agenda as presented, Femrite seconded. Motion carried.

A. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 11, 2023 MINUTES

Rohlfig moved to approve the October 11, 2023 minutes as presented, Cooling seconded. Motion carried.

V. FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No instances of noncompliance to report. There was a material audit adjustment through internal control findings from fiscal year 2022 but was fixed in fiscal year 2023. Expenditures have increased every year for the past five years. Question from Mike Laven, why is there the defederalization of the

revolving loan funds? R9 helped change the legislation so that there is no longer reporting due “in perpetuity”.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

College Age Youth Commissioner, Katelynne Kratz was approved.

Norton moved to approve, Dranttel seconded. Motion carried.

Out of State Travel requests were approved. Travel request for Nicole and Andrea to attend the NADO Conference in Washington D.C. Travel request for Paola and Sam to attend NREL – Energizing Rural Communities training in Colorado. Travel request for Sabri to attend the Marbleseed Conference in Wisconsin.

Borchert moved to approve, Kratzke seconded. Motion carried.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A.** Organization Updates (funding opportunities and upcoming events). Update from Andrea on the Childcare Innovation Program. Update from Nicole on the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities Program. The program provides capacity to small communities for development projects and infrastructure ideas to lay the groundwork for competitive proposals that are eligible for local, state, and federal investments. Nicole also mentioned an event hosted by the Center for Transportation Studies on Economic Drivers in South Central Minnesota.
- B.** Transitioning Systems, Evolving Opportunities, w. Ken Smith CEO/ President Ever-Green Energy. Nicole and Ken presented about their learning exchange to Denmark and highlighted renewable energy, opportunities, and transitioning systems. Discussion followed the presentation.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Nielsen moved to adjourn, Femrite seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mike Laven, Chair

Marie Dranttel, Secretary