

MEAN Board passes resolution laying out 2050 carbon neutral vision

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors at its board meeting on Jan. 23 in Kearney, Neb., approved a resolution laying out a vision to a carbon neutral power resource portfolio by 2050.

The resolution authorizes MEAN's staff to collaboratively work with the MEAN Power Supply Committee to construct policies around resource planning, portfolio optimization and emissions reduction to support future actions to achieve the 2050 carbon neutral goal.

The formation of the plan will culminate in MEAN's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan, which details MEAN's future resource needs and performs evaluations to determine the preferred resource plan. MEAN updates its Integrated Resource Plan every five years.

"This is a significant and challenging goal by MEAN's member communities," said Bob Poehling, executive director/CEO of MEAN. "MEAN is a member-driven organization and there is a desire from member communities to further build upon our clean energy portfolio and environmental stewardship. In the coming years, MEAN's member communities will work together to navigate how to achieve this goal while still maintaining a reliable and competitively priced wholesale energy supply."

MEAN has a successful history of working together to fulfill renewable energy needs for each member commu-



nity by investing in carbon-free resources, including constructing and owning the first utility-scale wind project in Nebraska near Kimball, Neb. Recent carbon-free efforts include:

- Contracting to purchase the energy (30 megawatts) of the recently expanded Kimball Wind Project, which has three times more energy capacity than the original project.
- Successfully working with the communities of Aspen and Glenwood Springs in Colorado to achieve their local 100 percent renewable energy goal.
- Expanding the opportunity for larger renewable projects located in MEAN Participant communities through its Renewable Distributed Generation Policy.
- Extending a current 20-year contract for additional wind energy from the Wessington Springs, S.D. Wind Center.

More MEAN News...

MEAN Board approves wholesale rates for 2020-21

The MEAN Board recently approved wholesale electric rates, which includes a decrease in its overall revenue requirement.

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Brad Hans named director of wholesale electric operations

NMPP Executive Director Bob Poehling announced Brad Hans as the new director of wholesale electric operations for MEAN. He takes over for Tim Sutherland, who will retire in March after 28 years.

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Today, MEAN's resource capacity portfolio consists of 50 percent non-carbon resources from projects around the region, including member federal hydro allocations from the Western Area Power Administration.

MEAN will have opportunities in the coming years to transition toward carbon neutrality as power purchase agreement contracts expire and capital debt is paid on its shared ownership of power resources with other utilities.

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MEAN Board approves rates for fiscal year 2020-21

Overall revenue requirement decreases for 5th straight year

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors at its quarterly board meeting in January approved a 3.2 percent decrease in MEAN's overall targeted revenue requirement for fiscal year 2020-21 for its wholesale electric participants.

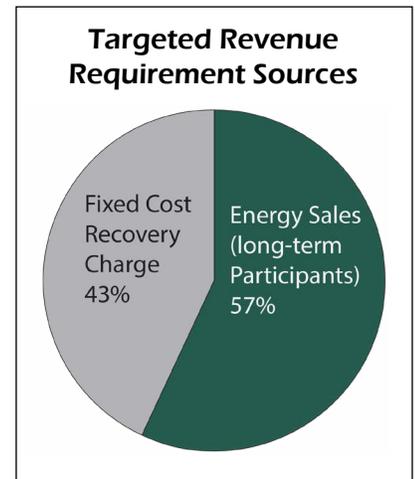
The targeted revenue requirement is the total net revenue required to cover MEAN's cost of operation. MEAN's rate structure includes two main components for collecting revenue: An energy rate (usage) charged for electric energy sales and a fixed cost recovery charge.

As part of the overall decrease

in the targeted revenue requirement, the Board also approved no increase in MEAN's energy rate for long-term (Schedule M) and 10-year (Schedule K) wholesale electric participants. The energy rate for MEAN's wind-generation resources decreased 6.5 percent and the total Fixed Cost Recovery Charge was unchanged. The new rates take effect April 1. It is the fifth straight year the MEAN Board has approved lowering its targeted revenue requirement.

Electric Energy Sales

This source of revenue makes up 57 percent of MEAN's targeted revenue requirement. Energy sales



are highly variable as usage depends on consumer need, which varies due to weather, time of day, conservation, etc.

Fixed Cost Recovery Charge

The Fixed Cost Recovery Charge is 43 percent of MEAN's targeted revenue requirement. It

See 'Rates' on page 5

Brad Hans named new director of wholesale electric operations

NMPP Energy Executive Director Bob Poehling in January announced Brad Hans as the new director of wholesale electric operations for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN). Hans will take over for Tim Sutherland, who recently announced his plans to retire in March after a 28-year career with MEAN and the NMPP Energy organizations.

As director of wholesale electric operations for MEAN, Hans will lead all aspects of wholesale electric operations of MEAN, which provides wholesale power supply and related services to 70 communities in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

Hans served as deputy director of wholesale electric operations for MEAN since 2014. Prior to that position he served as manager of transmission for MEAN. Before joining MEAN Hans worked for Lincoln (Neb.) Electric System for 11 years as a plant manager for the construction, commissioning, staffing and operation of the Terry Bundy Generating Station.



Brad Hans

As deputy director of wholesale operations for MEAN, Hans was responsible for all day-to-day aspects of MEAN's wholesale electric operations. He was also heavily involved in representing MEAN's members in state, regional and national operations issues.

Hans earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy's Civil Engineer Corps, serving on active duty for seven years. He also earned a Master's Degree in business administration from Wayne State College.



By Bob Poehling,
Executive Director



This Month at NMPP Energy

Below is a list of a few of the activities and workstreams that occurred during the past month at NMPP Energy on behalf of member communities:

Nebraska Municipal Power Pool

- Cost of Service rate study work was done for Hickman, Benkelman Seward, West Point and Wahoo in Nebraska and Glenwood Springs, Gunnison and Lamar in Colorado and Gillette, Wyo.
- PowerManager on-site training was held in Tecumseh. The City recently purchased a suite of PowerManager programs and is a participant in PowerManager's Value Support Plan. A training session was also held for Litchfield, Neb.
- Staff is assisting the City of Stromsburg, Neb., with a wholesale electric power bill review, rates and an annual natural gas rate review.
- Staff attended and had a PowerManager vendor booth at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference in Lincoln.
- NMPP's annual utility training sessions began in January in Lincoln, Broken Bow and Sidney, Neb. The sessions are being held through March.
- Work continued on finalizing the annual water and sewer typical bill reports.
- Staff attended the Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) meeting in Omaha with representatives from Omaha Public Power District, Lincoln Electric System, Nebraska Public Power District and the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy.
- Assistance is being provided to Pender, Neb., with the recertification of their Leadership Certified Community designation with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

- Member visits included the communities of Alliance, Arnold, Beaver City, Broken Bow, Chappell, Callaway, Curtis, Grant, Nebraska City, Oxford, Pierce, Red Cloud, Wisner in Nebraska and Yuma in Colorado.

- MEAN Committees and Board held their quarterly meeting in January in Kearney, Neb.
- Several training and conference opportunities were attended by staff, including the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/Public Works Annual Conference and the Southwest Power Pool Market and Operations Policy Committee meetings.

National Public Gas Agency

- A settlement offer regarding the Northern Natural Gas Pipeline rate case is being evaluated by the Executive Committee of the Midwest Region Gas Task Force, the shippers group representing NPGA members Lyons, Pender and Stromsburg in Nebraska.
- February natural gas volumes were arranged for members and customers on the six pipelines where NPGA ships gas.
- Staff participated in Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline's monthly customer update Webex, receiving updates from customer service, scheduling, gas control, capacity planning and storage representatives.
- Staff met with representatives from the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia to finalize details for natural gas flow to start Feb. 1 related to the recent pre-pay transaction.
- Preparations are underway for the next NPGA Board meeting set for Feb. 13 at NMPP Energy.

Public Alliance for Community Energy

- The Choice Gas pre-enrollment marketing period began Jan. 15. ACE worked with a vendor to make website enhancements in advance of the pre-enrollment and selection periods. The pricing desk is updating the current pricing model to be used to create customer pricing offers in January.
- Staff presented Choice Gas program updates and information at the Northeast Area Clerks meeting in Norfolk, Neb.
- The quarterly ACE Board Meeting was held in January in Kearney, Neb.

Register online now at NMPPenergy.org

**NMPP ENERGY 2020
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

nmpp
ENERGY™

NMPP | MEAN | NPGA | ACE

March 24-26, 2020

The Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker Hotel
Lincoln, Neb.

Timely Topics on Tap for Conference

Pre-Conference Workshop

A Cybersecurity Roadmap for Utilities

Utilities already know they need to place a high priority on cybersecurity. This workshop will provide a roadmap for utilities as well as where to find the free resources to help implement a plan.

Presentation Topics

Crisis Management: Lessons Learned from the 2019 Nebraska Floods

Hear best practices from Nebraska communities in how they dealt with the 2019 flood crisis, including a presentation by the Assistant Director of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Creating a Culture: Strategies to Remain Competitive

Learn how culture impacts employee engagement and retention, what motivates employees beyond the pay and benefits and ideas for recruiting and retaining skilled labor.

Cybersecurity Case Study

Chris Lindell, an electronic systems analyst, will provide a case study of the cybersecurity event that impacted the City of Beatrice, Neb.

State Issues Panel Discussion

Hear state representatives from Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska discuss the current energy and legislative environment in their respective states.

Bill introduced would help to modernize MEAN's governance

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) thanks Nebraska Sen. Dan Hughes (District 44), chairman of the Nebraska Legislature's Natural Resources Committee, for introducing LB 858 on behalf of MEAN.

Legislative Notes



By Chris Dibbern

LB 858 would amend the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, which was established in 1981 ~ almost 40 years ago. MEAN has grown from 19 cities to more than 60 communities today and is the only power supplier under the Act. There are approximately 13 changes proposed under LB 858 and all are geared to improve the governance of MEAN. The bill is available on the Nebraska Legislative website (nebraskalegislature.gov).

Under the improvement to MEAN's governance we asked the legislature to allow the MEAN Board, through its bylaws, to determine the term of each director, the criteria of the directors, such as where they live (electors) and classes of membership, generally one vote per community. MEAN asked for some accounting clean-up measures, and to mirror several current changes in the power district or municipalities law.

In a short 60-day session the bill has to move with some priority or consensus to make it to the finish line in 2020. Great leadership in the committee may accomplish it this year or next.

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Chris Dibbern is general counsel of NMPP Energy. Contact her at cdibbern@nmppenergy.org or (800) 234-2595.

SPP Board names Sugg president, CEO

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) board of directors announced in January it unanimously selected Barbara Sugg to serve as the organization's new president and CEO effective later this year. Sugg is currently SPP's senior vice president of information technology and chief security officer.



Barbara Sugg

Sugg will replace Nick Brown, who announced plans last July to retire in 2020.

The board's announcement follows a months-long, comprehensive national search and selection process.

Rates

Continued from page 2

allows MEAN to recover certain known costs related to ownership of power resources, power contracts and operations and better handle energy usage volatility due to weather and other unpredictable factors. This charge is allocated to long-term (Schedule M) and 10-year (Schedule K) Participants based on each Participants' three-year historical average peak electric demand.

Accounting for certain known costs protects MEAN's wholesale electric Participants from revenue volatility from energy sales caused by unpredictable

factors such as weather-related usage fluctuations, unplanned resource outages, fuel costs and transmission congestion.

Two other primary cost components on MEAN Participants' monthly wholesale electric bill are for transmission and federal hydropower allocations. These are third-party pass-through costs.

The MEAN Board annually reviews rates and charges to ensure operating revenues are sufficient to pay operating expenses in accordance with policies approved by the Board.

Vision

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Achieving MEAN's 2050 vision will require industry advancements and technological innovations, particularly those that add stability to the grid and offset the intermittent production of renewable energy such as from wind and solar resources. Potential solutions are not yet viable on a utility scale or economically feasible, and emerging technologies must still be developed.

"For nearly 40 years MEAN's member communities have proven that by working together they can achieve great success," said Poehling. "I'm confident they will rise to the challenge to meet this initiative."



CBAN: Community Broadband in Action

www.broadbandaction.com



The mission at the Community Broadband Action Network (CBAN) is to be a powerful “do tank,” helping communities and solutions providers clear the hurdles that stand in the way of realizing the dream of better broadband access for every American.

CBAN is increasing the number of communities able to successfully explore and execute their broadband options by:

- Lowering sometimes-daunting information barriers
- Making network construction and operations more viable
- Forming and encouraging new partnerships

They work toward these objectives through three primary channels.

Education

Often the best and most creative solutions to community challenges come through an open exchange of ideas among peers. CBAN facilitates this through events such as a biannual Community Broadband Summit, local and regional meet-ups, live and online talks and workshops, Broadband Bytes - our monthly roundup of industry and regulatory news - and through other channels as they present themselves.

Advocacy

CBAN is a strong advocate for improving broadband access for communities and their citizens. We believe that communities should have the right to explore all options for improved access to high speed Internet, including partnerships and community-owned networks. We serve as community broadband advocates across the spectrum of solutions.

Guidance

CBAN serves a vital role in early mentoring for community leaders as they explore strategies to improve their broadband services. Rather than be left on their own to determine each important path, communities can look to CBAN and fellow members to provide guidance and assistance as they work to attain their goals.

To learn more, visit www.broadbandaction.com.

For a complete listing of NMPP Energy Champion Businesses, see page 7

Employment Opportunities

Utility Superintendent

Due to retirement, the City of **Scribner, Neb.**, is accepting applications for the position of utility superintendent. The utility superintendent will need to be licensed in water and wastewater. Experience and/or training with electricity including maintenance and repair of municipal distribution system and the operation of electrical generation units preferred. Superintendent will be responsible for direction of employees in water, wastewater, electrical distribution/generation operation, streets and parks. Utility superin-

endent will be supported by the natural gas superintendent and other cross-trained personnel. Utility superintendent must have the ability to lead effectively, communicate goals to employees and will be responsible for safety, compliance, record keeping, testing. The utility superintendent will be in an on-call rotation and must have the physical ability to work for extended periods in all types of weather. Successful candidate must hold or be able to obtain a Grade 3 Water License and a Class 2 Waste-Water license within first year. Salary commensurate dependent on qualifications and experience. The City of Scribner offers an excellent benefit package. For complete job description and application contact City of Scribner Offices at [\[ne.gov\]\(http://ne.gov\). Applications must include resume and references. EOE.](mailto:clerk@scribner-</p>
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Water/Wastewater Operator

The City of **Ord, Neb.**, is accepting applications for a full-time water/wastewater operator. The position will perform a variety of tasks in the operation, maintenance and repair of the City's utility system including water, wastewater, streets, parks and related facilities. Knowledge of electrical distribution and power plant operation is a plus. Applicant must have or be able to obtain a Grade 3 Water Certificate and a Grade 1 Wastewater Certificate. Applications will be accepted by the City Clerk until the position is filled.

See 'EMPLOYMENT' on page 8

Support NMPP member communities through the Champions Business Program

Champions are businesses and organizations that support NMPP Energy's effort to provide products and services to members. Consider these businesses when your utility or municipality has a business need. If your business is interested in becoming an NMPP Energy Champion, call Andrew Ross at (800) 234-2595.



Champions Business Directory of Services

Financial

Ameritas Investment Corp. (Ameritas.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
D.A. Davidson & Co. (dadavidson.com/ficm)	Omaha, Neb.
First National Bank (Firstnational.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
UNICO Group, Inc. and Midlands Financial Benefits (unicogroup.com)	Lincoln, Neb.
Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union (ne-fcu.org).....	Columbus, Neb.
RBC Capital Markets (rbc.com).....	Denver, Colo.

Regulatory/Compliance

Air Regulation Consulting (airregconsulting.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.
NAQS Environmental Experts (naqs.com).....	Lincoln, Neb.

Utility/Community

Dogwood Energy	Columbia, Md.
EnergySolutions, Inc. (energysolutions-inc.com).....	Omaha, Neb.
Hometown Connections, Inc. (Hometownconnections.com).....	Lakewood, Colo.
Foundation for Educational Services (fes.org).....	Lincoln, Neb.
GenPro Energy Solutions (GenProEnergy.com).....	Piedmont, S.D.
JK Energy Consulting, LLC (JKenergyconsulting.com)	Lincoln, Neb.
Border States (borderstates.com).....	Fargo, N.D.
NovaTech (Novatechweb.com).....	Lenexa, Kan.
PDS, Inc. (PDSinc.biz)	Omaha, Neb.
Protective Equipment Testing Laboratory (petl.com)	Great Bend, Kan.
RESCO (Rural Electric Supply Cooperative) (resco1.com)	Ankeny, Iowa
Sol Systems (solsystems.com).....	Washington, D.C.
Solomon Corporation (Solomoncorp.com).....	Solomon, Kan.

Computer/Technology

Proteus (Proteus.co)	Lincoln, Neb.
Salt Creek Software, Inc. (Saltcreek.com)	Lincoln, Neb.

Engineering

EPSIM Corporation (epsim.us)	Boulder, Colo.
Exponential Engineering Company (exponentialengineering.com)	Fort Collins, Colo.
JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (jeo.com)	Wahoo, Neb.
Lutz, Daily & Brain, LLC (ldbeng.com).....	Overland Park, Kan.
Olsson (Olsson.com)	Lincoln, Neb.

Insurance

League Association of Risk Management (larmpool.org)	Lincoln, Neb.
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Legal

Chapman and Cutler, LLP (chapman.com)	Salt Lake City, Utah
Spiegel & McDiarmid (spiegelmcd.com)	Washington, D.C.

Telecommunication

Community Broadband Action Network (broadbandaction.com)	Indianola, Iowa
River Oaks Communications Corp. (rivoaks.com)	Centennial, Colo.

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NEWSLETTER

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Employment (cont.)

Applications and job descriptions may be obtained from the Ord City Clerk at 201 S. 17th Street, PO Box 96, Ord, NE 68862, (308) 728-5791, skruml@ordne.org or by calling Utility Superintendent Paul Markowski, at (308) 728-1317. Competitive salary and benefits package based on experience. EOE.

Chief of Police

The City of **Franklin**, Neb., is accepting applications for the position of chief of police. Franklin is a town of 1,000 located in South Central Nebraska. It offers an excellent school system, along with a hospital, community-owned movie theatre, golf course, downtown businesses, as well as access to hunting and fishing. It is a 15-minute drive to Harlan County Reservoir. The department is well equipped with firearms, bullet proof vests, body cameras and other necessary equipment to be a successful police officer. The City is seeking applicants with integrity, dedi-

cation and detail oriented toward keeping our community safe. Nebraska certification is required. A thorough background investigation will be conducted. Benefits include 100 percent employee health, dental and vision insurance; employer pays 50 percent of health insurance for spouse/family; paid vacation, holidays and sick leave; six percent match retirement (after one year of employment), life insurance; and uniforms and equipment. Salary: \$45,000-\$55,000 commensurate with experience. Contact: Raquel Felzien; email: cityhall2@gtmc.net; phone: (308) 425-6295; contact address: 619 15th Ave, Franklin NE 68939.

Electric Lineman

The City of **Gunnison**, Colo., has an immediate opening for an electric lineman. Experience in overhead and underground electric distribution line work is required as well as a minimum Class B CDL. Rotating weekend and holiday stand-by is also required. Salary range is \$64,800 to \$76,100, depending on experience and

qualifications plus benefits. This position will remain open until filled. For further information contact Will Dowis, electric superintendent, at (970) 641-8329 or email wdowis@gunnisonco.gov. Resumes and letters of interest may be emailed or sent to City of Gunnison, 1100 W. Virginia, Gunnison CO 81230.

Police Officer

The City of **St. Paul**, Neb., is accepting applications for the full-time position of police officer until March 13, 2020. NLETC certification is preferred, but not mandatory. Requirements: You must be 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, must have a valid driver's license, and be of good moral character, with no felony or serious misdemeanor convictions. Benefits include health insurance, paid vacation, holidays, sick leave and retirement program. Job description and application forms may be obtained at City Hall, 704 6th Street, St. Paul NE, (308) 754-4483 or at the St. Paul Police Department, 514 Grand Street, St. Paul, NE, (308) 754-9112. EOE.

Complete job descriptions are posted at www.nmppenergy.org