

# STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 2019

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Stearns Electric Association was held on February 21, 2019 at 2:20 p.m. at the Stearns Electric Association Headquarters in Melrose, Minnesota.

Manager of Operations Glenn Blommel provided an update on current activities of the crews. Mr. Blommel informed the Board the extreme cold in January has caused more outages than usual in the winter. Work progress has been slow as the extreme cold made it difficult to keep hydraulics moving. Additionally, as a safety precaution, two crews would go out simultaneously to help protect linemen from extreme temperatures. System reliability numbers were shared with the Board.

Manager of Billing and IT, Ryan Zierden noted the Co-op will accept American Express for payments in the near future.

Director of Energy Services James Pachan, completed the required annual review of the Cooperative's Distributed Generation Documents with the Board. He also proposed a resolution to revise these documents to adopt the recently updated interconnection standards and rules by the MN Public Utilities Commission outlined in Minnesota Statute 216B.1611. A motion to approve the documents and change the interconnection process was carried. All new distribution energy resources will follow the C-MIP interconnection process beginning May 1, 2019.

January financials were available for the Board to view. Due to the cold weather, energy sales were 2.5% higher than budget in January, while member demand sales were 5.8% higher than budget.

President Randy Rothstein brought forward a member concern related to multiple meters on properties resulting in an additional fixed charge cost. The issue is related to property owner choices made when constructing new buildings. While upfront costs are lower to add another meter, it appears to be a better long term investment in comparison to multiple meter fixed charges.

*Next Meeting: May 30, 2019*

