

## Minutes from the Decorah MEU Task Force Meeting

City Hall Council Chambers / Electronic meeting

Friday December 3, 2021, 12:00-1:00pm

- 1) Call to order and consider approval of minutes from the November 5 meeting  
Larry G. moves to approve; Kristine K. seconds;
  
- 2) Follow up on letter to the IUB regarding request for data from Alliant  
Has been shared with city council  
Dated Nov 30; [publicly available in DropBox](#); has been shared with the council and assigned a filing number  
Monday, Dec 20 is due date for Alliant to provide data and answers to questions.  
Andy J.: 12/20 deadline is date IUB staff will begin processing and responding to Alliant's information; not clear when response will be available to Decorah)  
Will be topic of January meeting.
  
- 3) 2020 rate data from the IUB (Jim Martin-Schramm)  
At 16.61 cents/kw/hr there are only 3 utilities in Iowa with higher rates  
Alliant is 127th out of 175 on commercial  
Alliant does much better with industrial, ranking third.  
Full data set and comparison will be uploaded to DropBox as .xlsx and .pdf  
In addition to per kw costs, it would be good to have more complete picture of performance for those Decorah might use as comparison. Also, what does community do with any payments to municipalities in lieu of taxes? Are they part of expenses or reflected in operating losses?
  
- 4) Consider moving upcoming meetings to the first Thursday of every month at 9:15am, in city council chambers. Upcoming meetings:
  - a) January- no MEU Taskforce meeting
  - b) February 3, 2021
  - c) March 3, 2021
  - d) April 7, 2021
  - e) May 5, 2021Motion made by ???. Motion seconded by Larry G.

## 5) Updates from committees

Education committee (Karen and Mark):

Still working on education series to begin after first of year 2022.

Met with Decorah Jobs: Forwarded questions to members before meeting as a survey; got 14 responses; consensus is that they would like to see Decorah continue to partner with Alliant and that other development projects in Decorah may take priority at this time: Sunflower childcare center; high-speed Internet; more housing and John Cline Elem., new fire station, etc. Single data set is desired. Decorah Jobs will be meeting with Alliant in March. Can we find a way to partner on future projects?

Many seemed surprised to learn that Alliant's rates are higher than comparables, such as MidAmerican.

## 6) New business?

Karen: When do we know Task Force has met its charge?

Carly: When a recommendation re: a feasibility study and referendum has been made. But timeline is not defined.

Mark: IUB response and educational series may dictate.

## 7) Adjourn

### **Decorah Municipal Electric Utility Task Force Members**

Carly Hayden Foster (present)

Political Science Professor at Luther College, MEU Task Force Chair (fosterc@luther.edu)

Larry Grimstad (present)

Retired President of Decorah Bank and Trust, founder of Decorah Solar Field  
(larrygrimstad@gmail.com)

Doug Hamilton (not in attendance)

Director of Supply Chain for DECO products (hamilton.douglas.g@gmail.com)

Kristine Jepsen (Present)

Writer/Editor, Farmer, Business Development Counselor for America's Small Business  
Development Center (kristinejepsen@gmail.com)

Reginald Laursen (present)  
Decorah High School Tennis Coach, Retired Luther College Professor of Mathematics  
([laursenr@luther.edu](mailto:laursenr@luther.edu))

Mark Lovelace (present)  
Real Estate Agent, Managing Partner at J&J Petersburg Agency  
([mlovelace@ajpetersburg.com](mailto:mlovelace@ajpetersburg.com))

Andy Johnson (present)  
Director of the Winneshiek Energy District, Farmer ([andy@energydistrict.org](mailto:andy@energydistrict.org))

Tom Marquardt (not in attendance)  
Doctor of Podiatry, Chief Medical Officer for Winneshiek Medical Center ([tkmjj69@gmail.com](mailto:tkmjj69@gmail.com))

Karen McLean (present)  
Winneshiek Medical Center Trustee, retired Des Moines University Provost  
([loscaballos9@gmail.com](mailto:loscaballos9@gmail.com))

Larry Wilson (not in attendance)  
Retired electrical lineman, meter reader, and various projects staff/manager for over 30 years  
([l\\_wilson47@yahoo.com](mailto:l_wilson47@yahoo.com))