

MINUTES

Decorah Municipal Electric Utility (MEU) Task Force

City Hall Council Chambers / remote option, Thursday March 3, 2022, 9:15-10:15am

Decorah MEU Taskforce Dropbox Folder link (for all MEU Task Force related documents):

tinyurl.com/meutaskforce

Carly Hayden Foster called the meeting to order at 9:16. Reg Laursen moved and Larry Wilson seconded approval of the minutes from the February 17 2022 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved. Task Force members in attendance were Carly Hayden Foster, Larry Wilson, Mark Lovelace, Reg Laursen, Andy Johnson, Kristine Kopperud, and Doug Hamilton. Also in attendance were Mayor Lorraine Borowski, City Manager Travis Goedken, Sustainability Commission Chair Jim Martin-Schramm, and MEU Task Force Liaison Steve Zittergruen.

Andy Johnson provided updates regarding the City of Decorah's request for data from Alliant. Since the Feb 17th meeting, Alliant notified the IUB that they do not intend to participate in the meeting the IUB proposed between Decorah, Alliant, the IUB, and the Office of the Consumer Advocate. The Decorah City council approved our taskforce's recommendation of retaining legal counsel for the purpose of obtaining the information that the city has requested of Decorah. Carly and Andy have been in communication with attorney David Lynch regarding a draft reply letter to the IUB. The task force is now awaiting the IUB's response to Alliant's rejection of the IUB's invitation to meet.

Mark Lovelace and Andy Johnson provided updates regarding educational event planning. The education and outreach committee has invited and is now in communication with representatives from several communities with MEUs regarding the timing of upcoming educational events. The committee hopes that this education event series will begin later this month (March) and conclude in May. It is likely that additional educational outreach events will be planned for the summer.

Future meetings are planned for the first Thursday of every month at 9:15am, in city council chambers. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for April 7 and May 5, 2022. Carly mentioned that we will need to discuss whether we want to continue meeting the first Thursday of the month at 9:15am through the summer, or whether we want to consider making changes to that schedule.

Carly presented information from the IUB regarding a service territory map, a regional transmission organization map, and utility reliability data from the US EIA (Energy Information Agency). Links to that information are below:

<https://iowa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d595a7d431bc4c789065348a8f454dbb>

<https://www.ferc.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/elec-ovr-rto-map.pdf>

<https://www.publicpower.org/periodical/article/eia-highlights-strong-reliability-performance-public-power-utilities>
<https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/>

Reg Laursen asked whether a decision had been made about including representatives from the City of Hudson in the educational event series. A final decision has not yet been made. Andy Johnson pointed out the Hudson is much smaller than Decorah, so not comparable. Jim Martin-Schram mentioned that part of the reason the Hudson MEU sold out was because of their proximity to MidAmerican Energy, which has very low rates. Steve Zittergruen commented that the Decorah community is not aware of these factors and might benefit from learning more about Hudson's experiences. Carly mentioned that even if Hudson is not included in these initial educational outreach series events, the task force could still seek information from them and share that information with the community. The education and outreach committee will consider this issue further.

The March 3 2022 meeting adjourned at 10:00am.
(CHF)