

**MINUTES**  
**Decorah Municipal Electric Utility (MEU) Task Force**  
City Hall Council Chambers/ Electronic Meeting  
Thursday May 5, 2022

**Present:** Task force members Carly Hayden Foster, Larry Grimstad, Doug Hamilton, Andy Johnson, Kristine Kopperud, Reg Laursen, Karen McLean, and Larry Wilson were present. Also in attendance were Mayor Lorraine Borowski and City Council Liaison Steven Zittergruen.

- Meeting called to order at 9:19 AM by Chair Hayden Foster.
- M/S/P approval of March 3, 2022 meeting minutes
- Chair Hayden Foster and Andy Johnson provided an update on the City of Decorah's complaint filed with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) regarding the data requested from Alliant/IPL. On 4/5/2022, IUB staff recommended the Board consider opening a formal complaint docket to evaluate the City of Decorah's data request. On 4/20/2022, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) agreed with the recommendation of Board Staff and joined in the request for a formal proceeding regarding the City of Decorah's complaint. The OCA indicated the Board should examine each of Decorah's request for data and direct IPL to provide whatever it is determined IPL can provide. Both of these documents are located on the public MEU DropBox site. Andy noted this is a challenging time for the IUB – they have full dockets and their authority is currently being challenged by the other investor-owned utility in Iowa, MidAmerican Energy. There is not a timeline for an expected response from the IUB.
- Karen McLean provided an update on the first educational series. Two sessions have been scheduled – May 23<sup>rd</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:15-6:15 PM in the City Council Chambers. The General Manager of Algona Municipal Utilities will present on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and The General Manager for Osage Municipal Utilities will present on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The public is invited to attend in person or virtually via Zoom. Zoom sessions will be recorded and will be available for later viewing. Additional sessions will be scheduled over the summer months. A press release has been created and is available in the MEU Task Force DropBox.
- Schedule for future meetings was discussed. Next meeting will be held on Wed June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. Additional meetings will be scheduled as needed, including after the city receives a response from the IUB.
- Phil Iversen, a statistician at Luther College presented information on electrical utility reliability, most of which is available at US Energy Information Administration (iea.gov). He outlined the challenges associated with assessing and comparing electrical utility reliability. Not all utilities, especially small MEU's, are not required to report their reliability data to the IUB, and different standards are used by different agencies. Phil

has just started looking at the data and would be willing to dig deeper to answer our questions. However, he was able to make some generalized statements. On a national average, public power utilities deliver more reliable electrical service relative to private power providers. In 2020, five MEU's in Iowa earned American Public Power Association's (APPA) Certificate of Excellence in Reliability. He will make his power point available on the MEU DropBox site.

- Chair Hayden Foster will update the City Council on the task force's activities on July 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:15