

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL
Thursday, October 15, 2020
1:00 p.m. (CST)
TEAMS Meeting via conference/video call

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present:

Shawn Kessel
Gerald Bachmeier
Al Christianson
Terry Goerger
Mark Nisbet

Others Present:

Jonathan Russo, ND Department of Commerce
Sherri Frieze, ND Department of Commerce
Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission
Andrea Pfennig, ND Industrial Commission
Dave Thompson, Prairie Public Radio

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Interim Chair Shawn Kessel, called the Renewable Energy Council meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Holth and seconded by Nisbet to approve the May 20, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON GRANT ROUND 44 APPLICATIONS

Three applications were received, with all three applications pulled by applicants due to modifications to the projects.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fine presented the financial report that had been posted on the Industrial Commission/Renewable Energy Program website. As of August 31, 2020, the uncommitted funds for the current biennium is \$3,662,418.05.

CONSIDERATION OF MODIFICATION REQUESTS

R-038-048 “ Fargo’s Smart Energy Ramp”; Submitted by eSmart Systems US, Inc.
Request for Budget Modifications:

Match

- Remove \$45,000 from Labor – Other Project Sponsor’s Share
- Add \$85,000 to Labor – In-Kind Match

Mr. Russo noted that the reasons for the modification are as follows:

- Due to COVID-19 budget concerns, some of the other project sponsors funding has been impacted and may not be provided. This would allow the recipient to use their own extra labor costs in case the other project sponsor is unable to provide the match as originally proposed. This request increases the match. There is no change in the scope of work for the project.

R-040-051 – “Portable Solar Array Modules Phase II; Submitted by Packet Digital
Request for Budget Modifications:

NDIC Funds

Remove: \$11,424.09 – Supplies
 \$54,150.00 – Professional Fees & Services
 \$65,574.09

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Add: \$61,056.15 – Salaries
\$ 4,337.73 – Fringe Benefits
\$ 180.21 – Postage
\$65,574.09

Mr. Russo noted that the reason for the modification as follows:

- By performing more testing themselves, Packet Digital was able to reduce the overall material cost. As a result, their software/material/subs budget can be decreased, and their labor costs were increased. Overall, the total program cost was not impacted and there was no change in the scope of the project.

COMPLETION OF BALLOTS

R-038-048 “ Fargo’s Smart Energy Ramp”; Submitted by eSmart Systems US, Inc

Total Project Costs: \$610,000

Amount Awarded: \$305,000

Amend: 6 Do not Amend: 0

Conflict of Interest: none

R-040-051 – “Portable Solar Array Modules Phase II; Submitted by Packet Digital

Total Project Costs: \$1,000,000

Amount Awarded: \$500,000

Amend: 6 Do not Amend: 0

Conflict of Interest: none

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

There was no administrative business.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Interim Chair Kessel adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Shawn Kessel 02.09.21
Shawn Kessel Date
Interim Chair

Sherri Frieze 02.09.21
Sherri Frieze Date
Recording Secretary/Boards & Commissions E.A.