



VERMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
APPROVED MINUTES  
May 31, 2022

As required under the VEC Bylaws, notice of this meeting was sent to each director on May 24, 2022 either via US Mail or by electronic means for those directors requesting such delivery.

Present were directors Rich Goggin (President), Paul Lambert (First Vice President), Carol Maroni (Second Vice President), Jody Dunklee (Secretary), Tom Bailey, Ken Hoepfner, Bonnie Pratt, John Ward, Mark Woodward, Charlie Van Winkle, and Don Worth. Also present from VEC were CEO Rebecca Towne, Chief Operations Officer Peter Rossi, Manager of Government Affairs and Member Relations Andrea Cohen, Manager of Safety, Security, and Facilities John Varney, Chief Financial Officer Caroline Mashia, Innovation and Technology Leader Cyril Brunner, General Counsel Vickie Brown, Project Planner Laura Kinney, Power Planning Analyst Dan Potter, and Power Supply Manager Craig Kieny.

Josh Castonguay from Green Mountain Power joined the meeting as a guest.

**AGENDA ITEM #1 -- CALL TO ORDER**

President Rich Goggin called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM #2 -- SAFETY MINUTE**

Woodward shared that he recently noticed a tick bite in the morning even though he had showered the night before. He also encouraged bike riders to use flashing lights on their bikes to alert drivers of their presence.

**AGENDA ITEM #3 -- APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Worth moved and Hoepfner seconded that the minutes of the regular monthly Board of Directors meeting held April 26, 2022 be approved as presented.

The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #4 – DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES – GUEST SPEAKER JOSH CASTONGUAY**

Castonguay described Green Mountain Power’s efforts to reduce carbon emissions and improve system resiliency. They included the following:

- Electric Vehicle Managed Charging: GMP provides free chargers and offers two rates to incentivize charging at beneficial times for the utility.
- Home Battery Management: GMP provides incentives for customers to allow them to use home batteries at peak times; GMP also calls on the batteries for frequency regulation.
- Flexible Load Management Program: Focuses on larger, commercial customers and offers incentive packages for load reduction and other benefits.

Castonguay described the various devices that GMP currently uses to interact with and manage its distributed energy resources (DERs). These rely on a number of different device managers, most of which are automated but some are manual. In the future, to manage many, DERs will require an automated and choreographed management system to react to the utility’s dynamic needs and allow for other value streams than just peak reduction.

He also described GMP’s resiliency work, which includes pilot programs to create “Resiliency Zones” in four communities, which involve offering innovative solutions in communities that have been persistently hard to serve. These are alternatives to distribution upgrades using customized storage and solar to create microgrids.

There were numerous questions from the directors at the end of the presentation.

Castonguay left the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #5 – BOARD COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND COMMITTEE CHAIR ASSIGNMENTS**

Goggin noted that he polled the current committee chairs and each volunteered to continue in the role for the next year. There was a discussion as to whether the committee structure was working for the board, with differing opinions offered on that topic. The consensus was to revisit this issue later in the year. There was a question about the Community Fund committee. It has its own bylaws that require committee members to change periodically. Van Winkle noted that he would be cycling off the committee later this year. Goggin noted that he would canvass directors to see who has interest in serving on that committee.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6 – FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ward noted that at a Finance Committee meeting held on May 24, 2022, the committee reviewed VEC’s 10-year financial plan as well as the proposal for retirement of patronage capital in 2022. Van Winkle moved and Worth seconded to approve the Committee’s recommendation to retire \$1.65 million in patronage capital in 2022, with \$1.4 million applied to 1997 patronage and the balance of \$250,000 applied to 2021 patronage.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 7 – BREAK**

There was a break in the meeting from 1:25 p.m. to 1:40 p.m.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 8 – DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES AT VEC**

Dan Potter presented on VEC's Distributed Energy Resource (DER) program.

He started by explaining the value of such programs, which is currently to reduce peak usage, which reduces transmission costs for VEC members. Other value streams may become available in the future. Potter described VEC's programs:

- Water heater program: In coordination with Packetized Energy, VEC installed 130 devices to reduce load at key times. Packetized has been bought out but VEC is still able to use the water heaters to achieve peak reductions. Members can opt out of this program at any point.
- Level 2 Home Charger Program: This program offers two options — “active management,” in which members receive a \$50 sign up credit and \$8 month bill credit for not charging during peak events, and “passive management” in which members receive the sign up credit if they agree to avoid charging between 5-9 p.m.
- Home Battery Program. VEC offers a monthly bill credit to access the member's battery. There are three eligible batteries, and currently 37 batteries are enrolled in the program.
- Utility Scale Batteries: VEC currently has access to a 1MW/4MWh battery in Hinesburg which VEC can access for up to 400 hours a year. In fourteen months since the project has been operational, it has saved \$92,000 in costs to members.
- Commercial & Industrial Pilot – VEC is working with Dynamic Organics to implement a commercial and industrial flexible load pilot to reduce load during peaks.
- Net Metering – VEC currently has 27.6 MW of net metering system in its service territory.

He noted that future value streams may come from improved resiliency, changes to ISO-NE rules, renewables integration, and perhaps sources we don't yet know about.

There were numerous questions and comments throughout his presentation.

Potter and Kieny left the meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 9 -- MANAGERS' REPORTS**

There were a number of questions and comments about details in the managers' reports.

**AGENDA ITEM #10 –OTHER BUSINESS**

Kinney updated the Board on the status of the Johnson building project.

**AGENDA ITEM #11 -- ADJOURN**

Ward moved and Worth seconded to adjourn. By unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jody Dunklee, Secretary

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Rich Goggin, President