

## **BEREA UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2013

### **Present:**

Josh Bills, Ed Fortner, Robert Gunkler, Bill Suters, Rodney Short and Diane Zekind

### **Absent:**

Randy Stone

### **A. BMU Updates**

Ed said the By-Pass Extension Project will be let out in December for 4 lanes up to Highway 1016 and then 2 lanes with a turn lane to extend to Highway 21.

Joyce gave the electric scheduled outage update for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> at midnight for approximately 30 minutes. The outage is for maintenance of the Rash Road Substation.

Ed mentioned the Lewis Street Upgrade design was completed and it is in the planning stage. He also said that it was determined that the 69 kV tap line belongs to BMU, not KU as believed. Kevin and Adrian believe the best option would be to completely rebuild vs. the cheapest alternative to rebuild. Lewis Street Substation was built in 1975 with a KU investment of \$60,000. Ed believes it may cost \$2-3 million now.

KU has now filed with FERC because it wants a true-up to recoup their environmental investment surcharge. KMUA will offer up a return on equity and file an opposition to soften the blow for the true-up.

### **B. Glen Cannon's Report Highlights**

Josh briefly reviewed some of the recommendations on the report and he passed out copies of the highlights that Steve Boyce put together in 2011; which were ideas on saving money. Ed said the report led to a lot of discussion and many recommendations were implemented.

Option for other rate structure: Ed said he and Susan looked at this when they attended a meeting and he felt it was fiscally not sound.

LED lighting was one topic discussed. Diane commented that Berea College has 23 LED's in the Quad area, some on Campus Drive, the new Deep Green Residence Hall and are looking at lighting for outside the buildings. He said BMU's pilot project showed there was a 50% savings but they are failing and we had a loss. He needed more reliability data before he could consider using them. The cost per bulb is around \$300 vs \$50 for the traditional lighting BMU uses currently.

### **C. Ongoing Projects and Updates/Reports/New Business**

Berea Solar Tour –Sustainable Berea October 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 -the guided bus tour will be at BMU approximately 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and there will be about 10 open solar homes.

Berea Solar Farm Expansion – Ed said he hasn't been caught up since he missed the meeting. He did say that Kevin is concerned about pulling another wire in the pipe from the building to the solar farm. The existing cable will need to be pulled out first and re-fed with the new cable to prevent any damage to the existing cable.

Berea College Deep Green Residence Hall Open House – October 19<sup>th</sup>

BMU Utility Day – will be scheduled for a date in late October

Mr. Gunkler told Ed that he commended Beth Meyers on the Berea Citizen water supply article. He thinks we need a follow-up to educate the public. He said, "There's a mystic about drinking water." Mr. Gunkler once again suggested that he is interested in what Berea's effluent flow for chloroform, bacteria, etc. would be. Ed told him that we have information which shows the effluent from BMU's WWTP was better than the water in Owsley Fork Lake. He asked about the possibility of getting a grant to study the possibility of repurposing a 10" cowbell supply line. Ed told him we can use our video camera and other resources. Mr. Gunkler thought we should gather information for a slip line cost to have on hand.

Ed said the current focus is working with NRCS on the high hazard dam improvement at Owsley Fork Lake. His reply to Mr. Suter's concern about Belle Engineering was that they partnered with Schnable Engineering; who will add insights. He said the planning phase for the dam improvement is about 1 year away. The group discussed new sources of water including indirect potable reuse. Ed said he thought it was the best option in case of a drought, etc. He said we would have pumped 30-35 days during the dry season last year but none this year. Mr. Suters questioned how much water we could get from Richmond.

Ed told the group that BMU has great programs in place such as the Backflow, F.O.G., and Pretreatment and the State was very impressed when he recently met with them.

Josh announced that the How\$mart Program for on-bill financing was made permanent through a Kentucky PSC tariff that was passed. MACED currently has 4 partnering rural electric cooperatives.

The meeting was adjourned.

### **D. Future Meetings**

Meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month.

The next BUAB meeting will meet the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2013.

Please send Joyce a courtesy email if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Joyce Hendricks