

Rural Minnesota Energy Board

2401 Broadway Ave	Jack Keers,	Chair		Lyon	Pipestone
Suite 1	Brian Kletscher,	Vice Chair	Cottonwood	Martin	Redwood
Slayton, MN 56172	Ken Hoime,	Secretary	Faribault	Mower	Renville
507/836-8547	Larry Hansen,	Treasurer	Jackson	Murray	Rock
			Lincoln	Nobles	Watonwan

January 2005

Background. The Rural Minnesota Energy Board is a Joint Powers of fourteen counties in southern Minnesota; formed to provide policy guidance on issues surrounding energy development in rural Minnesota. Originally formed in 1996 as the Ridge Counties Task Force, it developed into the Wind Task Force, SW Minnesota Energy Task Force, and Rural Minnesota Energy Task Force; as both the membership and policy issues expanded. The initial focus on wind energy has broadened to include renewable energy and transmission issues. In January 2004, the process to become a more formal entity through the formation of the Joint Powers Board was initiated, and the first joint powers' meeting was held in January 2005. The counties have been active in working together to resolve many energy related issues, including the barriers to local wind energy generation and development.

The Rural Minnesota Energy Task Force addressed many energy issues that have local long-term benefits to rural Minnesota. These issues and initiatives include:

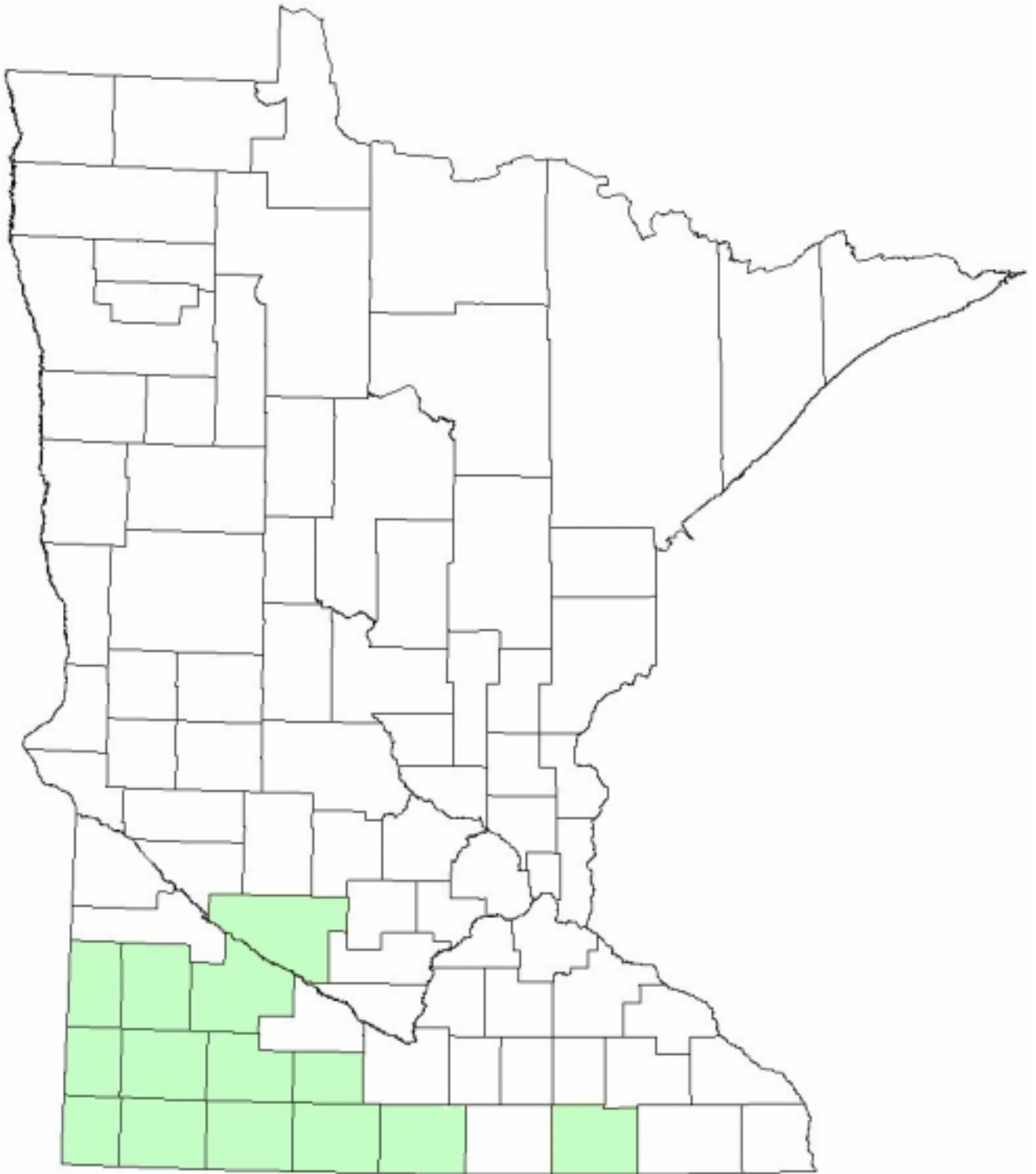
- o Wind Energy Production Tax - supported a tax structure for wind energy projects that would balance the needs of host communities with a policy of encouraging renewable energy development.
- o Support for Renewable Energy Development: Ethanol, Bio-diesel Support, Bio Mass, Methane, Hydrogen, Solar, and Waste to Energy
- o As an Intervener in the Xcel Energy Application to the Public Utilities Commission, the Task Force was successful in support of increased transmission outlet capacity that would also allow local access to the transmission grid.
- o The Task Force identified a lack of communication between energy companies and the local community and has opened dialogs on issues of concern to the region.

The Rural Minnesota Energy Board is committed to cooperating in a joint venture to provide the greatest public service benefit possible for the fourteen county area encompassed by the Counties in policy, planning, management, and implementation of methods to deal with energy and transmission in rural Minnesota.

RURAL MINNESOTA ENERGY BOARD – January 2005

<u>Member County</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Cottonwood County	John Oletjenbruns PH: 507.427.2191	Gary Sorenson PH: 507.445.3224
Faribault County	Loren Lein PH: 507.526.3995	Tom Warmka PH: 507.787.2590
Jackson County	Robert Ferguson PH: 507.793.2480	Craig Rubis PH: 507.662.6494
Lincoln County	Larry Hansen PH: 507.247.3972	James Johansen PH: 507.368.4514
Lyon County	Bob Fenske PH: 507.532.6182	No Alternate
Martin County	Jack Potter PH 507.639.3791	Dan Schmidtke PH: 507.238.4010
Mower County	Garry Ellingson PH 507.433.2125	David Hillier PH: 507.437.4216
Murray County	Alfred Gertsma PH: 507.836.8340	Lyle Onken PH: 507.836.1049
Nobles County	David Benson PH: 507.683.2853	Diane Thier PH: 507.483.2833
Pipestone County	Jack Keers PH: 507.825.5045	Marv Tinklenberg PH: 507.442.4631
Redwood County	Brian Kletscher PH: 507.762.3376	Joseph Schouvieller PH: 507 249.3815
Renville County	Robert Fox PH: 507-557-8265	John Stahl PH: 320-523-1283
Rock County	Kenneth Hoime PH: 507.442.4913	Richard Bakken PH: 507.597.6378
Watonwan County	Scott Sanders PH: 507.375.7431	John Baerg PH: 507.956.2315

Staff to the Energy Board: Annette Bair
Southwest Regional Development Commission
2401 Broadway Ave
Slayton, MN 56172
507.836.8547 ext 101
phydev@swrdc.org



Rural Minnesota Energy Board Counties, January 2005