



Unapproved Minutes  
Services Committee Meeting  
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska  
Younes Conference Center South, 416 W Talmadge Rd. Kearney, NE, 68845  
January 21, 2026

The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Services Committee met on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, beginning at 3:02 p.m. (CT), at the Younes Conference Center South, located at 416 W Talmadge Road in Kearney, Nebraska, the designated meeting site. Notice of the meeting was given to committee members by e-mail, and the public was advised by publication both in print and online in the Lincoln Journal-Star newspaper and website on December 30, 2025. The notice and agenda were posted upon issuance at the NMPP Energy office, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska, and kept continually current and available for public inspection. Meeting information and the current version of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act were made available on NMPP Energy's Public Meeting Information website.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bill Hinton called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. (CT). Pursuant to Section 84-1412 (8) of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, a current copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room and made available to the public.

### **ROLL CALL**

A quorum was declared with six of seven committee members and ex-officio Tom Ourada in attendance.

1. Kirby Bridge – Alliance, NE
2. James DePue – Wray, CO
3. Nate Francis – Fairbury, NE
4. Bill Hinton – Kimball, NE
5. Duane Hoffman – Oxford, NE
6. Janine Schmidt – Morrill, NE

Absent: Sandra Hendren – Mitchell, NE

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

The Public Comment Period was announced, and a review of the rules applicable to the public participation process at MEAN public meetings was provided. There were no public comments.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Minutes

Minutes of the May 21, 2025, meeting were previously distributed and included as Attachment A of the meeting packet. There were no changes to the minutes.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the MEAN Services Committee will be held on May 20, 2026, at the Younes Conference Center South, located at 416 W Talmadge Rd. in Kearney, Nebraska.

### Consent Resolution

*Motion: James DePue moved to approve the following consent resolution. Kirby Bridge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.*

#### *MEAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CONSENT RESOLUTION*

*WHEREAS, certain business of the Services Committee of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of a controversial nature; and,*

*WHEREAS, roll-call votes on each individual issue greatly extended the meeting time.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEAN Services Committee that in the interest of economizing time, yet complying with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Nebraska, which requires roll-call voting, the following issues are hereby consolidated in this Consent Resolution:*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the MEAN Services Committee that the minutes of the May 21, 2025 meeting are hereby approved.*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the MEAN Services Committee that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at the Younes Conference Center South, 416 W Talmadge Rd., Kearney, Nebraska.*

### **SERVICES UPDATES**

Presenter: Bruce Doll, Director of Utility Services and Member Relations

#### Centralized Municipal Utility Training Center

An update on efforts to assess the feasibility of a centralized training center was presented. MEAN staff and municipal representatives have engaged multiple utilities and organizations across Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. Broad feedback indicates strong demand for expanded, hands-on utility training. A committee will be formed to guide development, with an initial goal of launching multi day training in September 2026 in Grand Island.

#### MEAN Member Services Survey Results

Results from the 2025 Member Services Survey were presented. With 54 utilities participating, key findings included:

- High satisfaction with MEAN's responsiveness
- Top challenges identified as aging infrastructure, rate pressure, and workforce shortages.

- Priority areas for future services included grant support, rate and cost-of-service studies, workforce development, and economic development support.
- Lowest-rated areas identified for improvement were economic development support, public presentations, community engagement, and metering related services.

Members expressed strong interest in expanding service offerings, though cost and bandwidth constraints remain key barriers. MEAN staff also shared a comparison to national Joint Action Agency (JAA) service models, noting that many agencies use a facilitator model to provide complex services through trusted external partners.

#### Service Tracker Update

Staff reported field activity data collected through the Service Tracker system. Between September and December 2025, EDS visited 48 MEAN participants, with multiple visits to 15 of those. Primary activities included metering and CT testing, solar project support, inspections, planning, voltage and conversion work, and training and safety support.

#### Outage Software Pilot Program

An overview was provided of an emerging pilot program with Outifi, an AI-enabled outage communication platform. MEAN is coordinating a pilot group and exploring grant opportunities to reduce participation costs. The program aims to equip members with data needed to evaluate adoption.

The Committee reviewed alignment between survey results and local experience and discussed priorities for potential improvements in lower-rated service areas. MEAN staff will continue refining the data and incorporating insights into 2026 planning. Further direction from the Services Committee will guide priority-setting for future service development.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Stacy Hendricks  
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska

Submitted by:  
Brad Hans  
Director of Wholesale Electric Operations  
Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska