

Minutes  
 Virtual Conference  
 Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting  
 Public Alliance for Community Energy  
 In-Person Meeting Site: 8377 Glynoaks Dr, Lincoln, NE  
 March 19, 2026 - 2:00 p.m. (CT)

The Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) met on Thursday, March 19, 2026, via virtual conference. Notice of the meeting was given to the Board of Directors and Executive Committee by email. The public was advised by publication in print and online in the *Lincoln Journal Star* newspaper and website on March 5, 2026, and on the NMPP Energy website. The notice and agenda were posted upon issuance at the NMPP Energy office, the designated public meeting site, 8377 Glynoaks Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska, and kept continually current and available for public inspection. Instructions to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams virtual conference were provided in the public notice. All documents being considered at the meeting and the current version of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act were made available on NMPP Energy’s Public Meeting Information website.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Palmer, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. (CT). Palmer announced that 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. It was also announced that the meeting was being recorded.

**ROLL CALL**

Quorum was declared with 19 of the 76 Members present, whether in-person or virtual. As there was quorum for the Board of Directors, a meeting of the Executive Committee was not called.

Quorum = 19 Directors

1. Albion – Andrew Devine (Arrived after roll call)	12. Holdrege – Chris Rector
2. Alliance – Kirby Bridge (In-person)	13. Lewellen – Joy Trim
3. Arapahoe – Dixie Sickels	14. McCook – Gene Weedin
4. Bartley – Ronni Harding	15. Minden – Michael Krings (In-person)
5. Broken Bow – Blake Waldow	16. Mitchell – Savanna Daly (Arrived after roll call)
6. Chadron – Janet Johnson	17. Morrill – Janine Schmidt
7. Cozad – Kelly Peden	18. Nebraska Public Power District – Grant Flamig
8. Curtis – Andrew Lee (In-person)	19. Ogallala – Kevin Wilkins
9. Franklin – Raquel Felzien	20. Oxford – Duane Hoffman (In-person / Arrived after roll call)
10. Gibbon – Matt Smallcomb	21. Ravenna – Kellie Crowell
11. Gothenburg – Gary Greer (In-person)	22. Sidney – Mike Palmer (In-person)

Absent: Ainsworth, Ansley, Atkinson, Bassett, Bayard, Beaver City, Benedict, Benkelman, Bertrand, Blue Hill, Brady, Burwell, Cairo, Cambridge, Clay Center, Creighton, Dalton, Edgar, Edison, Gering, Gordon, Gurley, Hartington, Hemingford, Henderson, Holbrook, Indianola, Laurel, Long Pine, Loomis, Lyman,

Neligh, Orleans, Oshkosh, Osmond, Paxton, Plainview, Potter, Red Cloud, Rushville, Saint Paul, Sargent, Scottsbluff, Shelton, Spalding, Stamford, Terrytown, Wausa, and Wood River

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Palmer asked if there were members of the public in attendance who would like to make agenda comments. There were no public comments.

## **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Palmer thanked all for being in attendance.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Minutes

Minutes of the January 21, 2026, meeting were previously distributed as Attachment A. There were no changes to the minutes.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ACE Board of Directors is set for Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Younes Conference Center South, Kearney, Nebraska.

### Financial Report

Jamie Johnson, Director of Finance and Accounting, reviewed the January 2026 financials for the NMPP Energy organizations and February 2026 financials for ACE. Financial summaries were included as Attachment B. ACE financials for December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 were previously distributed.

### Acknowledge Receipt of the Forvis Mazars Planning Communication

A copy of the Planning Communication Letter from Forvis Mazars was included in the meeting packet as Attachment C, which provided an overview of the upcoming audit process.

## **CONSENT RESOLUTION**

*Motion: Andrew Lee moved to approve the following Resolution. Kirby Bridge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.*

### *Consent Resolution*

*WHEREAS, certain business of the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy transpires on a regular and routine basis or is not of a controversial nature; and*

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy 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:

1. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy that the minutes of the January 21, 2026, Board of Directors meeting are hereby approved as presented; and
2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy that the next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at the Younes Conference Center South, Kearney, Nebraska.
3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy that the financial statements for December 2025, January 2026, and February 2026 are hereby reviewed and accepted; and
4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY the Board of Directors of the Public Alliance for Community Energy that the receipt of the Forvis Mazars Planning Communication is hereby acknowledged.

#### **DIRECTOR OF GAS OPERATIONS REPORT AND RETAIL GAS SERVICES COORDINATOR REPORT**

Closed Session

*Motion: Andrew Lee moved to go into closed session for the protection of the public interest to discuss proprietary and competitive information relating to ACE marketing and pricing. ACE reps, alt reps, any ACE Member community employee or elected official, as well as any NMPP Staff member may participate in the closed session. Kirby Bridge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on a roll call vote.*

Palmer restated on record that the limitation of the subject matter of the discussion was proprietary and competitive information relating to ACE marketing and pricing.

The board went into closed session at 2:12 p.m.

The meeting reconvened in open session at 2:41 p.m. There was no action taken during or as a result of the closed session.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Kara Hunt, Government Affairs & Project Manager, provided updates on the current Nebraska legislative session.

**CONTRACTS AND GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

Information regarding the following executed agreement was included in the meeting packet:

<b>Other Party</b>	<b>Agreement Name</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Termination Date</b>
Forvis Mazars, LLP	Engagement Letter for Audit 2026	January 28, 2026	Terminates upon completion and payment

General Counsel Report:

Michelle Lepin, General Counsel, provided updates regarding the pending merger between Black Hills Corp. and NorthWestern Energy, including various filings and an upcoming hearing at the Nebraska Public Service Commission. The merger is anticipated to conclude late 2026 or early 2027.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

Palmer reminded Directors to forward any additional agenda items to ACE staff so they may be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Recorded by:  
Laurie Keiser, Administrative Assistant

Submitted by:  
Mike Palmer, Secretary-Treasurer  
ACE Board of Directors