

The Association of Municipal Electricity Utilities (Southern Africa)- AMEU HIGHVELD BRANCH



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MINUTES OF MEETING 288 OF THE HIGHVELD BRANCH, HELD AT SIEMENS, JANADEL AVENUE, HALFWAY GARDENS ON THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 09:00

1. Opening and Welcome:

The Chairperson, Mrs Mokgadi Magemba opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees. Members were informed of the successful AMEU Conference which was held at CSIR International Conventional Centre on the 07 – 10 October 2018. The meeting recognised and congratulated the inauguration of Mrs Refilwe Mokgosi as the AMEU President and also highlighted that she is from the Highveld Branch.

The members were informed that due to SALGA/Eskom meeting scheduled at the same time as the branch meeting, Mr Valley Padayachee be given platform to present so he can be excused to attend the SALGA Meeting.

Safety Briefing

The Siemens Safety Officer Mr Mark Van Rodenberg shared all relevant safety and emergency drills or procedures to attendees. The chairperson also noted that due to technical Glitch no questions were sent forth and acknowledged that minutes of the previous were not up to standard due to secretariat loss of Laptop and notes.

2. Acknowledgement and thanks

The Chairperson emphasised and appreciated Siemens for hosting and ensuring that all the responsibilities with hosting the meeting. Meeting was informed that all attendees must ensure that the attendance register is completed accordingly (M, A and V).

3. Announcements and obituaries

Obituaries were noted as follows: The passing away of Mr Ronnie Russel, Manager at Actom and was to be buried on Thursday, 1 November 2018, and moment of silence was held on his behalf.

4. Visitors, Attendance and apologies

Attendance as per attendance register

- The visitors were noted as per attached attendance register as follows: Desmond Mabilo, Joe Sothoane, Enslim Naude,, Tlou Moyaha, Morgan Matsheke, Gys Niesing.
- Apologies were recorded as: AMEU President Mrs Mokgosi, Mr Ntlatleng (Ekurhuleni), Mr Brink Randall, and Mrs Virginia Tshoma.

5. Additional AGENDA items to be discussed (Motions)

The Proposed Agenda was adopted.

A request by Gavin Dicks to inform members on seminar to be held at Johannesburg, Kruger Park and Bloemfontein. Mr Dicks is employed by TIS which supply CP Joints and termination for City Powers Municipality. He informed members that the seminar will focus mainly on the latest insulation on outdoor supply. Interested members were to communicate directly with him as the seminar is free of charge.

The additional item as per request from chair was the clarity in terms of certificate for electrical installations. The response from ECB and Mr. James Malatsi from the Department of Labour in terms of issuing COC's was that:

- The regulations for Electrical certificates is mandated to DOL
- Municipalities need to ensure that contractors are registered with the Department

6. Confirmation of minutes of the previous meeting Branch Meeting

The Chairperson apologies on behalf of the Secretary for minutes not being on time due to notes lost when the Secretary's bag got stolen with the laptop inside. Due to challenges recorded on the opening and welcome, the Chairperson decided that no amendments be done on the day but the reconstructed minutes be circulated to members for amendments and shall be confirmed at the next meeting. The motion to allow the minutes to stand over to the next meeting was noted and supported by Hannes Roos subject to considerations in the 289th meeting.

7. AMEU Strategic Advisor feedback from Executive Council

The Strategic Advisor, Mr Vally Padayachee gave feedback through presentations on stakeholders meetings and Exco meetings.

- Further, Vally gave feedback on the SALGSA/Eskom Task Team dealing with Service Delivery Agreement (SDA) impasses and licence areas that is still worked on, NMD issues.
- Further, reported on the Draft IRP that went out for public comments 3 weeks ago and closed for comment on the 26 October 2018. AMEU Exco comments will be circulated to the members.
- Cost of Supply Study- Vally informed the meeting that NERSA will consider the expenditure related to COS study.
- Municipal Debts to Eskom is standing at R13Bn.

- On Areas of Supply, NERSA is busy with GIS study towards the determinations based on consensus.

There was a positive feedback from the AMEU conference held at CSIR which was hailed as a great success. Members proposed that Golf be accommodated again for the next conference.

The conference criticisms were recorded as:

- Some papers/ presentation weren't on par and need the papers committee to look at the quality or at least ensure different categories for "Up and Coming" as well as Seasoned Papers.
- Stalls were small due to venue constrains.
- The chairperson highlighted that next convention will be held at Cape Town and new committee shall be elected.

Affiliates Report

The new Affiliates Committee Members were recorded as:

Mr. Gordon Arons - Chairman

Mr. Paddy Padayachee – Vice Chair

Mrs Jackie Burn -Treasurer

Mrs Cynthia Badenhorst - Member

Mr. Sam Khosana - Member

Mrs Yolande Zeelie - Secretary

Mr. Dave Thurton – Coordinator

Mr. Hannes Roos - co-opted member

For the Highveld Branch, the Chairperson of the Affiliates indicated that they have nominated Nisha Chetty to be the Affiliates representative for the Branch

8. Women in Electricity report back

Mrs Lomile Modiselle informed members that the first meeting was held on the 23rd October 2018. The WiE Executives were announced as follows: Chairperson- Mrs Pinky Majola, Vice Chairperson- Mrs Lomile Modiselle, and Secretary- Yolanda Zeelie and the topic for the WiE meeting was success Municipal Manager in terms of gender based.

Highveld Branch Representative is Mrs Granny

- Challenges recorded were the Leadership and Learnership training skills for women. She appreciated sponsors from CBI, ABB, NHM to list a few. She pleaded that more affiliates provide assistance especially to the young graduates.
- The speaker emphasised on the need for municipalities to nominate more female employees and their names can be sent directly to her.

She concluded in saying that information for WiE is on AMEU Website.

9. Matters arising from the minutes and not on the Agenda

- This matter was deferred to the next meeting owing to the fact that the minutes of the previous meeting were not in place.
- Branch Representatives to AMEU Exco were proposed and voted as:
 - Ms Jaqueline was voted as Women representative received seven Votes in her absentia.
 - Mrs Mokgadi was voted as Engineer Member received eight votes
 - Mrs Mpho was voted in absentia as PDD Representative.All members were applauded and congratulated by all attendees.

10. Matters arising from special advisor's presentation

- The special walk around the Siemens solar areas was cancelled.

11. Presentations

A. Presentation from Mr Vally Padayachee

- The presenter highlighted on the creation of SALGA-ESKOM task team.
- The team meet every second week of the Month. The task team is appointed to address the following challenges:
 - Non-payment by the Municipalities to Eskom
 - Lack of capacitation
 - Training and development
 - Credit control
- The meeting was informed that the long draft DOE IRP was released for public comments, as it commenced from August to 26 October 2018. Draft is a 30 year plan and will focus on Energy Renewables.
- The members were informed that AMEU did not send feedback on IRP format, hence Mr Padayachee will send the comments to the branch.
- The IRP comment will be circulated and discussed in the next meeting by Mr. Padayachee
- The presenter highlighted that in the next meeting the discussion or presentation on DOE funding be included in the Agenda

B. Presentation from Ekurhuleni – Mr. Stephen Delpont and At van der Merwe

- Stephens, gave an Ekurhuleni the cost of supply study report and findings. The presentations will be shared with members

C. Presentation from Power Behind Power

- The presentation was done to showcase what the utilities can do during emergency and ensure continuous supply to customers using mobile transformers that are easy to plug on the network.

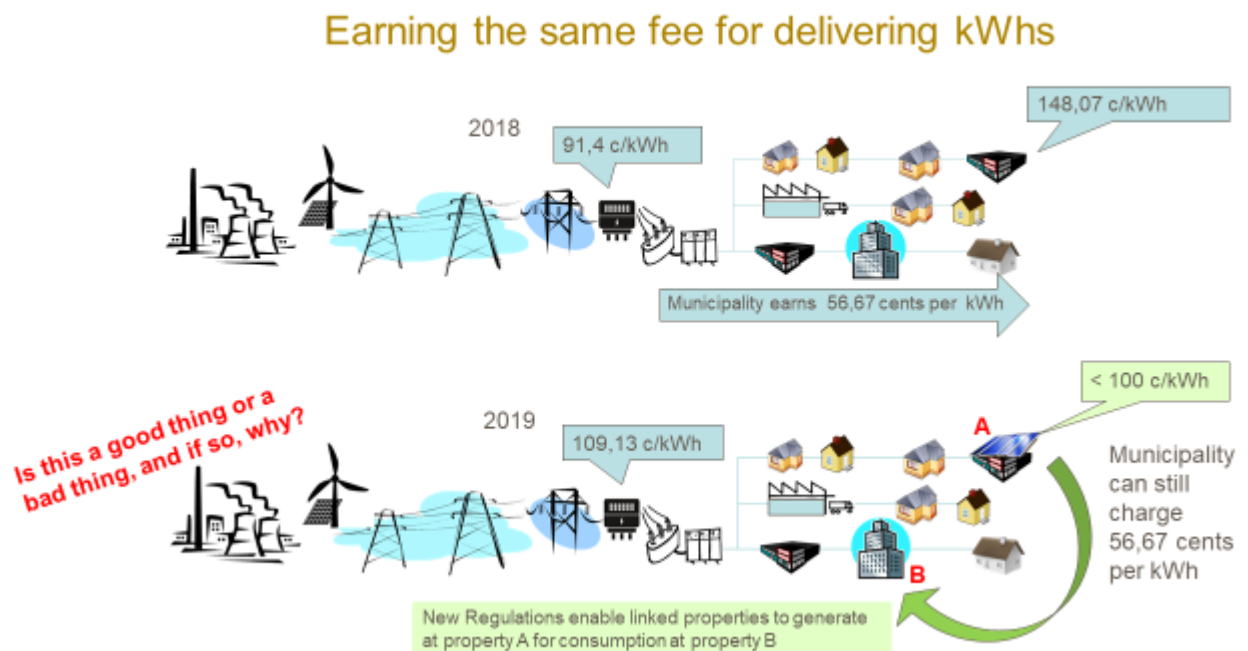
D. Presentation from Siemens – Smart Metering Security of Revenue Solutions

- The presentation focus was on securing the revenue of the utilities using smart technologies.

12. Hot topic debate-

The subject of the debate was:

What happens when the cost of rooftop PV drops below the cost of Eskom Power? The issue was summarized by the following slide



A for and against (good or a bad thing) approach to the debate was taken, inviting firstly arguments against

The debate certainly stimulated discussion, unfortunately time was limited and only permitted arguments against to be discussed:

- The PV system would only use a small part of the network, so the full 56,67 c/kWh could not be charged
- PV systems will still reduce revenues and drive up Eskom prices
- PV systems will increase the network charges
- The municipalities do not have the billing and accounting systems in place to allow such trading

The debate may be continued at a future date to explore the arguments for to be discussed.

13. Correspondence

None recorded for the meeting

14. News from other branches

- AMEU Free-state branch held their meeting at Clarence
- AMEU Bushveld Branch: members were informed that the next meeting will be held at smaller municipalities
- AMEU Natal Branch meeting is scheduled for the 14 November 2018
- AMEU Goodhope Branch still to meet in November
- AMEU Eastern cape Branch still to meet in November

15. Expansions of network and newsletter

The meeting was informed that the newsletter was sent for printing

16. Dates of Highveld meetings for 2019

The 289th AMEU Highveld will be hosted by CBI in Midrand on the 21 February 2019

17. Sponsorship

As per presentation slides

18. Closing of meeting by chairlady

Chairperson thanked all members for their attendance and the meeting adjourned at 13:27 PM