

**Light Commissioners' Meeting**  
**June 3, 2025**

Members present were:           Chairman Dana Blais  
  Clerk/Secretary Chris Stewart

Employees present were:       General Manager (GM) John Driscoll  
  Light Superintendent (LS) Thomas Berry  
  Business Manager (BM) Jennifer Belliveau

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion from Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The minutes from April 16, 2025, were approved, on a motion by Chris seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

**Old Business:**

The General Manager (GM) along with the Board welcomed Jim Brehio, director of the Veterans Memorial Heroes Park in Otter River. Mr. Brehio gave a presentation to the Board, thanking them for their donation to the park. This project will consist of 5 monuments, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars and Public Service, along with 3 flag poles to be installed and 5 trees to be planted. They are currently applying for grants and applying to Community Preservations as well. The total cost of the project is undetermined at this time but will be a great addition to Templeton/Otter River.

The GM discussed with the Board the MEAM Legislative/Regulatory Issues and Decarbonization Clearinghouse. The GM explained MEAM got the state to listen, which is a huge victory, it would have increased our rates by 30% and put additional charges on each bill for the changes the state were mandating. The state is still trying to access the data of our mostly business customers, we told them they are confidential they will need to address the customers directly to get the information. Municipals are now exempt from reporting for 2025, which is good.

The GM had handouts for the Board with the State Clean Heat Standard breakdown. The state is requiring all businesses and homes to be cooled/heated by electricity by the year 2050. This takes the choice away from the customers and from the TMLP. This is still an ongoing effort by the state and the MLPs are hoping that it does not become a reality. Over 25 years, it will be a 124% increase for

residential customers and 120% for commercial customers, never mind the cost for TMLP to be able to meet the demands.

The GM distributed graphs for the Templeton Electrification Plans, most specifically dealing with the infusion of both electric vehicles and all-electric home cooling & heating. The 3 graphs supplied were of Power Supply by Resource Type from 2025 to 2050. TMLP is committed to at least 1.3 MW depending on the pricing we do not have to accept. Berkshire Wind should enter into its now conceptual Phase III by 2031. This project will retire WRECs immediately so the TMLP may claim the generation as non-emitting. The graphs depicted a drop off in the year 2037 as the Hancock Wind PPA will come to a conclusion. The PPA for Templeton Solar will drop off in the year 2034 and the GM is looking into the possibility of its continuing on as a solar farm with additional KW AC output that the TMLP would own and operate thus being able to claim its generation as non-emitting. Dana asked if we would have to bear the cost of replacing the solar panels, the GM responded yes, but this cost could be leveraged into another 20 years of commercial operation and the solar array would continue to provide both capacity and transmission savings as well as newer environmental benefits to the TMLP.

In order to comply with the state's legislation on greenhouse gas emitting resources by 2040, the 75% year, the TMLP would now regularly have to purchase market RECs in order to bridge the gap between actual energy resources that were non-emitting and that year's corresponding percentage requirement. We are able to purchase Maine Hydro Class II RECs right now for about \$6 per MWh, as opposed to a MA Class II REC which is more like \$38 per MWh. The difference between these two types of RECs is that the MA Class II REC can be used not only to comply with the state legislation but also can be entered into our AQ31/32 reports to Mass DEP. The GM noted that the increased power supply cost due to the purchasing of RECs can be seen in the graphs but said that it doesn't seem to have a very adverse effect on power supply cost in general. Dana suggested that we involve ourselves in more group projects OR do our own to procure more non-emitting energy resources. The GM and many other MMWEC Member GMs are waiting to see what effects the Trump Administration will have on the future of some of the offshore wind projects that the TMLP had hoped to participate in, many of which were relying on federal energy credits to control their project costs. At present the only project that the GM is looking into is a possible one with Light Shift Energy, an entity who has already worked with other MMWEC Member MLPs on battery storage projects with shared revenues streams. The GM hopes to have more information on this issue at next meeting.

### **New Business:**

The GM spoke on the status of the solar array on the south side of town on Farnsworth Rd. The solar array had tripped offline on May 23, 2025, and remains offline today. The operators of the solar array, Terraform, are claiming that a lightning strike struck and damaged their recloser and it is out of service as a result. Neither the GM nor the LS recall any lightning in our area on May 23 and after viewing photos of the inside of the recloser, are leaning more towards an elbow failure on either the line or load side of the recloser. Terraform has begun the process of ordering an entirely new recloser unit from G&W with a lead time up to 24 weeks. The GM is concerned that market power this June/July/August will most likely surpass the \$61 per MWh fixed cost for the solar array output here so we will be experiencing losses if fuel revenues for these three months. But the larger concern is not having the

solar array available for neither this year's annual capacity peak nor any of the transmission peaks for June/July/August. Templeton Solar and the Templeton Battery are the only two energy resources that the TMLP has that are behind-the-meter, i.e., not re-constituted back into our network load. The LS plans to reach out to local distributors with whom the TMLP already works to find a representative for G&W so we can attempt to order replacement parts for this recloser unit in a timeframe less than 24 weeks.

The GM provided the Board with copies of the most recent credit rating report by S&P Global. The TMLP has maintained its previous rating of "A" from 2023 with a stable business outlook.

### **Other Business**

The GM had the following handouts to the Board:

- March & April 2025 Power Supply
- April & May 2025 kWh Sales
- June 2025 Retail Rates
- MMWEC Rate Comparisons for Q1 2025

At this time a vote took place as follows:

*"On a motion made by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to enter into Executive Session to further discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel at 10:30 am"*

*Dana – Aye*

*Chris - Aye*

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Light Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll

General Manager