

**AGENDA**  
**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**January 8, 2020**  
**3:00 P.M.**

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Approve Consent Agenda

1. Approve Agenda
2. Approve Meeting Minutes
3. Payments Report

D. Commissioner Reports

E. Adjourn

*Public Utilities Commission  
Minutes  
December 4, 2019*

Meeting was called to order by Chair George Wilkes at 3:04 p.m.

Members present: Ann Possis, Tim Kennedy, and George Wilkes

Absent:

Staff Present: Mike Roth and Haden Hinchman

Others Present:

**Motion by Wilkes, seconded by Possis to approve the Agenda with the addition of Wilkes' memo; November 6, 2019 Minutes; and Payment of Bills. Approved unanimously.**

Roth presented staff options to accelerate the implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan. The Commission discussed the options and reasoning behind them.

**Motion by Wilkes, seconded by Possis to approve an increase in CAP Coordinator contract hours, faster AMI implementation, and recommend to the City Council a shift in City Administrator duties. Approved unanimously.**

George Wilkes presents a large scale solar project he's been working on. The Commission discusses the feasibility and possible locations of a 200 or 400 kw system. The Commission decides to invite SMMPA representatives to discuss their renewable plans and to continue looking for a location for a future solar project.

George Wilkes presents his memo outlining reasons to increase the Electric rate by 2%. The Commission discusses possible uses for that money.

**Motion by Wilkes, seconded by Kennedy to approve a 2% increase to the Electric rate, a 2% increase to the Wastewater rate, and a 0% increase to the Water rate. Approved unanimously.**

Commissioner Reports:

Ann – Met with Nancy Kelly from SMMPA to organize a meeting about residential energy efficiency opportunities.

George – Reminded the other commissioners about the upcoming McKnight foundation visit on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



# CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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## Payments

City of Grand Marais

Current Period: December 2019

Batch Name	12-12-19 AP	User Dollar Amt	\$113,311.46		
	Payments	Computer Dollar Amt	\$113,311.46		
			\$0.00	<b>In Balance</b>	
<u>Refer</u>	<u>78637 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION1</u>	<u>Ck# 004771E 12/4/2019</u>			
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-380 Utility Services (GENER				\$1,247.68
Invoice Dec Billing	12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-380 Utility Services (GENER				\$2,605.28
Invoice Dec Billing	12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-380 Utility Services (GENER				\$2,134.28
Invoice Dec Billing	12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-380 Utility Services (GENER				\$32.72
Invoice Dec Billing	12/1/2019				
Transaction Date	12/2/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,019.96</b>
<u>Refer</u>	<u>78647 COOK COUNTY HOME CENTER</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$28.70
Invoice 2088	12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49430-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$160.51
Invoice 1160	12/1/2019				
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$189.21</b>
<u>Refer</u>	<u>78649 TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$14.15
Invoice 5122341	11/14/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$3.98
Invoice 5122341	11/14/2019				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$3.98
Invoice 5122341	11/14/2019				
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22.11</b>
<u>Refer</u>	<u>78651 NEON LINK</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-310 Service Agreements				\$484.03
Invoice 1735	10/4/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-310 Service Agreements				\$136.14
Invoice 1735	10/4/2019				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-310 Service Agreements				\$136.14
Invoice 1735	10/4/2019				
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-310 Service Agreements				\$431.71
Invoice 1736	10/25/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-310 Service Agreements				\$121.42
Invoice 1736	10/25/2019				
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-310 Service Agreements				\$121.42
Invoice 1736	10/25/2019				
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,430.86</b>
<u>Refer</u>	<u>78653 ALLIED GENERATORS</u>				
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$998.85
Invoice 21895	11/21/2019				
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$827.28
Invoice 21299	11/21/2019				
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,826.13</b>



# CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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## Payments

City of Grand Marais

Current Period: December 2019

Refer	78655	ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE	Ck# 004778E 12/20/2019		
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-321	Telephone			\$127.21
Invoice	2121	12/1/2019			
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-321	Telephone			\$188.20
Invoice	2244	12/1/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$315.41</b>
Refer	78658	GOPHER STATE ONE CALL	-		
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-317	Contracted Services			\$4.73
Invoice	9110986	11/30/2019			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-317	Contracted Services			\$4.72
Invoice	9110986	11/30/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9.45</b>
Refer	78659	HACH COMPANY	-		
Cash Payment	E 601-49430-210	Operating Supplies (GEN			\$49.10
Invoice	11733097	11/20/2019			
Cash Payment	E 601-49430-210	Operating Supplies (GEN			\$879.31
Invoice	11732330	11/20/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$928.41</b>
Refer	78660	GRAND MARAIS AUTO PARTS, INC	-		
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-220	Repair/Maint Supply (GE			\$106.12
Invoice	3125	11/26/2019			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-210	Operating Supplies (GEN			\$30.32
Invoice	3125	11/26/2019			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-210	Operating Supplies (GEN			\$30.32
Invoice	3125	11/26/2019			
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210	Operating Supplies (GEN			\$79.67
Invoice	2088	11/26/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$246.43</b>
Refer	78663	NORTH SHORE WASTE	-		
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-384	Refuse/Garbage Disposa			\$184.86
Invoice	70195	11/30/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$184.86</b>
Refer	78665	PSN	Ck# 004779E 12/5/2019		
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-432	Credit Card Charges			\$375.58
Invoice	207264	12/3/2019			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-432	Credit Card Charges			\$105.63
Invoice	207264	12/3/2019			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-432	Credit Card Charges			\$105.63
Invoice	207264	12/3/2019			
Transaction Date	12/5/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$586.84</b>



City of Grand Marais

# CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

## Payments

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Current Period: December 2019

### Fund Summary

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$96,808.49
211 LIBRARY		\$2,089.43
215 LIBRARY RESTRICTED FUND		\$2,469.79
601 WATER		\$3,625.42
602 SEWER		\$4,567.24
604 ELECTRIC		\$3,567.01
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$184.08
		<hr/>
		\$113,311.46

Pre-Written Checks	\$6,922.21
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$4,837.46
Total	<hr/>
	\$11,759.67



# CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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## Payments

City of Grand Marais

Current Period: December 2019

Batch Name	12-19-19 AP Payments	User Dollar Amt	\$349,184.04		
		Computer Dollar Amt	\$349,184.04		
				\$0.00	In Balance
Refer	78706 CENTURYLINK	-			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-321 Telephone				\$57.29
Invoice	218 387-1788 12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-321 Telephone				\$69.36
Invoice	218 D24-1002 12/1/2019				
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-321 Telephone				\$69.36
Invoice	218 D24-1001 12/1/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$196.01
Refer	78707 PERRIN MOBILE MEDICAL	-			
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-430 Miscellaneous (GENERA				\$75.00
Invoice	6313 12/3/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$75.00
Refer	78710 BUCK S HARDWARE HANK	-			
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$38.53
Invoice	1712 11/30/2019				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$100.67
Invoice	2088 11/30/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$139.20
Refer	78715 LOCATORS & SUPPLIES, INC	-			
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$37.92
Invoice	0281317-IN 12/10/2019				
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-210 Operating Supplies (GEN				\$170.84
Invoice	0281258-IN 12/6/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$208.76
Refer	78718 WESTERN LAKE SUPERIOR SANIT	-			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-317 Contracted Services				\$12,515.05
Invoice	7810 12/3/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$12,515.05
Refer	78719 UTILITY CONSULTANTS, INC	-			
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-300 Professional Srvs (GENE				\$619.45
Invoice	103479 12/2/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$619.45
Refer	78721 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	-			
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-220 Repair/Maint Supply (GE				\$22.75
Invoice	1MCG-L3FX-FYL 12/7/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$22.75
Refer	78722 MN DEPT OF COMMERCE	-			
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-390 Conservation Improveme				\$548.73
Invoice	1000043631 12/2/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	Total	\$548.73
Refer	78723 JAVA MOOSE	-			



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## Payments

### City of Grand Marais

Current Period: December 2019

<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER				\$55.00
Invoice 982	12/10/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$55.00
Refer	78724 FLAHERTY & HOOD, P.A.	-			
<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 602-49490-304 Attorney(Civil)				\$175.00
Invoice 13902	12/2/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$175.00
Refer	78726 MN DEPT OF REVENUE-EFTPS		Ck# 004789E 12/10/2019		
<b>Cash Payment</b>	G 601-20800 Taxes Due (State MN)				\$752.00
Invoice Nov Sales Tax	12/10/2019				
<b>Cash Payment</b>	G 604-20800 Taxes Due (State MN)				\$12,023.00
Invoice Nov Sales Tax	12/10/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$12,775.00
Refer	78728 SMMPA		Ck# 004790E 12/26/2019		
<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 604-49560-388 Purchase Power				\$155,921.17
Invoice NOV-19	12/1/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$155,921.17
Refer	78733 EATON	-			
<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 604-49570-227 Utility Maint Supplies				\$85,117.73
Invoice 938358270	11/27/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$85,117.73
Refer	78735 VISA		Ck# 004791E 12/6/2019		
<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 604-49590-330 Transportation/School				\$106.86
Invoice 0224	12/2/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$106.86
Refer	78750 FERGUSON WATERWORKS#2518	-			
<b>Cash Payment</b>	E 601-49430-220 Repair/Maint Supply (GE				\$106.89
Invoice 24644	11/29/2019				
Transaction Date	12/12/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	\$106.89

### Fund Summary

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$31,855.03
211 LIBRARY		\$1,727.82
215 LIBRARY RESTRICTED FUND		\$409.90
601 WATER		\$1,129.90
602 SEWER		\$13,348.03
604 ELECTRIC		\$254,104.67
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$46,608.69
		<u>\$349,184.04</u>

Pre-Written Checks	\$168,803.03
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$99,779.57
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$268,582.60</u>



# CITY OF GRAND MARAIS

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## Payments

City of Grand Marais

Current Period: January 2020

Batch Name	1-9-20 AP Payments	User Dollar Amt	\$1,533,368.13	Computer Dollar Amt	\$1,533,368.13		
						\$0.00	<b>In Balance</b>
Refer	<u>78775 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION1</u>	<u>Ck# 004798E 1/3/2020</u>					
Cash Payment	E 602-49451-380 Utility Services (GENER	2019				\$1,136.92	
Invoice	JAN BILLING 1/1/2020						
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-380 Utility Services (GENER	2019				\$2,300.17	
Invoice	JAN BILLING 1/1/2020						
Cash Payment	E 601-49420-380 Utility Services (GENER	2019				\$2,138.63	
Invoice	JAN BILLING 1/1/2020						
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-380 Utility Services (GENER	2019				\$32.88	
Invoice	JAN BILLING 1/1/2020						
Transaction Date	12/30/2019	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,608.60</b>
Refer	<u>78780 COMO OIL &amp; PROPANE</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 602-49480-217 Heating Fuel	2019				\$498.24	
Invoice	1500602241 12/10/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$498.24</b>
Refer	<u>78783 US BANK</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 601-47027-611 Bond Interest	2020				\$718.00	
Invoice	LOAN PAY 145 12/18/2019						
Cash Payment	E 601-47027-620 Fiscal Agent s Fees	2020				\$188.72	
Invoice	LOAN PAY 145 12/18/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$906.72</b>
Refer	<u>78785 EATON</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 604-49570-227 Utility Maint Supplies	2020				\$9,488.23	
Invoice	938537656 12/20/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,488.23</b>
Refer	<u>78787 ALLIED GENERATORS</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-317 Contracted Services	2019				\$11,528.25	
Invoice	22416 12/18/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,528.25</b>
Refer	<u>78788 TOSHIBA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 604-49590-200 Office Supplies (GENER	2019				\$17.43	
Invoice	5157143 12/19/2019						
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-200 Office Supplies (GENER	2019				\$4.90	
Invoice	5157143 12/19/2019						
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-200 Office Supplies (GENER	2019				\$4.90	
Invoice	5157143 12/19/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27.23</b>
Refer	<u>78792 AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSN</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 601-49440-436 Membership Dues	2020				\$79.00	
Invoice	7001744712 11/18/2019						
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$79.00</b>
Refer	<u>78793 TIRE &amp; AUTO LODGE</u>	-					
Cash Payment	E 601-49430-404 Repairs/Maint Machinery	2019				\$828.00	
Invoice	24763 12/17/2019						



**CITY OF GRAND MARAIS**

**Payments**

City of Grand Marais

Current Period: January 2020

Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$828.00</b>
Refer	78794 NELSON, TOM	-			
Cash Payment	E 602-49490-330 Transportation/School	VADNIS HEIGHTS			\$331.80
Invoice	WASTEWATER 12/26/2019				
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331.80</b>
Refer	78795 LHB ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS	-			
Cash Payment	E 601-49431-303 Engineering Fees	2019			\$163.65
Invoice	160861.00-18 12/15/2019				
Cash Payment	E 602-49431-303 Engineering Fees	2019			\$381.85
Invoice	160861.00-18 12/15/2019				
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$545.50</b>
Refer	78803 POWER PLANT COMPLIANCE	-			
Cash Payment	E 604-49551-210 Operating Supplies (GEN 2019				\$17.90
Invoice	15702 12/26/2019				
Transaction Date	1/2/2020	MAIN CHECKING G	10100	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17.90</b>

**Fund Summary**

	10100 MAIN CHECKING GMSB	
101 GENERAL FUND		\$55,235.68
211 LIBRARY		\$2,188.33
215 LIBRARY RESTRICTED FUND		\$500.00
301 DEBT SERVICE FUND		\$1,445,246.25
601 WATER		\$4,120.90
602 SEWER		\$4,653.88
604 ELECTRIC		\$21,084.69
609 MUNICIPAL LIQUOR FUND		\$338.40
		<u>\$1,533,368.13</u>

Pre-Written Checks	\$5,608.60
Checks to be Generated by the Computer	\$24,250.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$29,859.47</b>

Memo to the Grand Marais Public Utilities Commission  
From: George Wilkes

12/27/19

1) Report on the December SMMPA Board meeting and the recently proposed Grand Marais PUC solar project:

I attended the SMMPA Board meeting in New Prague on December 11th and asked the Board to increase Grand Marais's allocation of SMMPA's favorable solar buy-back program from 21.8 kW (AC) to 300 kW (AC). SMMPA members have not used their allocations over the past two years and I thought there might be support for allowing Grand Marais to use those unused kW's, so to speak. However, it turns out that most other members were indeed planning for solar projects themselves, or at least didn't want to give up their option to do so, and so there was no support for increasing Grand Marais's allocation.

This effectively ended the proposed solar project with TruNorth which had been based on a size of between 200-300 kW's. I would however suggest that we proceed with a smaller solar project for the summer of 2020. I think we should go ahead and "use up" our remaining 21.8 kW of the SMMPA solar buy-back program. Using up our allotment would send the message that, yes, Grand Marais is serious about decarbonization and solar development, and secondly, it would set the stage for our request to SMMPA to move ahead with further, larger scale solar projects. At this time solar power is expensive, but continued investment is warranted because of its vast potential for future decarbonization of our power supply.

I suggest we continue negotiations with the EDA, the City, and the County, on acquiring lot 7, block 4 of the Cedar Grove Business Park as a location for the 21.8 kW solar project. That lot would also serve as a location for future additional PUC solar development. The 21.8 kW project would be PUC owned and financed in the same manner as our 50 kW system on the public works garage .

In conjunction, I would also like the PUC to consider offering a solar power incentive program to businesses (or landowners) within the Cedar Grove to encourage additional solar development there.

2) The PUC is currently participating in a SMMPA Electric Vehicle (EV) charging program (see attached SMMPA press release) and will be working with ZEF Energy to install 3 charging stations in Grand Marais next summer. I'm hoping we can leverage that program to provide businesses and individuals in our community with additional EV charging opportunities. I think we can leverage the City administration's recent and ongoing experience with EV charging development; ZEF's recent and ongoing experience in working within our neighborhood; and some economies of scale in facilitating a cluster of EV charging development in Grand Marais/Cook County. My proposal is for the PUC to develop an EV charging program that would facilitate and provide financial incentive for private EV charging in our community.

Such a program would facilitate increased EV charging capability, raise awareness about EV use and the City's Climate Action Plan within our community, and would be of particular benefit to our lodging and tourism industry. It could also be developed and implemented in coordination with Arrowhead Electric Coop.

That is all,

George Wilkes



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

*Bringing power to your life.*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
November 25, 2019

### **SMMPA Members Commit to Electric Vehicle Charging Network**

ROCHESTER, MN – Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency’s (SMMPA) member municipal utilities have committed to establishing an electric vehicle (EV) charging network to help facilitate the transition to EVs in Greater Minnesota. Participating members will be installing a DC Fast Charger and two dual-port level 2 chargers in each of their communities by the end of 2020.

“It’s a great opportunity and an important first step to facilitate acceptance of electric vehicles, an amazing technology that will transform both the electric utility and transportation industries,” says Chris Schoenherr, SMMPA’s director of Agency and Government Relations and chief external affairs officer.

Since 90 percent of EV charging typically occurs in the owner’s garage at night, when electric demand is low, Schoenherr says utilities can generally handle that load without additional generation. However, the lack of public charging stations in most communities is a major barrier to consumers making the switch because of “range anxiety” – the fear they may not be able to reach distant destinations.

“Regardless of whether you are a small or large community, there is strength in numbers that creates economies of scale and sends a consistent message to our customers,” says Joe Hoffman, SMMPA Board President and Preston Public Utilities general manager. “As a board, we felt it was critical to move forward together on this key initiative that will help our communities.”

SMMPA is partnering with ZEF Energy, the largest independently owned and operated DC Fast Charging Network in Minnesota and Wisconsin. SMMPA will purchase the chargers from ZEF Energy and transfer ownership to its member utilities. SMMPA will cover the cost of maintenance.

ZEF Energy was selected by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to install charging stations as part of the Volkswagen settlement. With SMMPA working on a similar timeline, ZEF Energy was able to leverage its expertise and purchasing power to create a package that was viable for SMMPA members.

-more-



“SMMPA is taking a market-leading approach,” says Matthew Blackler, CEO of ZEF Energy. “It is removing a major barrier to EV ownership by making charging and cross-state travel as convenient and accessible as possible.”

The DC Fast Chargers provide EV owners with a quick charge when they are traveling longer distances. The Level 2 chargers provide a charging option for EV owners while they are shopping, dining at a restaurant or conducting other business in town.

SMMPA member utilities are currently identifying potential sites for the chargers. Businesses that are interested in potentially being a site host for one of the chargers should contact their local SMMPA member utility.

Schoenherr expects it will take some time before the chargers are being fully utilized.

“In the utility business, we think long-term. A transformation begins with one step, and we are taking our first step today.”

### **About SMMPA**

SMMPA provides electricity and related services to 18 municipally operated utilities, mostly in south-central and southeastern Minnesota. For more information about SMMPA, please visit [www.smmpa.com](http://www.smmpa.com).

### **About ZEF Energy**

ZEF Energy is Minnesota and Wisconsin's largest independently owned and operated DC Fast Charging Network. Over the last four years, ZEF has successfully worked with cities, utilities, non-profit, and for-profit partners to provide increased availability of reliable and cost-effective electric vehicle charging across the Midwest

### **Media Contacts:**

Chris Schoenherr, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency

Office: (507) 292-6440

[cp.schoenherr@smmpa.org](mailto:cp.schoenherr@smmpa.org)

Matthew Blackler, ZEF Energy

Office: (612) 254-4596

[matthew@zefenergy.com](mailto:matthew@zefenergy.com)

**ESR Activity**  
**Nancy Kelly – December 16, 2019**

**All Cities**

- We have new rebates available for 2020. Examples include tune-ups on HVAC equipment (commercial and residential), Smart Thermostats, Heat Pump Water Heaters, “Cold Climate” Air Source Heat Pumps. We can review those next time we meet.

**Grand Marais**

Was in Grand Marais Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

New rebates and significant activities include:

- Met with Public Utility Commissioner Ann Possis on Tuesday Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. We are working on a residential energy efficiency workshop. The date has not been set.
- Low Income Residential – met with Shane Steele (Climate Action Plan), Colby Abazs (CERTS), and Matthew Engesser (Cook County Local Energy Project) to discuss the low-income lighting project. There have been challenges getting facilities to agree to the direct install program. There have been 8 homes with lighting installed. The goal is to have 50 homes participate. Ideas to incentivize participation were discussed and include drawings for a gift card.
- 1-Roof Housing –met with Housing Development Coordinator in Duluth on Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. Six homes were built in 2019. These homes received rebates for dishwashers, LED lighting. There are more opportunities in these projects such as refrigerators, and ceiling fans. Two of the homes were specified to meet Minnesota Green Communities criteria for Single Family homes. It was discovered during the project review that contractors are not as aware of program requirements and there are no Home Energy Rating System contractors closer than the Twin Cities at this time. More housing units are planned for 2020/2021.
- The lighting retrofit at the Food Coop was 95% complete in November. I am waiting on the invoice to finalize the rebate.
- Met with Buck’s Hardware to discuss the Be Bright lighting promotion. He will be participating in the program again next year. He also is looking at an LED retrofit project for the store. Also met with Cook County Home Center who will participate in Be Bright promotion in 2020 as well.
- Toured the Cook County Higher Education Facility. This provides a great location for energy efficiency workshops. They provide laptops and other IT equipment that might be needed for a class.
- Discussed projects with Best Western. They have completed lighting retrofits in 2019 and so expect more savings from them soon.

**Electric Utility Goal**

As of this report Grand Marais is at 227% of energy saving goal.