

MGA Utility Business Model of the Future

Speaker Bios

Jan Ahlen, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Jan represents NRECA on state regulation of electric cooperatives, retail competition, retail rates, and grid modernization. Prior to joining NRECA, Jan served as a lobbyist for the National Farmers Union on energy and environmental policy. A native of Sweden, Jan holds a bachelor's and master's degree in international relations from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mathias Bell, Opower

Mathias Bell leads the regulatory affairs work in the Midwest for Opower, a software company that delivers behavioral energy efficiency, demand response, and customer engagement services to over 95 electric and gas utilities across 35 states and 8 countries, including more than twenty utilities in the Midwest. Previously, Mathias worked at Rocky Mountain Institute, a non-profit consulting organization, partnering with utilities, policymakers, and regulators on regulatory and business models for energy efficiency and other distributed energy resources. Mathias is also a co-author of *Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for a New Energy Era*. Mathias has a B.A. from Carleton College, where he majored in International Relations and Technology Studies.

David Boyd, MISO

David Boyd is a lead member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's External Affairs team. He serves as MISO's primary liaison with the governors and state regulatory and legislative policymakers on footprint-wide matters in the MISO region. In addition, he monitors and integrates the activities of federal regulators and legislators into MISO's overall policies.

Dr. Boyd served as a member of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission from 2007 until joining MISO in 2015, including three years served as chair. Dr. Boyd also served in a variety of domestic and international leadership positions during this time, including the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Board of Directors and chair of NARUC's Committee on Electricity. Prior to serving as a commissioner, Dr. Boyd was a member of the faculty of the University of St. Thomas' chemistry department for 20 years.

Dr. Boyd received a bachelor's degree with majors in chemistry and biology from St. Olaf College, and a Ph.D. degree in chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Christopher Clark, Xcel Energy

Christopher B. Clark is president of Northern States Power Company – Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company. Previously, Clark was Regional Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs – Minnesota. He was responsible for Xcel Energy's regulatory filings with the utility commissions in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, including rate, resource acquisition and service quality filings.

Clark joined Xcel Energy in 1999 as a senior attorney. He was later appointed Managing Attorney, Northern States Power Company-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy company, with responsibility for the company's state public utility law and power purchase agreement issues for operations in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. He represented Xcel Energy in regulatory proceedings before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and handled most issues related to rate cases, renewable energy and long term power purchase projects and supported retail product and programs, including conservation improvement programs. He has more than 20 years of experience in energy and regulation.

Clark currently serves on the board of directors for People Serving People and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to joining Xcel Energy, he worked as an in-house attorney for Alliant Energy appearing for that Company before public utility commissions in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin.

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from the University of Iowa and earned his law degree from Drake University.

Steve Corneli, Clean Energy Innovation Advisor

Steve Corneli is an independent advisor on clean energy innovation, policies and strategies. He has worked in the power sector since 1990, at the intersection of new technologies and business models with the key policy-making institutions of state and federal government. At various times during his 14 year career with NRG Energy, Steve led the company's wholesale market design and advocacy, government and regulatory affairs, climate policy, and clean energy policy and strategy practices. Prior to NRG, Steve was a utility consumer advocate in the Minnesota Attorney General's office and a regulatory specialist serving competitive power sector clients in the law firm of Leonard, Street and Deinard. Earlier in his career he managed a 600 acre family farm for more than a decade. Steve serves on the board of the Climate Action Reserve, the Executive Leadership Council of the Smart Electric Power Alliance, RMI's eLab Advisory Council, and has also served on the board of the Solar Energy Industries Association and as a member of the Operating Committee of North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC).

Steve has a MA in Public Affairs from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute, concentrating on energy, environment and technology policy, and a BA degree from St. John's College.

Robert C. Jagusch, Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

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Bob assist's Minnesota's 125 municipal electric utilities and 33 municipal natural gas utilities with any issues related to electric generation, electric distribution system, transmission system, environmental compliance, renewable energy, and conservation along with research and development operations. Also serves as the Chairman of the Generation and Fuels Committee for the American Public Power Association in Washington DC, past Chair of the Environmental Committee, as well as on the Board of Director's of APPA's Research and Development Program. Executive Manager of the financial authority, the Midwest Consortium of Municipal Utilities, (MCMU), assisting cities and utilities with financing of equipment, repair and construction of public infrastructure. Served Minnesota as a member of the Governor's Workforce Development Council Energy Sector Partnership developing training opportunities and education to assist the state's workforce in preparation for job opportunities in the energy sector under Governor Dayton and on the Climate Change Advisory Group under Governor Pawlenty. Retired U. S. Navy Nuclear Engineering Officer.

David Littell, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)

David Littell joined RAP as a principal in 2015. He advises state officials, public utility commissions and environmental regulators on resolution of complex energy, pollution and economic issues. David served as a Commissioner on the Maine Public Utilities Commission from 2010 to 2015 and as Maine's Commissioner of Environmental Protection from 2005 to 2010, and deputy commissioner from 2003 to 2005. Prior to that, David was a partner at Pierce Atwood based in Portland, Maine.

At the Maine PUC, he adjudicated and decided nearly 2,000 cases including major rate cases for nearly every utility in Maine and a series of long-term contracts as well as energy efficiency program funding. He served in the national leadership of NARUC as vice-chair of the NARUC Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation and on the board of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRRI).

At the Maine DEP, he directed and led a department of more than 400 scientists, engineers, geologists and environmental specialists in developing and implementing programs to protect and improve Maine's air, water, and environmental quality. In his tenure at Maine DEP, the DEP permitted more capital investment in Maine projects in energy, wood products and pulp & paper industries, the defense industry, and commercial infrastructure than during any comparable time in the Maine's history evincing the significant role than energy projects play in the 21st century economy. Under his leadership, he worked actively with Maine businesses and industrial facilities. He served as co-chair of the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Committee on the Environmental and chair of the New England Governors Committee on the Environment.

Working on regional greenhouse gas issues for more than a decade, he served as chair, vice chair and treasurer in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). During his tenure, the Maine DEP implemented initiatives to address climate change including RGGI and Maine's Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2010 and 10% below 1990 levels by 2020.

David is currently advising over a dozen public utility commissions, state energy offices and state environmental agencies on multiple issues include incorporating advanced technology deployment into rate design and rate making, distributed energy resource policies, decoupling, energy efficiency resources standards, renewables integrate and deployments include net energy metering and value of solar, and carbon market deployment and regulation. He often speaks on these issues in national and regional contexts.

David holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School (1992 cum laude) and an A.B. from Princeton University (1989 magna cum laude, phi beta kappa), and has been named a distinguished policy scholar by the University of Maine.

David served in the United States Navy Reserve, resigning as a Lieutenant Commander. He served as an intelligence officer with Combat Patrol Squadron 92 (VP-92), U.S. Navy Reserve squadron based at Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Tactical Support Center at Brunswick Naval Air Station. He also served in Atlantic Intelligence Command and Joint Forces Command units based in South Weymouth, Massachusetts and Devens, Massachusetts.

Rolf Nordstrom, Great Plains Institute

Rolf is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Great Plains Institute. He has nearly 30 years of experience in energy and sustainable development policy and practice in both governmental and non-profit settings and has held positions with: the United States Congress, Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB), the Minnesota Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning, World Wildlife Fund International (Brussels, Belgium), National Wildlife Federation's Corporate Conservation Council (Washington, DC), and the Global Environment Program at NYU's Stern School of Business in New York.

For much of his career Rolf has worked to broker agreement among disparate interests on difficult public policy issues. Among his other duties, he currently leads GPI's "e21 Initiative" to better align how utilities earn revenue with evolving customer demands and public policy goals.

Just prior to coming to the Institute in 2003, Rolf served for a decade with the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning. For seven of those years he served as Assistant Director of then Governor Arne Carlson's Sustainable Development Initiative, working to harmonize the state's economic and environmental policies.

Rolf has written or helped craft new laws on high performance buildings, hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, resource efficient land use, and sustainable development. He recently co-authored the Midwest Chapter of the third National Climate Assessment, a comprehensive report on climate change impacts in the US. Rolf has authored and edited many publications on energy, transportation and sustainable development and speaks to a wide range of audiences both nationally and abroad.

Rolf holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature from Carleton College and a Master's Degree in International Environmental Policy from Tufts University. He serves on the Advisory Board of the University of Minnesota's NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise, the Board of Advisors for the Midwest CleanTech Open, the world's largest clean tech business competition. He is an alumnus of the Wilder Foundation's James P. Shannon Leadership Institute and has served as president of the Izaak Walton League of America (Minnesota Division), and Union Park Community Council in the St. Paul, where he lives with his wife and sons.

Doug Scott, Great Plains Institute

Doug Scott is Vice-President for Strategic Initiatives at the Great Plains Institute. In that role, Scott works on issues involving climate strategy and regulatory response; carbon capture, sequestration and usage; and issues involving the changing utility business model. Before joining GPI in February of 2015, Scott served as Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission, and prior to that as Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Scott's public service also includes a term as Mayor of Rockford, Illinois; three terms as an Illinois State Representative; and ten years as an attorney for the City of Rockford Legal Department. Scott earned a B.A. with honors from the University of Tulsa, and a J.D. with honors from Marquette University.

John Sterling, Smart Electric Power Alliance

John Sterling, Senior Director of Research & Advisory Services with the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), is responsible for helping SEPA members drive the integration of solar resources into utility resource portfolios and business operations. Mr. Sterling assists SEPA members in their consideration, development, and ultimate implementation of solar customer programs,

business models, and innovative rate designs in an effort to create solar strategic plans, and has facilitated stakeholder working groups on complex issues such as rate reform and customer program design. At SEPA he has co-authored multiple reports, including: “The Flexible Solar Utility: Preparing for Solar’s Impacts to Utility Planning & Operations” (NREL 2015), “Unlocking Advanced Inverter Functionality: Roadmap to a Future of Utility Engagement and Ownership” (SEPA 2014), and “Community Solar: Program Design Models” (SEPA 2015). Prior to joining SEPA, Mr. Sterling spent 11 years at Pinnacle West Capital Corporation/Arizona Public Service, where he focused on: deregulated retail sales; state and federal regulatory activities; power procurement; demand response program development; smart grid investments; electric vehicle deployment opportunities; and, long-term integrated resource planning. He holds a BS in Finance and an MBA from Arizona State University.

Brad Viator, Edison Electric Institute (EEI)

Brad is the Senior Director of External Affairs at the Edison Electric Institute. He is responsible for outreach to state elected officials including state legislators, governors and attorneys general, and manages EEI’s online advocacy community We Stand for Energy. Brad regularly serves as a spokesperson on behalf of the industry in public forums.

Before joining EEI in 2011, Brad served as Political Representative at the National Association of Realtors (NAR) where he focused on electoral and legislative advocacy for federal elected officials. Prior to moving to Washington, Brad did extensive political campaign work at the local, state and federal levels in a number of western states.

Brad earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University, and is a native of Beaumont, Texas. He lives in Arlington, VA with his wife Jessica and sons James and Luke.

Melissa Whited, Synapse Energy Economics

Melissa Whited is a Senior Associate at Synapse Energy Economics where she consults on issues related to utility regulation and rate design, particularly in response to fundamental changes in the electricity industry spurred by declining energy use, new technologies, environmental policies, and the integration of large amounts of renewable energy. Ms. Whited consults on the tools to effectively address these changes, including utility performance incentives, revenue decoupling mechanisms, and innovative rate designs.

Recently, Ms. Whited authored a report on utility proposals to increase electricity fixed charges, and the impacts of such proposals on customers. She also led the development of a handbook for regulators on utility performance incentive mechanisms, describing best practices in mechanism design and how such mechanisms can help utilities transition to alternative business models. Ms. Whited was also integrally involved in the development of a benefit-cost analysis framework for distributed energy resources within the context of New York’s “Reforming the Energy Vision” proceeding. Her other recent work includes consulting on decoupling cases in Maine, Hawaii, and Nevada; conducting a comparative analysis of demand response programs across the United States; analyzing experiences with performance incentives for utilities; and evaluating proposals for time-varying rates in the Northeast. Ms. Whited holds two master’s degrees from the University of Wisconsin: an MA in agricultural and applied economics, and an MS in environment and resources.