

## **MGA's Grid Modernization: Integrating Solar Energy Meeting Speaker Biographies**

### **Michael Allen, Chief Executive Officer, All Energy Solar**

Michael is a green energy leader and CEO of All Energy Solar. Michael began his career and passion for renewable energy as a sophomore in college. After graduating from UW Wisconsin Madison with a degree in Economics and Business Management he studied European solar and wind markets before becoming a solar consultant designing solar systems in Northern California. While personally experiencing the boom in the California solar market he also managed relationships across the western US for an international Solar Manufacturer gaining intimate knowledge and experience from some of the industry's brightest professionals. In 2008 he joined a National Solar company as an executive installing thousands of solar systems across New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

He now leads an ever growing team comprised of full service professionals including sales, designers, project managers, permitting and interconnection, operations, maintenance, electricians, and installers. As a NABCEP certified PV installer he enjoys using his experience designing and building reliable long lasting energy systems. When he has free time he enjoys fishing, biking, and cooking, and of course cheering on his beloved Wisconsin Badgers.

### **Jordan Bakke, Lead, Policy Studies, MISO**

Jordan Bakke leads the Policy Studies group within MISO focusing on how public policy and changing economic conditions impacts energy and gas systems for the MISO footprint. He received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering at North Dakota State University and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. He has held many roles at MISO working in resource forecasting, transmission planning and renewable integration. His current work deals with understanding the impacts of the evolving power system.

### **Matthew Blackler, Founder, ZEF Energy and Power Over Time**

Matthew Blackler is the founder of two clean tech startups, ZEF Energy and Power Over Time. ZEF Energy is responsible for establishing the first EV Fast Charging Network in Minnesota, and is expanding across 5 states in the coming year. Power Over Time provides demand management solutions to utilities to allow them to harness everyday household loads (A/C, EWH, EV's) to use them for load sculpting. Matthew has over 15 years of experience in software architecture.

### **Andrew M. Boatright, PE, Deputy Director, City of Independence Power & Light**

Andrew has been a passionate supporter of Public Power throughout his approximately 34 years of service in various leadership roles at small, medium, and large public power utilities. He is currently the Deputy Director for the City of Independence (Missouri) Power & Light. The utility employs 240 and serves 55,000 customers. Prior to this, Andrew served as the Electric Utility Manager for the City of Westerville (Ohio) Electric Division – a public power system with 44 employees serving 16,000 customers. He has also held positions at Richmond (Indiana) Power & Light and at the City of Rensselaer (Indiana).

He is a graduate of Purdue University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering Technology and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Otterbein University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer.

Andrew has served on various American Public Power Association committees as well as the Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Developments (DEED) Board of Directors. He has served on the APPA Board of Directors since 2011 and is currently the APPA Board Chair.

### **Dan Cross-Call, Manager, Rocky Mountain Institute**

Dan Cross-Call is a Manager in Rocky Mountain Institute's electricity practice. He works on electric utility strategy, regulatory policy, and community energy strategy. Dan also helps lead RMI's Electricity Innovation Lab (eLab), a unique collaboration of leading industry actors to develop, implement, and spread new solutions to enable greater adoption of economic distributed energy resources. Dan previously helped launch the annual eLab Accelerator meeting, which convenes leading electricity innovation projects from around the country to accelerate their work, and he managed RMI's partnership with the New York Department of Public Service as advisors on the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding. Prior to RMI, Dan worked as a consultant in the energy practice of Charles River Associates in Boston, and as a researcher with the MIT Energy Initiative Green Islands program.

### **Michael H. Coddington, Principal Engineer and Principal Investigator, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)**

Michael Coddington is a Principal Engineer and Principal Investigator with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Michael spent 20 years working in the electric utility industry prior to coming to NREL ten years ago.

His work at NREL has primarily been focused on the integration of distributed energy resources (DER) to the electric distribution grid, with an emphasis on high penetration photovoltaic system interconnection.

Michael is a member of several working groups and technical panels that support the development of interconnection standards and codes for North America, and those include IEEE 1547, UL 1741 standard for inverters, and the National Electrical Code. He has been active in several state technical advisory groups including California, Arizona, Massachusetts, and New York.

Michael has worked closely with states and utilities developing improved processes for applying interconnection standards, and has authored several papers related to improving interconnection screening methods, and has spoken before FERC regarding improving the FERC Small Generator Interconnection Procedures.

### **Zachary Wyatt-Gomez, Executive Director, Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association**

Zachary Wyatt-Gomez, is a graduate of Creighton University ('15). He served in the United States Air Force for 6.5 years as a Russian/Chechen/Ukrainian/Georgian Airborne Linguist. This position took him to more than 35 countries in less than 2 years. Upon leaving the Air Force, Zach decided to run for the Missouri House of Representatives. In November 2010, he became the youngest elected to the Missouri House, and defeated a 2-term incumbent. While serving in the House of Representative, Zach became the Vice-Chair of Rural Economic Development and was known for passing many bills that encouraged more rural economic growth which included multiple renewable energy bill. He decided in 2012 not to run for a second term, and enrolled at Creighton University, graduating with a BA in Classical and Near Eastern Studies with focus in Ancient Greek and Latin. This included a minor in Sustainability. Zach has also attained a MA of Leadership and Conflict Dispute Resolution in the Fall of 2016.

### **Larry Herke, Director of the Office of Enterprise Sustainability**

Larry Herke serves as the Director of the Office of Enterprise Sustainability for the State of Minnesota. In that role he guides and supports 24 cabinet level agencies as they employ sustainable strategies to save money, conserve resources and improve the environment. Larry is committed to developing sustainable strategies that allow best practices to be shared between agencies while providing transparency to all Minnesota's on how efficient their government operates.

Larry has recently retired as a Colonel after 31 years of service in the U.S. Army and the Minnesota Army National Guard where he last served as the Construction and Facilities Management Officer. In that position he was responsible for all real property improvements to include new construction, renovations, preventative maintenance and repairs. A major focus for Larry in this position was to employee sustainable strategies that would not only save money but it would improve resiliency of armories and training sites at Camp Ripley and Arden Hills. In 2015 the Minnesota Army National Guard was recognized by the Department of Defense as a leader in the nation for sustainable initiatives.

Larry is a graduate of Minnesota State University at Mankato where he holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Accounting and Masters of Arts in Public Administration.

### **Jason W. Oberg, Civil Engineer, Blattner Energy**

Civil/Structural Engineer for Blattner Energy, renewable energy EPC Electrical Contractor.

Licensed engineer in 13 states.

Certified federal surveyor.

Licensed land surveyor in 5 states.

Project management professional.

14 years of experience in renewable energy, construction and engineering.

### **Dan Scripps, President, Institute for Energy Innovation & General Counsel, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council**

Dan Scripps is president of the Institute for Energy Innovation. As president, Dan leads IEI's efforts to promote greater public understanding of advanced energy and its economic potential.

Before joining IEI, Dan represented financial institutions, project developers and energy companies as an attorney in the Washington D.C. office of Latham & Watkins LLP, a leading global law firm. While at Latham, Dan worked with the Coalition for Green Capital to develop and implement the nation's first "green bank", and advised on three of Project Finance Magazine's "Deals of the Year."

Dan previously represented the 101st District in the Michigan House of Representatives, where he chaired the Banking and Financial Services Committee and led in promoting advanced energy and protecting the Great Lakes. Dan was the lead author of Michigan's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Revolving Loan Fund, was lead co-sponsor of Michigan's PACE legislation, and also sponsored efforts to expand Michigan's RPS and net metering programs.

In addition to his leadership of IEI, Dan serves as General Counsel of the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, where he leads Michigan EIBC's engagement at the Michigan Public Service Commission and supports efforts to create a business-friendly environment for the advanced energy industry. Dan also previously served as Vice President for Capital Innovation with Advanced Energy Economy, working to accelerate the flow of capital into the advanced energy sector.

Dan graduated with honors from the University of Michigan Law School, and has a B.A. from Alma College. He is licensed to practice law in both Michigan and Washington D.C., and has been honored as part of the 40 Under 40 classes by the Traverse City Business News (2010), Grand Rapids Business Journal (2014), and Midwest Energy News (2016). Dan lives with his family in Northport, Michigan.

### **John Shenot, Senior Associate, Regulatory Assistance Project**

John Shenot advises state utility commissions and environmental regulatory agencies throughout the United States on public policy best practices. A unifying theme throughout his work is the need to craft public policies that simultaneously meet societal objectives for affordable, reliable energy and environmental quality. Mr. Shenot's projects have included providing a series of training workshops and webinars for state and federal regulators on the air quality impacts of energy efficiency and renewable energy; planning and facilitating meetings of the Mid-Atlantic Distributed Resources Initiative (MADRI); and supporting several initiatives of the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network (SEE Action). He has also authored or co-authored a wide variety of RAP publications, available in RAP's library.

Mr. Shenot came to RAP after serving as policy advisor to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin from 2008 to 2011. He contributed to numerous commission investigations of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change topics. Mr. Shenot previously spent 15 years with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as an air pollution regulator and electric utility specialist.

Mr. Shenot is a member of the editorial board for the International Confederation of Energy Regulators' journal, The ICER Chronicle. He also served on the Air Quality Advisory Board for the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, from 2013 to 2016. In 2004, he was awarded an Atlantic Fellowship in Public Policy by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom for collaboration with regulators at the Environment Agency in Bristol, England.

Mr. Shenot received a bachelor's in engineering from the University of Maryland and a master's in resource policy from the University of Michigan.

### **Joseph Sullivan, Manager of Strategic Relations, Center for Energy and Environment**

Joe Sullivan is the Manager of Strategic Relations for the Center for Energy and Environment. Joe works with policy makers, regulators, utilities, energy advocates, and other key stakeholders to advance energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota.

Prior to coming to CEE, Joe worked as the Regional Policy Manager – West for Wind on the Wires (WOW). For WOW, Joe worked in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa to advance policies for wind power and transmission access. Joe also spent six and a half years representing a municipal power agency and greater Minnesota cities as a senior attorney at Flaherty & Hood P.A. in St. Paul, Minn. At Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked on renewable energy, transmission issues, state conservation goals, greenhouse gas reduction initiatives, net metering and Community-Based Energy Development issues. He's also represented Minnesota cities on nuclear waste issues and an electric rate case. Additionally, Joe has worked extensively with coalitions, particularly the Coalition of Utility Cities, on utility taxation issues. Prior to joining Flaherty & Hood, Joe worked in Washington, DC at the U.S. House Committee on Science and at the Internal Revenue Service.

Joe holds degrees from Marquette University and University of Wisconsin Law School.

Joe is currently on the advisory board for [Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund](#) and is a Board Member of the Region 9 Development Commission's Renewable Energy Task Force.

### **Mike Taylor, Principal of Knowledge, Smart Electric Power Alliance**

Mike Taylor is currently the Principal of Knowledge at the Smart Electric Power Alliance, having previously served as the Director of Communication, Education and also Research at various points in his 11 years with SEPA. Mike specializes in most things solar and some things battery storage, demand response and electric vehicles. Prior to SEPA, Mike spent seven years with the Minnesota State Energy Office working on renewable energy and fuels programs, and related electric utility regulations, including starting Minnesota's first state rebate program. Mike holds a master's degree in science, technology and environmental policy from the University of Minnesota and a bachelor's degree in environmental biology from St. Mary's University of Minnesota.

### **Michael Vickerman, Program and Policy Director, RENEW Wisconsin**

Michael Vickerman is Program and Policy Director of RENEW Wisconsin, a nonprofit membership organization headquartered in Madison. RENEW leads and accelerates the transformation to Wisconsin's renewable energy future through advocacy, education, and collaboration. Under Mr. Vickerman's direction from 1991 to 2012, RENEW formulated, and mobilized political support for, several major pro-renewable policies, including a statewide 10% renewable requirement by 2015, uniform siting and permitting standards for wind generators, and a renewable energy component to Focus on Energy.

In his present capacity, Vickerman advances the interests of renewable energy producers and purchasers in legislative and regulatory proceedings, as well as public forums. Through expert testimony, issue briefs, data gathering, presentations and commentaries, Mr. Vickerman shapes and drives the narrative forward on renewable energy development in Wisconsin.

Mr. Vickerman is also a member of the Sustainable Madison Committee (SMC), the body responsible for developing clean energy and carbon reduction policies for the City of Madison. In that capacity, he participated in the shaping and advancement of the City of Madison's Energy Workplan adopted in 2016. SMC's current priority is to commit the City to a 100% renewable energy/net zero carbon goal by a date certain. That resolution will act upon by the Madison Common Council in late March 2017.

### **Chris Villarreal, Director of Policy, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

Chris joined the Minnesota PUC in May 2015 as its Director of Policy. In this role, Chris provides policy research and assistance to the Commissioners and analyzes policy considerations for future and on-going policy development, including on issues such as grid modernization, rate design, data access and privacy, and cybersecurity.

Chris is the Chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Rate Design at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Under his leadership, the Staff Subcommittee recently released the "Distributed Energy Resources Rate Design and Compensation" Manual to assist utility commissions around the country in considering the impacts of distributed energy resources on rate design and compensation methodologies.

Chris is on the Board of Directors for the Smart Grid Consumer Collaborative, and is also on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB). At NAESB, Chris chairs the Energy Services Provider Interface (ESPI) Task Force which is the standard that supports Green Button, and the Data Privacy Task Force. Chris is also an Associate Member of the GridWise Architecture Council.

Prior to joining the Minnesota PUC, Chris spent 9 years at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as a Senior Regulatory Analyst. At the CPUC, Chris worked on a variety of CPUC proceedings, including on Smart Grid, data privacy and data access, cybersecurity, demand response, and rate design. Chris also authored several White Papers on topics such as pre-pay, cybersecurity, and microgrids. Before the CPUC, Chris worked in Washington, D.C. as an energy law paralegal focusing on FERC matters. Chris has a B.A. in History from Baylor University.