

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD**  
**February 25, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held February 25, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. the District Headquarters at 11306 Road 32, Sidney Nebraska, pursuant to written notice to each of the Directors and publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Legal Notice #L22-122, on February 16, 2022. The agenda was emailed to the directors, posted in the lobby and board room at Wheat Belt’s headquarters, and the availability of the agenda at the District office was part of legal notice.

Directors present at the meeting:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present

Employees present at times throughout the meeting: Lacey Gulbranson, Earl Reilly, Ryan Borges, Sharrell Keane, Jim Weeda, and Kelli Chaon.

Guests: Attorney Kendra Strommen and NREA Board Members: Rick Nelson (Interim General Manager), Pat Hecox (President), and Greg Strehle (Vice President/Secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by board President Brian Zimmerman, who noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Law in the boardroom and who established a quorum was present. Sharrell Keane recorded minutes at the request of Board Secretary Moe Moffat.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Milanuk moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Blackburn, and roll call vote with Directors voting as follows:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022

### Reading of the Meeting Notice

Morgan moved to waive the reading of the meeting notice; Milanuk seconded with roll call vote as follows:

Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Introduction of Guests –

Introduction of NREA Board Members: Rick Nelson (Interim General Manager), Pat Hecox (President), and Greg Strehle (Vice President/Secretary) along with Attorney Kendra Strommen.

### Public Comment Period

8:35 a.m. No comments were received.

### Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes

Moffat moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2022, regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Milanuk with roll call vote as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Board Evaluation

Results of the Board Evaluation Survey were discussed.

### Board Education

## **Meeting Minutes**

**February 25, 2022**

Chaon presented an overview of the Halsey Youth Camp participation and marketing efforts. Board discussion of making sure participation is open to all students in our territory, no customer affiliation necessary. Wheat Belt would continue to send up to 2 participants to the DC tour, but additional students can go but would be required to pay their own way. In addition to the current application process, they would like to see an interview and a presentation after the camp/tour.

## **NREA**

The NREA board representatives and Interim General Manager, Rick Nelson, had an open discussion regarding the current events and future strategic planning session for the NREA organization.

## **Safety Issues and Safety Meeting**

Reilly updated the board regarding both January Safety meeting and Safety Committee meeting.

## **Department Reports**

Operations and Maintenance – Reviewed by Reilly

Construction and Engineering – Reviewed by Borges

IT & Metering – Reviewed by Weeda

Corporate Services – Reviewed by Keane

### **Consideration of Irrigation Write offs**

Nothing new to report.

## **General Manager's Report**

Gulbranson reviewed her report focusing on the following items as outlined in the board book:

- Potential new load
- Leadership development
- Financial Reports
- Legislative and Regulatory updates
- Headquarters – water drainage
- NREA Legislative Position

The Headquarters water drainage bids were discussed and Gulbranson asked for an additional \$80,000 large item budget funding for outside main building repairs and correction to stop drainage issues. In addition, the desire to have Weiser Construction to present overview of plan to the board. Moffat made a motion to grant the additional large item budget funding of \$80,000; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

## Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

The NREA legislative positions were reviewed. Milanuk made a motion to accept the NREA Nebraska legislative position as Wheat Belt's state legislative position; Blackburn seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

## Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson reviewed the strategic planning documents within the board book and will present a 3-year detailed plan in May.

## Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book.

## FERC Interventions, Protests, and Settlement

Blackburn made a motion to support the Tri-State Member Coalition. Milanuk seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

## Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022

### Meeting reports

Gulbranson and Milanuk reviewed the NREA Meetings held in Lincoln on February 1-3. Keane reviewed CoBank Midwest Consumer Meeting held in Omaha Feb 16-17.

### Policy Review

Morgan moved to adopt Board Policies C-09, C-10, C-12, C-13, C-15 and C-16; which had no changes; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

Milanuk moved to approve policy C-11 with clarifications; Moffat seconded. Roll call vote as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

Moffat moved to adopt Board Policy C-14; Damage to Wheat Belt Property, which was updated based on recommended changes clarification, nondiscrimination, and easement purposes; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call vote as follows:

Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

## Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2022

Brian Zimmerman  Yes  No

Motion carried.

Upon approval the board reviewed two outstanding customer invoices that would be impacted by the changes to determine if there should be a write off based upon the changes to changes to Policy C-14. Blackburn made a motion to write off or adjust billing of the two invoices based upon the new policy; Morgan seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

## Future Meetings and Trainings

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed.

## Delegations/Organizational Items

The delegate list was reviewed. No further actions were taken.

## Other Business

The next regular board meeting is Friday, March 25, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Blackburn introduced discussion regarding current cold weather in relation to the disconnect policy. Not further action was taken.

## Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:29 p.m.

## Attest:

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Brian Zimmerman, President

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Brian Moffat, Secretary