

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD**  
**November 27, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held November 27, 2023, 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 #L23-733, on November 15, 2023. 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 type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" 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, Rollie Waite, Jim Weeda, Sharrell Keane, Nick Brauer and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen present

Guests present:

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 Consent Agenda**

Milanuk moved to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Waive the reading of the Meeting Notice
  - Regular Board Meeting Notice November 27, 2023
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
  - October 27, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Approve Policies with no Changes (E-20, E-20A, E-21, E-22, E-23, E-25, E-26, E-27, E-28, E-29, E-30, E-31, E-32, E-33, E-24, E-35, E-36, E-37)
- Item 5: Approve Polices with Changes (E-2, E-24)

The motion was seconded by Blomenkamp, and roll call vote with Directors voting as follows:

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Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<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 –

### Public Comment Period

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

### Board Education

Attorney Kendra Strommen presented an overview of the “Board vs Management” presentation that was presented at the NREA Legal Summit. Gulbranson asked for board guidance on how this pertains to the handbook that is in the creation process. The board advised to move forward with the changes using the presentation as the foundation for the decisions on which of the employee board policies will be moved to the handbook.

### Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Waite updated the board regarding the November Safety meeting.

### Department Reports

Engineering – Reviewed by Rollie Waite

Operations – Reviewed by Rollie Waite

IT & Metering – Reviewed by Jim Weeda

Corporate Services and Financials– Reviewed by Sharrell Keane

A break was taken by the board from 9:51 a.m. to 10:04 a.m.

### 2024 Budget Hearing

The budget hearing started at 10:04 a.m. with the proposed budget being reviewed by Keane. After discussing several potentials for change to the budget, Gulbranson indicated that if there were changes the budget would be brought back to the board in December to approve those changes. Moffat moved to approve the proposed 2024 budget; Morgan seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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Toni Blomenkamp	<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.

The budget hearing ended at 10:42 a.m.

## General Manager's Report

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

- Summary of Operations
- CREA Training
- Lodgepole – lengthy discussion was held regarding the requests Gulbranson has received from several members of the Lodgepole Council. Gulbranson will respond to Lodgepole with a request for additional information prior to presenting a proposal.
- Tri-State Demand Response
- Carbon America
- Christmas Party
- Federated – Gulbranson met with Federated this week and received notice to expect a 10% rate increase for 2024 due to the rising cost of industry claims being substantially more than previous years.

## 2024 Wage Increase

Gulbranson reviewed the Lineman wage Analysis and the Consumer Price Index as presented in the board book. A discussion was had regarding the midpoint comparisons between Nebraska, NRECA Regional and NRECA National. No action was taken, and the board requested that Gulbranson provide additional information regarding budget impacts.

## Public Comment Period

11:30 a.m. No comments were received.

## 2024 Rate Approval

Gulbranson reviewed the rates documents with the proposed changes as presented in the board book.

Milanuk made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the I-2, E-1, E-2 and E-3 rates and to approve C-2 with minor changes aligning the time of use timeframes to be consistent with the other policies. Blomenkamp seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows:

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Toni Blomenkamp	<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.

### Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book. A discussion was had regarding the impacts of United Power's position with Tri-State.

The board took a lunch break from 12:03 p.m. to 12:36 p.m.

### Strategic Plan Review

Gulbranson and Keane provided updates on the Strategic Plan.

### Executive Session – FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Due to the sensitive nature of ongoing and potential litigation, Milanuk moved to enter executive session to discuss FERC Contract Termination Pricing, FERC Contract Buy Down Pricing, FERC Formulary Rate Filing and Tri-State IRA Funding and the Colorado PUC. Moffat seconded followed by roll call vote with voting 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
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Executive Session:

The board entered Executive session at 12:53 p.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay.

Milanuk made a motion to end the executive session at 1:27 p.m.; Moffat 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
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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Motion carried.

Morgan made a motion to sign the stipulation requested by Tri-State with the filing to the PUC. The motion was seconded by Moffat. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Motion denied.

**Meeting reports**

No updates were provided.

**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**

Milanuk moved to correct the minutes from October 27, 2023, to reflect a unanimous vote on the Motion to file with FERC an answer in support of Poudre Valley Rural Electric Association and High Plains Power’s filing in response to United Power’s October 3, 2023 protest in opposition to Tri-State G&T’s Unexecuted Withdrawal Agreement. The motion was seconded by Blomenkamp. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<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.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, December 22, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

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**Adjournment**

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 1:35 p.m.

**Attest:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Zimmerman, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Moffat, Secretary