

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
March 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held March 22, 2024, 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 #L24-178, on March 14, 2024. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<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, Rollie Waite, Jim Weeda, Sharrell Keane, Mark Cape, Chris Schilz 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.

Introduction of Guests –

Public Comment Period

8:30 a.m. No comments were received.

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 March 22, 2024
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - February 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Approve Policies with no Changes (D-5, D-5, D-6, D-6A, D-7, D-8)

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The motion was seconded by Anderson, and roll call vote with Directors voting 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
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<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.

Line Extension Policy

Gulbranson reviewed the presentation contained in the board book regarding proposed changes to the line extension policy and items still under review. A new copy of the proposed policy was distributed to the board. Chaon reviewed contract updates that would occur based on the new policy and updates recommended by legal counsel. A lengthy discussion was had regarding the wording of the policy. Strommen provided clarity to the current and future contract process. Gulbranson indicated this topic would be reviewed in the April board meeting with follow up on contracts, policy wording and process.

Board Education

Chaon presented an overview of In Lieu of Property Tax referencing the presentation in the board book.

The board took a break at 9:22 a.m. and reconvened at 9:35 a.m.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Cape updated the board regarding the March Safety meeting. Cape indicated that the March board meeting minutes will be provided in the April meeting.

Department Reports

Engineering – Mark Cape reviewed the Engineering Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Operations – Rollie Waite reviewed the Operations Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

IT & Metering – Jim Weeda reviewed the Technology Department Report in the board book. In addition, Jim Weeda reviewed a presentation regarding the 2023 inventory process and lessons learned.

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Corporate Services and Financials– Sharrell Keane reviewed the Corporate Services report in the board book and financial reports.

General Manager’s Report

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

- Tri-state Contract Committee
- Work Order Process
- Carbon America
- City of Sidney
- Sidney Solar System
- Data Center / Bitcoin Mining
- Wheat Belt Logo

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Milanuk to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters. A roll call vote was taken 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
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

The board entered executive session at 11:00 a.m. and Gulbranson, Keane and Strommen were asked to stay.

Milanuk made a motion to end the executive session at 11:10 a.m.; Moffat seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<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
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book. Also reported the Tri-state annual meeting that will be held on April 2 -3 will be followed by a regular board meeting. Wheat Belt Directors can attend this meeting if they would like. Gulbranson then reviewed updates regarding the Tri-State contract committee and asked for guidance from the board. The board generally agreed with the information presented.

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson referred the board to the meeting minutes in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Public Comment Period

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

FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson reviewed her presentation providing updates regarding the FERC Contract Termination Pricing, FERC Buy Down Pricing and FERC Formulary Rate Filing

Meeting reports

Blomenkamp gave an overview of the NRECA PowerXchange that was attended in San Antonio.

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 indicated he would like to have a future discussion or to have the board members provide him with feedback on their stance regarding NREA's involvement in NRECA's international program.

Zimmerman asked for any other business and no additional business was brought forth.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, April 26, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:24 p.m.

Attest:

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Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary