

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
October 25, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held October 25, 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 #L24-706, on October 17, 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 type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" 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, Tim Jones, Kurt Cleveland and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen present

Guests present: Jerry Holdsworth from Arbor Wealth Management

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. Kendra Strommen recorded minutes at the request of Board Secretary Moe Moffat.

Public Comment Period

8:35 a.m. No comments were received

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Gulbranson asked for the removal of Item 5 from the consent agenda. Milanuk moved to approve the consent agenda containing the following items with the removal of Item 5:

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Legal Notices
 - Waive the reading Regular Board Meeting Notice October 25, 2024
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - September 27, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Policies with no Change(s)
- Item 5: Polices with minor changes (C-22 to A-9, C-23 to T-2, C-24, C-25, C-26 to E-7)

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The motion was seconded by Moffat, 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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.

Executive Session:

The board entered Executive session at 8:35 a.m., Gulbranson, Strommen and staff were asked to stay to discuss contract issues.

Mogan made a motion to enter the executive session at 8:35 a.m.; Blomenkamp seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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	

Motion carried

Milanuk made a motion to end the executive session at 8:55 a.m.; Morgan seconded. Roll call voting by the directors 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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

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Finance & Administrative Service Report

- 2025 the Capital Expense Budget
- Tim Jones reviewed the Financial Report in the Board Book.

Moffat moved to adopt the Large Budget items for 2024 -2027; Milanuk seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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	

Motion carried.

9:30am Tri-State G&T New ERA Press Conference

Introduction of Guests – Investment Update; Arbor Wealth

Policy Review

- Anderson moved to approve Item 5: Polices with minor changes (C-22 to A-9, C-23 to T-2, C-24, C-25, C-26 to E-7) from the Consent Agenda with the minor word clean up; Milanuk seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Motion carried			

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Retail Rates

Moffat moved to adopt rate schedules C-2 and I-1 wording clean up; Morgan seconded. Roll call vote 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

Motion carried

Cost of Living Increase and Merit Increase for Employee Wages

Moffat moved to adopt the employee wage increases of 4.25% COLA adjustment for employees with an additional 1% wage increase for employees receiving an "Exceeds Expectations" final rating on their October performance review; Blomenkamp seconded. Roll call vote 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present

Motion carried

Conflict of Interest – Updated Statute/Legal Guidance

Power Supply Report

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

- Cost of Power
- Contract Committee – next meeting will be November 18th.

Gulbranson presented a power point presentation on Tri-State’s potential Turn-Key member-based participation incentive program.

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FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson provided an update regarding FERC OATT Rate, FERC Contract Termination Pricing and Basic Stated Rate Intervener.

Executive Session:

The board entered Executive session at 11:17 a.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay to discuss FERC issues.

Milanuk made a motion to enter the executive session at 11:17 a.m.; Morgan seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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	

Motion carried

Moffat made a motion to end the executive session at 11:42 p.m.; Morgan seconded. Roll call voting by the directors 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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

Public Comment Period

No one from the public was present at the meeting.

Meeting reports

Nothing to report.

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Storm Damage Restoration

- FEMA Update
- Cost/Expense Update

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson provided an update and reminded everyone that there will be a meeting today.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Weeda updated the board regarding the October Safety meeting.

- Topic for training this month was accident investigation presented by Scott Ouderkirk
- Next month employees will sign the new safety manual to acknowledge they understand and agree with the current appendices.
- Next safety meeting will be November 8, 2024

Department Reports

Engineering – Kurt Cleveland 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 with nothing additional to add.

General Manager's Report

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

- General Operational Update
- Cost of Living and Pay-for-Performance
- Storm/FEMA Data Requests
- Military Facilities
 - We are in the process of working with our supplier to certify their compliance, we will then turn around and certify our compliance with the Power Review Board
- Christmas Party – January 3, 2025

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Morgan made a motion to modify the Line Extension Policy (E-1) to remove the “not to exceed \$1,000,000” clause. Moffat seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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.

Future Meetings and Trainings

- November Safety Meeting – November 8, 2024 (Morgan)
- November Board Meeting – November 22, 2024 (Budget Hearing followed by th board meeting)
- Strategic Plan Customer Committee – October 25, 2024 (Blomenkamp)
- Strategic Planning – January 29-30, 2025 at Tri-State G&T Westminster, CO
- NREA – December 4-6
- Midwest Electric Consumer Association – December 10-12
- Other Upcoming Meetings

Election of Delegates and Other Organizational Items

Milanuk made a motion to approve the voting delegate for the Midwest Electric Consumer Association to Gulbranson as the Delegate and Morgan as the Alternate; Blomenkamp seconded followed by roll call vote with voting 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present

Motion carried

Other Business

The next regular board meeting is Friday, November 22, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.


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Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:41 p.m.

Attest:



Brian Zimmerman, President



Brian Moffat, Secretary