

Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held November 22, 2024, following the budget meeting at 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 #L24-760, on November 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, Tim Jones, Mark Cape, Kurt Cleveland and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen present

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 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.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Legal Notices
 - Waive the reading Regular Board Meeting Notice November 22, 2024
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - October 25, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Policies with no change (n/a)
- Item 5: Polices with minor changes (C-27 to T-3, C-28, C-29 to A-10, C-30 to O-4)

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The motion was seconded by Blomenkamp, 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
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

Motion carried.

Introduction of Guests –

- Jay Spearman of Piper Sandler
- Rick Nelson and Greg Strehle, NREA

Public Comment Period

No comments were received.

Storm Damage Restoration

Gulbranson provided a report on the following:

- FEMA Update
- Cost/Expense Update
- Post-Storm Assessment Update and Conductor Inspection

Morgan made a motion to approve a new contract with RMA not to exceed the amount of \$75,000 to inspect 50 miles of line. Milanuk 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
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

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Marketing of Bonds and Reimbursement, Jay Spearman

Morgan moved to approve the Bond Reimbursement Resolution for \$3,000,000; Milanuk 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried

Anderson made a motion to approve the Bond Issuance Resolution of its revenue bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$5,000,000. Blomenkamp seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows:

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
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

Break from 9:50 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Construction Work Plan Update

- 2024 Review
 - Cape gave a presentation and provided a handout capturing the sum of the actual cost of each project, the sum budgeted, the percentage of the project completed and the money remaining in the budget.
- 2025 Look
 - Cape reviewed the projects that were completed in the 2024 and what projects will be carried over to future years.

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2025 Budget Approval*

Jones reviewed the latest version of the Statement of Operations, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and Large Budget Items. After discussing several potentials for change to the budget, Gulbranson indicated that the budget would be brought back to the board in December to approve those changes. Milanuk moved to approve the proposed 2025 budget; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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

Motion carried.

NREA Update, Rick Nelson and Greg Strehle

- Provided a Legislative update with specific discussion on Neb. Rev. Stat. 70-1012(2)(a) and 70-1014.02(2)(a).
 - Reference was made to the letter written by the Office of the Attorney General’s office to Tim Texel, Executive Director of the Nebraska Power Review Board
- Reminder to review the website: www.nrea.org
- Review of the financials

2025 Board Meeting Dates

Eckhardt moved to approve the proposed 2025 Board Meeting Dates; Moffat seconded, Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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

Motion carried.

Federated Insurance Renewal

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Milanuk made a motion to approve the renewal documents for Federated Insurance. Eckhardt seconded followed by roll call vote with voting 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<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 including cost of power with further discussion on the East/West rate.

Gulbranson reviewed the Tri-State Contract Committee main topics that are listed in the board book.

Lunch from 12:07 p.m. to 12:40 p.m.

Meeting reports

Eckhardt gave an overview of the Nebraska Power Association 2024 Annual Conference held on October 29-30, 2024, at Younes Conference Center South in Kearney, NE. The discussion focused on municipalities, innovation, power supply and AI.

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson reviewed the following:

- Customer Committee Initiative – Committee Minutes
- Strategic Planning Retreat – January 29-30, 2025

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Cape updated the board regarding the November Safety meeting.

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Department Reports

Engineering – Mark Cape and Kurt Cleveland attended the NREA Engineering conference November 6-7, gained some valuable information on railroads and obtaining permits for crossings. Cape reviewed the remainder of the Engineering Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Operations – Rollie Waite reported that outages were fairly minimal last month and reviewed the remainder of the Operations Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Technology – Jim Weeda along with Cape and Cleveland attended the NREA Engineering conference November 6-7 in Kearney. They heard about DERMS (Distributed Energy Resource Management System) and how it can be used to do complex load control across multiple utility systems. Weeda reviewed the remainder of the Technology Department Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Finance & Administrative Services – Tim Jones reviewed the Finance and Administrative Services report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Finance Reports – Tim Jones reviewed the final report for the period ending October 31, 2024 by highlighting the Statement of Operations, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow, Temporary Investments, Form 7 – Power Requirements, List of Checks, ACHs and Wires over \$5,000.00, Large Budget Items and Tri-State Invoice.

General Manager's Report

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

- General Update
- Storm/FEMA Data Request
- Policy E-1: Line Extension
- Military Facilities
- Tri-State Contract Committee

Future Meetings and Trainings

- December Safety Meeting – December 13, 2024
- December Board Meeting - December 23, 2024
- Wheat Belt Christmas Party – Friday, January 3, 2025
- Strategic Planning – January 29-30, 2025, at Tri-State G & T Westminster, CO
- Other Upcoming Meetings

Delegations/Organizational Items

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

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Public Comment Period

No comments were received from the public.

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 1:31 p.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay to discuss FERC issues.

Moffat made a motion to enter the executive session at 1:31 p.m.; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call voting by the directors 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
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

Motion carried

Milanuk made a motion to end the executive session at 1:45 p.m.; Eckhardt 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
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried

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Other Business

- The next regular board meeting is Monday, December 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 1:47 p.m.

Attest:



Brian Zimmerman, President



Brian Moffat, Secretary