

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
December 23, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held December 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. 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 #L24-806, on December 12, 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, and Kelli Chaon.

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

Introduction of Guests

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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 December 23, 2024
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - November 22, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The motion was seconded by Eckhardt, and roll call vote with Directors 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

- All Board members have an opportunity prior to voting to pull any item off of the Consent Agenda to discuss as its own issue.

Public Comment Period

No comments were received.

Bylaws – review and approval

Morgan moved to approve the Bylaw change specifically to the audit deadline that is reflected in the NE State Statute; Moffat 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

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Motion carried

Policy Changes

- Policy discussion on (C-5 to E-3, C-19 to O-5)

Milanuk moved to approve the proposed Policy change C-5 to E-3 and C-19 to O-5; Eckhardt 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

Audit Engagement

- 2024 Audit Engagement – Dana F. Cole
- Future Years Audit Engagement with discussion on auditing companies

Eckhardt made a motion to agree to have Dana F. Cole perform the annual audit for WBPPD; Milanuk 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

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Storm Damage Restoration

Gulbranson provided an update on the following:

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

2025 Issuance of Bonds

Gulbranson provided a white board presentation on bond reimbursement resolutions.

Discussion was held on proceeding with Jay Spearman or continuing to work with Piper Sandler. Discussion was also held on the emergency line of credit and the amount to issue the bonds. A consensus was reached that more discussion and information was needed prior to action being taken. This matter was moved to the January meeting.

2025 Budget Review & Amendment

Jones updated and reviewed the latest version of the Assumptions from original Budget (no changes from November), Operations Statements, Balance Sheet highlighting the differences from October, and the Cash Flow. Jones plans to provide a quarterly update on the Budget to the Board. The Budget was approved by a vote of unanimous consent at the November 2025 monthly board meeting.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting Minutes

Cape updated the board regarding the December 13 Safety meeting, no board member attended the meeting.

Department Reports

Engineering – Mark Cape reported on pole replacement, pole testing and CPR training as well as the status of the progress in Big Springs. Cape reviewed the remainder of the Engineering Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Operations – Rollie Waite reported that there was an outage with the ethanol plant, that they finished 2 miles of single phase out South, North of the River was also finished and that they are caught up on rotten pole replacements. Waite also said that Tri-State hosted a training session in Cheyenne in which WBPPD sent 4 apprentices. Waite reviewed the remainder of the Operations Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

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Technology – Jim Weeda reported that L & G are scheduled to upgrade to a new command system. Weeda reviewed the remainder of the Technology Department Report in the board book with nothing additional to add. Weeda presented a power point presentation on 12 essential cyber security layers.

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

Milanuk made a motion to write off \$6,927.20 in accounts that WBPPD is unable to collect; Eckhardt seconded followed by roll call vote with voting 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.

Finance Reports – Tim Jones reviewed the final report for the period ending November 30, 2024 by highlighting the Statement of Operations including the accounts receivable for the Chappell job and inventory moving into non-stock items in order to spread out over the month. Further review on the Balance Sheet and Statement of Cash Flow.

General Manager's Report

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

- General Update which provided taking a look at an employee pilot program
- A history of the Sidney Training Facility and the agreement
- Military Facilities
- Tri-State Contract Committee

Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book commenting on the most important item is the contract extensions.

Gulbranson reviewed the Tri-State Contract Committee including how she plans to vote on Recitals, Arbitration and language within the Arbitration clause in January.

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FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson provided an update regarding the FERC Order that was released in December highlighting the key takeaways.

Executive Session:

The board entered Executive session at 11:45 a.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay to discuss FERC issues. Morgan was asked to step out of the Executive Session.

Milanuk made a motion to enter the executive session at 11:45 a.m., Anderson 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 Blumenkamp	<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

Moffat made a motion to end the executive session at 12:03 p.m.; Milanuk 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Abstain
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blumenkamp	<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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Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson reviewed the following:

- Final 2022-2024 Strategic Plan Update
- Disband 2022-2024 Strategic Plan Committees
 - Culture – Stuart Morgan, Jennifer Eckhardt, Lacey Gulbranson, Tim Jones
 - Efficiency – Brian Zimmerman, Marcus Milanuk, Lacey Gulbranson, Andy Kuhns
 - Safety – Brain “Moe” Moffat, Collin Anderson, Mark Cape
 - Customer Experience – Toni Blomenkamp, Tim Jones, Kelli Chaon

Eckhardt made a motion to disband the Strategic Plan Committees; Moffat 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
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.

- Strategic Planning Retreat – January 29-30, 2025

Future Meetings and Trainings

- Wheat Belt Christmas Party – Friday, January 3, 2025
- January Safety Meeting – January 10, 2025
- January Board Meeting – January 24, 2025
- Strategic Planning – January 29-30, 2025, at Tri-State G & T Westminster, CO
- Other Upcoming Meetings

Election of 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.


Other Business

- The next regular board meeting is Friday, January 24, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:08 p.m.

Attest:



Brian Zimmerman, President



Brian Moffat, Secretary