

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD**  
**January 24, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held January 24, 2025, 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 #L25-050, on January 16, 2025. 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 8:00 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:** Jay Spearman, Northland Securities, available by telephone

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### Approval of the Consent Agenda

Eckhardt 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 January 24, 2025
  - General Manager Salary Notice
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
  - December 23, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The motion was seconded by Milanuk, 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 from the Consent Agenda to discuss as its own issue.

### Oaths of Office

- Mr. Morgan and Mr. Moffat were sworn in to serve WBPPD for another term

### Public Comment Period

No comments were received.

### Election of Officers

#### President:

The Chair was surrendered to the General Manager for written nominations for the office of President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of President. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Zimmerman and Eckhardt both received nominations. Gulbranson declared, "Zimmerman is elected as President."

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### **Vice President:**

The Chair was returned to President-elect Zimmerman who called for written nominations for Vice President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Vice President. Moffat, Eckhardt, and Morgan were nominated for Vice-President. Moffat respectfully declined the nomination.

Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Gulbranson declared, "Mogan is elected as Vice President."

### **Secretary:**

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Secretary. Moffat and Blomenkamp were nominated. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Gulbranson declared, "Moffat is elected as Secretary."

### **Treasurer:**

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Milanuk and Blomenkamp were nominated. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Gulbranson declared, "Milanuk is elected as Treasurer."

### **Assistant Secretary:**

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Assistant Secretary. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Blomenkamp was nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary. Gulbranson declared, "Blomenkamp is elected as Assistant Secretary."

### **NREA Board of Director:**

Each Director nominated a candidate for NREA Board of Director. Milanuk was nominated for NREA Board of Director. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Gulbranson declared, "Milanuk is elected as NREA Board of Director."

### **Tri-State Board of Director:**

Each Director nominated a candidate for Tri-State Board of Director. Morgan was nominated for Tri-State Board of Director. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Gulbranson declared, "Mogan is elected as Tri-State Board of Director."

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### Election of Delegations/Organizational Items

Milanuk made a motion to accept and approve the delegate reorganization to retain the current delegation structure in an election by acclamation; 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

Motion carried

### Policy Changes

- Policy discussion on (A-1 through A-6)

Milanuk moved to approve the proposed Policy change A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5 and A-6; Blomenkamp 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

The Board agreed to bring back Policy A-2 at next month's meeting for further discussion.

### Safety Issues and Safety Meeting Minutes

Cape updated the board regarding the January 10 Safety meeting, Moffat was the Board member guest at the meeting. Rubber glove testing and pickups have been inconsistent. Cape reviewed the remainder of the Safety Meeting Minutes in the board book with nothing additional to add.

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### Safety Bonus Consideration

- Gulbranson reported that a premium refund from Federated for Workers' Compensation has not been received. She suggested bringing this back next month for further discussion.
- Discussion on WC Experience Mod Summary with Workers' Compensation Loss Analysis and Cause of Injury Report provided in the board book.

### Department Reports

**Engineering** – Mark Cape reported on the following:

- In November we sent our Carlson staking equipment to have some repairs made. All the issues we were having were resolved, this has helped our efficiency by staking new projects.
- We are working on an alternate route for NDOT at Big Springs, if we receive easement, we will install another 8000' of primary UG that will be paid for by the State.

Cape reviewed the remainder of the Engineering Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

**Operations** – Rollie Waite reported on the recent outages and the work completed. Waite reviewed the remainder of the Operations Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

**Technology** – Jim Weeda reported on the Annual Physical Inventory Count. Weeda reviewed the remainder of the Technology Department Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Milanuk made a motion asking to inflate the inventory by \$16,439.04; Anderson 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 & Administrative Services** – Tim Jones reviewed the Finance and Administrative Services report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

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**Finance Reports** – Tim Jones reviewed the final report for the period ending December 31, 2024. Jones reminded the Board that WBPPD is still in the middle of the audit, everything reflects preliminary financials. Further review on the Balance Sheet highlighting the construction work and Statement of Cash Flow that can be found in the board book.

## General Manager's Report

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

- Sidney Training Facility – Panhandle group is interest in keeping a facility in Western Nebraska
- FEMA update – April 2024 Storm

## 2025 Issuance of Bonds

Jay Spearman provided an explanation and a presentation via telephone.

Discussion was held on proceeding with Jay Spearman in a joint venture with Piper Sandler and Northland Securities to issue bonds in the amount of \$4,700,000. Blomenkamp moved to approve the proposed joint venture to issue the bonds in the amount of \$4,700,000; 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Abstain)

Motion carried.

## Power Supply Report

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

Gulbranson reviewed what occurred at Tri-State Contract Committee.

Gulbranson explained that RMA is working on their final report for hopeful certification of roughly 63 miles of line that we are seeking reconductor/rebuild due to damaged conductor that is back in the air following the storm.

## Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson reviewed the following:

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- Power Supply – Others in our Space
  - Gulbranson provided a presentation on Power Supply Options/Information. Discussion ensued.
- Strategic Planning Retreat – January 29-30, 2025

## Future Meetings and Trainings

- Strategic Planning – January 29-30, 2025, at Tri-State G&T Westminster, CO
- February Safety Meeting – February 7, 2025
- February Board Meeting – February 28, 2025
- Other Upcoming Meetings

## FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson provided an update on the following:

- FERC Contract Termination Pricing
- FERC Bring Your Own Resource
- FERC Formulary Rate Filing
- Fair and Reasonable Tilt Coalition

## Executive Session:

The board entered the Executive session at 11:30 a.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay to discuss FERC issues.

Milanuk made a motion to enter the executive session at 11:30 a.m., Zimmerman 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 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

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Anderson made a motion to end the executive session at 12:03 p.m.; Eckhardt seconded. Roll call voting by the directors 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

## Public Comment Period

No comments were received from the public.

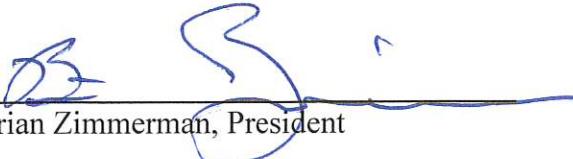
## Other Business

- The next regular board meeting is Friday, February 28, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.
- NREA legislative event/banquet coming up on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, in Lincoln, Nebraska
- Deadline for Accounts and Disclosure Department is March 1, 2025

## Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:38 p.m.

## Attest:

  
Brian Zimmerman, President

  
Brian Moffat, Secretary