

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**

**AUGUST 23, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by President Bernard Fehring, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, August 23, 2019, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp  
John Gortemaker  
Stuart Morgan  
Brian Zimmerman

Bernard Fehring  
Brian Moffat  
Doug Smith

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Jeff Rosenbaum, Senior Meter Technician; Jim Weeda, IT Manager; Andy Kuhns, IT/AMI Technician; Kelli Chaon, Executive Assistant; and Lacey Gulbranson, Energy Optimization Specialist.

Debra Schlaman recorded these Minutes at the request of the Board Secretary.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Bernard Fehring declared a quorum present.

Attention of the Directors and attendees was directed to the Open Meetings poster.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Item 9 under Financial Planning will be moved to the RUS Buy Out.

Gortemaker made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was by publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph on

Wednesday, August 7, 2019, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Morgan made a motion to waive the reading of the meeting notice. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Jay Spearman, Piper Jaffrey, Investment Banking Company

### **APPROVAL OF JULY 28, 2019, BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that there were no corrections to the July 28, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 8, 2019, SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that there were spelling and heading corrections to the August 8, 2019, Special Board Minutes, and with no further corrections, they would stand approved as published.

### **Public Hearing & Comment Period**

No one appeared.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was called at 8:35 a.m. to discuss FERC legal matters; and a personnel issue.

Motion was made by Zimmerman to go into Executive Session and Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl remained for the FERC legal matter issue. Morgan left the Executive session at 9:05 and returned at 9:10. Lindahl left the Executive session at 9:30 and returned at 9:40, during the personnel issue discussion.

The meeting resumed at 9:40 a.m. with a motion by Moffat. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **A break was taken at 9:40 a.m.**

### **The meeting resumed at 9:45 a.m.**

Mr. Spearman joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and spoke with the Board regarding the move to Piper Jaffray. He spoke about the services they provide and why he left Ameritas. Spearman reported that bond availability to local

ratepayers will remain, and the bonds are always sold in the State of Nebraska.

### **Financial – Item 9**

Gulbranson reviewed her financial strategy on the six goals and the plan itself. She explained callable bonds, the work plan, and how it all ties into future borrowing and long-term planning. Gulbranson explained future financing options. Lindahl indicated that he wants guidance going forward for financing purposes. Discussion, questions and answers followed.

### **Financial Planning Update/Debt Options Update**

Mr. Spearman reported on the current financial rates. He explained bond inversion to the Directors. Spearman distributed information on debt service schedule, rate information and anticipated rates in the future.

A lengthy discussion on options was held. Hostetler explained the RUS Cushion of Credit, and the options of staying in or buying out.

### **RUS Buyout**

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Zimmerman to buy out of RUS immediately. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **2014 Bond Refund/Reissue Resolution**

Following discussion, a motion was made by Gortemaker to approve Resolution 19-04 calling the 2014 Bond issue in the amount of \$2,235,000. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **New Bond Financing**

Following discussion, a motion was made by Gortemaker to approve Resolution 19-05 issuing new bonds not to exceed 4.3 million dollars for 34 years, to reimburse the construction account and to repay the 2014 Bonds. Smith seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Financing Plan**

The bond issue will be utilized to pay for the refunding of the 2014 issue in the amount of \$2,235,000. The remainder of the bond issue will be used to reimburse the construction account for previous expenditures. The construction account will be used to fund \$500,000 for the 2019 AMI budget, \$500,000 for the 2020 AMI budget, and \$540,000 for the 2020 work plan.

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Smith that the WBPPD municipal bonding be transferred from Ameritas to Piper Jaffrey with Jay Spearman. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lindahl reviewed several charts developed from the Nebraska G&T statistic report for 2018. These reflect where Wheat Belt stands with rates within the Nebraska systems. Lindahl explained that the graphs reflect key stats as to where Wheat Belt falls within the State for discussion purposes.

### **Legislative & Regulatory**

Lindahl indicated that there is an NREA committee that may be considering putting together a net metering bill.

A hearing on the rural broadband report will be conducted in December.

Lindahl explained the customer owned renewable distributed energy resources that were included in the Board book.

### **Financials**

The Financial Report was distributed under separate cover, and no questions were presented.

Lindahl reported that the new rate plan is helping with the low use of irrigation due to the wet season we've experienced.

### **Legal**

The NRECA Legal Reporting Service Reports were included in the Board book.

### **Rate I-2 – Time of Use IRRIGATION**

The TOU rate and irrigation rates were discussed. Following discussion, Fehringer directed Lindahl to revisit the irrigation rates for next year and look at doing a monthly reading to eliminate the "September 15 read."

**A lunch break was taken at 12:15 p.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 1:00 p.m.**

## **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

### **Tri-State Board Meeting**

Morgan had nothing to add to his report in the Board book. The Southwest Power Pool was discussed by Morgan.

The FERC item was discussed in Executive Session.

### **FERC Protest/Intervention**

Lindahl commented on supporting the FERC project/rate. Morgan commented also and discussion followed.

### **Colorado PUC Case**

Fehringer and Morgan commented.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **Infrastructure**

Gulbranson provided an update on her line loss research, as well as a glimpse of the plan to start finding ways to improve. She presented information regarding line losses by substation. Also included were overloaded and idle losses. Questions and discussion followed.

### **Financials**

Presented earlier in the meeting.

### **Broadband**

Lindahl included information in the Board book.

## **MEETING REPORTS**

### **NREA Summer Board Meeting**

Fehringer thanked everyone for attending the Special Board meeting.

Smith was elected to the Legislative Committee and Gortemaker was elected to the Statewide Committee.

## **State Broadband Task Force Meeting**

Lindahl reported that the Committee will be meeting again September 15<sup>th</sup>. A Draft report will be coming out and the public comment period will be until October 10<sup>th</sup>. He explained the Legislature's plans. Questions and discussion followed.

## **POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy E-19: Drug Free Workplace; Policy E-19A: Drug and Alcohol Testing; Policy E-20: Safety Policy; Policy E-20B: Emergency Management/Evacuation Plan; Policy E-20C: Hazard Communication Plan; Policy E-20D: Bloodborne Pathogen Program; Policy E-20E: Hearing Conservation Program; Policy E-20F: Powered Industrial Trucks; Policy E-20G: Fire Prevention Plan; and Policy E-20H: Energy Control (lock-out/Tag-out) Program.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies E-19, E-19A, E-20, E-20B, E-20C, E-20D, E-20E, E-20F, E-20G, and E-20H with no recommended changes. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy E-20A: Safety and Injury Prevention Program.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to approve the updates to names of Committee Members (deleting Bartels and adding Hruska) to Policy E-20A. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES**

The August 9th Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board. Guests: James Dukesherer – Grassroots presentation and Joel Duffield, NREA JT&S Instructor. Training: Pole Top/Bucket Rescue and May Day procedures.

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The August 9, 2019, Safety Committee Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board.

## **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

### **Major Outages**

No major outages were reported for the month.

### **Construction, Maintenance & Operations**

Reilly reported that we lost only one pole during the storms the last few days.

Harvest was busy, and we had poles that were damaged by machinery. We lost two poles, but no one was injured.

Moffat asked about moving the line at a feedlot. The customer is asking for a timeline. Reilly said he would give Borges the information.

## **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser had nothing further to add to her report.

### **Irrigation Write-Offs**

Wieser asked for approval of the following irrigation write-offs:

Location 42860, Account 20224 in the amount of \$445.82;

Location 40520, Account 17987 in the amount of \$825.60;

Location 90950, Account 49063 in the amount of \$754.60;

Location 90657, Account 48200 in the amount of \$191.13;

Location 90939, Account 49010 in the amount of \$1,068.33;

Location 90955, Account 49085 in the amount of \$684.42;

Total amount of \$3,969.90.

A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Smith to approve the Irrigation write-offs in the amount of \$3,969.90. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Rosenbaum reported that 15 more meters had been installed during the current week.

### **IT Report**

Weeda had nothing new to add to his report in the Board book.

### **Security Report**

Weeda added a Security report in the Board book and commented.

**FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS**

Peterson reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Directors.

**ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

**CFC**

Voting Delegate – Smith

Alternate Delegate – Morgan

Following discussion, the delegates will remain the same.

**Midwest Electric Consumers Association**

Voting Delegate – Zimmerman

Alternate Delegate – Fehring

Following discussion, the delegates will remain the same.

**The next regular Board meeting will be Monday, September 30, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**AUGUST BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bernard Fehring, President

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Brian Zimmerman, Secretary