

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

SEPTEMBER 30, 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., Monday, September 30, 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
Mo Moffat
Doug Smith

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jeff Rosenbaum, Senior Meter Technician; Jim Weeda, IT Manager; 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

Gortemaker made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Moffat 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, September 18, 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

Employee Advisory Committee: Birkel, Gaines, Gulbranson, Bartels, Wieser, Peterson (Ex Officio).

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 23, 2019, BOARD MINUTES

Fehringer announced that there were no corrections to the August 23, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

Public Hearing & Comment Period

No one appeared.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lindahl reported that a draft copy of the Broadband Task Force report was in the drop-box. There will be a meeting on October 18, 2019, to approve the final draft to be presented to the Legislature. A lengthy discussion followed.

Legislative & Regulatory

Lindahl included in the Board book, a list from NREA on the 2019 Interim Studies of Interest, for discussion purposes. Of interest to Wheat Belt is LR119 relating to disconnection or detachment of territory from the corporate limits of municipalities. Discussion followed.

Lindahl reported that Tri-State has asked him to write an article on Public Power.

Rate I1 and I2

Lindahl reviewed the calculations on the off-season energy rate for the irrigation rate schedules. He presented his recommendations to the Directors. Discussion and questions followed. Lindahl will present options at the October Board meeting for consideration/approval.

Financials

The Financial Report was distributed under separate cover, and Lindahl answered questions from the Directors.

Legal

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

BUDGET

The Wage Survey was presented by Birkel. The packet of information was mailed to the Board prior to the meeting for their review.

Fehringer thanked the Committee for their efforts in submitting the valuable information to the Directors. Questions followed the presentation.

A break was taken at 9:58 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:08 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was called at 10:10 a.m. to discuss FERC legal matters; Personnel (Wage and Salary); and Personnel (General Manager Evaluation.)

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

Lindahl remained for the employee discussion and the FERC legal matter report. Lindahl left the Executive session at 11:00 a.m. and returned at 11:30 a.m. He left during the General Manager Review Evaluation discussion.

The meeting resumed at 11:40 a.m. with a motion by Moffat. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Gortemaker that the employee benefits package remain the same for 2020, with the change from the NRECA vision plan to the VSP vision plan. Also, that \$84,000 be made available to mid-market and new hire steps for the employees. Also, that a 3.3 percent cost of living increase be granted for 2020. The 401K plan will remain the same. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Zimmerman for approval to close the office on December 24, 2020, and December 31, 2020, to allow for two four-day holiday weekends. The employees will use PTO or their personal day for one day and the Board granted an extra Holiday for the other day. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Moffat, to increase the General Manager's salary to \$190,000. Roll call vote: Yea: Blomenkamp, Fehringer, Gortemaker, Moffat, Morgan, Smith, and Zimmerman. Motion carried.

Policy D-6 – Board of Directors/General Manager Relationship Appendix A:

A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Smith, to add a sentence to Appendix A, Section I: ***“Item F. Provides an environment which encourages the development of a culture of safety and the practice of safety by all employees.”*** Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Fehringer announced that the By Laws will be on the Agenda for approval in December and suggested that the Directors begin reading them for any suggested changes prior to the meeting.

Financials

Budget and rates were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Broadband

Lindahl included information in the Board book and reported

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS

Tri-State Board Meeting

Morgan reported and reviewed his report included in the Board book. Questions from the Directors were answered and clarified. Discussion was held.

MEETING REPORTS

Tri-State Contract Committee Meeting

Nothing new to report.

State Broadband Task Force Meeting

Lindahl reported earlier in the meeting.

NREA Managers Meeting

Lindahl reported that most of the meeting was spent discussing net metering. Discussion was held on whether to be pro-active or reactive. It was decided to

have a Bill ready, just in case.

Legal Seminar

Lindahl and Wieser attended the meeting and reported on the presentations.

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

The meeting resumed at 12:57 p.m.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser added that Hruska provided information to the Sun Telegraph for an article on the Don Winkelman Training Field. The paper contacted Wheat Belt again for more information. Wieser contacted Bob Cooper, who is the retired Safety Director for NREA. He will write an article and send to us for approval for use by the Sun Telegraph.

Wieser reported that the PCS Regional Meeting will again be held at Wheat Belt in October.

Irrigation Write-Offs

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

Location 41840, Account 19430 in the amount of \$359.14;

Location 21651, Account 11041 in the amount of \$263.37;

Location 20415, Account 91821 in the amount of \$307.85;

Total amount of \$930.36.

Zimmerman made a motion to approve the irrigation write-offs in the amount of \$930.36. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Policy E-21: Harassment; Policy E-22: Smoking Policy; Policy E-23: Return to Work; Policy E-24: On-Call Compensation; Policy E-25: First Aid and CPR Certification; Policy E-26: Suggestion Plan; Policy E-27: Employee Behavior; Policy E-28: Grievance Procedure; and Policy E-29: Guidelines for Discipline and Termination. A motion was made by Smith to readopt Policies E-21, E-22, E-23, E-24, E-25, E-26, E-27, E-28, and E-29 with no recommended changes. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Yea: All present. Motion carried.

SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The September 13th Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board. Training: Gridstream AMI presented by Andy Kuhns.

Lindahl announced that the Health Fair will be October 24th.

The Wheat Belt Christmas Party will be held at Buffalo Point. No date has been set.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Major Outages

No major outages were reported for the month.

Construction, Maintenance & Operations

Reilly reported that there had been a rash of farm machinery incidents this month. Postings were made to Facebook and the Wheat Belt website to “slow down, be safe and pay attention.”

Borges reported that the replacement of five miles of 336 MCM wire with T2 1/0 wire on the northwest circuit of the Chappell Substation project had been completed.

Reilly explained the pre-paint procedure for the new Unit 22 digger truck to the Directors.

METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Rosenbaum reported that a few 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 advised the Directors to watch for the Knowbe4 trainings.

The RC3 onsite visit was held at Wheat Belt.

FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS

Peterson reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Directors.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Basin Electric

Voting Delegate – Morgan
Alternate Delegate – Fehringer

Following discussion, the delegates will remain the same.

Touchstone Energy

Voting Delegate – Fehringer

Following discussion, the delegate will remain the same.

Lindahl received an update on the NREA Electric Vehicle Resolution at the NRECA Regional meeting and informed the Board.

The next regular Board meeting will be Friday, October 25, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bernard Fehringer, President

Mike Blomenkamp, Assistant Secretary