

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

**NOVEMBER 22, 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, November 22, 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  
Moe Moffat  
Doug Smith

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Lacey Gulbranson, Corporate Services Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jim Weeda, Technology Manager; and Kelli Chaon, Executive Assistant.

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. Zimmerman 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, November 6, 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. Moffat seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

No guests were present.

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 25, 2019, BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that there were no corrections to the October 25, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

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

No one appeared.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lindahl reported:

The 2019 NREA Legislative/Regulatory Policy Statement was included in the Board book for discussion.

The Salary and Review Committee for NREA, appointed Dave Jarecke as the interim General Manager. Lindahl is on the Committee, but was unable to attend the meeting. He has voiced his concerns about the appointment.

Lindahl and Morgan reported on the Responsible Energy Plan. Questions and discussion followed.

There will be a two percent increase in the NRECA dues, which was included in the Board book. Discussion followed.

Personnel changes have taken place.

The Wheat Belt office will be closed November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Thursday and Friday, for Thanksgiving.

Bid were received to remove the crushed concrete and replace with crushed asphalt millings. The low bid is just under \$15,000, which includes some grading to improve drainage, removal of some of the concrete (to be saved for other parts of the property), and to replace with asphalt millings. Lindahl asked for an exception to the budget to begin the work yet this year and would carry the expenditure into next years budget if necessary. A motion was made by Gortemaker to grant the exception to the budget in the amount of \$15,000. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried. Smith asked about the metering errors and Lindahl responded. An initiative was

launched to recheck every single CT meter again. Lindahl will report next month.

Closed on the Bonds and the money is in the Bank. Hostetler reported.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was called at 9:27 a.m. to allow Morgan to present a Tri-State update and personnel issues.

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

Lindahl remained for the Executive Session.

The meeting resumed at 10:07 a.m. with a motion from Moffat and second by Zimmerman. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**A break was taken at 10:10 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 10:18 a.m.**

### **FERC RATE INTERVENTION AND PROTEST**

Following discussion, Wheat Belt will continue to operate under the previous Motion.

### **BUDGET**

#### **2020-2023 Large Item Budget**

Lindahl reported that the attorney fees for the FERC case were not included in the Budget. \$250,000 will be added as a placeholder in the 2020 Budget.

Lindahl, Borges and Gulbranson provided a Bridgeport Ethanol update.

Lindahl will present the final 2020 Budget at the December Board meeting.

Lindahl reported that wording changes needed to be made in two Rates that were approved last month.

#### **2020 Retail Rates**

##### **Rate E-3 – Distribution Heavy Industrial**

Under Power Factor Charge – delete “retail demand and”; change to “connected transformer capacity and”....Smith made a motion to readopt Rate E-3 with the

suggested changes. Moffatt seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Rate I-2: Time of Use Irrigation**

Under Rates – delete “On Peak” and change to “Off Season”. Smith made a motion to readopt Rate I-2 with the suggested changes. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Pole Attachment Rate**

Lindahl reported that NPPD is making changes in their pole attachment rates. We will not be charged, and we will continue to not charge them. A future pole attachment policy will be presented for discussion and approval. Going forward, discussion on the need to develop a pole attachment rate relating to broadband may be needed.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Gulbranson provided updated information in the Board Book for review on the Strategic Issues. She reviewed her line loss presentation that was provided in August and updated the Directors.

### **Community Solar Project**

Lindahl reported on Tri-State approving a community solar program. Community solar projects do not count towards our five percent self-generation.

## **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

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

Morgan reported. Questions from the Directors were answered and clarified by Morgan and Lindahl. Morgan reported on the rating downgrade. Tri-State will make margins that they need to keep the debt service ratio intact.

### **Midwest Report**

Lindahl mentioned that a new manager had been hired.

A discussion was held on MEAN rates, and purchase power.

## MEETING REPORTS

### NRECA Strategic Planning Advisory Council

Lindahl included a General Purpose Statement in the Board book for review. Lindahl is the Vice Chairman of the Council.

### Tri-State Contract Committee Meeting

Morgan reported that they are working aggressively to have contracts available by April.

## POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

**Policy C-9: Disconnect for Nonpayment** – Paragraph 3 – remove the irrigation paragraph due to the alignment with other rates.

**Policy E-29: Guidelines for Discipline and Termination** – Recommended change of the word “and” to “or” in paragraph 4.

**Policy E-30: Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records; Policy E-31: Change in Work Hours and Premium Rates; Policy E-32: Exchange Time; Policy E-33: Military Leave for Reservists; Policy E-34: Personal Use of Wheat Belt Tools or Equipment; Policy E-35: Prevention of Identity Theft; and Policy E-36: Procurement.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies C-9 and E-29 with the recommended changes; and readopt Policies E-30, E-31, E-32, E-33, E-34, E-35, and E-36. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The November 13th Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board. Training: ATV/UTV Training was presented by NREA JT&S instructor Joel Duffield.

The 2020 Safety Meeting Schedule was included in the Board book. A director sign-up sheet to attend the Safety Meetings will be presented next month.

## CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

### Major Outages

Reilly reported and reviewed his report.

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

Reilly reported that the crews had been inspecting all the CT metered services and will provide a final report next month.

### **Capital Budget**

Reilly reported that the new digger truck, Unit 22, was delivered November 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Coldwater Creek Substation**

Reilly reported that some of the materials have a three to four-month lead time. The goal is to have the substation on line by June, 2020.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Gulbranson reviewed her report in the Board book. New rate books will be sent to customers the first part of December. The new rates are on the website, on the statements, on Facebook and in the Magazine.

### **Irrigation Write-Offs**

Gulbranson asked for approval of the following irrigation write-off:

Location 00710, Account 1041 in the amount of \$879.26.

Smith made a motion to approve the irrigation write-off in the amount of \$879.26. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Weeda reported that more meters were installed this month. He had nothing further to add to his report.

### **IT Report**

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

### **Security Report**

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

### **FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS**

Shelley reviewed upcoming meetings with the Directors.

**Board Round Table**

Fehringer asked the Directors if they had anything further to be addressed.

**The next regular Board meeting will be Monday, December 23, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bernard Fehringer, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Zimmerman, Secretary