

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

**MARCH 22, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by Vice President Stuart Morgan, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, March 22, 2019, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp  
Brian Moffat  
Doug Smith

John Gortemaker  
Stuart Morgan  
Brian Zimmerman

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jeff Rosenbaum, Senior Meter Technician; Jim Weeda, IT Manager; Lacey Gulbranson, Energy Optimization Specialist; and Kelli Chaon, Executive Assistant.

Absent: Bernard Fehringer

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice President Stuart Morgan 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. 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 Friday, March 8, 2019, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is

attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Zimmerman 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**

Morgan introduced Kim Christiansen, CEO of NREA. Guests appearing at a later time were: Josh Walker, ESC Engineering; Jennifer Goss, Tri-State; Sally Atkins, Congressman Adrian Smith's Office; Eric Reimers, Engineering Technician; Jordan Peters, Equipment Operator/Lineman. Marcus Milanuk, previous Board Director, was also present.

### **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019, BOARD MINUTES**

Morgan announced that there were no corrections to the February 20, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

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

No one appeared.

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

Lindahl reported that Bass Pro is closing the Cabela's Distribution Center. Gulbranson did an analysis on the impact it will have on our margins and reported.

A letter was received from NISC regarding unretired patronage, and whether or not Wheat Belt would accept an offer of 20 percent of the total to retire the balance. Hostetler recommended that Wheat Belt accept the cash offer of \$1,195.95. Smith made a motion to accept the offer to retire the patronage. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl reported that the E-3 Rate is still on the table and will remain there at this time.

Lindahl updated the Board on the heat pump program in which he and Waite are participating. He received data from EPRI and Tri-State. Lindahl reviewed the data and graphs and showed the commercial that Tri-State is presenting on the heat pumps. Lindahl answered questions from the Directors.

Lindahl reported that the gross revenue taxes to Morrill and Cheyenne County have been paid and reported the amounts.

Smith asked how the storm treated Wheat Belt and Lindahl reported.

## **Financials**

The Financial Report was distributed under separate cover.

The auditors will report at the April Board meeting on the 2018 Audit. The year-end, January and February figures were in the Board book. Lindahl signed the Engagement letter with Dana F. Cole, auditing firm, for the next three years of services.

Lindahl reported on the February energy purchases. We peaked outside the window again with a \$12,667 savings. We have added a little load from industrial customers. The graphs in the Financial Report were discussed. Demand and Energy were higher than last year.

## **9:00 a.m. Presentation of Interconnection/Interoperation Study – ESC Engineering**

Josh Walker from ESC distributed information to the Directors covering the information he would be presenting on the Ethanol Plant Interconnection.

Mr. Walker presented his information and answered questions from the Directors. He stated that he “one hundred percent recommends an Interconnection Agreement” based on the study he had completed. Lindahl reported and discussion among the Directors and Mr. Walker followed.

We need further information from WAPA in order to proceed.

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

**The meeting resumed at 9:51 a.m.**

Lindahl continued with his General Manager’s Report following the break.

Some Wyoming systems asked to join intervention in the Colorado PUC matter involving DMEA and Tri-State.

Lindahl reported that at the NRECA Annual Meeting, he participated in a meeting concerning the Air Force. At an upcoming meeting in DC, Lindahl and other area system representatives will be having meetings with the Air Force and elected officials concerning infrastructure. Wheat Belt has twenty-seven accounts including missile sites and command bases.

Lindahl reported on “islanding” on a microgrid. This is a topic to be discussed as a utility industry concern.

## **Legislative & Regulatory**

Net metering was the most active state level item this month.

## **Legal**

Lindahl included the BWJ bill on the Colorado PUC. The bill was divided among the four systems involved.

## **Other**

Lindahl reported that Tom Mathine became a certified drone pilot. Wheat Belt purchased a drone. Lindahl showed a video taken by the drone while conducting line checking and meter checking. Borges and Lindahl reported and discussion followed.

Lindahl announced that the truck barn and adjoining land has been sold. The money is sitting in a trust account at Matzke and Mattoon's office until we receive notification that the liens have been released.

Lindahl met with Ed Sadler and Melissa Norgard at the City a few weeks ago regarding economic development issues. Lindahl would like to put together a package on our "economic development" items that we currently offer, such as line extension, etc. as development incentives.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Gulbranson has been tasked with overseeing the overall Strategic Plan. She has designed a graphic on the plan. Each strategy has an "owner" and Gulbranson has met with each of them to develop their plans. A one-page overview of strategic goals will be presented next month. The Plan will be adopted, officially, next month or in May.

## **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

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

Morgan had nothing more to add to his report in the Board book. The PUC hearing is June 17<sup>th</sup>. Morgan met with the new CEO at the Annual meeting. He will be introduced at the Tri-State Annual meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Morgan reported on the Bylaw changes and explained why the changes are being made.

## MEETING REPORTS

### NRECA Annual Meeting

Peters and Reimers reported on the Annual meeting and thanked the Board for allowing them to attend with their spouses. Lindahl stated that Cooperative.com has videos from the meeting on their site. The Youth Leader gave a great speech.

### CoBank

Lindahl reported on the Electric vehicle presentation workshop, which was a hot topic and very well attended.

### Nebraska Rural Broadband Taskforce

Lindahl reported that there is a meeting Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and they will be taking a look at agricultural technology.

## POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

**Policy C-18: Dissemination of Customer Information; Policy C-19: Customer Requested Service Connections or Disconnects After Business Hours; Policy C-20: Service Sizing Requests (Single Customer); Policy C-21: Energy Efficiency Credit Rebates; Policy C-22: Reward for Damage Reporting; Policy C-23: Net Metering; Policy C-24: Irrigation Capacitor Rebate Program; Policy C-25: Irrigation Disconnect Rebate Program; and Policy C-26: Double Throw Installation.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies C-18, C-19, C-20, C-21, C-22, C-23, C-24, C-25, and C-26 with no recommended changes. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Morgan discussed the flooding situation in eastern Nebraska. The NREA Facebook page has three vetted sites for donations. Discussion among the Directors, Kim Christiansen and staff followed. Borges reported that the Dalton Fire Department sent a 26' trailer of supplies to Winslow, a small town of a 100 people.

## SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The March 13, 2019, Safety Meeting was cancelled due to the blizzard. The March Safety Meeting was held on March 15, 2019, and Borges reported. The Minutes were not available for the Board book. They will be included in the April Board book.

## **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

### **Major Outages**

Borges reported that there were eleven outages during the blizzard storm. Over all, we were very lucky.

## **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser had nothing to add to her report. She thanked Kim Christiansen, Gary Myers from Tri-State and Sally Atkins, Congressman Adrian Smith's Office for attending the Customer Meeting. She also thanked all the employees for their help which is very much appreciated.

## **METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Rosenbaum reported that we received two collectors, and that the Gridstream meters and routers should be arriving soon.

### **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.

Marc Milanuk, former Board of Director, was in attendance at the meeting and questioned the Panhandle Solar advertising. Discussion followed.

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

Peterson reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Directors.

## **ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

Milanuk was still listed at the Voting Delegate at the NRECA Directors Election (at NREA). Following discussion, a motion was made by Gortemaker to appoint Blomenkamp as the Voting Delegate at NRECA Directors Election (at NREA) and Gortemaker as the Alternate Delegate. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Other**

Kim Christiansen, NREA CEO, reported that they had received a grant to hire an intern. Any college students interested in a 10-15 hours a week internship, are

encouraged to apply.

**The next Board meeting will be Friday, April 26, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**The Customer meeting will follow the Board meeting.**

**MARCH BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Stuart Morgan, Vice President

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Brian Zimmerman, Secretary