

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

**APRIL 26, 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, April 26, 2019, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp	Bernard Fehring
John Gortemaker	Brian Moffat
Stuart Morgan, left @ lunch time	Doug Smith, left @ 1:30 p.m.
Brian Zimmerman	

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jim Weeda, IT Manager; Lacey Gulbranson, Energy Optimization Specialist; 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**

The Investment Report would follow the Executive Session. Item G – Bridgeport Ethanol Interconnection/Interoperation Agreement under the General Manager's Report, would be discussed at 10:00 a.m.

Morgan 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 Wednesday, April 10, 2019, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Gortemaker 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**

Fehringer introduced Mike Skow and Doug Millay from Dana F. Cole, and Mark Churchill and Jerry Holdsworth from Arbor Wealth.

Attorney, Kendra Strommen was also present.

## **APPROVAL OF MARCH 22, 2019, BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that there were no corrections to the March 22, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

## **Public Hearing & Comment Period**

No one appeared.

## **INVESTMENT REPORT**

Mark Churchill of Arbor Wealth Management distributed the current position of the portfolio to the Directors. Churchill reported on how he and Hostetler are handling the monies. CD's are being used for short-term investments. Questions from Lindahl and the Directors were answered by Churchill and Hostetler.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was called at 8:58 a.m. to discuss the Bridgeport Ethanol Plant and a brief legal update. Lindahl, Gulbranson, Weeda and Borges remained for the session.

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

The meeting resumed at 9:32 a.m. with a motion by Gortemaker. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**A coffee break was taken at 9:32 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 9:43 a.m.**

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

Lindahl reported that the truck barn has been sold and the money deposited. The transaction has been finalized.

Lindahl reported that there are electrical issues in the new headquarters building and Reichert is covering all of the electrical safety issues in the building, especially those in the IT room, which was not connected to the generator. There is still money in an escrow account for Hewgley and Associates for final payment.

Lindahl reported that we weathered the storms well. Road closures were discussed by the Directors and the General Manager.

### **Legislative & Regulatory**

Lindahl reported that the District 47 managers, still have conference calls with Senator Erdman on a weekly basis.

Lindahl and Chaon will be attending the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, the week of April 29th. They will be meeting with officials regarding military infrastructure.

### **Financials**

The Financial Report was distributed under separate cover.

The 2018 Audit Report was presented at 11:30 a.m.

Lindahl reported that we peaked outside the window again and saved \$42,000. Margins are still in the negative due to storms and overtime labor.

### **Legal**

The NRECA Legal Reporting Service Reports as well as the Federated Litigation Reports were included in the Board book.

Tri-State filed a case against the DMEA and the PUC in Adams County. It was dismissed. Discussion followed and Morgan reported.

## **Rural Broadband**

Lindahl reported that they continue to work with telecommunications providers on how best to partner.

## **Bridgeport Ethanol Interconnection/Interoperation Agreement**

Tri-State was connected via conference call, to the meeting at 10:08 a.m. Dave Kramer and Ted Free representing the Bridgeport Ethanol were present. Wheat Belt attorney, Kendra Strommen was also present for the discussion.

Our engineers stated that we need to have an Interconnect Agreement. Lindahl stated that we are bound by WAPA and Federal laws under NERC. Additional metering and protection equipment are needed, and additional CT's will need to be installed. The fees and expenses were discussed in detail. Tri-State reported on the approximate costs of the additional CT's.

Dave Kramer reported on Q45 tax credits (carbon credits) for injecting CO2 into the ground.

A three-party agreement with the facility owner, member and Tri-State is needed by Tri-State, in conjunction with the Interconnect Agreement.

The call with Tri-State ended at 10:54 a.m.

The E-3 Rate will be revisited when agreements move forward.

Blomenkamp made a motion to give the General Manager authority to enter into an interconnect agreement with Bridgeport Ethanol Plant, making an exception to Policy, pending legal review. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Gulbranson presented the Strategic Plan Mission Statement – “Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.” Gortemaker made a motion to accept/approve the Strategic Plan Mission Statement. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Staff and owners have met with Lindahl and Gulbranson to set goals and direction. Gulbranson reviewed all of the plans and explained and answered questions.

A change to the Modern Energy Plan was suggested. The fifth bullet should read “Provide recommendations to the board regarding electric vehicle options.” A motion was made by Gortemaker to approve the 2019-2021 Strategic Plan with

the wording change to the Modern Energy Plan. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl reported that a Broadband Task Force meeting will be held in Lincoln Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **DISTRICT AUDIT REPORT**

Mike Scow and Doug Millay of Dana F. Cole and Company presented the 2018 Audit Report to the Directors and answered questions.

Morgan made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss with the Auditors the Audit Report at 11:55 a.m. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made to return to the meeting at 11:58 a.m. by Moffat. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Gortemaker to approve the Audit Report as presented by the Auditors. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl reported that a Civil Rights Audit will be conducted June 6, 2019.

### **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

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

Morgan reported and discussed margins, which are way above budget, but will probably be close to budget at the end of the year. Morgan reported that the new CEO will keep things status quo, no major changes in the near future.

The Colorado PUC case was briefly discussed.

**A lunch break was taken at 12:10 p.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 12:50 p.m.**

### **MEETING REPORTS**

#### **UNL College of Law Rural Broadband Symposium**

Lindahl reported that Microsoft is showing a desire to get into rural broadband. They have pilot projects in a few rural states.

### **Tri-State Annual Meeting**

Morgan reported that the meeting went smoothly. He felt that having the By-Law meeting early helped. Lindahl, Smith and Morgan reported on a “security event” at the meeting

### **Nebraska Rural Broadband Taskforce**

Lindahl reported earlier.

### **POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy C-27: Line Interference; Policy C-28: Billing Adjustments; Policy C-29: Request for District Information; Policy D-1: Director Compensation and Expense Report Approval – (suggested removing the Assistant Treasurer, since we do not elect one); Policy D-2: Director Insurance; Policy D-3: Student Scholarships; Policy D-4: Selection of General Manager; Policy D-5: Board of Directors Duties; and Policy D-5A: Board of Directors Duties.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies C-27, C-28, C-29, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-5, and D-5A with no recommended changes, and D-1 with wording changes. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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

The March 15<sup>th</sup> Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board. Training was conducted at the meeting on Gridstream Meters and Checking Meters with Probes.

The April 12<sup>th</sup> Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Directors. NREA JT&S instructor Joel Duffield conducted RESAP Review and walk through with the employees.

### **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

#### **Major Outages**

Borges had nothing further to add to the report in the Board book.

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

Borges reported that the construction crew completed a large temporary service.

### **20 kW Net Metering Exemption Consideration**

Borges reported that a customer already has a 25kW solar system and they are wanting to add another 20kW.

Staff would recommend approval of the additional 20kW to be installed and interconnected provided some conditions are met. Namely: consumer and installer address production voltage concerns; new interconnection application and agreement are completed; and a new state electrical inspection is completed.

Following discussion, Moffat made a motion to approve the exception to our usual policy and consumer has to provide safety requirements as set forth, state electrical inspection has to be conducted, and a new interconnection agreement has to be signed. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser reported on the plans for Gold Rush Days. Tri-State will provide the Touchstone hot air balloon (weather permitting) and Touchstone will make a donation to a local charity, on Wheat Belt's behalf. Wieser felt the flood relief effort through the Orphan Train would be chosen. Wheat Belt will provide a brat feed supper and giveaways. Tri-State is also providing giveaways and covering the cost of the meal.

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

Rosenbaum was reading meters and did not 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**

Peterson reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Directors.

**The next Board meeting will be Friday, May 24, 2019, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**APRIL BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bernard Fehringer, President

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Brian Zimmerman, Secretary