

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

MAY 22, 2020

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, May 22, 2020, 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, Earl Reilly, Operations Manager, and Lacey Gulbranson, Corporate Services Manager, via video conference.

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

Smith made a motion to approve the May 22, 2020, Agenda as presented. Gortemaker 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, May 6, 2020, 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

No guests were present.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 24, 2020, BOARD MINUTES

Fehringer announced that with no corrections to the April 24, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes, they would stand approved as published.

Public Hearing & Comment Period

No one appeared before the Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lindahl began with:

Personnel

Lindahl reported that there are 28 full-time employees. Wieser's retirement was announced.

Legislative & Regulatory

Lindahl included a breakdown of the election results for the State in the Board book. Lindahl reported that there are 17 days left in the Session which will resume July 20, 2020, with a focus on the budget.

Legal

Lindahl included the NRECA Legal Reporting Services report in the Board book.

Other

Lindahl reported that the broadband topic has surfaced again and has been highlighted by the needs of remote work and schooling. He participated in several meetings concerning funding and partnership and reported to the Board.

Lindahl reported that we had Tri-State's Tesla Model 3 electric car to test drive. He will return the car on May 27th and it was available for any director to drive if interested.

Chaon reported on the Chrysler Pacifica that we are leasing through Co-Bank. Tri-State is designing a wrap for us to advertise the electric vehicle.

Financials

The Financial Report was presented under separate cover.

Lindahl reported a correction in the Financial Report on pg. 1-2. The weighted booked annualized interest rate should be 2.8690%.

Lindahl reported on the “Dashboards” in the G-Suite that he has developed and showed several graphs and reported to the Board.

The AMI data is being reviewed by Lindahl and Gulbranson. The data will show if our existing rates are proper and show the contribution to peak by all classes and allow us to set our TOU pricing more closely. There is a lot of data to be reviewed.

Covid-19 Update

Lindahl reported that Gulbranson is working with the CDC and OSHA to establish a long-term office plan or procedure. The office has been opened to non-employees and customers by appointment only. We ask any non-employee who enters the facility to wear a mask and sanitize their hands. We have masks and sanitizer available in the vestibule.

A “sneeze shield” will be installed at the front desk for customers to hand in a payment. We are targeting opening the office to the public on June 1st. Any non-employee behind the shield will need to wear a mask. Business continuity is the main concern.

Disconnect Procedures

Chaon reported that last month only two customers were on the payment plan. Following discussion and questions, a motion was made by Moffat to continue the current plan for one more month. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: yea: All present. Motion carried.

Legal Update

Lindahl had a meeting with Adrian Smith. They discussed the Republican priorities which hopes to have some liability protection in place for next month.

A break was taken at 9:50 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:00 a.m.

District Audit Report

The final Audit Report was not available for the Board meeting and will be acted upon at the June Board meeting.

Consideration of Sale of Sidney Annex Property

Lindahl reported that Gulbranson and Strommen are working on releasing the Liens on the property/building from RUS. RUS has agreed to release all the Liens on our properties. Lindahl signed a Purchase Agreement, and the closing date is scheduled for June 5, 2020. All criteria have been met for the sale to move forward.

Bond Issue Parameter Resolution

Lindahl included the latest bond information from Jay Spearman in the Board book. Lindahl will continue to monitor the rates.

FERC Rate Intervention and Protest

Lindahl reported and discussion followed concerning the DMEA challenge and United's filing against Tri-State.

Lindahl reported on the Standby Service Rate and discussion followed.

Lindahl reported that a FERC protest was filed on the DMEA settlement rate. We also filed on the contract buyout method rate to ensure that it does not have a negative effect on our settlement proceedings on the Class A or Standby Rate.

Colorado PUC Intervention and Protest

Morgan received a Summary report following the hearings and reported.

The CO PUC has appointed an administrative law judge to oversee the proceedings which are scheduled to be heard next week.

Lindahl reported that we received an anonymous letter in the mail which was derogatory against Tri-State. There is currently an open FBI investigation concerning the letters that went out with threats against Tri-State. The letter was turned over to Strommen. Discussion followed.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Loss Presentation

Gulbranson presented information on the strategic items and an overall update of

what has been happening.

Load and Loss charts were presented and Gulbranson reported on the actions that have been taken.

Gulbranson reported on what is next in the plan and will be working at the Greenwood Substation to make changes/improvements.

Gulbranson explained her continued research plan for the Directors and would like someone to attend Gridstream report training. Questions and discussion followed.

Cold Storage Facility/Land

Reilly reported that he has been meeting with contractors to get estimates for a 50' x 100' building. Following questions and discussion, the Board would like Reilly to go out for bids and get specs and return with information in July for the Directors.

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS

Tri-State Board Meeting

Morgan had nothing more to add to his report in the Board book which was presented on the Directors tables.

Fehringer asked Morgan about the depreciation of Craig 2 and 3 power plants. Discussion followed and Lindahl also reported and answered questions.

POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Policy D-11D: Paperless Boardroom/Director Technology; Policy D-11S: Paperless Boardroom/Staff Technology; and Policy D-13: Non-Director Officers. A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Zimmerman to readopt Policy D-11D, Policy D-11S, and Policy D-13, with the recommended changes. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy D-6: Board of Directors/General Manager Relationship; Policy D-6A: Bord of Directors/General Manager Relationship; Policy D-7: Director Elections; Policy D-8: Director Absence from Meetings; Policy D-9: Electronic Communications; Policy D-10: Reliability Standards; and Policy D-14: Filling a Vacancy on the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies D-6, D-6A, D-7, D-8, D-9, D-10, and D-14, with no recommended changes. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MEETING REPORTS

Tri-State Contract Committee

Nothing to report.

SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The May 15, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were not available in time for the Board book. A virtual meeting over the telephone was held.

The Safety Committee Meeting was held on May 15, 2020. The meeting minutes were not available in time for the Board book.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Construction, Maintenance & Operations

Reilly reviewed his report in the Board book.

Reilly reported that the transformer voltage changes were completed.

Moffat asked about the line by the Oshkosh Heifer Development. Reilly said he would leave a note for Borges.

Coldwater Creek Substation

Reilly reported that ESC will be conducting the inspection at the Substation. The Substation may be ready to be energized by June 15, 2020.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Marketing

The 2020 NREA Youth Camp has been cancelled. There was one applicant for the Youth Camp, and the application will be held for next year.

Other

Gulbranson asked the Board for approval for irrigation testing write-offs for:

Account 94893, Location 53606, in the amount of \$659.78
Account 49085, Location 90955, in the amount of \$529.94, in the total amount of \$1,189.72. A motion was made by Smith to approve the irrigation testing write-offs in the amount of \$1,189.72. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Weeda was not present at the meeting.

IT Report

Weeda was not present at the meeting.

Security Report

Weeda was not present at the meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS

Currently no meetings are scheduled.

Other

Lindahl included information from the Department of Energy stating that “President Trump Signs Executive Order Securing the United States Bulk-Power System” in the Board book. Questions and discussion followed.

The next Board meeting will be Friday, June 26, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

MAY BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bernard G. Fehringer, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary