

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

OCTOBER 23, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by Vice President & Acting Chairman Brian Zimmerman, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, October 23, 2020, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp
Moe Moffat
Brian Zimmerman

John Gortemaker
Stuart Morgan

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Lacey Gulbranson, Corporate Services Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, CFO; Kelli Chaon, Customer Engagement Manager; and Jim Weeda, Technology Manager.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice President Brian Zimmerman declared a quorum present.

Attention of the Directors and attendees was directed to the Open Meetings poster.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lindahl stated there were spelling errors for which he apologized and added Personnel Issues to the Executive Session.

Moffat made a motion to approve the October 23, 2020, amended 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, October 7, 2020, 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. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Regina Narjes

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, BOARD MINUTES

Zimmerman announced that with no corrections to the September 25, 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:

An economic development project has started and will be discussed in Executive Session.

Legislative & Regulatory

NREA scheduled a special Legislative Committee Meeting in Kearney on November 5, 2020, to discuss proposed hearing items for the coming year.

Lindahl reported on rural broadband.

Legal

The NRECA Legal Reporting Service Report was included in the Board book.

Lindahl reported on a significant win with at the Colorado PUC. The Colorado PUC accepted FERC's pre-emption on Jurisdiction.

Covid-19 Update

Lindahl reported on the Governor's order on new mandates. We are limiting people in the building and crews are split up. This will minimally impact our business operations.

Financials

The Financial Report was presented under separate cover.

Lindahl reviewed his “dashboard” and the projected and budgeted expenses.

Lindahl reported on the storm adder and rebating the costs back or a portion of it back to consumers.

Lindahl fielded questions from the Directors and discussion followed.

Acting Chairman Pay

Lindahl reported that there is nothing in policy as to paying an acting chairman, chairman wages. Board members feel the acting chairman should be compensated as if they are the chairman. Gortemaker made a motion to modify the Policy and bring back next month for approval. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Board Vacancies

Lindahl reported that one official application has been received for the Board vacancy. He will get a copy of the applicant’s resume for the Board members.

A delineation map of the subdivisions in the Wheat Belt territory was included in the Board book. Next year a study will have to be conducted after the census is completed.

Budget

Long Term Financial Forecast

Lindahl reported on the Forecast included in the Board book. Questions and discussion followed. Gulbranson reported and answered questions also.

2021 Large Item Budget

Lindahl reviewed the items included in the Large Item Budget and questions and discussion followed. At the November Board meeting, the final Budget will be presented for approval.

A break was taken at 9:55 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:06 a.m.

Investment Report

Mark Churchill and Jerry Holdsworth from Arbor Wealth Management will be at the Wheat Belt office on October 29 & 30 to review the employees 401K plans.

Retirement Policy E-37

Gulbranson reported that there were a few changes made from last month's report and staff is working with the auditor to make sure there are minimal impacts on the financial statements. Following discussion, Gortemaker made a motion to approve Policy E-37 as presented. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy D-2: Director Insurance, Policy E-2: Paid Time Off; and Policy E-18: Insurance for Full Time and Part Time Employees

A motion was made by Morgan to approve Policy D-2, Policy E-2 and Policy E-18 as presented. Gortemaker seconded the Motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Bond Issue Parameter Resolution/Debt Issue

LindahI reported that Co-Bank is looking into bonding requirements and other legal items and requirements.

Retail Rates

The Storm Adder will be reviewed again at the November Board meeting.

2021 Retail Rate Consideration

LindahI reported that in order to provide a proper revenue projection for the budget, have proper time to implement any changes in our billing system and verify, and to meet notice requirements, the rates needed to be approved this month. The 2021 rate schedules with year four of the rate plan and with a one percent revenue increase, were presented to the Board. Following questions and discussion, Morgan made a motion to approve the 2021 Rates as presented. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was called by Moffat at 10:32 a.m. to discuss the Colorado PUC Legal matter; FERC legal matter; alternative power supply, and a personnel issue. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Gortemaker to resume the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Tri-State Buy Down

Tri-State approved policies and contracts. Lindahl reported that if the Board wishes to go in this direction it must be done by January. No action was taken.

POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Policy M-1: Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Disposal; Policy IT-1: Information and Cyber Security Policy; Policy F-1: Checks, Drafts, Etc.; Policy F-3: Investments; and Policy F-4: Handling of Payments. A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat to readopt Policy M-1, Policy IT-1, Policy F-1, Policy F-3, and Policy F-4, with no recommended changes. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy F-2: Financial Goals and Policy E-24: On-Call Compensation. Changes were made to Policy F-2 to incorporate budgeting targets. The Employee Advisory Committee requested a change to Policy E-24. Effective January 1, 2021, on call linemen will receive an additional \$1.50 per hour. A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt **Policy F-2 and Policy E-24** with the appropriate changes. Moffat seconded the Motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS

Tri-State Board Meeting

Morgan reported that the PUC ruling was monumental. Morgan reported on Tri-State margins.

Basin Report

Basin announced their Annual Meeting will be virtual. They are recommending a Bylaw change that will go against one of Tri-States contracts. Discussion followed. Directors were asked to contact Peterson if they wanted to attend the meeting.

Midwest Report

Midwest will be conducting a virtual meeting. Directors were asked to contact Peterson if they wished to attend.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Gulbranson reviewed the KRTA statistics and answered questions.

MEETING REPORTS

NRECA Regional Meeting

Lindahl and Morgan reported.

Rural Broadband

Lindahl had nothing further to add.

SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The October 16, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were not included in the Board book due to timing, and will be included in the November Board book.

Reilly reported that there were no incidences to report. The November 10, Safety Meeting will be a virtual meeting.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Major Outages

Reilly reported that a driver did not lower the box on a dump truck and tore down wires which affected customers on the west circuit at the Oshkosh Substation for about 2.5 hours.

Construction, Maintenance & Operations

Borges reported on the copper weld line replacement, Work Plan item #608. Ten miles of single phase to be done by the end of the year.

Cold Storage Building

The concrete was poured October 16th. Electrician bids are due Monday, October 26th.

Unit 27

Reilly asked for an exception to the budget to replace the upper boom lift cylinder on Unit 27 in the amount of \$10,000. A motion was made by Gortemaker to approve the exception to the Budget in the amount of \$10,000. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

General

Gulbranson reported that the position for a business support analyst job has been posted.

Irrigation Write-Off Request

Gulbranson asked for approval for an irrigation TOU write-off for Account 49010; location 90939, in the amount of \$626.12. A motion was made by Moffat to approve the TOU write-off in the amount of \$626.12. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Weeda reported that the Dalton collector has been installed and is working. Gridstream meters will be installed in the Dalton/Gurley area next.

IT

A director questioned the e-mail that was sent out concerning the Regional West Hospital breach. Weeda explained and answered questions.

FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS

All future meeting will be virtual.

Election of Delegates & Other Organizational Items

Midwest Electric – Currently Zimmerman and Fehringer were the voting, and alternate delegates. A motion was made by Gortemaker to appoint Moffat as the alternate voting delegate. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

NREA – Currently Gortemaker is the director, voting delegate and Lindahl is the alternate delegate.

The next regular Board meeting will be Monday, November 23, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Other

Lindahl reported that the Wheat Belt Christmas Party currently is on hold due to COVID.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Zimmerman, Vice President

Brian Moffat, Secretary