

**UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**  
**JANUARY 26, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, January 26, 2007, at the District Headquarters, 2104 Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Paul Robinson  
Bernie Fehringer  
Stuart Morgan  
Doug Smith

Martin Petersen  
Dennis Zimmerman  
Jim Hass

Also present were Aavo Taaler, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations/Safety Supervisor; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer/Construction Supervisor; Pam Wieser, Business Manager and Shelley Peterson, Human Resources.

Directors absent - None

Paul Robinson, President, declared a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M. Petersen made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Fehringer reported to the Board that Tim Peetz and Randy Miller would be attending the meeting at approximately 11:00 to discuss their issue from last month about the cost of moving an overhead line. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of this meeting was given by publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph on Saturday, January 13, 2007, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of the minutes. M. Petersen made a motion to waive the reading of the notice. Fehringer seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

None present.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> REGULAR MEETING MINUTES & JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup> SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Morgan moved to waive the reading of the December 18, 2006, regular Board meeting minutes and the January 5, 2007, Special Board meeting minutes and that they be approved as mailed. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**REORGANIZATION OF BOARD: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Chair was turned over to the General Manager for nominations for the office of **President**. Robinson and Smith received nominations. Robinson was elected as President.

The Chair was returned to the President elect, Paul Robinson. Robinson called for nominations for **Vice President**. Hass, M. Petersen, Smith and Morgan received nominations. Morgan was elected Vice President.

The Chair called for nominations for **Secretary**. M. Petersen, Zimmerman and Hass received nominations. M. Petersen was elected Secretary.

The Chair called for nominations for **Treasurer**. Zimmerman, Fehring and Hass received nominations. Zimmerman and Fehring withdrew their names. Fehring made a motion to unanimously elect Hass. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried. Hass was elected Treasurer.

The Chair called for nominations for **Asst. Secretary**. Zimmerman and Smith received nominations. Zimmerman was elected Asst. Secretary.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Taaler reported to the Board that our staffing level is at 28. Martin Kral has been formally placed on a disability retired status. His vacant position is being advertised internally as a Meter Technician Trainee, and closes on February 2, 2007, for internal applicants.

As of January 15, 2007, the Construction Crew officially reports to Ryan Borges. A revised organizational chart will be distributed.

Most of the linemen volunteered to go to the eastern part of the state to help other districts with storm damage as per our statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

## **Board Minutes – January 26, 2007**

### **Page 3**

The available financials for year end were discussed. Taaler and Hostetler answered questions. The year end Form 7 will be presented next month.

Due to the weather, the year-end meter readings were not completed. Approximately half were estimated. If weather allows, the annuals will be read as well as irrigation. This has caused some consumer problems.

A discussion was held regarding the changes to the CorpLink Agreement and Amendment as recommended by the Wheat Belt Attorney, General Manager and CFO. Fehringer made a motion to adopt the CorpLink Internet Banking Service Agreement and Amendment as presented. Hass seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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

Reilly reported on the outages from the last Board meeting until present time.

The December storms caused some outages, but no customers were off for any length of time. A new three-phase service north of town has been completed for Exco Resources. The reading of annual and irrigation meters has been started. A total of 2,475 transformers have been tested for PCB's to date. Two hundred sixty-one of those tested over 50 ppm. Approximately one-third of the testing is done.

Reilly reported on the crews assisting the eastern part of the state with their storm damage.

We are taking bids for the new garage building until February 2, 2007. Bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. that day.

Reilly has contacted Bob McDonald at ESC to start the sectionalizing study.

The substation transformer that was sent in to GE is repaired and back, and will be installed this spring at the Sidney substation.

Ryan Borges visited about the 2006 physical inventory. A discussion followed. Fehringer made a motion to reduce the book quantity to match the physical quantity by \$820.84. M. Peterson seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A discussion regarding the partial retirement and sale of seven and one-half miles of three phase line to Chimney Rock PPD was held. One single-phase customer that is currently in Chimney Rock PPD's service territory will be transferred back to Chimney Rock PPD. Smith made a motion to proceed with the transfer of this single stock well service to Chimney Rock PPD. Wheat Belt

## **Board Minutes – January 26, 2007**

### **Page 4**

PPD can then retire the remaining overhead line. M. Petersen seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser informed the Board that the Farm and Ranch Day in Oshkosh on January 24, 2007, was well attended.

Hostetler and Wieser discussed the wheeling rate for Lodgepole. That rate was not included when the others were reviewed. This rate is based on cost of service not wholesale power cost. Wieser talked with Jerry Hager and he felt that the amount that was being charged was sufficient. It was decided to possibly include a cost of service study in the 2008 budget for consideration.

Wieser stated that the PCS conversion of the billing system would soon be complete.

Wieser mentioned that recently she was questioned on our current operating policy regarding customers' privacy. We do not give information to anyone except the owner of record or authorized representative. She stated many companies have written "Privacy Policies." The Board felt such a policy might be a good idea, to eliminate these difficulties, as well as also having a limited Power of Attorney form designed and available.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None needed.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

Fehringer reported on the January Tri-State Board meeting.

Taaler reported on the Midwest Electric Consumers Annual Meeting.

Short discussions were held.

### **SAFETY ITEMS**

The January 12, 2007, Safety Meeting was rescheduled to January 19, 2007, as several employees were away performing Mutual Aid for other districts. The minutes will appear in the February Board packet for review.

At 11:12 a.m., Tim Peetz and Randy Miller came into the Board meeting to further visit about the cost of moving an overhead line and new build to multiple

## **Board Minutes – January 26, 2007**

### **Page 5**

pivots as discussed at the December Board meeting. Fehringer made a motion to allow Peetz to purchase the line that was to be retired to the one pivot

contingent on no objections from Federated Insurance Company and Wheat Belt's attorney.

The customer must be verified as qualified to safely remove the line. Hass seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

Morgan made a motion to accept the Bylaw changes that were presented in December. Fehringer seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy A-1: Purpose, Formulation, Adoption, Review and Distribution of Board Policies; Policy C-1: Line Extension Policy; and Policy C-2: Right-of-Way:** Smith made a motion to readopt Policy A-1, Policy C-1 and Policy C-2. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-3: Attachments to Poles:** Fehringer made a motion to adopt Policy C-3 as amended. M. Petersen seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-4: Work on Customer's Premises:** Morgan made a motion to adopt Policy C-4 as amended. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy D-2: Director Insurance:** Tabled for further revisions.

Fehringer committed to a project with two area schools in our service territory prior to the Board meeting with regard to the Public Relations Operating Policy. M. Petersen made a motion to approve this expenditure. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried. The Board has agreed that all sponsorships need to be preapproved by the full Board.

### **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

As of the Board meeting date, no word has been received from the possible new industrial load of Performance Pipe.

The issue of paid leave plans was discussed. This subject will be discussed in detail at the NREA meetings in Lincoln next week. Taaler will inform the Board of our position on the "unused sick leave" reimbursement issue.

**Board Minutes – January 26, 2007**

**Page 6**

**FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING**

Taaler reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

Fehringer made a motion to appoint Smith as the voting delegate and Robinson as the alternate for NRTC. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Zimmerman made a motion to appoint Hass as the voting delegate and Fehringer as the alternate for NRECA. Morgan seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None reported.

**JANUARY BOARD MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Robinson, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martin Petersen, Secretary