

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**  
**MARCH 30, 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, March 30, 2007, at the District Headquarters, 2104 Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Martin Petersen  
Bernie Fehringer  
Stuart Morgan  
Doug Smith

Dennis Zimmerman  
Jim Hass

Also present were Aavo Taaler, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer/Construction Supervisor; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Tim Lindahl, Information Technology Specialist; Shelley Peterson, Human Resources and Jim Dickman, Construction Foreman.

Directors absent – Paul Robinson

Stuart Morgan, Vice President, declared a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

M. Petersen made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. After item six on the agenda, Dawson PPD asked to give a short presentation on the recent ice storms. Also the executive session would be following this presentation. Hass 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 Friday, March 16, 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. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Taaler introduced Jim Dickman, Construction Foreman, Bob Heinz, Manager of Dawson PPD, Paul Neil, Board President at Dawson PPD and Roger Schmidt Sr. from Schmidt and Company, the auditor. Morgan welcomed them to the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> MINUTES**

M. Petersen moved to waive the reading of the February 26, 2007, regular Board meeting minutes and that they be approved as amended. Fehringer wanted it noted in the Public Comment Period section, that Tim Peetz has the skills and equipment to perform the job safely. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Roger Schmidt Sr., presented the audit report to the Board members and discussed each section in detail. A question and answer session was held.

M. Petersen moved to go into executive session at 9:21 a.m. to review the audit report with the auditor. Fehringer seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried. M. Petersen made a motion to end the executive session at 9:26 a.m. Hass seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Smith moved for approval of the audit report as presented. M. Petersen seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **DAWSON PPD PRESENTATION**

Bob Heinz, Manager at Dawson PPD and Paul Neil, Board President at Dawson PPD gave a presentation on the two recent ice storms in their service area. Mutual aid was discussed in detail and they stressed how thankful they were for Wheat Belt PPD for sending crews to help them. They also mentioned how well Mutual Aid worked. Mr. Neil presented a plaque to Stuart Morgan, Vice President, in appreciation of the mutual aid that was sent.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

M. Petersen made a motion to go into executive session at 10:05 a.m. to discuss Policy D-1, Director Compensation and Expense Report Approval. Tom Sonntag was also present for the executive session. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried. M. Petersen made a motion to end executive session at 10:57 a.m. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Taaler reported that Jane Bartels has been selected to fill Mindy Schmidt's position as Customer Care Assistant. She will begin employment on April 2, 2007.

Nathan Begger, Dalton Area Maintenance Lineman, was on short-term disability leave as a result of a four-wheeler accident. He has returned to work on restricted duty. He will be doing line patrol and reading meters until fully released to return to work.

The financials were discussed. The Board was made aware of a change on the cash requirement sheet. The budget number for the retired employees insurance was incorrect. This was fixed and it dropped the predicted operating TIER from 4.31 to 4.27 and the bottom line TIER from 6.12 to 6.08. Taaler and Hostetler answered questions.

The Board directed Taaler to write a policy in reference to LB 579, Customer Generation (Net Metering), so that when it comes up in the future we will be covered by our policy.

Wayne Rasmuss will be attending the April Board meeting to complete the process of calling the current bonds and reissuing new bonds. A predicted savings of \$85,000 will result.

Taaler reminded the Board that they must submit their Statement of Financial Interest forms by April 2, 2007, and that the short C-1A form is no longer acceptable.

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

Borges reported that there were no major outages since the last Board meeting.

New fuses and regulators have been installed in the Redington substation (from the Dalton rural substation).

Crews have been replacing rotten poles in the Redington area. Shelled poles have been replaced in the Big Springs substation area.

Now that the ground is thawed, rotten meter poles and poles for heavy ups are being replaced.

The two four wheelers were purchased from A-1 Sports in Sidney.

The dirt work has been started for the new garage building.

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Reilly attended the Lineman School Committee meeting. Twelve students are scheduled to graduate in May. There is a list of 41 students for next year's lineman school.

Borges met with the electrical engineers for the new Ethanol Plant proposed to be built in the Bridgeport area.

Wheat Belt PPD has been contacted about two new natural gas compression stations. They are looking into the costs involved. These would both be good high load factor loads.

A couple of consumers have called for new irrigation services, and we have also had a few conversions. As soon as all of the paperwork is complete, the work will begin.

Zimmerman made a motion to release two oil wells in Wheat Belt's service territory to High West Energy. A ten-year reopener clause will be in the release. In the future if Wheat Belt is able to serve the wells economically due to adjacent growth, then Wheat Belt PPD will reacquire the services.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser stated that the Ag After-Hours social event was very successful, and additional information will be presented next month.

We have been working on a multiple mailing. It was decided to use a coupon with customer identification to distribute the CFL Bulbs. Tri-State wanted records of the households in which the bulbs were placed. We will have pick up points at the KSID Spring Expo, the county fairs and at our office. A second mailing for our OASIS program and a mass mailing explaining our Budget Billing and Automatic Bank Draft service was planned. We are combining all of these mailings to save some expense.

Wieser stated that the annual billing continues to have problems. She is working with programmers at PCS to try and fix the problems.

Tim Lindahl discussed the progression of the substation-metering project. Lindahl stated that he has been contacted by Jerry Leistriz of Telecom West in Alliance about trading some of our substation communication service for leased space on our Broadwater tower. Fehringer made a motion to issue a contract in the same manner that we did for Vistabeam. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl also emphasized the benefits of dual metering at the substations. The charges from the previous Tri-State metering error that was detected because of

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our dual metering, would have continued. The savings from this find will pay a substantial portion of the communication project costs.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

### **MEETING REPORTS**

Fehring reported on the March Tri-State Board meeting.

Taaler reported on the WyoBraska MDM meeting and the NRECA Annual meeting.

Robinson reported on the NRECA annual meeting also.

Short discussions were held.

### **SAFETY ITEMS**

The March 9, 2007, Safety Meeting minutes were reviewed and thoroughly discussed.

Taaler wrote a letter to the NREA President, regarding the issue of opting out of the J.T. & S. program. It was reviewed and discussed.

### **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Policy C-10: Reading of Meters & Meter Calibration:** Fehring made a motion to adopt Policy C-10 as amended. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-11: Irrigation Accounts, Policy C-12: Exceptions to General Provisions:** Hass made a motion to readopt the above policies. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-13: Nondiscrimination:** Smith made a motion to adopt Policy C-13 as amended. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-14: Damage to District Property, Policy C-15: Failure of Customer Equipment, Policy C-16: Tree Trimming:** Smith made a motion to readopt the above policies. Fehring seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy D-1: Director Compensation and Expense Report Approval:** This policy was tabled for language clarification.

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**Policy E-20A: Safety and Injury Prevention Program:** Fehringer made a motion to adopt Policy E-20A as amended. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Taaler reviewed the irrigation motor capacitor program that has been designed. Taaler would like to set up two to four demonstration project sites throughout our service territory and get actual numbers to use for a 2007-2008 sales promotion and installation program. A short discussion followed.

Taaler included a copy of the upcoming May 2007 Manager's Two Bits article for our magazine. He hopes that this will motivate more of our rural customers to purchase standby generators.

Taaler has written a letter to Clean Harbors asking if their facility in Kimball, Nebraska, could dispose of our PCBs in a safe and approved manner. Taaler will let the Board know if this is a possibility.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING**

Taaler reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None reported.

### **MARCH BOARD MEETING**

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

ATTEST:

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Stuart Morgan, Vice President

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Martin Petersen, Secretary