

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD
APRIL 25, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 25, 2008, at the District Headquarters, 2104 Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

Bernie Fehringer
Jim Hass
Stuart Morgan
Martin Petersen

Paul Robinson
Doug Smith
Dennis Zimmerman

Also present were Aavo Taaler, General Manager; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Superintendent; Tim Lindahl, IT Technician and Debra Schlaman, Financial Accounting Assistant. Also present for a portion of the meeting were Roger Schmidt, Sr. of Schmidt & Co., auditor and Wayne Rasmuss from Ameritas Investment Corp.

President Smith, declared a quorum present.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as mailed. 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, April 12, 2008, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of the minutes. Fehringer made a motion to waive the reading of the notice. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MARCH 28th MINUTES

Petersen moved to waive the reading of the March 28, 2008, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as presented. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

Fehringer moved to go into executive session at 9:30 a.m. to review the audit report with the auditor. Executive session ended at 9:35 a.m.

Fehringer made a motion to approve the Audit Agreement for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal year with Schmidt & Company, LLC. Petersen seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

AMERITAS BOND PRESENTATION

Wayne Rasmuss of Ameritas Investment Corp. discussed bond options and bond interest rates. A question and answer session followed on the issuance of bonds for monies for the 34.5 line build and the potential Cannon AMR project.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Personnel: Taaler reported that Jim Dickman had rotator cuff surgery and will be on disability leave for 13 weeks or more. Greg Jenkins has assumed the full-time working foreman position on the line crew in Dickman's absence. Nathan Parker, who has been interning with Wheat Belt, has accepted a full-time job offer and will begin work following his WNCC graduation.

Financials: The March reports were reviewed, and thoroughly discussed.

Taaler discussed with the Board the donating of a truck to the NRECA International program. He indicated that we had a pickup, including a utility box, with 170,000 miles, that we had planned to donate. Following a lengthy discussion, Fehringer made a motion to put the pickup out for bids, then following the sale, the Board will determine how much money should be sent to the International program for purchasing their own pickup. Hass seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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Legislative: Discussion was held on the inter-connection policy. Taaler will be in contact with Kristen about the possibility of developing a common statewide policy at the NREA meeting in Norfolk in May.

Motion was made by Fehringer to increase our annual CFC Integrity Fund Donation to 10% of the annual patronage capital refund. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

Reilly reviewed the construction, maintenance and operations for the past month. Reilly reported on the April 23rd tornado damage where we lost 14 poles. Some of the poles had prior damage from barbed-wire. Discussion followed.

Reilly reported on the WNCC Lineman School, and the search for a new instructor. At the new lineman student orientation meeting held on April 8th, there were two attendees from Gurley and one from Sidney.

A report included in the Board packet on transmission right of way payments was discussed. Robinson moved to adopt a \$100 payment per pole and a \$100 payment per anchor policy for transmission line right of way easements. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser reported on the Touchstone award winners and explained the monetary awards and the recognition process for students who exemplify the “Touchstone Energy Partners” principles (not necessarily the highest grade point average or best athlete).

Bob McDonald from ESC will be in the office April 30th to work on the Cost of Service Study.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Lindahl developed software that bridges the Cannon AMR system to the OASIS system and linked it to Google Earth. He did a demonstration for the Board, showing a few of the uses for the system.

Lindahl reported on a large commercial service that is causing excessive noise on the line. This is causing issues on the very east edge of the Cannon AMR pilot project. The noise issue may also be detrimental to capacitor banks and to receiving the meter readings.

MEETING REPORTS

Morgan reported on the April 2008, Tri-State Board meeting. Morgan discussed a proposal for a compromise on the development of the Sunflower power plant in the Kansas legislature, where an over-ride veto is required for it to pass. Discussion followed.

Taaler's report on the Midwest Electric Consumers meeting was reviewed.

SAFETY ITEMS

The April 14, 2008, Employee Safety Meeting minutes were reviewed and thoroughly discussed.

POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS

Policy C-18: Dissemination of Customer Information; Policy C-19: Customer Requested Service Connections After Business Hours; Policy C-20: Service Sizing Request (Single Customer); Policy C-21: Energy Efficiency Credit Rebates; and Policy C-22: Reward for Damage Reporting: Fehringer made a motion to readopt Policy C-18 (minor spelling and punctuation changes and removal of the POA from our web site), Policy C-19, Policy C-20, Policy C-21, and Policy C-22 (wording improvements). Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Taaler reported on the Manager search status and reminded the Board that a special meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12th to develop a short list for interviews (during the week of September 15th).

Taaler reported that the next Rates Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion was held on financing for the 34.5 line build. Zimmerman made a motion to approve the issuance of 25 year bonds for \$1.25 million to be used for the 34.5 line build. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Taaler reported that at the April Tri-State Board meeting, it was decided that Tri-State would spend over \$2 million to take up the NRECA's "Dialogue with America" initiative.

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Taaler asked the Board if they would approve an advertising strategy and to challenge the other Tri-State members to do the same. Morgan moved to approve \$25,000 to be used for advertising and promotion of the “Dialogue with America” initiative. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried. Discussion was held on using Hass as a “face” in the advertising.

FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING

Taaler reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

ATTEST:

Doug Smith, President

Stuart Morgan, Secretary