

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD
FEBRUARY 26, 2010

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, February 26, 2010, at the District Headquarters, 2104 Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

Bernie Fehringer
John Gortemaker
Jim Hass
Stuart Morgan

Paul Robinson
Doug Smith
Dennis Zimmerman

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Superintendent; Jeff Rosenbaum, Meter Technician; Julie Bond, IT Technician; and Debra Schlaman, Financial Accounting Assistant.

Doug Smith, President, declared a quorum present.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fehringer made a motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Robinson 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, February 12, 2010, 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. Gortemaker seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Smith introduced guest Colt Alexander, Lineman School Intern.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26TH MINUTES

Morgan asked that changes be made to the January 26, 2010 Minutes. Under Future Meetings & Training, he asked that the voting delegate and the alternate voting delegate for CFC and NRTC be clarified. Minutes should read:

“Zimmerman made a motion to appoint Morgan voting delegate and reaffirm Hass as the alternate voting delegate for CFC. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.” Also, “Robinson made a motion to appoint Fehringer voting delegate and reaffirm Hass as the alternate voting delegate for NRTC. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.”

Zimmerman moved to waive the reading of the January 26, 2010, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as amended. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

BOARD SELF EVALUATION

Appendix A of Policy D-5 was reviewed by the Directors. Smith asked Morgan to compile the director evaluation forms and report the results at the March meeting. Morgan made a motion to delete Exhibit 1: Compilation of All Evaluator Responses; Exhibit 2: Category Summary and Exhibit 3: Summary of Individual Evaluators from Appendix A. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Morgan added a second motion to change Category 4: The Board Monitors and Evaluates, Section 4g) to read “We evaluate board performance biannually.” Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MANAGER ' S REPORT

Lindahl distributed Touchstone Energy Co-op Connection cards to the directors. Wieser answered questions from the Board.

Personnel: Lindahl reported that he, Rollie Waite and Earl Reilly, would be participating in the Federated Strategy labs next month.

Employees Weeda, Hostetler and Schlaman presented written reports and

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“Thank You’s” to the directors on the Annual Meeting trip.

Financials: The monthly financial reports presented under separate cover, were thoroughly discussed. Hostetler reported that she had received permission from the Auditors to close the December books. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Economic Development: Lindahl reported on two perspective industrial customers. Discussion followed.

Legislative: Lindahl reported on LB 1048, the wind bill. A lengthy discussion followed.

The directors recommended public education on Wheat Belt’s energy position. The different means to get information into the schools were discussed. Wieser mentioned they could use the Wheat Belt Safety day to promote energy awareness as Lindahl suggested, and donations of curriculum.

Lindahl had received a membership form to join the Nebraska Energy Export Association. Gortemaker made a motion to join the Nebraska Energy Export Association at the Community level of \$250.00. Fehring seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Other: Lindahl approached the Board on the possibility of switching to a per diem for expenses vs. actual expenses for the employees. Discussion followed. Robinson recommended no change. Lindahl was asked by Zimmerman and Smith to present the per diem idea again at the March meeting, and to check with other districts to see how things work for them.

Lindahl reported that we received our Workers Comp rebate from Federated in the amount of \$17,299. Fehring made a motion to award the employees a \$100 one-time bonus to recognize the safe environment they have created. Morgan seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried. Reilly thanked the Board for their support of and participation in the Wheat Belt safety program.

Lindahl informed the Board that a two percent increase in 401K contributions has been realized as a result of the optional additional four percent match received by the employees as part of the wage negotiations for 2010. At the end of December 2009, the average employee contribution was 2.75% and today it is at 4.76%.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

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Reilly reviewed the construction, maintenance and operations for the previous month.

Reilly reported that a service upgrade was conducted at Sidney Warehousing on Sunday, February 21st.

Reilly reported that he had been appointed temporary vice-chairman of the NREA Apprenticeship Committee due to ill health of Rich Walters, Chairman. The NREA Mutual Aid Agreement was revised and Lindahl reported that the Ratification form needed to be approved by the Board. Zimmerman made a motion to sign the NREA Mutual Aid Agreement Ratification form. Hass seconded the Motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried. President Smith signed the Ratified Mutual Aid Agreement.

Reilly reported that Ryan Borges is attending his second session of MIP training.

Reilly reported on the capacitor program. A lengthy question and answer session followed. Gortemaker made a motion to table the approval of the capacitor program until the June Board Meeting. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried. Reilly was instructed to conduct further research and report at the June Board meeting. It was recommended that brochures, and information letters be sent to customers if and when the program is approved. Morgan asked for total cost and total return information.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser reported that the Cheyenne County Ag After-Hours will be held at the Hillside Municipal Golf Course on March 26th.

Wieser discussed the possibility of holding Customer Appreciation during the Cheyenne County Fair.

Wieser reported that Wheat Belt is hosting a "Safety Fair" on May 7th for the area schools.

Wieser reported on a collections issue and fielded questions concerning our current procedures for collection.

Wieser reported that she will be trying to inform customers of the tax credits that are available this year for energy efficiency upgrades.

Fehringer reported that he had been contacted by a customer concerning signing and notarization of the Contract for Service. Wieser explained.

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Gortemaker reported that a customer contacted him about simplifying our on-line payment program. Wieser commented.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Bond reviewed her report and answered questions posed by the directors concerning a security surveillance system. Bond informed the Board that she is working on establishing photo I.D.'s for all the employees. These can be used when a second photo I.D. is required.

SAFETY ISSUES

The February 12, 2010, Employee Safety Meeting minutes were reviewed and thoroughly discussed.

The February 12, 2010, Safety Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed and discussed. Director Smith was present at the meeting and Kelli Haas will be replacing Debra Schlaman on the Committee.

Reilly answered questions on incidents and near misses.

MEETING REPORTS

Morgan reported on the February Tri-State Board Meeting. Questions and discussion followed.

Robinson gave an oral report on the Legislative Meeting.

Lindahl's NREA Manager's meeting report was reviewed.

Lindahl, Wieser and Hodges attended an Energy Efficiency seminar sponsored by Wyrulec.

Lindahl reported on the NRECA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. Lindahl attended the Federated meeting, where a General Manager from a Co-op drove home the point of emphasizing safety. His co-op had a lineman injured in 2008 due to line contact. Fehringer commented that he feels that we should not be doing hot line work for that very reason. Customer inconvenience should not take priority over safety.

POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS

Policy C-4: Work on Customer's Premises; Policy C-5: Relocation,

Retirement, Removal of Facilities and Minimum Bills; Policy C-6: Standard Construction Practice; Policy C-7: Payment Responsibility; Policy C-8: Time Limitations; Policy C-9: Disconnect for Non-payment; and Policy C-10: Reading of Meters & Meter Calibration: Morgan moved to readopt Policy C-4, Policy C-5, Policy C-6, Policy C-7, Policy C-8, Policy C-9 and Policy C-10. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy D-11: Director Technology: Following discussion on the proposed Policy D-11, the sentence “At that time, the district will transfer the director’s personal programs to the new computer as may be required and delete from the replaced computer.” will be deleted. Fehringer moved to adopt Policy D-11 as modified. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

AMI Update: Rosenbaum reported and answered questions.

Substation Update: Some work is on hold until the ground thaws.

Work Plan: The proposed work plan is being reviewed and modified.

Water Heater Concept Program: Lindahl reported on his visit with Cannon during the Annual Meeting regarding the control of water heaters.

Health Insurance Committee Update: Fehringer explained the sub-committee’s recommendations to develop a health reimbursement plan to cover premiums up to \$19,753.48 and reimburse expenses, using the “Cooperative Benefit Administrators, Inc. 125 Plan for Covered Expenses” (IRS 125 Plan) as a guideline. This would be a defined plan with defined expense allocations. The plan would be reviewed annually in conjunction with the current PPO plan set forth by NRECA. This is a conceptual plan subject to further definition, legal review and tax review. Lindahl was instructed to pursue the health reimbursement plan concept and report at the March Board meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING

Lindahl reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at noon.

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ATTEST:

Doug Smith, President

Stuart Morgan, Secretary