

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**

**JUNE 24, 2011**

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, June 24, 2011, 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; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jeff Rosenbaum, Senior Meter Technician; Jeff Dickinson, IT Technician; and Debra Schlaman, Financial Accounting Assistant.

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

Doug Smith, President, declared a quorum present.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Zimmerman asked to give a verbal report on the Midwest Summer Board Meeting. Robinson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Gortemaker 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, June 11, 2011, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these minutes. Fehringer made a motion to waive the reading of the meeting notice. Zimmerman seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Smith introduced guest Kelli Haas, Customer Care Assistant.

## **APPROVAL OF MAY 27th MINUTES**

Morgan moved to waive the reading of the May 27, 2011, Board Meeting Minutes, and that they be approved as presented. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **MANAGER' S REPORT**

Personnel: Lindahl reported that an employee is on short term disability due to a non-work related injury. An employee had a motorcycle accident and injured his knee and may require surgery.

Lindahl reported that Larry Fiscus, Manager at Chimney Rock, resigned. Also, Fred Grantham, General Manager at Morgan County Rural Electric Assn., resigned.

Lindahl reported that if a director is injured while representing the District, an O.S.H.A. 300 Form is required to be completed by the system, just like other employees injured while performing their duties. The director would not be paid workman's compensation.

Lindahl reported that Dave Jarecke left the Crosby Guenzel Law Firm effective June 15<sup>th</sup>. Jarecke will retain the Regulatory Counsel services that he had been providing to NREA's members.

Financials: The monthly financial reports, presented under separate cover, were reviewed. A lengthy discussion and explanation of information followed with regard to billing shifts and unbilled revenue and their affect on margins.

Other: Lindahl attended the NREA Manager's Meeting in Yankton, South Dakota. Discussion was held concerning a medical insurance premium increase of seven to twelve percent.

Discussion was held on the industrial rate analysis for potential new Tri-State rate increases.

Lindahl has been working on the Tri-State 115 KV Contract issues. Attorney Tom Sonntag has been working with Tri-State's attorney on the Contract wording. Fehringer feels it is Tri-State's obligation to do an environmental inspection and that the District relinquishes any and all liability after the transaction. Discussion followed.

Lindahl reported on the Iowa G&T's Economic Development Organization.

Lindahl is preparing an article for the magazine concerning regulatory and compliance costs, and how they affect our energy bills.

Lindahl asked to move the August Board meeting from August 26<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Board approved the change in date.

Fehringer reported that after receiving his irrigation account bill, he totally supports a time of use rate.

Lindahl mentioned that should there be a change in Tri-State's rate philosophy, Wheat Belt may need to conduct a rate study to more closely reflect our actual cost of power.

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

Borges reviewed the major outages, construction, maintenance and operations for the previous month.

Borges reported a Tri-State billing issue which was the result of a load switching report not being sent to Tri-State.

Cape had checked the substations with the infrared camera and also the warehouse and found a problem, which was repaired.

Borges reported that a section of the old three phase copper wire in Dalton has been replaced. There are two more sections of line that have to be rebuilt, then all of the copper wire in Dalton will have been replaced.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser was not at the meeting and Lindahl reviewed her report. Wieser had asked for an irrigation well test write-off in the amount of \$288.31. Fehringer made a motion to approve a write-off in the amount of \$288.31. Morgan seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Rosenbaum reviewed his report and answered questions. Rosenbaum announced that he had completed the Cheyenne County Leadership Course.

Dickinson reviewed his report and answered Board member questions. Dickinson reported that the domain controller build has been setup successfully. Dickinson reported that he has contacted a computer recycling company to recycle all of the old non-functioning computers, printers and phones at no cost.

Lindahl reviewed the 30-day load graph and compared it to the new proposed Tri-State rates. Discussion followed.

### **SAFETY ISSUES**

The June 10, 2011, Safety Meeting minutes were reviewed and discussed.

Morgan asked Borges a question concerning the accident/near miss report in the Board book. Discussion followed. Borges will research the cost/benefits of making disconnect installations mandatory and report to the Board at a later date.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

Zimmerman reported on the Midwest Summer Board Meeting.

Morgan reported on the June Tri-State Board Meeting. A lengthy discussion and questions and answers followed.

Robinson and Lindahl reported on the CFC Forum meeting they attended.

Lindahl attended the NREA Managers meeting.

### **POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy E-1: Employment Policies; Policy E-2: Paid Time Off (PTO); Policy E-3: Holidays; Policy E-4: Uniforms and Safety Equipment; Policy E-6: Educational Courses; Policy E-7: Expenses; Policy E-8: District Vehicles and Mileage Payments; and Policy E-9: Physical Examination:** Robinson moved to readopt Policy E-1, Policy E-2, Policy E-3, Policy E-4, Policy E-6, Policy E-7, Policy E-8 and Policy E-9. Hass seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

**Tri-State Rates:** Lindahl presented an industrial and retail rate comparison chart based on existing data, using Tri-State's new proposed rate schedule. Discussion followed.

**Tri-State 115KV Purchase:** Discussion was held concerning the 115KV Purchase of Assets Contract. Fehringer asked for wording clarification in paragraph 17 of the contract. Lindahl will present questions at the next Tri-State meeting.

**FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING**

Lindahl reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

**ELECTION OF DELEGATES**

Following discussion by the board members, Smith will remain as the Voting Delegate for NRECA and Fehringer will remain as the Alternate Delegate.

**JUNE BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Doug Smith, President

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Stuart Morgan, Secretary