

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

NOVEMBER 21, 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., Monday, November 21, 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; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Superintendent; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jeff Dickinson, IT Technician; Dean Gipfert, Sidney Maintenance Lineman, Roger Abrams, Sidney Maintenance Foreman and Shelley Peterson, Human Resources.

Shelley Peterson 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

Hass made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. 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 Wednesday, November 9, 2011, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these minutes. Gortemaker made a motion to waive the reading of the meeting notice. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Smith introduced Roger Abrams, Area One Foreman and Dean Gipfert, Area One Lineman.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28TH BOARD MINUTES

Fehringer asked that the word directed be changed to requested in the first paragraph on Page 4. “Following discussion, Fehringer **requested** staff to prepare a proposal for a future meeting, on a program to offer \$150 rebate incentives to customers who install a disconnect switch at their irrigation wells for safety purposes and customer convenience.” Fehringer moved to waive the reading of the October 28, 2011, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as corrected. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MANAGER’ S REPORT

Personnel: Personnel level remains at 27 active full-time and one part-time employee. All employees are full duty.

Lindahl reported that Ira “Sonny” Copley will be retiring at the end of 2011.

In the Legislative arena, the Keystone Pipeline issue has been a top priority. A lengthy question, answer and discussion followed. It was a unanimous consensus of the Board to have Lindahl actively contact people involved with this issue, and make them aware that Wheat Belt is very interested in the pipeline coming through our service territory using the corridor of an existing pipeline.

Lindahl gave a brief update on the “NPPD to store compressed air” issue. A discussion, question and answer session was held.

Lindahl stated that a large scale safety demonstration is being built on a mobile trailer. It will be shared with several of our surrounding Public Power Districts and Electric Cooperatives. It is being built with donations from vendors and the districts/cooperatives. It will be taken to the area schools and fairs to educate the public. The cost will be minimal.

The personal picture identification cards were put in the Board of Directors mailbox folders. Lindahl stated that these can be used for another form of identification and also used as a government issued ID.

Tri-State High Voltage Transfer Contract: Lindahl reported that all of the paperwork has been finalized, and he hopes to hear something in the next day or

two to be able to close in the next couple of weeks.

The new proposed Tri-State rate was discussed and a question and answer session was held. It will be voted on at the December Tri-State Board meeting. The Board decided that if the rate does not pass at the Tri-State meeting in December, they still wanted to conduct a strategic planning session to discuss Wheat Belt rates.

Zimmerman asked at the October Board meeting to discuss in further detail the predictive call portion of the Tri-State proposed A-3x rate. Lindahl showed a graph of more detailed information. A discussion, question and answer session was held.

Lindahl informed the Board that CFC offers a mediation service to discuss cost of service, rate design, etc. at no cost to members. It was agreed that Lindahl should contact CFC, and check and see if CFC covers all costs, and if so, arrange to have a facilitator at the next Strategic Planning Session.

Financials: The September financial reports, presented under separate cover, were reviewed and discussed.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

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

Major Outages: None to report

Reilly reported that the crews have been switching load at substations so that Electro-Test can test and/or clean substation breakers, regulators, Doble test transformers and check the ground grids.

Crews had to switch our load from the Bridgeport WAPA substation to Broadwater so WAPA could do repairs to the 115 KV buss work.

Borges reported that Work Plan Item 300-101 was finished November 16, 2011.

Borges stated that out of approximately 2,000 poles, fifty-one of them need to be replaced.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser visited about the Youth Camp in Halsey, Nebraska, and the Youth Tour in

Washington. She explained that the student must first attend the Halsey camp, which Wheat Belt budgets for, and then apply for the Washington Tour, which includes an application, essay and interview. In the past several years, we have not had much participation in the Halsey camp even though applications and information is given to the area schools. Wieser stated that Kelli Chaon has been given the responsibility to promote the Halsey camp more and hopefully we will get better response.

Wieser reported that Wheat Belt is now on the credit card processing Utility Rate, which is approximately a little under two percent. There are a few other fees that are included. A discussion, question and answer session was held about what types of accounts are allowed to use credit cards. Wieser stated with the exception of Heavy Industrial and a second option to omit Industrial and Irrigation. The Board asked Wieser to make amendments to the policy and include all accounts paid by a credit card and the Board would review the policy change next month.

METERING, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Rosenbaum reported that the used meters were shipped. He will report the final dollar amount Wheat Belt receives as soon as it becomes available.

Seven more disconnect collars have been installed, which bring the total to nine.

Lindahl reported that he is planning to have a magazine article in the January magazine regarding smart grid meter concerns. Wieser indicated that a brochure will also be sent with statements.

Dickinson reviewed his report. He stated that he has been working to upgrade our current phone system to a digital T-1. This will allow us to have more lines, and each employee can have a dedicated phone number.

Dickinson has recently updated our web page.

BUDGET

Lindahl explained that the forecast is based on the actual historical spending and the budget is based on risk.

A discussion, question and answer session was held regarding some increases, and also some decreases in the preliminary cash budget.

Next month the final budget will be brought to the Board for approval.

SAFETY ISSUES

The November 10, 2011, Employee Safety Meeting Minutes were reviewed and thoroughly discussed.

Gortemaker attended the Employee Safety Meeting and felt that it was very informative. The state electrical inspector was present at the meeting, and Gortemaker thinks it would be a good idea to have all NEW irrigation services inspected before Wheat Belt connects them. This would cost the customer approximately \$35 and would make sure that the service meets code before it is energized. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea and would like to have the policy amended and included in the December Board Packet for consideration.

MEETING REPORTS

Morgan reported on the November Tri-State Board Meeting. Questions and a lengthy discussion followed.

Wieser's Basin Annual Meeting report was included in the Board book as was Lindahl's Nebraska Rural Boardband Conference report.

POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS

Policy E-28: Grievance Procedure; Policy E-29: Guidelines for Discipline and Termination; Policy E-30: Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records; Policy E-31: Change in Work Hours and Premium Rates; Policy E-32: Exchange Time; Policy E-33: Military Leave For Reservists; Policy E-34: Personal Use of Wheat Belt Tools and Equipment; and Policy E-35: Prevention of Identity Theft: Fehringer moved to readopt Policy E-28, Policy E-29, Policy E-30, Policy E-31, Policy E-32, Policy E-33, Policy E-34 and Policy E-35. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy C-25: Irrigation Disconnect Rebate Program: Morgan moved to adopt Policy C-25 as presented. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-2: Paid Time Off (PTO): Lindahl explained the changes based on a lower court decision that was discussed at the Legal Seminar. Zimmerman moved to adopt Policy E-2 as amended. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea:

All present. Motion carried.

Resolution 11-2: Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program Commitment:

Zimmerman moved to adopt Resolution 11-2 as presented. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Lindahl stated that he has budgeted for a new heating and cooling system for the headquarters building in 2012. Before too much money is put into the building for upgrades, Lindahl wanted to discuss the costs associated with our current facilities and location. A lengthy discussion, question and answer session was held. The Board instructed Lindahl to put together a presentation regarding these costs and present it at the December Board meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING

Lindahl reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training. Peterson reviewed the listing for hotels and dates.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

Doug Smith, President

Stuart Morgan, Secretary