

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2007**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 28, 2007, at the District Headquarters, 2104 Illinois Street, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Bernie Fehringer  
Stuart Morgan  
Paul Robinson

Martin Petersen  
Doug Smith  
Dennis Zimmerman

Director Jim Hass was absent.

Also present were Aavo Taaler, General Manager; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Superintendent; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Tim Lindahl, IT Specialist; Debra Schlaman, Financial Accounting Assistant; Jeff Rosenbaum, Apparatus Technician; Deryl Travis and Jeff Engelman, Financial Advisors from Smith Barney; and RUS Field Representative Denver Schlaeppli.

Paul Robinson, President, declared a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Petersen made a motion to approve the agenda as mailed. Zimmerman 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, November 16, 2007, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of the minutes. Petersen made a motion to waive the reading of the notice. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Taaler introduced guests Jeff Rosenbaum, Apparatus Technician, Deryl Travis and Jeff Engelman, Financial Advisors from Smith Barney and Denver Schlaeppi, Field Representative from RUS.

## **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 31ST MINUTES**

Morgan moved to waive the reading of the October 31, 2007, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as presented. Petersen seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **MANAGER ' S REPORT**

Taaler reported that Nathan Parker of Dalton, a WNCC lineman school student, will be interning at Wheat Belt between mid-January and early May for 20 days – basically every Friday. His 20 days of wages, at bottom groundman rate, have been included in the 2008 budget.

With one and maybe two directors retiring next year in the Northern District, Taaler will announce the vacancies in the REN magazine insert in his “Two Bits” Article.

Financials: The monthly financial reports were included in the Board packet and were thoroughly discussed.

Taaler reported that monies will be sent to the RUS Cushion of Credit account. Carolyn will use the new E-Authentication process to send the funds while the RUS representative is present today to assist.

Legislative: Taaler reported that new information will be presented next week at the Legislative Committee by Kristen.

Discussion was held on the proposed budget approval for NREA on a grass roots program which would be implemented in 2008. If approved, there would be an increase in time spent on the implementation by staff and directors, as well as additional costs to each system.

## **INVESTMENT REPORT**

Deryl Travis, Financial Advisor from Smith Barney gave his semi-annual investment report. Travis reported that it may be appropriate to consider

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additional investment categories that are legal for Nebraska Public Power Districts. This is due to the decline in interest rates and therefore lower reinvestment yields.

Travis had no recommended changes to **POLICY F-3: INVESTMENTS**, which was reviewed by the Board.

Motion was made by Zimmerman to re-approve **POLICY F-3: INVESTMENTS**. Motion seconded by Fehringer. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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

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

Reilly reported that he attended the Advanced Loss Control Internship course in Madison, WI. Topics covered were safety culture, regulations and crisis management. He and Gipfert also attended a meeting on avian protection guidelines. Discussion followed.

Reilly reported that the three transformers in the Oshkosh South Sub need to be changed. Different options will be explored.

### **RUS OPERATIONAL RATIOS PRESENTATION**

Denver Schlaepfi, RUS Field Representative, presented the 2005 Borrower Statistical Profile report. Questions and discussion followed.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser gave a short report on the new Form 13-E Sales Tax Exempt forms.

A short discussion was held on the eight-page REN insert. Due to increased costs, the insert will be shortened to four pages whenever possible.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program was briefly explained as Wieser feels it is a good conservation program.

Wieser forewarned the Board that the bad debt write-off amount may be slightly higher due to some accounts that were retired for non-payment.

### **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Discussion was held on the AMI Cost Recovery report in the board packet which Lindahl prepared and presented.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Petersen made a motion to go into executive session at 11:10 a.m. to discuss director's fees and expenses. Smith seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried. The meeting resumed at 11:35 a.m.

## **MEETING REPORTS**

The Tri-State Manager's Meeting report submitted by Taaler was reviewed. Taaler reported on the lengthy discussion held on the Colorado and New Mexico RPSs (Renewable Portfolio Standards).

Taaler reported on the Basin Annual Meeting held in Bismarck.

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

## **SAFETY ITEMS**

The Employee Safety Meeting and the Safety Committee Meeting minutes of November 9, 2007, were reviewed and thoroughly discussed. Fehringler complimented the crew on wearing the proper PPE.

## **2008 BUDGET**

Taaler informed the Board of the projected budget and cash requirements for 2008. Questions and discussion followed.

Motion was made by Fehringler to approve a four day weekend for 2008. Petersen seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried. Employees will use their personal day on December 26, 2008, and the Board gave employees an additional day on January 2, 2009.

## **POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy E-27: Employee Behavior; 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-30: Change in Work Hours and Premium Rates; Policy E-31: Exchange Time; Policy E-33: Military Leaver for Reservists; and Policy E-34: Personal Use of Wheat Belt Tools or Equipment:** Fehringler made a motion to readopt Policy E-27, Policy E-28, Policy E-29, Policy E-30, Policy E-31, Policy E-32, Policy E-33 and Policy E-34. Petersen seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**STRATEGIC ISSUES**

A lengthy discussion was held on the Nebraska Power Issues Group. The Board members agreed that the expression “Tri-State dispute” in the Joint Representation Agreement should read “Tri-State rate discussion”. Members agreed that there is a need for a consultant to give credibility to the rate structure studies, etc., but that it was premature to include lawyers. Taaler was directed to write a letter to the NPIG explaining the Boards beliefs.

Taaler reported that he had resigned from the WNCC Lineman School Advisory Committee to make room for an NPPD representative. Taaler will be aiding another WNCC group looking at starting a course for wind energy technicians.

**FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING**

Taaler reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

**NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Paul Robinson, President

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Martin E. Petersen, Secretary