

UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD
DECEMBER 18, 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., Thursday, December 18, 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
Paul Robinson

Martin Petersen
Doug Smith
Dennis Zimmerman

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Pam Wieser, Business Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer and Debra Schlaman, Financial Accounting Assistant.

President Smith declared a quorum present.

Attention of the Directors, attendees and guests was directed to the Open Meetings Law Poster.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hass 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 and notification of changes to the By-laws were given by publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph on Friday, December 5, 2008, 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. Robinson seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Lindahl introduced Julie Bond, Lindahl's I.T. replacement. John Gortemaker, Director-elect was also present.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21st MINUTES

Morgan moved to waive the reading of the November 21, 2008, meeting minutes and that they be approved as presented. Zimmerman seconded the motion.

Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Personnel: Lindahl reported on the staffing changes. Julie Bond accepted the I.T. position; Mindy Schmidt, meter technician, will be leaving as of December 24th; Rosenbaum was promoted to senior meter technician; and Copley is taking advantage of a four day/part-time work week.

A lost time accident occurred this month. The Safety Committee met on Friday, December 12th to study the matter and make a recommendation concerning the incident. Policy E-29-Guidelines for Discipline and Termination, was distributed to all employees at the Safety Meeting.

Financials: The November financial reports were reviewed, and thoroughly discussed. Lindahl announced that the cash return for the Tri-State capital credit retirement is projected to be \$88,000 this year.

The 2009 Cash Requirements and the Form 7 were reviewed and discussion followed.

Other: Lindahl reported that the IRS mileage rate, effective January 1, 2009, will be \$0.55/mile.

The RUS Borrower's Statistical Profile and ratio explanation was included in the Board packet and questions and discussion followed.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

Reilly reported on the phase burn down in the Sidney WAPA substation on December 9th. He then reviewed the construction, maintenance and operations for the month.

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Reilly reported that the transformer for the Dalton Transmission Substation has been ordered. Scheduled delivery date is October 1, 2009. ESC received and evaluated bids for the Dalton Substation autotransformer. Bids were sent to six transformer manufacturers with three submitting bids. ESC recommended accepting the bid from Delta Star for one 25/33.25 MVA autotransformer for a total cost of \$844,665.

Reilly reported that he attended the NREA JT&S and Apprenticeship Committee meetings in Kearney, and was appointed vice-president of the JT&S Committee.

Reilly reported on the lost time accident and answered questions from the Board.

Reilly met with Steve Hopkins to discuss the tower location. A possible location was shown to the Directors.

Borges reported on the 2008 physical inventory. He asked for Board approval of a positive adjustment in the amount of \$223.72. Petersen moved to approve the physical adjustment in the amount of \$223.72. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Borges distributed a “sample” of the sign being built to place at the new Weyerts Substation location. The sign will be in place for thirty days and the public will be invited to attend the January Board meeting to voice any objections to the location. Robinson asked if graphics/pictures of the substation could be prepared to present to the public at the meeting. Borges will have information available at the meeting.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser announced that the 2009 black diaries were available if any Director wanted to distribute them. The Farm and Ranch Day at Oshkosh is scheduled for January 21, 2009.

Discussion on the customer contracts/deposit was held. Wieser was asked to check on liens being placed on large commercial accounts and report at the January meeting.

Wieser reported on the 2008 account write-offs which are in the amount of \$4,186.17. These accounts have been sent to Credit Management for collection. Petersen moved to write off the 2008 bad debt accounts in the amount of \$4,186.17. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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2009 BUDGET

The final proposed budget for the 2009 operating year was presented. A lengthy discussion followed. Zimmerman moved to approve the 2009 Budget. Robinson seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MEETING REPORTS

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

Lindahl, Robinson and Petersen reviewed the NREA Annual Committee Meeting reports.

Zimmerman reported on the Midwest Consumers meeting. Comments and discussion followed.

SAFETY ITEMS

The December Safety Meeting Minutes will be presented at the January Board meeting. The proposed director attendance schedule for the 2009 Safety meetings was presented.

POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS

The first reading of the proposed changes to the By-Laws was presented. Article II Section 6 reflects changes in the ability to attend a meeting via electronic means and adding the distinction between a special meeting and an emergency meeting. Article IV Section 2 includes the phrase “staff level” to refer to employees who are designated to sign district financial documents.

Following discussion, the word “only” will be added in Article II Section 6 relating to emergency meetings. In Article IV Section 2, the word “authorized” will be added to “staff level employees of the District, as defined by Policy”.

The 2009 Policy review schedule was presented to the Board.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Communication Tower: Reilly reported on an alternate site for the tower. Another \$6,000 lease payment was requested by the landowner should the tower be located at the proposed site. The landowner is not requesting a new Lease, and the Board agreed. The landowner asked that the lines be buried. Signs will be posted at the proposed site for the tower and then customers will be invited to attend the meeting with any objections to the proposed site.

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Reilly questioned whether the five acres needed to be surveyed. The Board recommended conducting the survey.

Wheat Belt Strategic Planning Session: Lindahl contacted Jonathan Bartsch and he is willing to facilitate the Session. Lindahl will meet with Mr. Bartsch the end of January to work out the details. Little America has a room available March 4th through the 6th, and Lindahl will make room reservations.

AMI Update: Single phase meters are arriving. Adjusting un-depreciated meters will be an issue to be addressed.

Finance Committee: Deryl Travis suggested forming a finance committee. Discussion followed and the Board feels it is not necessary.

FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING

The 2009 Board Meeting Schedule was presented and reviewed. Fehringer has a conflict in May which will be addressed at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS

A new Statewide Director and Alternate needed to be appointed. Zimmerman nominated Robinson. Fehringer seconded the nomination, calling for a unanimous ballot. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Robinson nominated Fehringer as the Statewide Alternate. Zimmerman seconded the nomination, calling for a unanimous ballot. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Fehringer moved that the Second Alternate be Lindahl, General Manager. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Fehringer called for an executive session at 11:30 a.m. for personnel reasons. The Board called for adjournment at 12:09 p.m, and no action was necessary.

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DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

Doug Smith, President

Stuart Morgan, Secretary