

**UNAPPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order at 9:05 a.m., Friday, February 27, 2009, 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  
Dennis Zimmerman

Absent: Doug Smith

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

Jim Hass, Vice-President, declared a quorum present.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Robinson 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 Saturday, February 14, 2009, 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. Robinson seconded. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Lindahl introduced guest Eric Reimers, Mapping Technician.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> MINUTES**

Fehringer moved to waive the reading of the January 23, 2009, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as presented. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**MANAGER ' S REPORT**

Personnel: Reimers was hired to fill the mapping technician position that Weeda vacated when he moved into Schmidt's job in metering. Lindahl reported that we are again at full staff and working on getting everyone up to speed in their new positions.

The AMI installation project is going quite smoothly as the weather has been very cooperative. Five substations have Cannon installed and the three-phase meters have arrived.

Financials: The year-end Form 7 and graphs were presented at the meeting and were thoroughly discussed. Lindahl reported on a correction in the total kWh purchased in July. He is working on the 2008 financial analysis report for the auditors.

The January and February financials will appear in the March Board book.

A lengthy discussion was held on coal tax, carbon tax, and Cap & Trade. There was discussion on the ethanol plant usage and control. Commercial Resins again is interested in taking advantage of technical control of their load.

Legislative: Lindahl reported that things seem to be progressing slowly out of the committees. Discussion was held on the two net metering bills and the railroad crossing bill. With the stimulus bill being passed, Lindahl is looking into the possibilities of what might be available for our smart grid investment as well as what might be available for our customers on the energy efficiency side.

Other: Lindahl reported on and included a letter from Steve Seglin on the letter of credit as security for bank deposits. Lindahl reported on a draft contract for delegating our NERC requirements to Tri-State.

The Nebraska ACRE and the NREA grassroots membership cards were distributed to the directors. Everyone has to be a member of the Nebraska ACRE before he/she can be a member of the National ACRE. The NPSIG group and their information and Resolution were discussed at length. Wheat Belt will remain neutral and Morgan will continue to ask questions and try and get answers on the issues.

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

Reilly reviewed the construction, maintenance and operations for the previous month. A major outage was taken on President's Day in Dalton from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to change out four poles, and seven spans of copper wire along Highway 385.

Reilly reported that the 34.5 line build to the new Weyerts Substation has begun.

The Cannon installations in the substations are progressing well with four more partially completed. Loose connections, bad meter sockets, etc are being repaired and replaced at the same time.

Reilly reported that the new communications tower is standing and the survey was completed on Friday, February 20, for the five acres.

An emergency response training session was held at WBPPD on January 28, 2009. Participants from the Nebraska State Patrol, Cheyenne County Sheriff's office, Emergency Response care, Region 21 Emergency Management, and the Cheyenne County Communications Center viewed a video from Federated and discussion followed. Another training session will be held later this spring. Reilly and employees will contact the other counties Sheriff's offices and fire departments and offer to make the presentation to them.

Other: Morgan asked about doing safety programs for the school children and the possibility of showing the Federated video during driver's education programs. Wieser reported on the safety programs Wheat Belt has sponsored in previous years and will look into doing another one in the future.

### **BUSINESS REPORT**

Wieser presented one of the 100 Energy Efficiency Kits, which we received from Tri-State to the Board. Discussion was held on how they would be distributed, and if additional kits will be ordered.

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Tri-State's Energy Star Appliance Rebate program has been expanded to split system air-conditioners, clothes washers and dishwashers. Morgan made a motion to match all Energy Efficiency Rebates on appliances as defined by Tri-State. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Wieser reported that we have started a program to distribute the CFL bulbs we purchased for our coupon program. Rosenbaum suggested sending them with the crews while they are replacing meters for the Cannon system and leaving them with the customers. As we have to shut power off for a few minutes, it works as a little peace offering.

Service Territory Waiver: The customer that had questioned a waiver to serve a low usage load by the City of Sidney has not pursued the matter further. At the January meeting, The Board discussed and had decided a waiver would not be granted under the circumstances.

Wieser reported on the bankruptcy situation mentioned previously. The LLC in question is not part of that bankruptcy, but the manager had indicated that they were having financial problems. Wieser was concerned over disconnect proceedings.

Bridgeport ethanol: Wieser informed the Board that Bridgeport Ethanol has questioned their bill a number of times comparing rates with another plant. Wieser explained the state and local tax addition on the Bridgeport plant, load factor, the differences in the installation costs and recovery, and has explained peak demand and the most efficient use of their generator. Wieser has had Tri-State set up a site for Bridgeport to follow our load graph.

### **INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Bond reviewed her report and answered questions from the Board. Software updates were distributed to the Directors. Bond is pursuing information from Landmark Clearing, a credit card hosting company. Further investigation will continue and she will report at the March Board meeting.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

Lindahl's meeting reports were reviewed.

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

Morgan gave a verbal report on the NRECA Annual Meeting.

Borges thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the NRECA Annual Meeting.

## **SAFETY ITEMS**

The February 13, 2009, Employee Safety Meeting Minutes and the Safety Committee Meeting Minutes, were reviewed and thoroughly discussed.

## **POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy A-1: Purpose, Formulation, Adoption, Review and Distribution of Board Policies, 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:** Zimmerman made a motion to readopt Policy A-1, Policy C-4 with a spelling correction, Policy C-5, Policy C-6, Policy C-7, Policy C-8. Morgan seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-9: Disconnect for Nonpayment and Policy C-10: Reading of Meters & Meter Calibration,** were tabled until the March Board meeting.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

Communications Tower Update: The tower is standing and the surveying has taken place. The building construction has begun and should be completed by the end of April

New Substation Update: The land has been surveyed and Borges is working on the land purchase of a 100' x 100' plot.

Wheat Belt Strategic Planning Session: Everything is set for Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at Little America in Cheyenne, WY. Topics were discussed with additional suggestions.

AMI Update: Rosenbaum submitted a report on the progress of the AMI installation. While at the NRECA Annual Meeting, Lindahl and Borges had a discussion with a Cooper Power Systems representative, and there are a few issues with the older 3-phase meters, so before installation begins, Rosenbaum will verify that they are the latest revision.

**FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING**

Lindahl reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training.

Fehringer made a motion to reaffirm Morgan as the Tri-State Director and the Tri-state Voting Delegate. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

The May Board meeting has been changed to May 26, 2009.

**FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING**

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

ATTEST:

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Jim Hass, Vice-President

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Stuart Morgan, Secretary