

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

NOVEMBER 23, 2009

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 23, 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
Doug Smith
Dennis Zimmerman

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

Doug Smith, President, declared a quorum present.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Morgan made a motion to approve the agenda as mailed. 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 Saturday, November 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. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests present.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 26th BOARD MINUTES

Lindahl reported that a correction needed to be made under the Meeting Reports on page 11. Lindahl reported on the “NREA” Legal Seminar, not the NRECA Legal Seminar. Zimmerman moved to waive the reading of the October 26, 2009, Board meeting minutes, and that they be approved as amended. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

MANAGER 'S REPORT

Personnel: Lindahl reported that approximately 50% of the employees had been sick with the H1N1 flu the past month. Fortunately, not everyone was sick at the same time.

Financials: The October financials were presented under separate cover and were reviewed and discussed. Directors Fehringer and Morgan reported that they preferred the report to be presented separately from the Board packet.

Legislative: Cap & Trade has been put on hold. Climate Change has been postponed. The “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign will probably run for another year. This is the time to educate on the effects of such a bill.

Other: Lindahl attended the Basin Annual meeting, the Nebraska Wind Working Group meeting, water issues meeting and the CEO Academy this month. Articles Lindahl placed in the Board packet were discussed.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPORT

Reilly reviewed the construction, maintenance and operations for the previous month. Reilly reported on the outages for the month brought on by ice and snow storms, and an outage caused by a pickup hitting a pole.

Reilly reported on WECC Compliance Enforcement, and the transfer of ownership of the 115KV switches to WAPA so that WAPA has both maintenance and operational control of the switches at the Greenwood and Dalton Substations. Tri-State has control of the 115 KV switches in Covalt, Wildhorse & Blue Creek Substations. Discussion followed and the Board agreed with the transfer.

Weyerts Substation: Borges reported that one more mile of the 34.5 line has been completed. Work has begun on the substation including installing six inch aluminum conduit under the road, hauling gravel and framing the vault. The project will not be completed by December 31, 2009, as estimated in the original Bond Issue documentation. Wayne Rasmuss of Ameritas Investments Corp. will receive a letter explaining the reasons for the delay. The reasons are: weather conditions; land purchase taking longer than expected; ordered equipment not arriving on time; and the bid on the land work for the substation taking longer than expected.

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Discussion was held on the interconnection of a customer's wind generator. Discussion was also held on the increase in outage times when wind generators are part of the outage area. Rebate proposals were discussed and Lindahl was instructed to prepare a formal response and present it at the next Board meeting.

Borges reported that he had been asked to apply for a position on the State Electrical Board, which meets once a month in Lincoln. This is a Governor appointed position with a five-year term. He will do further research into the commitments of the position before applying.

Reilly reported that several phone calls did not go out to customers concerning a planned outage today from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., in case any director receives a phone call.

BUSINESS REPORT

Wieser reported that the black diaries were available if any of the directors needed to distribute any to customers.

The entries for the Christmas Cover Contest for the December magazine insert were judged by Sarah Lindahl.

Wieser reported that research is still on-going on the HSA plans. Lindahl reported that there is no tax on the NRECA plan as it is an association that owns the plan and administers it.

Wieser reported on some meter read errors where the problem was with the registers on the electronic meters on two irrigation services. One of the customers asked for three months to pay the bill. The Board agreed to two months, in addition to the current month.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT

No report this month, due to illness.

SAFETY ITEMS

The November 13, 2009, Employee Safety Meeting Minutes and the November Safety Committee Meeting Minutes will be presented at the December Board meeting.

MEETING REPORTS

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

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Rate Study – Load forecast request – methodology.

Lindahl's Basin Annual Meeting report was reviewed.

Lindahl reported on the Nebraska Wind Working Group meeting. Discussion followed.

BUDGET

The preliminary 2010 cash budget was discussed and Lindahl explained his process in obtaining the figures for the budget. He will present the final budget for approval at the December Board meeting.

Lindahl included a report in the Board packet, showing selected Rate Class A-1 accounts and the impact of the new rate increase. Discussion followed.

POLICIES & RESOLUTIONS

Policy E-28: Grievance Procedure: Morgan moved to adopt Policy E-28 as amended. Hass seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-29: Guidelines for Discipline and Termination: Robinson moved to adopt Policy E-29 as amended. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-30: Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records; Policy E-32: Change in Work Hours and Premium Rates; Policy E-33: Military Lease for Reservists; and Policy E-35: Prevention of Identity Theft: Robinson moved to readopt Policy E-30, Policy E-32, Policy E-33, and Policy E-35. Fehringer seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-31: Change in Work Hours and Premium Rates: Fehringer moved to adopt Policy E-31 as amended. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-34: Personal Use of Wheat Belt Tools or Equipment: Fehringer moved to adopt Policy E-34 as amended. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy E-18: Insurance for Full Time, Part Time and Retired Employees: Remains tabled.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Work Plan: Bob McDonald from ESC will be in the office, Monday, November 30th to present the preliminary plan and answer questions.

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Capacitor Program: The Board asked that a preliminary proposal for administering the program be submitted.

Renewable Energy Position Statement: Lindahl will draft a statement and present it at the December Board meeting.

AMI Update: Lindahl announced that the warranty is due to expire on the ordered equipment not yet installed. After a bad main board in a CCU was found, equipment was being installed in the Sidney Sub today, to make sure all equipment is operational. All of the meters for Silverthorn have been installed and work is progressing at Greenwood. The substation equipment has been installed in both Broadwater and Silverthorn, and they are operational.

Borges announced that he would be attending MIP beginning in early December.

FUTURE MEETINGS & TRAINING

Lindahl reviewed the list of future Director meetings and training

MEETING DATE CHANGE

The January Board meeting has been changed to Monday, January 25, 2010.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

Doug Smith, President

Stuart Morgan, Secretary