

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD**  
**December 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held December 23, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. the District Headquarters at 11306 Road 32, Sidney Nebraska, pursuant to written notice to each of the Directors and publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Legal Notice #L21-771, on December 8, 2021, and virtual meeting, Legal Notice #L21-795 on December 22, 2021. The agenda was emailed to the directors, posted in the lobby and board room at Wheat Belt’s headquarters, and the availability of the agenda at the District office was part of legal notice.

Directors present at the meeting:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present (virtual)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present

Employees present at times throughout the meeting: Lacey Gulbranson, Earl Reilly, Ryan Borges, Sharrell Keane, Jim Weeda, Kelli Chaon, Valerie Richards, and Liz Skov.

Guests: Attorney Kendra Strommen and Senator Erdman

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by board President Brian Zimmerman, who noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Law in the boardroom and who established a quorum was present. Sharrell Keane recorded minutes at the request of Board Secretary Moe Moffat.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Blackburn moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Milanuk, and roll call vote with Directors voting as follows:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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### Reading of the Meeting Notice

Milanuk moved to waive the reading of the meeting notice; Blackburn seconded with roll call vote as follows:

Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Introduction of Guests –

Senator Erdman was introduced along with Attorney Kendra Strommen.

### Public Comment Period

8:35 a.m. No comments were received.

### Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes

Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021, regular meeting, and budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Milanuk with roll call vote as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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### Discussion with Senator Erdman

Senator Erdman discussed the new proposed consumption tax. Information can be found at [www.epicconsumptiontax.org](http://www.epicconsumptiontax.org). Following the discussion, the board took a brief break at 9:51 a.m. and resumed session at 10:00 a.m.

### 2022 Budget Hearing

The meeting was suspended at 10:00 a.m. to begin the Budget Hearing. The proposed rate charts are located in the board book.

#### Rate Consideration

Gulbranson reviewed the rate consideration documentation as provided in the board book. Following discussion, a motion was made by Milanuk and seconded by Moffat to not implement rates that were approved on October 22, 2022, that were to take effect on January 1, 2022, with the exception of D-1. Roll call vote as follows:

Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

A secondary motion followed, made by Moffat, and seconded by Blackburn to approve rates effective March 1, 2022, for a two percent increase on basic fees as presented. Roll call vote as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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### 2022 District Budget Amendments

Gulbranson reviewed the changes proposed to the 2022 District Budget. A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Milanuk to approve the proposed changes to the 2022 Budget along with the large item budget. A roll call vote followed:

Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Reilly updated the board regarding the December Safety meeting and provided board member sign-up sheet for the 2022 Safety meetings.

### Department Reports

Operations and Maintenance – Reviewed by Reilly

Construction and Engineering – Reviewed by Borges

Borges reported that physical inventory had been conducted. He asked for approval to write-off \$662.33. Milanuk made a motion to approve the \$662.33 write-off. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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IT & Metering – Reviewed by Weeda

Corporate Services – Reviewed by Keane

In addition to the items in the board report the changes to the Tri-State Consumer Rebate program were reviewed. No further action was taken at this time.

### **Bond Reimbursement Resolution**

Gulbranson reported that in the past we have approved a Bond Reimbursement Resolution for us to issue tax exempt municipal bonds to reimburse ourselves for previous expenditures. Approval of the Resolution does not commit us to issuing the bonds for reimbursement. A motion was made by Moffat to approve the Bond Reimbursement Resolution in the amount of \$4,000,000 dollars. Blackburn seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unavailable at time of vote

Motion carried.

### **Bad Debt Write off**

Keane reported a total of \$5,429.37 in bad debt that are being requested as a write -off. A motion was made by Milanuk to approve the Bad Debt write-off amount of \$5,429.37. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unavailable at time of vote
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### **Consideration of Irrigation Write offs**

Nothing new to report.

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### General Manager's Report

Gulbranson reviewed her report focusing on the following items as outlined in the board book:

- Onboarding – postponed till after January regular board meeting
- Potential new load
- Leadership development
- Financial Reports
- Legislative and Regulatory updates
- Legal updates
- Travel

In addition to the topics covered in Gulbranson board report there was a discussion regarding a Wheat Belt donation in the amount of \$250 to a charitable donation on behalf of each board member. Requests need to be made prior to yearend.

### Board Meeting Schedule for 2022

Zimmerman presented the proposed board meeting schedule for 2022. A motion was made by Blackburn to approve the 2022 Board Meeting Schedule Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unavailable at time of vote
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Hazard Mitigation Plan

A motion was made by Milanuk to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution #21-04 with board recommended changes. Blackburn seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unavailable at time of vote
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

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Marcus Milanuk  Yes  No

Motion carried.

### Break:

The board suspended proceeding at 11:57 a.m. for lunch and resumed at 12:29 p.m.

## Executive Session – FERC Interventions, Protests, and Settlement

Due to the sensitive nature of ongoing and potential litigation and personnel matters, Moffat moved to enter executive session to discuss the status of Wheat Belt's FERC interventions, protests, and settlements, to discuss potential litigation, and to discuss personnel issues; Blomenkamp seconded followed by roll call vote with voting as follows

Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unavailable at time of vote
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

### Executive Session:

The board entered Executive session at 12:32 p.m. and Attorney Strommen and Gulbranson were asked to stay.

Blackburn made a motion to end the executive session at 1:06 p.m.; Milanuk seconded. Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

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### FERC Interventions, Protests, and Settlement

No further actions were taken by the board.

### Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson updated the board on strategic planning session to be held in January at the Wheat Belt main office.

### Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book.

### Meeting reports

Gulbranson and Blackburn discussed the NREA Annual Meeting held in Kearney, NE.

### Policy Review

Blackburn moved to adopt updated Board Policy E-31; Moffat seconded. Roll call vote as follows:

Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Moffat moved to adopt the District Bylaws which were updated based on board recommendations to clarify existing policy; Blackburn seconded. Roll call vote as follows:

Jennifer Eckhardt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Sean Blackburn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Brian Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No



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Moe Moffat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuart Morgan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

## Future Meetings and Trainings

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed in addition to the General Manager onboarding committee to be rescheduled to January.

## Delegations/Organizational Items

The delegate list was reviewed. No further actions were taken.

## Other Business

The next regular board meeting is Friday, January 28, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office. District Strategic Planning session to be held January 19-20, 2022.

## Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 1:51 p.m.

## Attest:

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Brian Zimmerman, President

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Brian Moffat, Secretary