

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
May 26, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held May 26, 2023, 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 #L23-294, on May 18, 2023. 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<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, Rollie Waite, Jim Weeda, Sharrell Keane, Mark Cape, Valerie Richards, Nick Brauer, Levi Berndt and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen not present

Guests present: Dustin Kizzire, Dana F. Cole

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.

Introduction of Guests – Dustin Kizzire from Dana F. Cole

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Milanuk moved to approve the consent agenda containing the following items:

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Legal Notices
 - Waive the reading of Regular Board Meeting Notice July 22, 2022
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - April 28, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Approve Policies with no Changes (C-12, C-13, C-14, C-15, C-16, C-17, C-18, C-19, C-20)
- Item 5: Approve Polices with Minor Changes (N/A)
- Item 6: Bank Signatories Resolution

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The motion was seconded by Eckhardt, and roll call vote with Directors voting 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
Collin Anderson	<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.

Public Comment Period

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

2022 Audit

Dustin Kizzire of Dana F. Cole presented the 2022 audit findings with brief board discussions during the presentation. Blomenkamp provided a clarification to the audit page 18, Electric Energy Sales and Unbilled Revenue. The following statement should be removed from future documentation, “excluding irrigation and other seasonal sales.”

A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Morgan to approve the 2022 Audit. A roll call vote was held with the directors voting 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
Collin Anderson	<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

Policy Review

Weeda provided an update regarding policy C-23 Net Metering. Morgan moved to adopt Board Policy C-23 with major changes; Milanuk seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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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
Collin Anderson	<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.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Cape updated the board regarding the May Safety and Safety Committee meeting.

Department Reports

Engineering – Reviewed by Mark Cape

Operations – Reviewed by Rollie Waite

Engineering – Reviewed by Mark Cape

In addition to Cape’s report an update was given on the Pole Testing/Replacement plan and 2023 contractor engagement on the workplan.

IT & Metering – Reviewed by Jim Weeda

The board took a break from 9:49 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Corporate Services and Financials– Reviewed by Sharrell Keane

General Manager’s Report

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

- Summary of Operations
- Federated Claims – active
- Four Year Workplan – lengthy discussion on the new workplan process
- Cost of Service
- Industrial Loads
- Air Force
- NextEra Energy Easements
- Travel
- Other
 - Secondary Underground – Gulbranson provided a new approach to potential solutions to the ownership of secondary underground that was reviewed in 2022.

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Gulbranson indicated the decision is needed to provide direction for the new workplan. A lengthy discussion was had by the board with no further action taken at this time. Gulbranson will bring back additional information at a future meeting.

- o NREA Mutual Aid – Gulbranson gave an overview of the proposed changes to the NREA Mutual Aide Agreement. The agreement will go to legal review and come back to vote in the June board meeting.
- o PACE Program – Government clean energy loan program was discussed, and the board determined not to pursue it.
- o Policy C-2 – Discussion was held regarding how the retail value calculations have been updated to use county assessor data. The policy will come back in June for approval.

Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book in addition to the potential rate increase being discussed by Tri-State being a conservative estimate of 7.3% for 2024.

FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

No further discussion was held.

Strategic Plan Update

Eckhardt made a motion to update the Strategic Committee Members removing Ryan Borges and adding Mark Cape also changing the Initiative Lead of the Efficiency Committee to Lacey Gulbranson and the Safety Committee to Mark Cape. The motion was seconded by Milanuk and Roll call voting by the directors as follows:

Toni Blomenkamp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Collin Anderson	<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.

Gulbranson, Cape and Keane provided an overview of updates on the full strategic plan.

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Meeting reports

Milanuk provided an update on the recent NREA meeting indicating the new format for the sessions of only presenting action items to the board versus doing a full committee recap was successful in reducing the amount of time. Milanuk also indicated the next NREA meeting would be held in Scottsbluff in August.

Future Meetings and Trainings

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed. Also, the Strategic Initiative Culture Committee will be meeting directly after today's board meeting.

Election of Delegates and Other Organizational Items

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

Public Comment Period

11:30 a.m. No comments were received.

Other Business

Zimmerman presented Blomenkamp with her certificate of completion for the Certified Cooperative Director program.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, June 23, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:07 p.m.

Attest:

Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary