

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
January 26, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held January 26, 2024, 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 #L24-065, on January 18, 2024. 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 and Kelli Chaon.

Attorney: Kendra Strommen present

Guests present:

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 –

Public Comment Period

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

Approval of the Agenda

Milanuk made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an emergency large budget truck repair topic added; seconded by Moffat, and roll call vote with Directors voting as follows:

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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
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.

Election of Officers

President:

The Chair was surrendered to the General Manager for written nominations for the office of President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of President. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Zimmerman and Milanuk both received nominations. Milanuk respectfully declined the nomination.

A motion was made by Morgan to elect Zimmerman as Board President by acclamation. Moffat seconded the motion followed by a unanimous verbal vote.

Vice President

The Chair was returned to President-elect Zimmerman who called for written nominations for Vice President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Vice President. Morgan was nominated for Vice-President. A motion was made by Moffat to elect Morgan Vice President by acclamation. Zimmerman seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken with all in favor.

Secretary

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Secretary. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Moffat and Eckhardt were nominated, and Eckhardt respectfully declined the nomination. A motion was made by Morgan to elect Moffat as Secretary by acclamation. Milanuk seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken with all in favor.

Treasurer

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Milanuk was nominated. A motion was made by Morgan to elect

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Milanuk as Treasurer by acclamation. Moffat seconded the motion with a A verbal vote taken with all in favor.

Assistant Secretary

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Assistant Secretary. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Gulbranson. Blomenkamp was nominated for the position of Assistant Secretary. A motion was made by Moffat to elect Blomenkamp as Assistant Secretary. Morgan seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken with all in favor.

NREA Board of Director

Each Director nominated a candidate for NREA Board of Director. Milanuk and Blomenkamp were nominated for NREA Board of Director. Blomenkamp respectfully declined. Moffat moved and Eckhardt seconded to appoint Milanuk as NREA Board of Director. 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
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

Motion carried.

Tri-State Board of Director

Each Director nominated a candidate for Tri-State Board of Director. Morgan was nominated for Tri-State Board of Director. A motion was made by Milanuk to elect Morgan as the Tri-State Board of Director. Blomenkamp seconded the motion 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
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

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Motion carried.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Milanuk moved to approve the consent agenda presented:

- Item 1: Legal Notices
 - Waive the reading Regular Board Meeting Notice January 26, 2024
 - Digger De3rrick Notice to Receive Bids
- Item 2: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - December 22, 2023, Regular Board Meeting

The motion was seconded by Eckhardt, and roll call vote with 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

Motion carried.

Policy Changes to Support the Inception of an Employee Handbook

Gulbranson asked for questions regarding any of the proposed policy changes. Morgan indicated there was a typographical error in policy A-4 and A-5 which will be corrected as a scrivener’s error. Additional discussion was had regarding policy A-7 and determined to leave as presented. Milanuk asked how the handbook would be reviewed going forward and Gulbranson indicated on a 3-year cycle.

Milanuk moved to Sunset/eliminate the following Board Policies: E-01, E-02,E-03, E-04, E-06, E-07, E-08, E-09, E-10, E-11, E-12, E-13, E-14, E-15, E-16, E-17, E-18, E-19, E-19A, E-19B, E-20, E-20A, E-21, E-22, E-23, E-24, E-25, E-26, E-27, E-28, E-29, E-30, E-31, E-32, E-33, E-34, E-35, E-36, E-37, and C-13; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

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

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Stuart Morgan Yes No

Motion carried.

Milanuk moved to adopt Board Policies A-2, A-3, A-5, A-6, A-7, A-7A, and D-15; Blomenkamp seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Toni Blomenkamp Yes No
Collin Anderson Yes No
Marcus Milanuk Yes No
Brian Zimmerman Yes No
Moe Moffat Yes No
Stuart Morgan Yes No
Jennifer Eckhardt Yes No

Motion carried.

Milanuk moved to approve Board Policy A-01 and D-01 with recommended modifications; Anderson seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Collin Anderson Yes No
Marcus Milanuk Yes No
Brian Zimmerman Yes No
Moe Moffat Yes No
Stuart Morgan Yes No
Jennifer Eckhardt Yes No
Toni Blomenkamp Yes No

Motion carried.

Milanuk moved to approve Board Policy A-04 with recommended modifications; Blomenkamp seconded. Roll call vote by the directors as follows:

Collin Anderson Yes No
Marcus Milanuk Yes No
Brian Zimmerman Yes No
Moe Moffat Yes No
Stuart Morgan Yes No
Jennifer Eckhardt Yes No
Toni Blomenkamp Yes No

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Motion carried.

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Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Cape updated the board regarding the January Safety meeting with a lengthy discussion regarding near miss and recent incident at NPPD near Oshkosh.

Safety Bonus Consideration

After an in-depth discussion regarding the potential options for safety bonus payout, Morgan moved to approve proposed safety bonus with the same structure as approved in 2023; Moffat seconded. Roll call vote 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
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

Digger Derrick Bid Review and Approval

Waite reviewed the bids presented in the board book. After discussion, Milanuk moved to approve the bid by Terex in the amount of \$430,283.79; Blomenkamp seconded. Roll call vote by the directors 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
Collin Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Motion carried.

A break was taken from 9:40 – 9:52 a.m.; upon returning Morgan was asked to refrain from joining until after the executive session was concluded.

Department Reports

Engineering – Mark Cape reviewed the Engineering Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

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Operations – Rollie Waite reviewed the Operations Report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

IT & Metering – Jim Weeda reviewed the Technology Department Report report in the board book with nothing additional to add.

Corporate Services and Financials– Sharrell Keane reviewed the Corporate Services report with an additional discussion regarding emergency large budget approval for truck repairs.

- Moffat made a motion to approve an increase of \$3,000 for the UTV/Side-by-Side taking the approved amount from \$30,000.00 to \$33,000.00. Morgan seconded followed by roll call vote with 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.

- Milanuk made a motion to approve a large budget exception to move wage/benefit dollars to the large budget item for Accounting Consulting in the amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Eckhardt seconded followed by roll call vote with 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

Motion carried.

- Keane presented an emergency large budget exception for truck repairs that had exceeded the previous large budget approved amount. Eckhardt made a motion to approve a large budget exception to increase the previous approved amount by an additional \$25,119.36. Milanuk seconded followed by roll call vote with voting 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.

The preliminary December financials were presented with a discussion regarding the upcoming audit and that additional entries will be coming as the process completes.

General Manager's Report

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

- Summary of Operations
- Employee Handbook
- Work Order Process
- Line Extension
- Carbon America - Discussion regarding Carbon America project. Milanuk gave an update regarding Senator Erdman's withdrawal of bill for transportation and storage of carbon dioxide.
- City of Sidney
- Sidney Solar System
- Data Center / Bitcoin Mining
- State Senator Candidates
- NREA Grassroots
- Upcoming Travel
- Employee Thank you
- General Updates
 - Milanuk brought forth discussion regarding customer inquiry of difference between Wheat Belt and NPPD irrigation rates.

Power Supply Report

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

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson reviewed the committee schedules as provided in the board book.

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FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson gave an update regarding contract term pricing, contract buy down pricing and formulary rate filing.

Meeting reports

There were no meeting reports given.

Future Meetings and Trainings

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed.

Delegations/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

Gulbranson advised board members she had the sign-up information for the Americas Electric Cooperative Pac if they were interested.

No further items were brought forth for discussion.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, February 23, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:11 p.m.

Attest:

Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary