

Meeting Minutes
Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD
February 23, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held February 23, 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 #L24-114, on January 15, 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 type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" 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 –

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

- Item 1: Approval of the agenda
- Item 2: Waive the reading of the Meeting Notice
 - Regular Board Meeting Notice February 23, 2024
- Item 3: Approve the Board Meeting Minutes of the Previous Meeting
 - January 26, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- Item 4: Approve Policies with no Changes (D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4, D-4A)
- Item 5: Approve Policies to eliminate (M-01 move to A-8)
- Item 6: New policy (A-8)

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The motion was seconded by Moffat, 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Present
Marcus Milanuk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

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

Board Evaluation

Moffat presented the results of the internal board evaluation. There was a brief discussion regarding the potential need for improvement on board orientation. Milanuk pointed out there has been more board orientation than in the past and the other board members agreed.

2023 Budget to Preliminary Actuals Review

Gulbranson and Keane presented a review of the 2023 Budget in comparison to the preliminary actuals. The review also highlighted key decisions by the board and management throughout the year and the financial impacts.

Line Extension Policy

Gulbranson presented a preliminary new line extension policy for input from the board. She indicated that the proposal contained input from our rate consultant JKEnergy. The purpose of the change was to simplify the policy to reduce from both a customer understanding and implementation perspective. Next steps are to finalize legal review of associated contracts and then the policy will be brought back to the board for approval.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

Cape updated the board regarding the February Safety meeting. There was an extensive discussion regarding a recent near miss that was covered in the safety meeting pertaining to a rotten pole. Additional work will be done by the management team to review the education of the crews to identify rotten poles on the map. Gulbranson also reminded the board of our current focus on rotten pole replacements.

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Department Reports

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

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 in the board book. The board inquired about recent events in the news around cyber hacking.

Corporate Services and Financials– Sharrell Keane reviewed the Corporate Services report in the board book. The Statement of Operations was missing from the board book, so it was reviewed at the meeting and updated for the board to review in the digital drive.

General Manager’s Report

Gulbranson indicated she had nothing additional to add to her board report and asked for questions. There were no additional questions. Her board report covered the following topics:

- Work Order Process
- Line Extension
- Carbon America
- City of Sidney
- Sidney Solar System
- Data Center / Bitcoin Mining

Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book. Morgan took an action to follow up with the board on the upcoming Tri-State annual meeting and potential to attend the board meeting.

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson indicated the minutes from the Customer Experience Committee were contained in the board book. There was no additional discussion.

FERC Interventions, Protests and Settlement

Gulbranson provided an update on the potential impact of the FERC decisions on the cost of power. She indicated more details will come as part of the rate committee in March.

Executive Session:

Milanuk made a motion for the board to enter executive session to discuss the recent NREA conversation regarding personnel. The motion was seconded by Eckhardt with a roll call vote as follows.

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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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present

Motion carried.

The board entered Executive session at 11:29 a.m., Gulbranson and Strommen were asked to stay.

Milanuk made a motion to end the executive session at 11:37 a.m.; Eckhardt 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present

Motion carried.

Meeting reports

Milanuk gave an update on the recent NREA legislative meeting and the class he attended regarding Electric Vehicles – Strategy and Policy Considerations.

A motion was made by Milanuk and seconded by Morgan to support NREA’s legislative position.

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present
Collin Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not present
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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Motion carried.

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

Milanuk gave a brief update on the NE ACRE committee support for State Senate candidate Paul Strommen.

The next regular board meeting is Friday, March 26, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 12:02 p.m.

Attest:

Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary