

**APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD**

**DECEMBER 23, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by President Bernard Fehringer, at 8:30 a.m., Monday, December 23, 2019, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Bernard Fehringer  
John Gortemaker  
Stuart Morgan

Moe Moffat  
Doug Smith

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; and Jim Weeda, Technology Manager.

Absent: Mike Blomenkamp and Brian Zimmerman

Debra Schlaman recorded these Minutes at the request of the Board Secretary.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Bernard Fehringer declared a quorum present.

Attention of the Directors and attendees was directed to the Open Meetings poster.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Smith made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting, Bylaw changes and Budget approval, was by publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Gortemaker made a motion to waive the reading of the

meeting notice. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

No guests were present.

### **APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 22, 2019, BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that there were no corrections to the November 22, 2019, Board Minutes, and they would stand approved as published.

### **Public Hearing & Comment Period**

No one appeared.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lindahl reported:

He spent most of the month with storm recovery.

#### **Personnel**

Two employees are on medical leave currently. The lineman with a lost time accident, is back to full duty. Lindahl reported that there have been no lost time accidents since 2008.

#### **Legislative & Regulatory**

The draft legislative and regulatory statement from NREA was included in the Board book for review.

The CEO's in legislative district 47 will continue to have phone calls with Senator Steve Erdman on a regular basis beginning in January.

Lindahl reported that at the NREA Annual Meeting, he spoke with Senator Bruce Bostelman on the broadband issues

A discussion was held on solar generation and the net metering one-percent cap limit.

#### **Legal**

Lindahl included the NRECA Legal reporting Services reports in the Board book.

**Other**

The letter received from Dawson was discussed.

We received tremendous customer response concerning the storm outages.

Smith asked why we charge \$1,000 for a solar array.

Discussion was held on the usage and charges (kwh) on solar. Lindahl will bring back some figures for the Board.

Fehringer wanted the Directors to sign a letter thanking the crews on the storm restoration. A discussion was held on the storm issues, poles and crossarms; pole checking and comparing to current technology.

NFIT was discussed. Hostetler responded on NPAIT. Further research will be conducted on the NFIT.

**Financials**

Discussion was held on the new format for the Financial and Statistical Report and Statement of Operations. The customer refunds/overpayment on the actual cash expenditures report/Cash Requirements on page 2-1, was discussed.

**2020 Budget**

The meeting was suspended at 9:30 to conduct the Budget Hearing.

A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat to adopt the 2020 Budget as presented. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was called at 9:45 to discuss FERC legal matters, the Colorado PUC legal matters, and a personnel issue. Lindahl remained for the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Morgan to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made to resume the meeting at 10:42 a.m. by Smith and seconded by Moffat. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**A break was taken at 10:50 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 11:00 a.m.**

### **Thanksgiving Storm Disaster Declaration**

A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Gortemaker to declare the November 29 and 30 winter storm a disaster. Also, the Board approved up to \$2,000 for salaried employees under Policy E-24: On-Call Compensation, to be distributed at the Manager's discretion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Colorado PUC Intervention and Protest on the United Power and LaPlata Electric Association Dockets**

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Smith, granting the general manager authority to intervene on behalf of the District. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Bond Reimbursement Resolution**

Discussion was held on the Bond Reimbursement Resolution and it was decided to table the Resolution until the January Board meeting.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **Infrastructure**

Lindahl reported that the Thanksgiving storm will impact the infrastructure plan. Staff is working through the opportunities that the storm provided to improve plant. Additionally, we will have 208 new poles, or about a ten-mile equivalent of new poles. The lingering repairs will impact the speed at which we will accomplish the 2020 Work Plan. We will be working with NEMA and FEMA to determine if we can get some of the costs covered and explore opportunities for future mitigation.

### **Modern Energy**

Lindahl has made progress at Ford with getting to the right people in their corporate office to develop a partnership/relationship on their all electric and plug in hybrid F-150's. He will continue to pursue the opportunity, both from a fleet perspective as well as a consumer perspective.

Lindahl will continue to monitor the community solar program.

Lindahl reported on an opportunity to participate in a partnership discussion with the Department of Energy at the NRECA CEO Conference, on a small-scale hydro project. The North Platte River could potentially provide us with some opportunity, especially coupled with our new infrastructure on the north side of the river.

### **Technology**

No new developments were reported.

### **Financials**

Approved the 2020 Budget.

### **Customer Relations**

Fehringer commented that he liked the Customer Rate Books that were mailed.

Lindahl reported that discussion continues on developing a community STEM - type lab at the Sidney Annex facilities. Another meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2020, to continue the discussion on the STEM lab project.

Morgan reported a discrepancy in figures in the October Board book and the figures in the Customer Rate books concerning, Rates I-1 and I-2.

An Emergency Motion was made by Smith to correct the error in the rates previously approved, to the correct rate as printed in the Rate Book. Morgan seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

### **Tri-State Board Meeting**

Morgan reported and reviewed his report. Morgan reported on the patronage refund. A lengthy discussion with questions followed.

### **Basin Report**

Nothing reported.

### **Midwest Report**

A new Executive director was announced.

## **MEETING REPORTS**

### **Tri-State Contract Committee Meeting**

There was no December meeting. A consulting firm for the buyout numbers was delayed until January 3, 2020.

### **NREA Annual Meeting**

Nothing reported.

### **Midwest Electric Consumers Annual Meeting**

The Corp of Engineers discussed and showed a presentation on the Nebraska flooding event.

## **POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

### **District Bylaws**

Several changes were recommended under Article II Section 5 and 6, and Section 14. Article III Section 2 had an additional sentence added. Article XII B had a wording change. A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat to approve the changes in the District Bylaws. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES**

The December 13th Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed by the Board. Training: Chain saws, chippers and tree safety was presented by NREA JT&S instructor Joel Duffield.

Reilly reported on Kevin Coss's injury which resulted in a lost time accident. He was off work for eleven days.

Fehringer asked Reilly to express to the crews, on behalf of the Board, their appreciation for safely restoring service to our customers.

The director sign-up sheet to attend the Safety Meetings was presented.

## **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

### **Major Outages**

Reilly reported and reviewed his report in the Board book.

### **Construction, Maintenance & Operations**

Borges reported that the crews are busy rebuilding from the storm damages.

### **Capital Budget**

Reilly reported that new Unit 2, will be delivered in February 2020.

### **Coldwater Creek Substation**

Reilly reported that Tri-State has received bids back on their portion of the sub. ESC will not have our portion ready to go to bid, until January 2020. Money was sent to Tri-State for our portion of the sub.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES**

Gulbranson was not present. Lindahl had nothing new to add to the report in the Board book.

Wheat Belt and Tri-State earned the Grizwald award in the Sidney Parade of Lights, for the lighting on the trucks.

### **2019 Bad Debt List Write-Offs**

A list was included in the Board book in the amount of \$3,886.45. The write-off will be approved at the January meeting.

### **2020 Youth Tour**

Wheat Belt has received three applicants to attend the 2020 Youth Tour. Following discussion, the three applicants will be contacted to attend the January Board meeting and make a presentation to the Board.

### **METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY**

Weeda reported that he had no changes to his report.

All of the meters and equipment have arrived earlier than expected.

### **IT Report**

Weeda had nothing new to add to his report in the Board book.

### **Security Report**

Weeda had nothing new to add to his report in the Board book.

Weeda and Lindahl indicated that by using Facebook to report on the storm status, 40,000 people saw the reports and 28,000 shared the posts. We use Facebook as an operational tool.

### **Election of Delegates**

NRTC election delegates will be reviewed at the January 2020, Board meeting.

**FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS**

Shelley reviewed upcoming meetings with the Directors.

**Board Round Table**

Fehringer asked the Directors if they had anything further to be addressed. The February 2020 Board meeting was changed to Monday, February 24, instead of Friday, February 28, 2020.

**The next regular Board meeting will be Friday, January 24, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**DECEMBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

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

ATTEST:

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Bernard Fehringer, President

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Brian Zimmerman, Secretary