

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

**FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by President Bernard Fehring, at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp  
John Gortemaker  
Stuart Morgan  
Brian Zimmerman

Bernard Fehring  
Moe Moffat  
Doug Smith

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jim Weeda, Technology Manager; Lacey Gulbranson, Manager of Corporate Services; and Kelli Chaon, Executive Assistant.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Bernard Fehring declared a quorum present.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Gortemaker made a motion to approve the February 14, 2020, updated Agenda as presented. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Notice of the meeting was by publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 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**

Cheyenne County Commissioner, Randy Miller was introduced.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 24, 2020, BOARD MINUTES**

Lindahl announced that there was a correction to the deadline for the Directors Statement of Financial Interest to be filed. The date should be March 1, 2020, not April 1, 2020. Fehringer announced that with the correction to the January 24, 2020, Board Minutes, they would stand approved as published.

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

No one appeared before the Board.

### **CT MULTIPLIER ERRORS THAT PRE-DATED BOARD POLICY C-28**

County Commissioner Randy Miller appeared before the Board to voice concern over the CT error adjustment to a County account.

Lindahl explained to the Board that this error occurred mainly prior to Policy C-28 becoming effective April 2018. After discussion, a motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Zimmerman to write-off Account 8788 in the amount of \$14,878.41. Roll call vote: Yea: Blomenkamp, Zimmerman, Morgan, Moffat, Fehringer, Gortemaker. Nay: Smith. Motion carried.

After further discussion concerning three other CT error billing accounts, a motion was made by Blomenkamp and seconded by Moffat to write-off Accounts 82953 in the amount of \$32,652.76; Account 67763 in the amount of \$22,545.45; and Account 29245 in the amount of \$494.16. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **BOARD EVALUATION**

Director Moffat was responsible for the Evaluation and reporting the results. Discussion and questions were put to the Directors for aiding new directors. Fehringer asked if there was enough orientation for new members. A comment was made concerning the acronyms that are used in the industry and learning what they stand for and their usage.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lindahl began with:

### **Financials**

Due to the early meeting, and the recent audit, the Financials were not available. Tri-State patronage and equity were discussed.

### **Legislative & Regulatory**

Three broadband bills have been introduced in the Unicameral. Lindahl reported.

The NREA Legislative bills were included in the Board book.

Lindahl explained the historic intent of the Wheat Belt Board is to take the same position as NREA on Legislative bills, unless there is a contrary position.

### **Legal**

The NRECA Legal Report Service was included in the Board book.

### **Other**

A Regional Town Hall meeting for Tri-State members will be held at the Wheat Belt headquarters on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Highly, Mr. Gordon and others will be available to discuss important topics.

**A break was taken at 9:39 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 9:45 a.m.**

### **Executive Session**

An Executive Session was called at 9:45 a.m. by Smith to discuss a FERC legal matter, Colorado PUC legal matter, personnel, and real estate transaction. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl remained for the Executive Session. Chaon was present during the real estate transaction discussion.

A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat to resume the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Colorado PUC Intervention and Protest**

Lindahl reported and discussion followed. A motion was made by Moffat to authorize the General Manager and the Board President to take appropriate legal action following any adverse decision from the Colorado PUC. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

#### **Broadband**

Lindahl included a report in the Board book. Previous discussion on the subject had been held.

### **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

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

Morgan stated that Tri-State approved the 300 megawatts for partial requirements.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

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

Morgan reported that the Committee voted on recommendations to go to the Board on the methodology for partial buydown on the requirements. Discussion followed.

#### **NREA Legislative Meeting**

Gortemaker and Smith reported. Discussion followed.

#### **Midwest Water and Power Committee**

Lindahl included the agenda and his report in the Board book.

### **POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy C-9: Disconnect for Nonpayment; Policy C-10: Reading of Meters & Meter Calibration; Policy C-11: Irrigation Accounts; Policy C-12: Exception to General Provisions; Policy C-13: Nondiscrimination; Policy C-14: Damage to District Property; Policy C-15: Failure of Customer Equipment; and Policy C-16: Tree Trimming.** A motion was made by Morgan to readopt Policies C-9, C-10, C-11, C-12, C-13, C-14, C-15 and C-16 with no recommended changes. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea:

All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-17: Yard and Lease/Rental Lights**

Following an explanation for the changes, and a suggestion to add ...the service charge will **“be”** \$20...in the fourth paragraph, a motion was made to approve Policy C-17 by Gortemaker and seconded by Smith. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES**

The February 14, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were **not** included in the Board book and will be presented at the March Board meeting. The Annual Performance Measurements for OSHA for the 2019 year were included in the Board book and discussed by Reilly. The three-year Safety summary was also included in the Board book and reviewed by Reilly.

**CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

**Major Outages**

Reilly had nothing to add.

**Construction, Maintenance & Operations**

Reilly reported that 100-amp double throws are backordered for about two months.

Electro-Test is conducting testing on transformers and has found two bad transformer bushings.

Crews are still doing storm repairs.

Borges reported that the crews have been retiring services and have removed about five miles of line.

**Coldwater Creek Substation**

Reilly reported that the bids came back: Estimates from Tri-State have doubled. Wheat Belt is looking at \$3.2M for our share.

**CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

Gulbranson reported that the new rate changes were effective on the February 1<sup>st</sup> bills. A few irrigators have called the office as to why they received bills.

Gulbranson is working with PCS on a few programming issues.

Customer Appreciation will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, 2020, following the Board meeting.

### **Marketing**

Dominick Russ from Leyton will be the lone attendee for the DC Youth Tour in June.

Several scholarship applications have been received.

### **Energy Optimization**

Gulbranson and Borges have been working on ordering transformers to change over/under loaded services prior to irrigation season to be able to analyze reduction in line loss.

### **Other**

Lindahl reported that we have fulfilled our commitment to the Western Nebraska Community College Foundation with the final \$5,000 payment.

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

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

### **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.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS**

Peterson reviewed the upcoming meetings with the Directors.

**The next Board meeting will be Friday, March 27, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

### **FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bernard G. Fehringer, President

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Brian Moffat, Secretary