

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

**MARCH 27, 2020**

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., Friday, March 27, 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 Fehringer via video conference  
Moe Moffat  
Doug Smith

Also present was Tim Lindahl, General Manager.

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**

Morgan made a motion to approve the March 27, 2020, Agenda as presented. Moffat 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, March 11, 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. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Robert Stefka arrived at 9:30 a.m.

Kendra Strommen, Wheat Belt Attorney was present.

## **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020, BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that with no corrections to the February 19, 2020, Board Meeting Minutes, they would stand approved as published.

## **APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2020, SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES**

Fehringer announced that with no corrections to the March 18, 2020, Special Board Meeting Minutes, they would stand approved as published.

## **Public Hearing & Comment Period**

No one appeared before the Board.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lindahl began with:

Personnel update to be discussed in Executive Session. Two employees on quarantine and one of them is working from home.

The powerline intern we had, received a full-time job offer and will not be working with Wheat Belt this summer.

## **Legislative & Regulatory**

Lindahl reported on the COVID-19 new law requirements and discussed a tax offset to the funding. We do have to provide up to twelve weeks family medical leave and 80 hours of additional sick leave.

Lindahl reported on the work on the Broadband Bill and Amendments.

## **Legal**

Lindahl reported that while attending the NRECA Annual Meeting, he and Fehringer met with our FERC attorneys.

**Other**

Lindahl recommended postponing the Customer Meeting. Next year is our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we could possibly do a larger event then. Discussion followed. The consensus was to postpone for April and add to the Agenda monthly for discussion.

Discussion was held on notifying our customers on the FERC and PUC issues and to capitalize on our successes.

Morgan, Lindahl and Fehring reported on topics discussed at the Annual Meeting.

**Financials**

Year-end Financials were presented, and the 2019 Financials have been closed. January, February and March financials will be reported in April.

Discussion was held on our top industry users that are being affected currently because of COVID-19.

Discussion was held on TOU customers usage and a report will be given at the April Board meeting. Discussed sending out additional information to the irrigation customers on TOU.

**A break was taken at 9:27 a.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 9:38 a.m.**

**Executive Session**

An Executive Session was called at 9:39 a.m. by Smith to discuss FERC legal matters, Colorado PUC legal matters, personnel, and a real estate transaction. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl, Strommen and Stefka remained for the Executive Session.

Morgan left the meeting at 11:24 so discussion could be held concerning FERC matters.

A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat to resume the meeting at 11:55 a.m. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**A lunch break was taken at 12:06 p.m.**

**The meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.**

### **Consideration of Sale of Sidney Annex Property**

A motion was made by Smith authorizing the CEO to sign a Letter of Intent for the potential sale of the Sidney Annex facilities, asking for a twenty percent down payment and that we conduct our due diligence and do a credit and background check. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

### **Disconnect Procedures**

Lindahl reviewed Policy C-9: Disconnect for Nonpayment. Discussion was held concerning COVID-19 and the effects on our customers. A motion was made by Gortemaker to waive disconnects for March on the A-1 and A-2 rate accounts. Smith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

The Policy C-9 will be added to the April Agenda for reconsideration.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

### **Customer Engagement**

Gulbranson sent a written report which Lindahl placed in the Directors dropbox.

A letter from the Office of the Attorney General was included in the Board book concerning Broadband. Lindahl reported and discussion followed

### **Bond Issue Parameter Resolution**

Lindahl reported and explained the Resolution. Essentially, you can set an interest rate parameter that triggers the sale of bonds. You can indicate to borrow at “x” amount for “x” years at “x” percentage and it will trigger the sale when those parameters are met. Discussion followed.

Following discussion, Morgan made a motion to set the Bond Issue Parameter Resolution at two million dollars at two percent for twenty years. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present.

## **POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Policy C-18: Dissemination of Customer Information; Policy C-19: Customer Requested Service Connections or Disconnects After Business Hours; Policy C-20: Service Sizing Requests (Single Customer); Policy C-**

**21: Energy Efficiency Credit Rebates; Policy C-22: Reward for Damage Reporting; and Policy C-23: Net Metering.** A motion was made by Gortemaker to readopt Policies C-18, C-19, C-20, C-21, C-22 and C-23 with no recommended changes. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-24: Irrigation Capacitor Rebate Program; and Policy C-25: Irrigation Disconnect Rebate Program.** A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Gortemaker to readopt Policy C-24, and Policy C-25 with the recommended changes. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy C-26: Double Throw Installation.** Reilly explained the reason for the changes to Policy C-26. A motion was made by Gortemaker and seconded by Zimmerman to readopt Policy C-26 with the recommended changes. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

**Policy E-19B: Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.** Following questions and discussion, a motion was made to adopt Policy E-19B by Gortemaker and seconded by Moffat. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

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

The February 14, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and were reviewed. Joel Duffield, NREA JT&S instructor, conducted Cold/Hot Environmental Health Hazards.

The February 14, 2020, Safety Committee Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and were reviewed.

The March 13, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and were reviewed. Joel Duffield, NREA JT&S instructor, conducted ATV/UTV Training, part 2.

Lindahl and Reilly reported that the April Safety Meeting will be conducted via video conference. The employees will not be together as a group.

Fehringer asked about the new Wheat Belt weather station and Lindahl explained.

## **CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS**

### **Major Outages**

Reilly reported on the storm outages and answered questions.

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

Reilly reviewed his report in the Board book.

### **FEMA/NEMA**

Reilly reviewed his report in the Board book and hoped that we would receive payment by the end of the year.

### **Coldwater Creek Substation**

Reilly reported that the transformer for the substation is delayed because of COVID-19, and we don't know when it will be delivered.

### **Inventory Adjustment**

Borges presented the information on the 2019 Inventory adjustment to the Board. A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Zimmerman to accept the negative adjustment to Inventory in the amount of \$957.92. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Borges thanked Schilz for doing a phenomenal job during the storms of keeping track of inventory.

### **POWER SUPPLY REPORTS**

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

Morgan had nothing more to add to his report in the Board book.

A lengthy discussion was held on the Tri-State "90-70" Carbon Reduction Plan included in the Board book. Morgan commented on the Plan as it applies to the Colorado systems only.

### **MEETING REPORTS**

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

Lindahl reported on the partial requirements concepts that were presented to the Tri-State Contract Committee met. Morgan answered questions and added to the report.

#### **NRECA Annual Meeting**

Fehringer, Lindahl and Morgan reported.

**CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT**

Gulbranson was not present, but her report was included in the Director's dropbox.

**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, April 24, 2020, beginning at 8:30 a.m.**

**MARCH BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bernard G. Fehringer, President

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Brian Moffat, Secretary