

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

DECEMBER 21, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by Vice President & Acting Chairman Brian Zimmerman, at 8:30 a.m., Monday, December 21, 2020, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

Mike Blomenkamp
Moe Moffat
Brian Zimmerman

John Gortemaker
Stuart Morgan

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Lacey Gulbranson, Corporate Services Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, CFO; and Kelli Chaon, Customer Engagement Manager.

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Vice President Brian Zimmerman 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 December 21, 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, December 9, 2020, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Morgan made a motion to waive the reading of the meeting notice. Gortemaker seconded the

motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Marcus Milanuk and Toni Blomenkamp, newly elected Board members.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020, BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Moffat to approve the November Board Minutes as presented. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Public Hearing & Comment Period

No one appeared before the Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lindahl began with:

Lindahl spent time in discussion regarding the Tri-State Integrated Resource Plan filed with the State of Colorado. Should we want to intervene in the integrated resource plan, we would need to retain a Colorado attorney. We could intervene as a party, participate by filing an amicus curiae brief, or we can submit public comments. Questions and discussion followed. A suggestion was made to intervene with other Nebraska systems.

Lindahl reported that Doug Millay, the lead auditor with Dana F. Cole, passed away unexpectedly. We are still on track to conduct an on-site audit beginning the third week in January, but the work orders portion may be done remotely from the Lincoln office.

We received a Tri-State patronage refund in the amount of \$529,998, which was applied to the pre-payment account.

NREA announced that the Legislative and Board meetings will be virtual. The Legislative Committee meeting will be in person on January 28, 2021.

The NRECA Annual Meeting will be held virtually.

Legislative & Regulatory

There will likely be a bill introduced pertaining to dark fiber. Lindahl reported on First Net federal program for first responder's broadband. We can be a part of the project as a utility.

Lindahl reported on diversifying the fully integrated utilities.

Financials

The Financial Report was presented under separate cover.

Lindahl reported on the storm adder. As of now, we are on track to refund the storm adder to customers, pending no storms by the end of the year.

A director asked about the temporary investments in banks with foreign company names. Discussion followed and changes will be made going forward.

Other

Lindahl reviewed his “dashboard” and his PHEV he purchased, and other “dashboards” on cost of power, etc.

Discussion was held concerning electrical vehicles, charging stations, charging fees, taxes, etc., and partnering and encouraging businesses in the area.

Dr. Sean Blackburn briefly attended the meeting and introduced himself as an interested person in the Board vacancy.

Board Meeting Schedules

The 2021 Board meeting schedule was presented in the Board book. Moffat made a motion to adopt the proposed Board meeting schedule for 2021. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Gulbranson reported on the new hire, Jason Weigle, who will be working with the Directors. The on-line calendars will be updated for 2021.

Board Vacancies

Lindahl reported that additional applications to be considered for a Board appointment were distributed on the Directors’ desks. The Board will move towards filling the vacancies at the January 22nd Board meeting.

Budget Amendments for 2021

No recommendations were made, and at this time, the Budget stands as approved.

Bond Reimbursement Resolution

Lindahl reported that in the past we have approved a Bond Reimbursement

Resolution for us to issue tax exempt municipal bonds to reimburse ourselves for previous expenditures. Gulbranson has prepared the paperwork. Approval of the Resolution does not commit us to issuing the bonds for reimbursement. A motion was made by Morgan to approve the Bond Reimbursement Resolution in the amount of \$6M dollars. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Bond Issue Parameter Resolution/Debt Issue

Lindahl reported that work continues with CoBank on their proposal. The consensus of the Board was to put the approval on hold until the January Board meeting.

Retail Rates

Lindahl reviewed his report in the Board book.

Lindahl reported that the retail rates are ready to be implemented.

Work with PCS continues to ensure the storm adder credits are refunded accurately. There have been several accounts that have become inactive. Consideration was asked of the Board to modify the refunds to **not** include inactive accounts. A motion was made by Gortemaker to **not** include inactive accounts in the refunding of the storm adder. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A break was taken at 10:05 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was called by Moffat at 10:20 a.m. to discuss the FERC legal matter. Gortemaker seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Morgan left the meeting at 10:20 a.m., and returned at 11:20 a.m. Lindahl, Gulbranson, Milanuk and Toni Blomenkamp remained.

A motion was made by Gortemaker to resume the meeting at 11:20 a.m. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS

Tri-State Board Meeting

Morgan reviewed his report in the Board book. At the Membership meeting, it was approved that for Tri-State systems to maintain a board seat, the system must purchase 65% of their power from Tri-State. All the other Bylaws were approved.

United Power has submitted another lawsuit. Tri-State is trying to get the two lawsuits combined into one.

Midwest Report

The virtual meeting was held. Interested parties can listen to the meeting presentations on the Midwest website.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Gulbranson presented an in-depth update to the Strategic Plan. Borges, Weeda, Gulbranson, Lindahl and Chaon presented reports on their respective initiatives.

A packet of information for the new Directors and what major functions are required will be made available. Discussion on training, classes, and videos was held.

A lunch break was taken at 12:22 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 1:09 p.m.

Meeting Reports

Lindahl reported on the NREA Annual meeting which was held virtually.

SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The December 11, 2020, Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and reviewed. NREA JT&S instructor Joel Duffield presented Emergency Plans. The Safety Meeting dates for 2021 were presented. The Safety Improvement Plan was reviewed. Ongoing service checks were discussed and are being implemented. New committee members were appointed.

Borges reported that the pole testers said 105 poles were bad originally. Borges made them come back and retest and now there are over 300 poles that need replaced.

The next Safety meeting will be Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

The District Bylaws were included in the Board book. With no recommended changes, a motion was made by Gortemaker to approve the District Bylaws. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Major Outages

Borges reported that there have been no major outages.

Construction, Maintenance & Operations

Borges reviewed the report in the Board book.

Cold Storage Building

Borges reported that construction of the building is progressing.

Unit 28 Repair

Borges reported that Unit 28 needs the front axle and seals replaced at a cost of \$10,000. A motion was made by Morgan to approve the repairs to Unit 28 in the amount of \$10,000. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Inventory Adjustment

Borges reported that the physical inventory had been conducted. He asked for approval to write-off \$1,679.39. Moffat made a motion to approve the \$1,679.39 write-off. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Leyton Sign Project

Lindhahl explained that the Leyton School put a new LED sign near the Highway, which will be hooked into the lighting circuit for the Village lights. The School will pay a "light" fee attached to their bill in the amount of \$25.49 for 2021. Staff would like to add a digital light rate to the F-1 Rate, effective for 2020 and 2021 rates. A motion was made by Morgan to approve the change to the F-1 Rate, effective immediately. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried. There is a three-way contract between the Village, Wheat Belt and the School. Copies of the contracts will be placed in each file.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

General

Gulbranson reported on the irrigation customer complaint from last month. The meters were installed at the wrong locations. The adjustments will be made in January to correct these accounts. Each customer will have a credit of approximately \$1,300.

No bad debt write-offs were presented this year.

Marketing

The customer mobile App is available.

Hruska has been taking care of the Coloring Contest winners and parties.

Human Resources

Tyson Long is the new Area 1 Maintenance Lineman.

Gulbranson reported that the HSA work is going forward.

Retirement Amortization Accrual

Gulbranson has been working with the auditors to amortize the initial retirement accrual, regarding the 2020 Retirement Policy changes. A motion was made by Morgan to amortize the initial retirement regarding the 2020 Retirement Policy over 20 years. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Weeda had nothing to add to his report.

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Weeda had nothing to add to his report.

Other

Gulbranson reported that with the 2021 changes with the Board, Weigle will be helping with the Board web page. This will be for updated policies, calendar, board books, links to other pages, etc. A centralized location for all the directors to access is the goal.

Financial Board book perspective – following discussion, it was decided to continue with a paper book for financials at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS, TRAINING & ARRANGEMENTS

Most scheduled future meetings will be virtual.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES & OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Western United – Board action was needed to ratify Chance Briscoe for the Nebraska General Manager position. Moffat made a motion to ratify Briscoe for the Western United General Manager position. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

The next regular Board meeting will be Friday, January 22, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Other

Certificates of Service were presented to Mike Blomenkamp and John Gortemaker.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Zimmerman, Vice President

Brian Moffat, Secretary