

APPROVED REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - WHEAT BELT PPD

JANUARY 22, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Wheat Belt Public Power District was called to order by Vice President and Acting Chairman Brian Zimmerman, at 8:30 a.m., Friday, January 22, 2021, at the District Headquarters, 11306 RD 32, Sidney, Cheyenne County, Nebraska.

ROLL CALL

The following Directors were present:

Toni Blomenkamp
Moe Moffat
Brian Zimmerman

Marcus Milanuk
Stuart Morgan

Also present were Tim Lindahl, General Manager; Carolyn Hostetler, Chief Financial Officer; Earl Reilly, Operations Manager; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; Jim Weeda, Manager of Technology; Lacey Gulbranson, Manager of Corporate Services; Jason Weigle, Business Support Analyst; 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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Toni Blomenkamp and Marcus Milanuk recited the Oath of Office. The Oaths were executed and witnessed and will be filed with the Secretary of State.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Morgan made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Milanuk 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, January 13, 2021, and proof of publication showing such notice as published is attached and thereby made a part of these Minutes. Milanuk made a motion to waive the reading of the meeting notice. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Jennifer Eckhardt, David Fritz, and Attorney, Kendra Strommen were present.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 21, 2020, BOARD MINUTES

A motion was made by Moffat to waive the reading and to approve the December 21, 2020 Board Minutes as published. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Public Hearing & Comment Period

Fritz and Eckhardt introduced themselves and commented on why they were interested in the Wheat Belt Board of Directors' open positions.

It was reported that the open positions will be posted in the local newspapers and the cut-off date will be February 17, 2021. Nominations will follow at the February Board meeting in open session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President:

The Chair was surrendered to the General Manager for written nominations for the office of President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of President. Nominations were tallied by Chaon and Weigle. Zimmerman and Morgan were nominated, and Morgan withdrew.

A motion was made by Milanuk to elect Zimmerman as Board President by acclamation. Moffat seconded the motion. Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Vice President

The Chair was returned to President-elect Zimmerman who called for written nominations for Vice President. Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Vice President. Morgan was unanimously nominated for Vice-President with five votes. A motion was made by Milanuk to elect Morgan Vice President by acclamation. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present.

Motion carried.

Secretary

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Secretary. Moffat was unanimously nominated for Secretary with five votes. A motion was made by Morgan to elect Moffat as Secretary by acclamation. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: All present. Motion carried.

Treasurer

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Milanuk was unanimously nominated for Treasurer with five votes. A motion was made by Moffat to elect Milanuk as Treasurer by acclamation. Morgan seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Assistant Secretary

Each Director nominated a candidate for the office of Assistant Secretary. Blomenkamp was unanimously nominated for Assistant Secretary with five votes. A motion was made by Morgan to elect Blomenkamp as Assistant Secretary by acclamation. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Tri-State Board of Director

Each Director nominated a candidate for Tri-State Board of Director. Morgan was unanimously nominated for Tri-State Board of Director with five votes. A motion was made by Moffat to elect Morgan as the Tri-State Board of Director. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

NREA Board of Director

Each Director nominated a candidate for NREA Board of Director. Milanuk was unanimously nominated for NREA Board of Director with five votes. Morgan moved and Moffat seconded to appoint Milanuk as NREA Board of Director. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

BANK SIGNATORS

The Security First Bank requested formal direction from the Board to remove four names from the signature cards and add two new Directors and reinstate one Director.

A motion was made by Milanuk and seconded by Morgan to remove Bernard Fehring, Douglas Smith, John Gortemaker and Mike Blomenkamp from the

Security First Bank signature cards. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Morgan and seconded by Toni Blomenkamp to add Toni L. Blomenkamp, Brian Moffat and to reinstate Marcus Milanuk to the Security First Bank signature cards. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Lindahl reported that there is a FERC settlement offer which will be discussed in Executive Session.

Lindahl and Morgan reported on wins on the FERC jurisdiction and other Tri-State information.

Lindahl reported that the ACRE membership renewals were due, and forms are available if the Directors wish to renew/join for 2021. Morgan mentioned that he would like the Board to have 100% participation in the Century membership.

Tri-State is cost cutting and has elected to remove items usually in the Class A rate. They will no longer pay half of the Touchstone Energy dues, any of the Basin membership dues and any of the Cooperative Research dues. Staff is working on an analysis to see what our value is in those memberships and will report at the February Board meeting.

A list of all of the memberships we subscribe to and the amounts will be presented at the February Board meeting.

Legislative & Regulatory

Three broadband bills have been presented in the Legislature. Lindahl reported that the Governor has put funds towards broadband. One of the bills is in reference to removing dark fiber and leasing restrictions.

The Legislative bills from NREA were included in the Board book. The Legislative NREA Committee meeting will now be virtual.

Lindahl reported that NREA has asked for volunteers from our area to be on the various committees. Milanuk volunteered for the Statewide Services committee.

Lindahl has weekly conference calls with Senator Erdman.

Legal

The latest NRECA Legal Reporting Services information was included in the Board book.

Morgan asked about the letter that Wieser placed in the Chappell newspaper. Following discussion, the Board chose not to respond to the letter.

Lindahl included information from the President's Executive Order on foreign digital equipment in the Board book.

An article on renewable energy standards was included in the Board book.

Sales tax vs. consumption tax was discussed at length.

Financials

The Financial Report was distributed under separate cover and reviewed. Questions and discussion followed.

Lindahl reported that the year-end financials will not be completed until the auditors provide their adjustments. The auditors were in-house this week.

Lindahl reviewed the "dashboards" financial information and answered questions.

Covid-19 Update

Lindahl included memos from Jarecke on Covid and the extension of the virtual meeting options for public bodies.

Regulatory opinions were in the Board book also.

The question was raised as to where Wheat Belt employees fall in the Covid-19 vaccination line. Discussion followed.

Other

Lindahl reported that the IRS mileage rate is now 56 cents per mile for 2021.

Lindahl introduced a new employee, Jason Weigle, who will be working on data analytics, taking over modern energy under Strategic item, and will be the Board administrator.

Morgan asked if we were looking at the charging stations that Tri-State pays for. Staff stated that they had not looked into it yet.

TRI-STATE CONTRACT BUYDOWN

At the October Board meeting, we had the option to buy down and generate up to half of our "needs". Staff recommended not going forward with this at this time. Lindahl reported and he and Morgan commented.

BOND ISSUE PARAMETER RESOLUTION/DEBT ISSUE

Lindahl is working with CoBank on Bonds and updated the Board. We are unable to issue new debt until the 2020 Audit is completed and finalized.

A break was taken at 10:12 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 10:20 a.m.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was called at 10:22 a.m. by Milanuk to discuss a FERC legal matter. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Lindahl, Strommen and Gulbranson remained for the Executive Session. Morgan was not present during the Executive Session.

A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Milanuk to resume the meeting at 11:12 a.m. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Gulbranson did not have any updated information to provide.

NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS

Milanuk questioned if a nondisclosure agreement should be signed by staff/employees/board. He was concerned about information that was in a letter in the newspaper. It was suggested that for the Board members, a Board Policy could be written that they are under the same guidelines and duty of loyalty to the District as stated in the Oath of Office. The Board would like to see this researched and something put into place. Strommen recommended the nondisclosure agreement. Discussion was conducted on the intellectual property side also. Weigle will work with Strommen on the matter.

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS

Tri-State Board Meeting

Morgan discussed his report in the Board book. Questions and discussion followed. Lindahl also reported.

Basin Reports

No report was given

Midwest Reports

No report was given

MEETING REPORTS

No meetings have taken place.

POLICIES AND RESOLUTIONS

Policy A-1: Purpose, Formulation, Adoption, Review and Distribution of Board Policies: Changes relating to physical policy manuals. And **Policy C-7: Payment Responsibility:** with changes of term from deposit to prepayment. A motion was made by Milanuk to approve the recommended changes to Policy A-1 and Policy C-7. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Policy C-1: Line Extension Policy; C-2: Right-of-Way; Policy C-3: Attachments to Poles; Policy C-4: Work on Customer's Premises; Policy C-5: Relocation, Retirement, Removal of Facilities and Minimum Bills; Policy C-6: Standard Construction Practice; and Policy C-8: Time Limitations. A motion was made by Morgan to readopt Policies C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, and C-8 with no recommended changes. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

SAFETY ISSUES and SAFETY MEETING MINUTES

The January 13, 2021, Safety Meeting Minutes were included in the Board book and were reviewed. Training: CPR/First Aid/AED/Hantavirus refresher training was conducted. Reilly reported on the SRS report for the year.

Consideration of Employee Safety Bonus

Reilly reviewed his report in the Board book. Morgan made a motion to grant the employees a \$100 safety bonus and a \$100 no-lost-time accident stipend for 2020. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Major Outages

High winds from Wednesday, January 13th to Friday, January 15th resulted in five broken poles.

Construction, Maintenance & Operations

Reilly reported that crews are working on some of the storm damage from June and rotten poles. A majority of the work is a complete rebuild and a lot of the work is included in the Four-Year Work Plan. Discussion followed and Borges answered questions.

Cold Storage Building.

Reilly reported that the main frame of the building is completed. We are waiting for the State Fire Marshal inspection.

Coldwater Creek Substation

Reilly reported that we received a refund from Tri-State for \$367,912.70 for overpayment of the substation.

Unit 27 Repair

Reilly reported that Unit 27 will need the axle seals replaced and repairs to the front differential in the amount of \$8,000. He asked for an exception to the Budget. A motion was made by Moffat and seconded by Morgan approving the \$8,000 repairs to Unit 27. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Customer Engagement

Gulbranson reported that the storm adder was refunded to all of the customers. Staff is currently working on rate consolidation and 2021 rate changes for the February 1st billing.

Irrigation Write-off Request

Gulbranson asked for an irrigation write-off for Account 53592, Location 92179 in the amount of \$784.50. A motion was made by Milanuk and seconded by Moffat to approve the irrigation write-off in the amount of \$784.50. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Marketing

Gulbranson reported that staff began communicating to our customers about the Customer Mobile App, and a handful of customers are utilizing the App.

The college/technical school scholarship opportunities are currently available. The deadline for application submission is February 12, 2021.

Saturday, June 5th is the date for the 75th Wheat Belt Anniversary celebration, which will be held in the morning.

Human Resources

Gulbranson reported that all eligible Board members and employees should have their initial dollars deposited in their HSA accounts.

METERING, INFORMATION and TECHNOLOGY

Discussion was held concerning the metering and how many meters are reading at this time. Also, Weeda reported on how the driven miles have gone done with the implementation of the new Gridstream system.

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

All future meetings are virtual so far.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES

Western United: Lindahl currently is the voting delegate and he will remain as the voting delegate. A motion was made by Moffat for Lindahl to remain as the voting delegate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

NRTC Voting Delegate: A motion was made by Moffat appointing Milanuk as the voting delegate and Morgan as the alternate. Blomenkamp seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea all present. Motion carried.

NRECA: A motion was made by Moffat appointing Morgan as the voting delegate and Zimmerman as the alternate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Federated: A motion was made by Moffat appointing Morgan as the voting delegate and Blomenkamp as the alternate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

NRECA Director Election at NREA: A motion was made by Morgan appointing Blomenkamp as voting delegate and Moffat as the alternate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Basin: A motion was made by Moffat appointing Morgan as the voting delegate and Milanuk as the alternate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: all present. Motion carried.

NREA: A motion was made by Morgan appointing Milanuk as the voting delegate and Moffat as the alternate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

NCSC: A motion was made by Morgan appointing Lindahl as voting delegate and Zimmerman as the alternate. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

Touchstone Energy: A motion was made by Milanuk appointing Moffat as voting delegate. Moffat seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

CoBank: A motion was made by Morgan appointing Blomenkamp as voting delegate. Milanuk seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yea: All present. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be Friday, February 26, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary