

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors – Wheat Belt PPD

August 27, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Wheat Belt Public Power District was held August 27, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. the District Headquarters at 11306 Road 32, Sidney Nebraska, pursuant to written notice to each of the Directors and publication in the Sidney Sun-Telegraph, Legal Notice #L21-516, on August 18, 2021. The agenda was emailed to the directors, posted in the lobby and board room at Wheat Belt's headquarters, and the availability of the agenda at the District office was part of legal notice.

Directors present at the meeting: Brian Zimmerman, Moe Moffat, Marcus Milanuk, Stuart Morgan, Toni Blomenkamp, Jennifer Eckhardt, and Sean Blackburn.

Employees present at times throughout the meeting: Lacey Gulbranson, Kelli Chaon, Carolyn Hostetler, Liz Skov, Val Richards, Earl Reilly, Ryan Borges, Jim Weeda, and Jason Weigle.

Guests: Attorney Kendra Strommen

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by board President Brian Zimmerman, who noted the posting of a copy of the Open Meetings Law in the board room and who established a quorum was present. Employee Jason Weigle recorded minutes at the request of Board Secretary Moe Moffat.

Approval of the Agenda

Blackburn moved to approve the agenda; Milanuk seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Introduction of Guests

Attorney Kendra Strommen was introduced.

Reading of the Meeting Notice

Milanuk moved to waive the reading of the meeting notice; Moffat seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Consideration of Previous Meeting Minutes

Morgan moved to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2021 regular meeting; Eckhardt seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Public Comment Period

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No comments were received.

Board Education

Gulbranson reviewed the CFC Key Ratios and Trend Analysis. The Key Ratios are national indicators of financial health across the United States. The Trend Analysis compared Wheat Belt's indicators against national, state, and supplier trends. Gulbranson reviewed 20 CFC Key Trends of interest to Wheat Belt.

9:00 a.m. Open Sealed Bids

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 23, Section 31, Legal Notice L21-476 was published in the Sidney Sun Telegraph on July 28th, August 4th, and August 11th, for the Quonset hut located at 2233 Hickory Street in Sidney, NE. Sealed bids were accepted through the close of business on August 26th. Four sealed bids were received from the solicitation and were opened by President Zimmerman in open session at the notice indicated time of 9 a.m. The following bids were received:

Bidder Name	Bid Amount
CNN Electrical Services, LLC	\$30,101.00
Dan's Auto & Metal, LLC	\$30,050.00
Sidney Public Schools	\$2,000.00
Spring Creek Cleaning	\$10,250.00

After review of the received bids and ensuing discussion, Blackburn moved to accept the bid from CNN Electrical Services, LLC for \$30,101.00 for the Quonset hut; Morgan seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: Milanuk.** Motion carried.

Manager's Report

Gulbranson reviewed the status of account contact changes due to the retirement of Hostetler and Schlaman. Wheat Belt's account at Bank of America requires a motion by the board, as documented in the board's minutes, to remove current contacts and add new ones. Milanuk moved to remove Deb Schlaman as an authorized contact and add Valerie Richards and Elizabeth Skov as authorized contacts for the account. Milanuk also moved that Sharrell Keane, once onboard and no earlier than September 1st, 2021, is to be added as an authorized owner on the Bank of America account. Seconded by Blomenkamp. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Gulbranson discussed the Tri-State FERC Class A Rate Settlement and what it means for Wheat Belt with respect to Net Metering customers. Her recommendation is to wait until rate adjustments in March 2022 when other rates are changed.

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She discussed a letter proposed by Tri-State in support of the federal infrastructure bill, which Wheat Belt signed in support of Tri-State and the effect it would have on customer rates.

Gulbranson inquired as to the status of the General Manager annual review which will be conducted in September. The board agreed to postpone the review due to the short amount of time that she has been in this position.

Gulbranson asked the board to consider an exception to board Policy E-16 to allow Deb Schlaman to go to the 2022 NREA Annual Meeting in Nashville. She was not able to attend the 2020 meeting due to it being cancelled by COVID. The board will take the policy exemption under consideration in the October board meeting.

She then discussed the status of the drainage issue in the southwest corner of the office. One bid was received for installing drainage tiles. The board decided to wait for additional bids to come in before awarding any work.

She highlighted several items within the financial report. She discussed bonds and potential future work that could be done in the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Borges discussed purchasing of materials now to account for lead times. Both discussed the need to reimburse and pay for existing and upcoming work in the existing, approved work plan. She asked the board to consider whether it wants to market bonds. She also discussed potentially using Wheat Belt's lines of credit with CFC and CoBank. The board will wait to market bonds.

Executive Session - FERC, Potential Litigation, and Personnel

Due to the sensitive nature of ongoing and potential litigation and personnel matters, Milanuk moved to enter executive session to discuss the status of Wheat Belt's FERC interventions, protests, and settlements, to discuss potential litigation, and to discuss personnel issues; Blackburn seconded. **Yea: Zimmerman, Blackburn, Eckhardt, Blomenkamp, Moffat, Milanuk, Morgan. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Morgan was asked to leave and Attorney Strommen and Gulbranson were asked to stay for the FERC portion of the executive session. The board entered executive session at 10:02 a.m.

Morgan was asked to rejoin the executive session at 10:22 a.m. Borges was asked to join the session for the discussion of the potential litigation matter at 10:58.

Morgan made a motion to end the executive session at 11:41 a.m.; Milanuk seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

FERC Interventions, Protests, and Settlement

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No further actions were taken by the board.

Strategic Plan Update

Gulbranson updated the board on elements of the strategic plan. Weigle presented data on the Chrysler Pacifica HPEV.

Lunch

The meeting suspended for lunch at 12:09 p.m. and resumed at 12:47 p.m.

Power Supply Report

Morgan reviewed the Tri-State report submitted in the board book. He discussed the Tri-State Annual Meeting which occurred earlier in August.

Meeting reports

Gulbranson, Milanuk, Morgan, and Blomenkamp discussed the NREA Annual Meeting in Scottsbluff.

Policy Review

Milanuk moved to adopt Board Policies E-19, E-19A, E-20D, E-20E, E-20F, E-20G, and E-20H, which had no or minor grammatical changes; Blomenkamp seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Milanuk moved to adopt Board Policy D-04 which was updated based on board recommendations and which includes committee and board processes; Blackburn seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Morgan moved to adopt Board Policies E-19B, E-20A, E-20B, with added wording for clarification and to adopt E-20C which was updated with current job titles; Moffat seconded. **Yea: Blackburn, Blomenkamp, Eckhardt, Milanuk, Moffat, Morgan, Zimmerman. Nay: None.** Motion carried.

Safety Issues and Safety Meeting

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Borges reviewed the safety meeting minutes. There was some discussion around a safety incident that happened in eastern Nebraska.

Department Reports

Operations and Maintenance

Borges reviewed Reilly's report.

Construction and Engineering

Borges reviewed his report.

Corporate Services

Gulbranson reviewed the corporate services report. The board reviewed two irrigation cases which do not meet Wheat Belt's policies. No further action was taken.

IT & Metering

Weeda reviewed his report.

Future Meetings and Trainings

The calendar and meeting materials provided within the board packet were discussed.

Delegations/Organizational Items

The delegate list was reviewed and no further actions were taken.

Other Business

The next regular board meeting is Friday, September 24, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Wheat Belt office.

Adjournment

With no further business, Zimmerman moved for adjournment at 1:21 p.m.

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Attest:

Brian Zimmerman, President

Brian Moffat, Secretary