

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, MAY 28, 2024
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session May 28, 2024, with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER calling the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL, JASON SWANZ and BRETT MAXWELL. Other attendees included GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT BRET OPHUS, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK, and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL.**
 - a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the May 2, 2024, general meeting and discussing them, BRETT MAXWELL moved their approval. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** No one from the public appeared.
5. **PLANNING.**
 - a. **ANNUAL MEETING.** MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reviewed the annual meeting agenda. Discussion followed. The board reviewed the June 8, 2023, Annual Meeting minutes, which will be presented to the membership for approval at the June 6, 2024, Annual Meeting.
 - b. **MEMBERS 1ST/BASIN JOINT MEETING.** MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY talked about the meetings that are scheduled for June 10-12, 2024, in Gillette, Wyoming, which he and PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER plan to attend. SWEENEY asked if any of the other board members have an interest in attending to let him know soon.
 - c. **ROUNDUP BUILDING OPEN HOUSE.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that the employees have moved into the new building and RESCO will be moving in soon. CATHY KOMBOL suggested that the board meet at the new Roundup facility at 10:00 a.m. the morning of June 27, 2024, for the general board meeting and then from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. welcome the public to the building to attend an open house. The Board agreed. Office staff will plan the event.
6. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Staff presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion.
 - a. **OPERATING AND RATIOS REPORTS.** OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the April 30, 2024, Form 7 operating report.
 - b. **OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that during the morning session of the May 2, 2024, Safety Meeting, MECA SAFETY INSTRUCTOR BERKE BROWN covered fire extinguisher usage and live fire training. The next safety meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2024, during which CCC-A-AUD TINA BERG will provide annual individual employee hearing tests in her office. LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT BRET OPHUS will conduct the May Day and fire suppression training for all employees. RIKALA reported that in May 2024, he was part of a team performing Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program observations at two Montana rural electric cooperatives. RIKALA reported that the new Hilger-Winifred transmission and distribution lines have been energized. Red Rock Power is switching the lines that are tapped off the old distribution underbuild to the new line. RIKALA reported on the damage sustained May 7th from a strong spring storm. Up to eight inches of snow stuck to the powerlines and winds up to 75 miles per hour resulted in 98 broken poles, broken crossarms and many

broken wires. May 8, the winds died down and 2,876 meters showed an outage. Fergus Electric enlisted the help of helicopter service, piloted by GREG KOCH, to fly SERVICEMAN RYAN d'AUTREMONT and STAKING ENGINEER DAN BALSTER PE to assess the damages. To assist Fergus Electric, McCone Electric Cooperative sent a four-man crew and trucks; Beartooth Electric Cooperative sent a four-man crew and trucks; and Red Rock Power responded by sending ten linemen, trucks, and equipment. By the afternoon of May 12, all power was restored except areas west and southwest of Geyser, which was restored the following afternoon. On May 23, Park Electric Cooperative asked for assistance as they suffered damage from another spring storm. Three Fergus employees volunteered to respond and spent four days helping repair broken wires and setting poles for Park Electric. RIKALA said that phone and internet access have transferred to the new office in Roundup. The Roundup crew is moving shelving and materials into the new shop. RESCO plans to move into the Roundup shop on June 3.

- d. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 627-627X for \$10,553.01, dated April 30, 2024, JASON SWANZ moved to affirm them. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- e. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reviewed the April 2024 Outage Report prepared by STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN, PE.

7. **POLICIES – REVIEW.** No policies were scheduled for review this month.

8. **REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported he had worked on various items of importance for the co-op. BIRDWELL reported that it was a good month.

9. **MANAGER'S REPORT.** GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY covered items included in his written report. SWEENEY reported that he and STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN, PE and MECA representatives had a meeting with MDT in Helena on May 7 to discuss Build America Buy America (BABA) requirements for previous and upcoming MDT projects within electric cooperative service territories, specifically Fergus Electric projects, but they will be representing all Montana electric cooperatives. SWEENEY reported that he provided CHS with a signed version of the EPC contract and associated schedules and he said that he is working towards providing them with the Power Supply and Engineering, Procurement, and Construction contract for signature. SWEENEY reported that the co-op is in discussions with a potential pole supplier about their business and operations. Penta treatment is no longer an option in the U.S. and Canada, so pole suppliers have spent the last several years switching their facilities to different treatment chemicals. SWEENEY reported that the spring storm on May 7th was the most destructive storm to date for Fergus Electric. The entire employee group pulled together in an organized manner to take on the significant restoration process ahead of them. SWEENEY said the effort went far better than any other restoration effort he has been a part of or privy to and added that he is very proud of the teamwork shown by the entire employee group at Fergus Electric.

10. MEETING REPORTS.

- a. **MEMBERS 1ST, MAY 21 – PAUL/CARSON.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER and MANAGER SWEENEY said that there was not any news to report.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- a. **ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** The Board reviewed the list of estate capital credits for May 2024 totaling \$18,915.22, which were prepared by SENIOR BILLING CLERK ERIKA MATTALIANO. BRETT MAXWELL moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- b. **DELINQUENT STATUS, NEW MEMBERS.** The Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing accounts paid in full and accounts still owing.

12. OTHER BUSINESS.

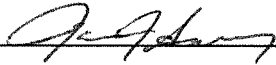
13. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting:
 - i. June 12, 2024
- b. FEC Board Meetings 2024
 - i. June 27 - 9:00 a.m.
 - ii. August 1 - 9:00 a.m.
 - iii. August 29 - 9:00 a.m.
- c. FEC Annual Meeting: June 6
- d. Members 1st / Basin Board Meeting: Gillette, WY; June 10-12
- e. MECA Managers Summer Meeting: Lewistown, MT; June 12-13
- f. CFC Forum: Indianapolis, IN; June 17-19
- g. MECA Summer Board Meeting: Lewistown, MT; July 9-11
- h. Basin Managers Conference: Deadwood, SD; July 24-26
- i. Basin Annual Meeting: Bismarck, ND; August 13-15
- j. Members 1st Quarterly Meeting: Sheridan, WY; September 16

14. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

SECRETARY



ATTEST: PRESIDENT

