

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 19, 2025
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

- 1. GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session December 19, 2025, with PRESIDENT TERRY FROST calling the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. The Board Members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, CATHY KOMBOL, BRETT MAXWELL, and JASON SWANZ. PAUL BRADY was absent due to illness and GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY was not in attendance due to attending a meeting with Signal Peak personnel. Other attendees included 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 December 19, 2025, meeting agenda, BOB EVANS moved to approve it. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 3. MINUTES APPROVAL.** After reviewing the general board meeting minutes of November 25, 2025, and discussing them, BRETT MAXWELL, moved to approve them. VICE PRESIDENT JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** No one from the public appeared.
- 5. PLANNING.**
- 6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Staff presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion.
 - a. FINANCIAL REPORTS. FINANCIAL REPORTS.** OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the November 30, 2025, Form 7 operating report. JANINE RIFE DIDIER reviewed the November 30, 2025, ratios report.
 - b. OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT BRET OPHUS reported on the Safety Meeting held December 17. Crews did the annual inspection and testing of grounds, hot sticks, chains and slings. Sections 8 and 9 of the MECA Safety Manual were reviewed. A discussion about accidents and close calls was included. The staking engineers continue to work on bigger projects for 2025: pole changes, sectionalizing, and Taber and Carters Substation. Work on those projects will continue into 2026. The Lewistown warehouse recently underwent a major transition. ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT TYSON RUFF and STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN, PE, headed up the makeover. FOREMEN LOUIE HOULD and MARK SCHWOMEYER, SERVICEMAN RYAN d'AUTREMONT and GROUNDMAN TRAVIS McALPIN assisted in removing, reorganizing, reducing and replacing a number of material items. This was a huge job, and a big step toward streamlining the flow of material. The Board is invited to tour the warehouse after the December 19, 2025, board meeting. Pole testing is complete for the year. The five and one half miles of underground replacement near Musselshell is in the ground with transformers and sectionalizing cans set. Wet weather has delayed completion. Sectionalizing in the Straw Substation is over fifty percent complete. Work in the Ruby Gulch Sub has started. Hilger will be next. Adding and upgrading new devices will reduce the number of people out of power and should reduce outage time with shorter segments of line to patrol and find issues. Fergus Electric's new journeyman lineman, ELIJAH DYE, will report to work in Lewistown on February 2, 2026.
 - c. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 645-645X for \$132,109.41 dated November 30, 2025, CATHY KOMBOL moved to affirm them. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
 - d. POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT BRET OPHUS reviewed the November 2025 Outage Report prepared by STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN, PE.

7. POLICIES.

a. Review / Amend / Eliminate:

- i. 212 – ENERGY.** The Board reviewed Board Policy 212 and after a period of discussion, BOB EVANS moved to eliminate the policy. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ii. 213 – EQUITY MANAGEMENT.** After discussion regarding A.2. JASON SWANZ moved to strike paragraph A.2., which reads: To establish means whereby the members of Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc., will, in fact, receive electric service at cost, and as a result, enable them to clearly see the benefits of receiving service from their cooperative. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported that it was a good month. BIRDWELL said that it was a little slower, which is appreciated this time of year. BIRDWELL reported that he and office staff worked on some things which went well.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT. In his absence, GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY provided his written report. On December 19, 2025, Signal Peak is providing an underground tour to four Basin Electric Power Cooperative employees, ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT TYSON RUFF, and SWEENEY. SWEENEY and RUFF will provide transportation for the Basin staff from Roundup's airport to Signal Peak Coal Mine. SWEENEY said that he appreciated the opportunity to participate in the tour and discussions.

10. MEETING REPORTS.

- a. MECA WINTER MEETING: DECEMBER 2-4; PAUL/CARSON.** SWEENEY reported that the MECA Winter Meeting was well attended. The MECA 2026 budget was approved with three percent dues increase. CEO MARK LAMBRECHT provided several updates on legislative items at the state and federal levels. Discussion to move MECA to Helena was discussed but not supported. Additional discussions and decisions will likely take place during the MECA Spring board meeting.
- b. MID-WEST ELECTRIC CONSUMERS ASSOCIATION MEETING: DECEMBER 9-11; JASON/BRAD.** BRAD ARNTZEN reviewed the meeting, which he said was good.
- c. MEMBERS 1ST BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 15, GILLETTE, WY; JASON/CARSON.** JASON SWANZ reported on the meeting. The GOVERNOR OF WYOMING, MARK GORDON, joined them for dinner which included an active discussion on the future of energy, data centers, and generation.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

- a. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** The Board reviewed the list of estate capital credits for December 2025 totaling \$24,509.39, which were prepared by SENIOR BILLING CLERK ERIKA MATTALIANO. JASON SWANZ moved to affirm the retirement 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. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. CMMC Wellness Clinic: January 14; Fergus Electric Truck Garage
- b. Safety Meeting; January 22; Fergus Electric Headquarters
- c. FEC Board Meetings 2026:
 - i. January 28 – 10:00 a.m.
 - ii. February 24 – 10:00 a.m.
 - iii. March 24 – 10:00 a.m.
- d. Basin Manager’s Conference: February 17-19; Sioux Falls, SD
- e. NRECA PowerXchange: March 8-12; Nashville, TN
- f. MECA Spring Board Meeting: April 7-8, Great Falls, MT
- g. NRECA Legislative Conference: April 26-29; Washington, DC
- h. Fergus Electric Annual Meeting: June 4; Lewistown, MT
- i. CFC Annual Meeting: June 13-17; Chula Vista, CA

15. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT TERRY FROST adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

SECRETARY Bradley Amthor ATTEST: PRESIDENT Terry Frost