

**MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 27, 2020
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session August 27, 2020 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER calling the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL, and JASON SWANZ. BRETT MAXWELL attended via conference call. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the July 30, 2020 general meeting and discussing them, JASON SWANZ moved their approval. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue of interest or importance to them. No member appeared.
5. **PLANNING.**
6. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Financial and other monthly reports were presented to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the July 31, 2020 operating report. HORACEK explained that the Cushion of Credit was used to pay off loans with higher interest rates. JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the July 31, 2020 monthly ratios report.
7. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that he, GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY and ROUNDUP FOREMAN BRET NELLERMOE interviewed an individual interested in the Roundup journeyman lineman position. CREED ZIBELL, CJZ TREE SERVICE, will begin trimming trees in Fergus Electric's rights of way August 31st. ZIBELL will begin trimming trees in Grass Range and then will move on to Roy, Winifred, and Winnett. Several of Fergus Electric's staff members continue to assist the co-op by answering after-hours calls on a rotation schedule. Callers are prompted to choose from four options, routing their calls to the proper department's voicemail. A caller reporting an outage is prompted to stay on the line. After a period of rotations is completed, MANAGER SWEENEY will ask the participating staff members to evaluate the after-hours service the co-op is providing. RIKALA reported that emergency drills and Mayday protocol and procedures were discussed at the last safety meeting.
8. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** No work orders were closed this month.
9. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** The Board reviewed the outage report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER which covered power interruptions for January 2020-July 2020.
10. **BOARD POLICY 108 – STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONS OF THE SAFETY, OPERATIONS AND MATERIALS COMMITTEE.** The Board reviewed Policy 108.
11. **BOARD POLICY 109 – POLICY FORMULATION AND APPROVAL.** The Board reviewed Policy 109.
12. **BOARD POLICY 110 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.** The Board reviewed Policy 110.
13. **BOARD POLICY 211 – AWARDS AND RECOGNITION OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE.** The Board reviewed Policy 211. After discussion, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve the policy as amended. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

- 14. VOTING DELEGATES.** After discussing the various openings for voting delegates, JASON SWANZ moved to approve appointing TERRY FROST as MECA Board Member designee and CATHY KOMBOL as the alternate voting delegate for the MECA Board Certification. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. BOB EVANS moved to approve JASON SWANZ as the official 2020 MECA credentialed voting delegate and BRAD ARNTZEN as the alternate voting delegate. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 15. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported he had talked to Central Montana Foundation about having them administer Fergus Electric Cooperative's lineman scholarship and the group welcomed the opportunity. BIRDWELL outlined the scholarship details for the Board. Central Montana Foundation will advertise for the co-op's annual scholarship and ultimately award \$3,000 (payable to the line school where the winning applicant is enrolled). Fergus Electric will then pay the remaining \$3,000 directly to the scholarship recipient upon proof of successful completion of line school. BIRDWELL reported that he had worked on capital credits estates, a vegetation management agreement, and other items of importance to the cooperative.
- 16. MANAGER'S REPORT.** MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported that he and SCOTT SWEENEY (virtually) attended a third-party manager's Focus Group Survey of Basin and their strategy going forward. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER and MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY attended the same survey for directors. MANAGER SWEENEY reported that Sandfire Resources (copper mine) is working through legal battles. AMI is progressing well. Itron's testing of the co-op's AMI equipment has "passed" based on its pass/fail grading system. SWEENEY noted that USDA put an article in the News-Argus about our Phase 2 Cooperative Solar project. CARSON announced that he has completed the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) Level 1 certification courses. SWEENEY reported that he has spent time in the field with each crew, which has proven to be beneficial by getting better acquainted with staff and learning about the co-op's service territory.
- 17. REGION 9 VOTING DELEGATES.** After a short discussion, JASON SWANZ moved to approve appointing BOB EVANS as the voting delegate for both CFC and NRECA and PAUL DESCHEEMAER as the alternate voting delegate, which carried unanimously. It was learned that NRECA has canceled its in-person Regional Meeting 7&9, which was scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2020 in Omaha, NE, and replaced it with a virtual event which will be held Oct. 12 - Oct. 16, 2020.
- 18. ACRE AUCTION.** The Board reviewed a list of items to consider donating to the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) Auction, which will be held during MECA's annual meeting in Great Falls in October. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK asked that the board provide her with their selections before September 18th.
- 19. PRECORP/MEMBERS 1ST MEETING.** MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported on the August 18th PRECorp/Members 1st meetings that he attended via Zoom meeting.
- 20. SAFETY MEETING.** RIKALA reported that the August 26th safety meeting was a Zoom presentation by MECA SAFETY INSTRUCTOR, TROY KAMPS called All Things Fire and Mayday training. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, it is likely that virtual safety meetings will continue until further notice.
- 21. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** The Board reviewed the August 2020 list of estate capital credits in the amount of \$84,902.72, prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. JASON SWANZ moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 22. DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS/NEW MEMBERS LIST.** The Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing those that were paid in full and those that were still owing. A list of new members was also reviewed.
- 23. OTHER BUSINESS.** None.

24. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting, Lori Slaboda/NRECA Field Representative/Zoom Video Meeting, Sep. 8
- b. PRECorp/Members 1st, Sep. 22
- c. FEC Board, Sep. 23 & Oct. 29
- d. MECA Annual Meeting, Oct. 5-7

25. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

26. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

SECRETARY



ATTEST: PRESIDENT



