

**MINUTES - BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 31, 2017
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session on August 31, 2017 with PRESIDENT BOB EVANS calling the meeting to order at 9 a.m. TERRY FROST was secretary and VANGIE McCONNELL was scrivener. Other board members present were BRAD ARNTZEN, PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER, DAVID DOVER, CATHY KOMBOL and JASON SWANZ. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue or item of interest or importance to them. No member appeared.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, DAVID DOVER moved to approve it. PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the August 2, 2017 general meeting and discussing them, PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER moved their approval. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 9:30 a.m. JASON SWANZ moved to go into an executive session for privacy purposes to discuss personnel issues. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The general meeting resumed at 10 a.m.
6. **TRUCK GARAGE.** The Board and Management discussed building an 80' X 120' steel building north of the current warehouse.
7. **HANDICAPPED PARKING.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that bids have gone out for improved handicap parking near the office entrance to the headquarters building.
8. **MEMBERS 1ST AND PRECORP BOARD.** PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER and SCOTT SWEENEY reported on the August 15 meeting in Gillette. They noted that PRECorp has received initial bid responses on a new metering system for both co-ops.
9. **50KV REBUILD.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that he had signed a proposal from PRECorp to engineer Fergus Electric's 50kV rebuild from the Carters Pond Substation to the Hilger Substation - about 7 1/2 miles in length.
10. **PRECORP ANNUAL MEETING.** PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER reported on the August 26 meeting that took place in Upton, Wyoming. He learned that Basin Electric's new fertilizer plant plans to be up and running by January 1, 2018. DESCHEEMAERKER said he had good visits with staff and members.
11. **TINTINA RESOURCES.** MANAGER SWEENEY initiated a short discussion regarding Tintina and obtaining new right-of-way for the power line to serve the mine. The next mine tour is set for Monday, October 2.
12. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. Included in the items thus seen were the July operating report prepared by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and the July analysis of operating statistics prepared by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER.
13. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report covering power interruptions for January through July prepared by VANGIE McCONNELL.

14. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** The Board considered the August 28, 2017 report prepared by LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA outlining operations and maintenance, engineering and safety. RIKALA reported that the co-op has been experiencing outages caused by malfunctioning Oil Circuit Reclosers. Crews have finished stubbing transmission poles between Hilger and Winifred and crews spent a week in the White trees, retiring idle line and changing out a damaged pole. New services include a pond aerator near Geyser, a T-Mobile cell tower near Shawmut and a mobile home site for the Roy school.
15. **SIGNAL PEAK AND EXPRESS PIPELINE.** The combined load factor for Signal Peak was 56.5% for the month of July. The load factor for July for Express Pipeline was 56.3%.
16. **BOARD POLICY 220 - PROCEDURE ON VESTING AND RETIREMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS.** Discussion will continue at next month's meeting.
17. **BOARD POLICY 226 - GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURE.** After reviewing, TERRY FROST moved to approve Policy 226 as amended. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy is attached.
18. **BOARD POLICY 227 - HARASSMENT AND/OR DISCRIMINATION.** Board Policy 227 was reviewed and action tabled for the next general meeting.
19. **BOARD POLICY 231 - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES AND ALCOHOL USE.** The Board reviewed Policy 231 and tabled further discussion for the next meeting.
20. **BOARD POLICY 232 - FIRE RESPONSE.** After reviewing Policy 232, no changes were made.
21. **REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** KRIS BIRDWELL reported that he had reviewed the Enbridge/Express Pipeline contract and updated portions of it.
22. **ENBRIDGE/EXPRESS PIPELINE.** After discussion, JASON SWANZ moved to authorize MANAGER SWEENEY to sign the Enbridge/Express Pipeline revised contract. PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
23. **2018 BUDGET.** Management and Staff will begin work on the 2018 budget.
24. **AFFIRMATION OF CAPITAL CREDIT ESTATE RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the July 2017 estate capital credit retirements for \$19,494.76 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. BRAD ARNTZEN moved to affirm the retirements and TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
25. **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND NEW MEMBERS.** The Board and Management reviewed a list of past due accounts - 30, 60 and 90 days and a list of new members.
26. **CFC REGION 9 VOTING DELEGATE.** PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER moved to appoint BRAD ARNTZEN as Fergus Electric's voting delegate to the CFC Annual Meeting in conjunction with Region 9 in Denver October 16 - 18. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which passed.
27. **VOTING DELEGATES FOR NRECA BOARD MEMBER.** PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER moved to appoint TERRY FROST to vote for MECA's director on the NRECA Board and JASON SWANZ as alternate. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion which carried.
28. **TRANSMISSION POLES REPLACED.** MANAGER SWEENEY noted that a fire burned along the highway south of Winnett resulting in the need to replace a total of five of the co-ops new (2015) transmission poles.

29. **COOPERATIVE SOLAR PROJECT.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that the cooperative solar project is completed. RUSTY HARRIS of Think One Construction Management from Bozeman did a fine job of engineering the project and TONY BONIFACE of Independent Power Systems did a fine job of constructing the project - 324 panels rated at 100kW. The array started operating on August 4 and a dedication is planned for September 14 at 3 p.m. There are 84 panels left to sell.

30. **STRATEGIC PLANNING.** The Board Strategic Planning Session is set for November 2-3, 2017. MANAGER SWEENEY is pleased that WILL LUTGEN is willing to facilitate the strategic planning retreat again.

31. **SAFETY.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that 13 linemen and other employees attended the August 8 winter survival seminar presented by ART SEELEY of Safety One Training out of Colorado and sponsored by MECA.

32. **FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- a. CCD Course 2630 - Strategic Planning, Lewistown, Sept. 6
- b. Safety, Dog Bite Prevention, Safety vs. Risk Logic, & Ergonomics, Gordon McConkey of MECA, Flu Shots, Oct. 5
- c. Members 1st/PRECorp, Sundance, Oct. 19
- d. Board, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, Dec.1, Dec. 21, Jan. 25
- e. MECA Annual/Today's Members, Great Falls - Oct. 2 - 5
- f. NRECA Region 7 & 9, Denver, Oct. 16 - 18
- g. Strategic Planning, Nov. 2 - 3
- h. Basin Annual, Bismarck, Nov. 7 - 9
- i. Christmas Dinner, Tall Boys, Hobson, Dec. 1

33. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**

34. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** PRESIDENT BOB EVANS adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

SECRETARY Terry Ince

Attest: PRESIDENT Bob Evans

