

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, DECEMBER 18, 2019
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session December 18, 2019 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL, BRETT MAXWELL and JASON SWANZ. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BRETT MAXWELL moved to approve it. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the December 6, 2019 general meeting and discussing them, BOB EVANS moved their approval. TERRY FROST 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. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 10:08 a.m., JASON SWANZ moved to continue the meeting in an executive session to conduct the manager's annual review. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
6. **GENERAL SESSION RESUMES.** At 10:55 a.m., the general session resumed with BRETT MAXWELL moving to ratify discussion covered in the executive session. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
7. **NEW METERING SYSTEM.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER updated the Board on the status of the AMI installation. DOVER reported that crews are installing meters in phase one, north of Lewistown and he explained that as each meter is installed, the bar code is scanned with an iPad, which updates computer records automatically. Equipment is being built as time permits and work to complete the communication infrastructure continues as well.
8. **SANDFIRE RESOURCES COPPER MINE.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported on the co-op's recent call to Sandfire America Resources to discuss the Black Butte Copper Project and get an update from the CEO. The Facility Study is planned to be completed by NorthWestern Energy in early May. The mine is pleased that the price of copper has climbed recently. Black Butte Copper is still waiting for the MT DEQ to issue the final Environmental Impact Study and Record of Decision so they can start the process of building the mine.
9. **ANSWERING SERVICE.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA told the Board that COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST QUINCY GODBEY and SERVICEMAN/METER TECH BRIAN GODBEY had moved the co-op's satellite radio from Vision Net to DON BARBER'S home in Great Falls. DON BARBER will begin answering the co-op's after-hours phone calls December 18, 2019. The parties involved have signed a three-year contract with a 30-day out.
10. **BOARD RETREAT.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported that the Board Retreat is on schedule for January 22-23. The Board discussed the agenda.
11. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the November 30, 2019 operating report and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the November 30, 2019 ratios report.



12. OPERATIONS REPORT. LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that in early December one of the NOVA triple/single breakers located in the South Roundup substation failed. Anixter determined that the breaker needs replaced. Southeast Electric loaned Fergus its spare unit and Fergus has requested quotes for a replacement breaker and spare control box. Roundup's serviceman bucket truck arrived December 10. RIKALA shared information regarding leasing trucks. Annual First Aid/CPR training took place during the December 11th safety meeting.

13. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS. No work order close-out this month.

14. POWER OUTAGE REPORT. GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER covering power interruptions for January-November 2019.

15. MEMBERS PER BOARD DISTRICT MAP. MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed the map that shows the board districts and the number of members per board district. Discussion followed. No changes were proposed to the director district boundaries.

16. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reviewed having worked on items of importance to the cooperative.

17. EMPLOYEES RETIRING. GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY told the Board that STAKING ENGINEER GUY JOHNSON and LINE FOREMAN JIM RICHTER are both retiring on January 25, 2020. The co-op plans to advertise for a journeyman lineman to replace JIM RICHTER.

18. NEW PHONE SYSTEM. ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported that Mid-Rivers is in the process of updating the phone system in the Lewistown and Roundup offices. The new phones are hosted voice over internet protocol (VoIP) technology. Each employee/phone will have a direct line, and Lewistown will be able to transfer calls and page the Roundup office, instead of using an outside line to call the Roundup office as is required now. The new phone system's monthly charges will remain close to Fergus Electric's current monthly charges from Mid Rivers.

19. MEMBERS 1ST/PRECORP MEETINGS. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER and ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reviewed the December 17 Members 1st board meeting held in Sheridan, Wyoming which they attended. DESCHEEMAEKER reported that MIKE EASLEY, PRECORP's MANAGER, is now on the Wyoming Governor's Business Counsel. Members 1st held its annual meeting and the officers remain unchanged.

20. ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY reported that the annual meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2020 and he noted that during the annual meeting, directors from District 2 (Judith Gap/Moore/Glengarry areas) and District 4 (Grass Range/Winnett/Winnett Junction areas) will be elected.

21. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS. No estate capital credits were presented this month.

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. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting, First Aid, CPR, AED, Jan. 9 – Mike Davis
- b. Wellness Day, Health Screening, Jan. 16 – CMMC Staff
- c. PRECorp, Jan. 21, Sundance
- d. FEC Board, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 28 & June 25
- e. FEC Board Retreat, Jan. 22-23
- f. NRECA Annual Meeting, Mar. 1-4

24. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

25. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** At 2:20 p.m., BRAD ARNTZEN moved to continue the meeting in an executive session to discuss personnel issues. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

26. **GENERAL SESSION RESUMES.** At 4:00 p.m., JASON SWANZ moved to resume the general session. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

27. **ADJOURNMENT.** PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

SECRETARY  ATTEST: PRESIDENT 