

MINUTES
77TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 4, 2015
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1. **77TH ANNUAL MEETING.** The 77th Annual Meeting of Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. convened June 4, 2015 at the Fergus County Trade Center, Lewistown, Montana pursuant to notices required by the bylaws of the cooperative. The bylaws also state: Either 5% of the members present in person or 50, but not less than 50 members shall constitute a quorum. Registration commenced at 11 a.m. A beef/pork dinner was served by Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE). There were 158 members and approximately 117 guests present.
2. **MUSIC.** During registration, members and guests enjoyed music by The Grass Range Wranglers consisting of JOHN WEHREN, and HAROLD and MARGE MATOVICH.
3. **CALLED TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order by PRESIDENT BOB EVANS at 1:00 p.m. with TERRY FROST secretary and VANGIE McCONNELL scrivener. Board members present were PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER, JOE DIRKSON, DAVID DOVER and MIKE VLASTELIC. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL were also present. BOARD MEMBER JASON SWANZ was absent.
4. **INVOCATION, PLEDGE, PARLIAMENTARIAN.** BOARD MEMBER PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER gave the invocation remembering veterans and active duty military. JOE DIRKSON led the Pledge of Allegiance and ATTORNEY KRIS BIRDWELL was appointed parliamentarian.
5. **INTRODUCTIONS.** PRESIDENT EVANS introduced the Board of Trustees and their spouses, thanked the WIFE group for the fine meal, and thanked the Grass Range Wranglers for their enjoyable music. EVANS also introduced the following guests: RUSS MALSAM of Heberly and Associates Engineering, TARY HANSON manager of Tongue River Electric, HAROLD HANSON former manager of Tongue River, BILL SPOJA retired corporate counsel, ERIC BJORKMAN of HD Supply, KEN MAKI former board president, JOE PIRRIE former board member, LEO SOLF former board member, MIKE STANLEY former employee, JEANNE BARNARD manager of Big Flat Electric, FRED LARK of KXLO and county commissioners SANDY YOUNGBAUER and ROSS BUTCHER.
6. **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, PROOF OF PUBLICATION, AND MINUTES.** TERRY FROST read the Notice of the 77th Annual Meeting of the Membership and displayed the Proof of Publication. As they were presented in written form, JOE PIRRIE moved to waive reading of the 2014 minutes. MIKE STANLEY seconded the motion which passed.
8. **ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.** JAMES BERGSTROM, chairman of the Election and Credentials Committee, informed the membership that a quorum was met. Other members of the Committee present were BILL NEILSON, CAROL SCHAEFFER, LINDA SWANZ and JAMIE WICKENS.
9. **EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS.** DAVID DOVER introduced the employees who were present: RYAN d'AUTREMONT, JANINE RIFE DIDIER, BRIAN GODBEY, SUSAN HINKLEY, SALLY HORACEK, LOUIE HOULD, ERIKA MATTALIANO, VANGIE McCONNELL, MONTE OBERT, CURT OLSON, BRET OPHUS, DAVE PHIFER, JIM RICHTER, DALE RIKALA, MARK SCHWOMEYER, TYSON RUFF and SUE WERDIN. The following employees were introduced and honored for their years of service: JANINE RIFE DIDIER 25 years, VANGIE McCONNELL 35 years and JIM RICHTER 35 years.
10. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT.** PRESIDENT BOB EVANS reported that 2014 was a good financial year for the cooperative, noting that the Southern Montana bankruptcy debts are projected to be paid off in the fall of 2016. EVANS also noted that Fergus Electric pays all estate capital credits (\$164,595 in 2014) and the Board approved making a \$250,000 general retirement of capital credits in December of this year.
11. **MANAGER'S REPORT.** MANAGER SWEENEY thanked retiring director JOE DIRKSON for his 21 years of service to the Board and the members of District 3. He also recognized FOREMAN DAVE PHIFER who will retire at the end of the year for his 32 years of building lines, replacing poles and answering outage calls. He thanked all employees for a job well done helping to keep the lights on. SWEENEY noted that in preparing for a future power supply, the cooperative is working with Powder River Energy Corporation, a Wyoming electric distribution cooperative, and Basin Electric, a North Dakota generation and transmission cooperative, to secure a 60-year stable power supply. He encouraged members to read *Rural Montana/Fergus Features* to keep updated on happenings at the co-op. And, he told the membership that a rate increase is not planned for 2015.

12. **GUEST SPEAKER.** GARY WIENS, MECA Assistant General Manager, updated the membership on issues that were addressed during the 2015 Montana Legislative session.
13. **AUDITOR'S REPORT.** AUDITOR CORY WHEELER of Smith, Lange & Halley, and P.C. reviewed the Annual Financial Report and stated that everything was in order.
14. **YOUTH TOUR REPORT.** As part of Montana's contingency of Youth Tour students. HAILEY ZINNE of Ryegate reported on her "once-in-a-lifetime" trip to Washington, D.C. More than 1,700 young people descended on the nation's capital for a week of touring historic sites and visiting with their state's legislators.
15. **NOMINATING COMMITTEES' REPORTS.** RON HEGGEM, chair of the District 3 nominating committee, noted that his committee included DIRK HASSLER and ROGER BERG. He then introduced candidates BRAD ARNTZEN, ELDON FOSTER, GREG WICHMAN and JOHN WICKENS who gave short presentations. SAM OHANESIAN, chair of the District 5 nominating committee, noted his committee included JIM PEDRAZZI and GIL MAJERUS. He introduced candidate TERRY FROST who gave a short speech. LYLE DEEGAN, chair of District 7, noted that his committee included BILL ARAUJO and LENNIE McDONALD. He introduced candidate BOB EVANS who gave a short presentation.
16. **VOTING.** ELECTION/CREDENTIALS CHAIRMAN JAMES BERGSTROM reviewed voting procedures.
17. **LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.** A drawing, funded by unclaimed capital credits, took place. Six \$600 scholarships were awarded to students of cooperative members. MIKE VLASTELIC drew the first name and each winner drew the next name. Scholarships were presented to LESLEY BERG, MARTHA DEMBEK, CHASE GERER, ADAM METCALFE, ELLIE PENNELL and KENDRA TABOR.
18. **OPEN BUSINESS.** PRESIDENT EVANS called for questions from the floor. There were none.
19. **VOTING RESULTS.** BRAD ARNTZEN was elected to fill the vacancy in District 3 created by TRUSTEE JOE DIRKSON's retirement. TERRY FROST – District 5 and BOB EVANS – District 7 were unanimously returned to the Board
20. **PRIZES.** Drawing for a variety of prizes took place several times throughout the meeting. The grand prize, a \$300 electric credit, was won by BRUCE ARTHUR of Winnett. Also, 30 geraniums were given to members with yellow dots on their meeting agendas.
21. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** With no further business, PRESIDENT EVANS adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.
22. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** *These minutes will be approved by the membership at the June 9, 2016 annual meeting.*

SECRETARY

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT