

**MINUTES – GENERAL BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 29, 2011
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session November 29, 2011 with PRESIDENT BOB EVANS calling the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. STEVE BALSTER was secretary and VANGIE McCONNELL was scrivener. Other board members present were, JOE DIRKSON, DAVID DOVER, TERRY FROST (arrived at 1 p.m.), JASON SWANZ and MIKE VLASTELIC. CORPORATE COUNSEL WILLIAM A. SPOJA, GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and ASSISTANT MANAGER MIKE STANLEY were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **TIME FOR MEMBER INPUT.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue of interest or importance to them. No member appeared at this meeting.
3. **AGENDA APPROVAL.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, STEVE BALSTER moved to approve it. JOE DIRKSON seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** After reviewing the minutes of the October 26, 2011 general meeting and discussing them, STEVE BALSTER moved their approval. MIKE VLASTELIC seconded the motion which carried unanimously. After reviewing the minutes of the November 8, 2011 special meeting, JOE DIRKSON moved their approval as amended. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
5. **OPEN MEETING AND OPEN RECORDS POLICIES – BOARD POLICIES 244.0 AND 245.0.** After considerable review and discussion, JOE DIRKSON moved to approve the Open Meeting and Open Records Policies. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The general criteria in the two approved policies have been used by the cooperative for several years and are now written and included as Board Policies 244.0 and 245. Copies are attached.
6. **MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** MANAGER SWEENEY discussed recruiting members for the activated advisory committee – Board Policy 215.0. Hopefully, two representatives from each district will volunteer. DAVID DOVER reported that KEN BIEHL of Buffalo was interested and TERRY FROST reported that KIM KUZARA of Roundup was also interested. Discussion will continue at the next general meeting.
7. **CAPITAL CREDIT ESTATE RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the November capital credit estate retirements for \$23,417.23 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. JOE DIRKSON move to approve the retirements and MIKE VLASTELIC seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy is attached.
8. **REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL SPOJA noted that JOHN PAUL, a Great Falls bankruptcy attorney, has been hired to represent Fergus Electric during Southern's bankruptcy proceedings.
9. **APPROVAL OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 521-521X for \$71,321.93 and No. 521-521X(A) for \$5,222.94 dated October 31, 2011, STEVE BALSTER moved their approval. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
10. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for their perusal and discussion. Included in the items thus seen were the following: The October operating report prepared by SALLY HORACEK, analysis of operating statistics prepared by MIKE STANLEY and the October work order report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER. Other topics were also discussed, which included a review of property taxes.
11. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** The Board considered the 11/23/2011 report prepared by LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA outlining operations and maintenance, engineering and safety. RIKALA noted that high loads will be passing through Fergus Electric's service area in early December which will involve 20 power line crossings. The November safety meeting was a financial presentation by NRECA REPRESENTATIVE NOREEN FEDDIS.
12. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report covering power interruptions for January through October prepared by VANGIE McCONNELL.
13. **RESIGNATION.** TRUSTEE STEVE BALSTER noted that due to health reasons he will resign from the Board effective December 31, 2011. In light of BALSTER'S resignation, discussion ensued regarding the replacement process. Several names were suggested and other possible nominees were discussed. The Board and Management agreed to meet December 13, 2011 and after interviewing several candidates select a trustee to complete BALSTER'S term.
14. **SIGNAL PEAK, LLC.** Discussion covered the Signal Peak Coal Mine, which included load factor, the 100 kV transmission line and spare material purchases.
15. **HANDICAPPED ACCESS.** Discussion covered improving the handicapped parking area at the office.

16. **RATE INCREASE RESCINDED.** Because Southern Montana rescinded a 20% rate increase to its member cooperatives, STEVE BALSTER moved to rescind the 5% rate increase to Fergus Electric's members that had been acted upon at the Board's November 8 special meeting. MIKE VLASTELIC seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

17. **NET METERING.** Some discussion covered the \$8.00 administrative fee for net metering. A member had visited with MANAGER SWEENEY and expressed her concern about the \$8.00 administrative fee.


18. **SOUTHERN MONTANT G & T.** JOE DIRKSON and SCOTT SWEENEY reported on the meeting that took place in Billings November 21. Discussion covered Southern's Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing.

19. **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND NEW MEMBERS.** The delinquent accounts and new member lists prepared by ERIKA MATTALIANO were reviewed by the Board.

20. **FUTURE MEETINGS.** MECA Committees and Board, Great Falls, Nov. 30 – Dec. 1
Board Candidate Interviews, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.
Safety – Wellness and Underground Specifications, Dec. 14
Bankruptcy Hearing, Billings, Judge Kirscher, Dec. 20
FEC Board, December 28, 10 a.m.
FEC Board, Jan.26, 10 a.m.
Board Retreat, FEC Headquarters, Feb. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
FEC Board, Feb. 29 (Wed.), 10 a.m.

21. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.** Each director shared items of interest to the Board.

22. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** With no further business to come before the Board, PRESIDENT BOB EVANS adjourned the general meeting at 4:10 p.m.

SECRETARY 

ATTEST:
PRESIDENT 