

**MINUTES - GENERAL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session September 25, 2014 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 PAUL DESCHEEMAER, DAVID DOVER, JOE DIRKSON, JASON SWANZ, and MIKE VLASTELIC. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, 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 of interest or importance to them. No member appeared.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, JOE DIRKSON moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** After reviewing the minutes of the August 28, 2014 general meeting, MIKE VLASTELIC moved to approve them. PAUL DESCHEEMAER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
5. **SOUTHERN MONTANA.** DAVID DOVER, JASON SWANZ and SCOTT SWEENEY reviewed wholesale power prices that were discussed during the September 17 meeting in Billings at which the Southern Board signed a three-year wholesale power contract. Then, the Fergus Electric Board and Management joined a teleconference call with attorneys TRENT GARDNER and JOHN PAUL to discuss the Beartooth mediation, fence removal, and obtaining SME land appraisals for the SME Board meeting set for October 29.
6. **POWDER RIVER ENERGY CORPORATION.** BOB EVANS reported on the PRECorp board meeting that took place September 15 in Sheridan, Wyoming. He noted that Tongue River Electric is interested in sharing services with PRECorp and that the corporation purchases Ford and Dodge trucks through an NRECA program.
7. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. Included in the items seen were the following: the August operating report prepared and reviewed by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and the analysis of operating statistics prepared by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER. MANAGER SWEENEY also noted that irrigation billing will go out the beginning of November.
8. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** The Board considered the operations and maintenance, engineering and safety report of September 19, 2014 prepared by LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA. RIKALA reported that, to date, 58 new meters have been installed. He also noted that 170 new poles have been added and 175 were retired of which 169 were junked. The September 23 safety meeting was an update on benefits presented by NRECA FIELD REPRESENTATIVE MIKE STIFF.
9. **APPROVAL OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 555-555X for \$63,885.99 and 555-555X (A) for \$1,687.64 ending August 31, 2014, JOE DIRKSON moved their approval. MIKE VLASTELIC seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
10. **LEGAL COUNSEL.** While he did not have a board report, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL answered questions throughout the meeting.
11. **SIGNAL PEAK COAL MINE AND EXPRESS PIPELINE.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that the coal mine had a total load factor of 50.2% and the pipeline had a combined load factor of 45.5%.

12. **MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that the next advisory committee meeting is set for November 20. Discussion will focus on the benefits of an alliance with Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp) headquartered in Sundance, Wyoming. The board discussed the possibility of discontinuing advisory committee meetings for a time. TRUSTEE JASON SWANZ will attend the next meeting.
13. **METSPool SELF-INSURED WORKERS COMPENSATION POOL.** After discussion, DAVID DOVER moved to appoint OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK as Fergus Electric's representative on the METSPool Board. JOE DIRKSON seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
14. **BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE.** MANAGER SWEENEY noted that Basin Electric's annual meeting is set for November 4 – 6 in Bismarck. After discussion, SCOTT SWEENEY, MIKE VLASTELIC, PAUL DESCHEEMAER and BOB EVANS agreed to attend the meeting. It was the consensus of the Board that it would be a good opportunity to visit with PRECorp representatives.
15. **TODAY'S MEMBERS.** PAUL DESCHEEMAER reported that RYAN and MEGAN GREEN from Hilger had agreed to represent Fergus Electric in the Today's Member Program at the MECA annual meeting in Great Falls September 29 – October 1.
16. **FEDERATED INSURANCE EXCHANGE.** JASON SWANZ moved to appoint MIKE VLASTELIC as voting delegate to represent Fergus Electric at the Federated Insurance Exchange's annual meeting at the Region 9 meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. PAUL DESCHEEMAER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
17. **ESTATE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the September estate capital credit retirements of \$11,621.51 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. TERRY FROST moved to affirm the retirements and JOE DIRKSON seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy is attached. Delinquent accounts and new members were also reviewed.
18. **FUTURE MEETINGS.**
NRECA Course 966.1 – Understanding the New World of Power Supply, Sept. 29
MECA Annual and Today's Members Program, Great Falls, Sept. 29 – Oct. 2
NRECA Region 7 & 9, Omaha, Nebraska, Oct. 15 & 16
Southern/SME Boards, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.
FEC Board, Oct. 31, 9 a.m.
Basin Annual, Bismarck, Nov. 4-6
Safety, Cold and Hot Weather Exposure, Stress Management and Wellness, Nov. 10
Member Advisory Committee, Nov. 20, 7 p.m. (Jason)
FEC Board, Nov. 25, 9 a.m.
FEC Board, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.
Christmas Dinner, Pine Meadows/Brooks Market, Dec. 19
19. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.** Each trustee shared items of interest to the Board.
20. **ADJOURN.** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by PRESIDENT EVANS at 12:10 p.m.

 October 31 2014