

**MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 24, 2022
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session August 24, 2022, with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER calling the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. KRIS BIRDWELL served as the scrivener. Board members in attendance were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, CATHY KOMBOL, BRETT MAXWELL, JASON SWANZ, and TERRY FROST. Other attendees included GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK, and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL. The attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BOB EVANS moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the August 4, 2022, general meeting BRETT MAXWELL moved for approval. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** No one from the public appeared.
5. **EMPLOYEE PICNIC/BOARD MEETING – AUGUST 24.** GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY confirmed the plan to hold an employee picnic on August 24th at the Fish Hatchery.
6. **ELECTRIFY THE BIG SKY.** After discussion, the board agreed that BOB EVANS, BRETT MAXWELL, and CARSON SWEENEY will attend Electrify the Big Sky Conference in Missoula on September 13, 2022.
7. **NRECA REGION 9 MEETING ATTENDANCE/REGISTRATION SEPTEMBER 27-29, PORTLAND, OREGON.** PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER and CATHY KOMBOL will attend. JASON SWANZ moved to appoint CATHY KOMBOL as the voting delegate. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
8. **MECA ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE/REGISTRATION – OCTOBER 4-5, GREAT FALLS, MONTANA.** The board confirmed the designation of attendees and voting delegates selected at the August 4, 2022, general board meeting.
9. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Financial and other monthly reports were presented to the Board for discussion.
 - A. **FORM 7.** OFFICE MANAGER, SALLY HORACEK, reviewed the Form 7, Financial Report.
 - B. **Ratios.** The Board did not review the Ratios, as JANINE DIDIER was not present.
 - C. **Basin Bill Credit.** GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY noted the impact of the bill credit and renewable energy credit recently approved by the Basin Board of Directors.
10. **OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA provided a detailed written Safety and Operations report. He also reported on lightning strikes north of Hilger causing outages and fires within the previous 24 hours. RIKALA reported that all fires are contained, and that power has been restored.

11. **INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** No work orders were closed in this period.
12. **POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** The Board reviewed the August 2022 Outage Report.
13. **BOARD POLICY 236 – USE OF EMPLOYEE-OWNED VEHICLES FOR COOPERATIVE BUSINESS.** The Board reviewed Board Policy 236. BOB EVANS moved to approve an amendment to the policy. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
14. **BOARD POLICY 237 – DISTANCE FROM HEADQUARTERS.** BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve an amendment to the policy allowing line employees to live within 15 miles of headquarters. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
15. **BOARD POLICY 238 – TRUSTEE SEARCH AND SELECTION.** GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY informed the board that he will work with COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL to draft revisions to the policy prior to the next board meeting.
16. **REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL BIRDWELL reported he had worked on various items of importance for the co-op.
17. **MANAGER'S REPORT.** GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY provided a detailed written report to the board including recent activities at Basin Electric and Members 1st Cooperative. MANAGER SWEENEY provided an update on the projected schedule for approval of the 2023 budget. He also provided the board information concerning a proposed CFC Capital Securities investment program.
18. **MEMBERS 1ST/BASIN UPDATE.** PRESIDENT DESCHEEMAERKER and MANAGER SWEENEY reported on the July Members 1st board meeting and the July Basin Electric manager's meeting.
19. **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS/NEW MEMBERS LIST.** In executive session, the Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing those that were paid in full and those that were still owing.
20. **ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** The Board reviewed the list of estate capital credits for August 2022, totaling \$10,383.54, prepared by BILLING CLERK ERIKA MATTALIANO. JASON SWANZ moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
21. **OTHER BUSINESS.**
 - A. BOB EVANS asked MANAGER SWEENEY to provide additional information regarding demand and energy with associated costs related to rates. After discussion, the board and General Manager agreed that it would be beneficial for the board to spend time at scheduled monthly board meetings on this topic.
 - B. The Board watched a video on the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent upgrades that will likely impact Fergus Electric and the Central Montana area.
 - C. The Board reviewed the RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE RETIREMENT AND/OR 401(K) PENSION PLAN. BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve the resolution. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Resolution is attached.

22. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. CFC Boston 100, August 31
- b. Safety Meeting, August 31
- c. FEC Board Meetings in 2022, September 22, October 27, December 1 (12:00 meeting)
- d. Electrify the Big Sky, Missoula, September 13
- e. NRECA Region 9 Meeting, Portland, Oregon, September 27-29
- f. MECA Annual Meeting, Great Falls, October 4-5
- g. Basin Annual Meeting, Bismarck, North Dakota, November 8-10
- h. MECA Winter Board Meeting, November 29-30
- i. Mid-West Consumers Association Annual Meeting, December 6-8
- j. Christmas Party, December 1, 2022, at Brooks Market

23. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

24. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER, adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

SECRETARY  ATTEST:

PRESIDENT Paul Descheemaer