

MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, JANUARY 31, 2023
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

- 1. GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session January 31, 2023, with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAER calling the meeting to order at 10:15 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. 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, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve it. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the December 28, 2022, general meeting and discussing them, BRETT MAXWELL moved their approval. BOB EVANS seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** No one from the public appeared.
- 5. NOMINATING COMMITTEES.** OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK asked Board Directors BRETT MAXWELL (District 2) and CATHY KOMBOL (District 4) to provide her with the names of members willing to serve on the Nominating Committees for each of their districts. HORACEK would like to schedule the first Nominating Committee meeting for March.
- 6. REVIEW OF UPDATED BILLS.** MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY provided a thorough review of each of the revised power bills, which included the standard bill, delinquent bill, cooperative solar bill, net meter bill, and large customer bill. SWEENEY said the new bills should be ready to send to the membership April 1st. The Board had favorable feedback on the features and information provided on the new bills. Prior to this update, the bills have not changed for eleven years.
- 7. FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** Financial and other monthly reports were presented to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the December 31, 2022, Form 7 operating report. PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR JANINE RIFE DIDIER reviewed the December 31, 2022, ratios report.
- 8. OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT RIKALA reported on the Safety Meeting held January 19th. Central Montana Medical Center (CMMC) conducted the co-op's annual Wellness Day clinic, which was available to anyone covered by the co-op's insurance. As part of the screening, CMMC staff drew blood and measured blood pressure, oxygen level, height, weight and Body Mass Index. ELI KARINEN, licensed Clinical Social Worker with CMMC, spoke on how stress affects a body, both physically and emotionally. DR. AMARAL, Internal Medicine Physician, gave a presentation on the effects of alcohol on a body's organs and brain and described how alcohol can affect our judgement and motor skills. RIKALA reported that on February 15, MIKE DAVIS will provide training for First Aid/CPR/AED. Fergus Electric participates in this training annually. Safety Committee members ERIKA MATTALIANO, SCOTT OLSON and RIKALA met during the afternoon of January 19 and created a rough draft for the 2023 safety meeting agenda. SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBERS LOUIE HOULD and ANDREW REUTERSKIOLD were unable to attend the meeting. ASSISTANT LINE SUPERINTENDENT BRET NELLERMOE and ENGINEERS SCOTT OLSON and DAN BALSTER attended a National Electric Safety Code (NESC) update class in Great Falls, January 24-25. NESC has replaced the 2017 code book with the updated 2023 edition. The engineers will prepare a year-end summary detailing the work completed in 2022 and present it to the Board of Directors at the next board meeting. MECHANIC JASON DEFFINBAUGH completed setting up OWEN THATCHER'S new foreman's truck. Altec and Normont, located in Great Falls, will supply quotes for the new service box to be installed on LOUIE HOULD'S foreman's truck. The Ford chassis is scheduled to be built the week of February 6th. RIKALA reported that Lewistown crews are completing Priority 2 tickets in the Geyser area. Trees are being cut in the Cottonwood Creek area and new services have been built in the Suffolk and Hilger areas.

9. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS. After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 611-611X for \$564,485.50, dated December 31, 2022, CATHY KOMBOL moved to affirm them. BRETT MAXWELL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. POWER OUTAGE REPORT. LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reviewed the December 2022 Outage Report prepared by STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN, PE.

11. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL. CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported he had worked on various items of importance for the co-op. BIRDWELL reported that he worked with the engineers on several issues, with the front office on small issues and with MANAGER SWEENEY on several issues.

12. MANAGER'S REPORT. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported that the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), the federal Political Action Committee (PAC) of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), is getting a new name: America's Electric Cooperative, to have more meaning to people. SWEENEY briefly talked about a program called Cooperative Family Fund. Its purpose is to provide support for children of electric cooperative employees when they experience the loss of a parent while actively employed at a cooperative. SWEENEY recommended the co-op make an annual donation to the fund. The Board consented. SWEENEY recently attended the NRECA CEO Close Up conference for the first time. SWEENEY said it was the most informative and beneficial conference he has attended as General Manager of Fergus Electric. Eight Montana Managers were in attendance and were able to spend quality time getting better acquainted. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to attend and expressed interest in attending every year.

13. MEMBERS 1ST /BASIN UPDATE, JANUARY 17TH. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY gave a brief report on the virtual meeting he attended.

14. BASIN MEMBERS ONLY MEETING, JANUARY 26TH. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER, BRETT MAXWELL and MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported on the meeting they attended.

15. BOARD RESOURCE COMMITTEE UPDATE. MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY reported on the meeting he attended, January 31st.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION. At 2:39 p.m., BRETT MAXWELL moved to go into executive session for the purpose of conducting an annual review of CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

17. REGULAR SESSION CONTINUES. At 2:45 p.m., TERRY FROST moved to resume general session. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

18. RATIFY DISCUSSION DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION. The Board expressed their appreciation for the fine work KRIS BIRDWELL and his team provide Fergus Electric. BOB EVANS moved to ratify discussion held in executive session. CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

19. DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS/NEW MEMBERS LIST. The Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing those that were paid in full and those that were still owing.

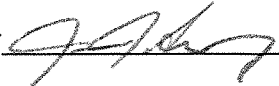
20. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS. The Board reviewed the list of estate capital credits for December 2022 totaling \$28,492.44, which were prepared by ERIKA MATTALIANO. BRETT MAXWELL moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

21. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting, February 15
- b. Basin Member Manager Conference: Sioux Falls; February 23-24
- c. FEC Board Meetings, (10:00 a.m.), February 28, March 30, April 27 and May 25
- d. NRECA Annual Meeting, Nashville, March 3-8
- e. NRECA Legislative Conference: Washington, D.C.; April 16-19

22. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

23. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

SECRETARY  ATTEST: PRESIDENT 