

**MINUTES – 82ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP – JUNE 25, 2020
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

- 1. 82ND ANNUAL MEETING.** The 82nd Annual Meeting of Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. convened June 25, 2020, in the parking lot at the Fergus County Trade Center, Lewistown, Montana pursuant to notices required by the bylaws of the cooperative. The bylaws also state: Either five percent of the members present in person or 50, but not less than 50 members shall constitute a quorum. Registration commenced at 10:30 a.m. There were 58 registered members present.
- 2. CHANGE OF VENUE.** Due to Covid-19 social-distancing restrictions, the 82nd Annual Meeting of Fergus Electric Cooperative convened in the parking lot of the Fergus County Trade Center. Fergus Electric Co-op employees registered members and presented them with a packet of information, a welcome gift, and Lewistown Area Chamber of Commerce 'Chamber Bucks'. Members remained seated in their vehicles during the annual meeting and listened to the program, which was broadcast live over Lewistown's local KXLO Radio station.
- 3. CALLED TO ORDER.** The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER. JASON SWANZ was secretary and JANINE RIFE DIDIER was scrivener. Board members present were BRAD ARNTZEN, BOB EVANS, TERRY FROST, CATHY KOMBOL, and BRETT MAXWELL. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY, and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL were also present.
- 4. PLEDGE, INVOCATION, AND PARLIAMENTARIAN.** DIRECTOR BRETT MAXWELL led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation, and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL was appointed parliamentarian.
- 5. INTRODUCTIONS.** PRESIDENT DESCHEEMAEKER introduced the Board of Directors and their spouses, and thanked KXLO Radio for broadcasting the annual meeting. DESCHEEMAEKER also introduced the following guests: RYAN HALL – MECA Communications Director; DAVE PHIFER – former Fergus Electric foreman; VANGIE McCONNELL – former Fergus Electric benefits administrator; GUY JOHNSON – former Fergus Electric staking engineer; and former Fergus Electric directors JOE DIRKSON and LARRY DESCHEEMAEKER.
- 6. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, PROOF OF PUBLICATION, AND MINUTES.** JASON SWANZ read the Notice of the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Membership and displayed the Proof of Publication. As the minutes were presented in written form, TOM WICKENS moved to dispense with reading of the 2019 annual meeting minutes. LAURA WARNEKE seconded the motion. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER asked for members to vote by honking their horns. Motion carried unanimously. GEORGE DENGEL moved to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes. LARRY DESCHEEMAEKER seconded the motion. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER asked for members to vote by honking their horns. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7. ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.** JAMES BERGSTROM, chairman of the Election and Credentials Committee, informed the membership that a quorum was met.
- 8. EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTIONS AND YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION.** PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER recognized board members and employees for their years of service: BOB EVANS – 35 years; JASON SWANZ – 10 years; BRAD ARNTZEN – 5 years; JANINE RIFE DIDIER – 30 years; and BRET NELLERMORE – 5 years.
- 9. MANAGER'S REPORT INCLUDING 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY welcomed the membership and thanked KXLO Radio for permitting Fergus Electric to broadcast live. SWEENEY acknowledged the recent passing of PAST PRESIDENT KEN MAKI and thanked KEN and his wife BOBBIN for their years of service to the co-op. SWEENEY reported that 2019 was a good year for the co-op with strong financials and very strong margins. The co-op added three million dollars in utility plant with the transmission line rebuild north of Lewistown and the new metering system that is being installed to replace the old turtle meters that are 'on their last leg'. SWEENEY told the members that the co-op does not anticipate a rate increase for 2020. The last rate increase was in 2011. SWEENEY said that Fergus Electric received the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant, so the co-op will be going forward with Phase 2 solar, offering 192 panels for sale to co-op members. Reflecting on his 41-year career at the co-op, MANAGER SWEENEY said, "Thank you. I am appreciative. Our employees are simply wonderful. During a recent outage, our line crews worked around the clock to restore the power." SWEENEY went on to thank the board of directors saying, "they are simply wonderful and have provided great leadership." SWEENEY said, "the 3900 members have been joyful and delightful, in general, and building new line to members has always been a highlight of my career." SWEENEY said that he is looking forward to retirement and is delighted to be turning the job over to CARSON SWEENEY who shares a last name but is not related.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER welcomed the members and thanked retiring GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY saying he has been a wonderful manager! DESCHEEMAEKER encouraged the members to "honk" in appreciation of SCOTT SWEENEY'S 41 years. The members obliged. DESCHEEMAEKER said that the members could text questions to the cell phone number they were provided in the packet they received during registration. PRESIDENT DESCHEEMAEKER gave an introduction of newly hired GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY.

11. MANAGER'S REPORT. GENERAL MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY welcomed the membership and told them that he is looking forward to the opportunity and is very appreciative.

12. NOMINATING COMMITTEES' REPORTS. BRYAN GATZ, representing the District 2 nominating committee, introduced incumbent BRETT MAXWELL, the District 2 candidate seeking a board position. JIM JOHNKE, representing the District 4 nominating committee, introduced incumbent CATHY KOMBOL, the District 4 candidate seeking a board position.

13. VOTE BY ACCLAMATION. As the election for directors was uncontested, JIM JOHNKE moved to dispense with paper ballots and seat incumbent District 2 candidate BRETT MAXWELL and incumbent District 4 candidate CATHY KOMBOL by acclamation. BRYAN GATZ seconded the motion. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER asked for members to vote by honking their horns. Motion carried unanimously. BRETT MAXWELL was re-elected to be seated for an additional three-year term in District 2, and CATHY KOMBOL was re-elected to be seated for an additional three-year term in District 4.

14. OPEN BUSINESS. There were no questions from the membership.

15. SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS. JASON SWANZ reported that a \$1,000.00 MECA scholarship was awarded to JACY AYERS of Lewistown and a \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to KALLIE ZINNE of Ryegate from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Fergus Electric Cooperative's power supplier.

16. LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIPS. CATHY KOMBOL stated that Fergus Electric received 52 Luck of the Draw Scholarship applications. Each student's application was assigned a number. KOMBOL said that earlier on the morning of the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors met and drew 10 random numbers from a total of 52, and as the numbers were drawn, MANAGER CARSON SWEENEY read the name that corresponded with the number. KOMBOL announced that the 10 students who will each receive \$1,000 luck of the draw scholarships paid from unclaimed and donated capital credits are as follows: CALEB HESS, KYLEE WEEDEN, TIMOTHY HORAN, JACE AUNE, JADA SCHEFELMAER, TRINITY METCALF, LEVI BOYLES, CARSON WEEDEN, CHLOE DERKS, and ALYSSA THOMAS.

17. MEETING ADJOURNED. With no further business, PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.


SECRETARY

ATTEST:  Y.P.
PRESIDENT