

**MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, JULY 24, 2019
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

- 1. GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session July 24, 2019 with PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER calling the meeting to order at 9:20 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. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER DAVID DOVER, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK were also present.
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, BOB EVANS moved to approve it. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** After reviewing the minutes of the June 27, 2019 general meeting and discussing them, TERRY FROST moved their approval. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 4. 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.
- 5. MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY.** After a period of discussion, the board decided that the co-op will hold its Member Appreciation Day on Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 1:00p.m.–4:00p.m. at the co-op's headquarters in Lewistown.
- 6. TRANSMISSION LINE UPDATE.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that Rocky Mountain Contractors will return to re-tamp several poles on the south end of the project that have voids next to the pole due to dirt settling and clean up several items to complete the job.
- 7. NEW METERING SYSTEM.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER updated the board on the current AMI schedule and reported that Itron and NRTC are showing the co-op's line crews the proper way to assemble and install equipment. The co-op plans to work on site surveys for phase 2 during the last week of July.
- 8. TRUCK GARAGE.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that the concrete apron is being poured on the east side of the truck garage. Concrete will not be added on the west side of the garage until next year to allow settling where drainpipe excavation has occurred.
- 9. SANDFIRE RESOURCES COPPER MINE.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported on the meeting with Sandfire Resources held in White Sulphur Springs on July 22 that was attended by Fergus Electric, ECI and Sandfire personnel. ECI ENGINEERS DAN BALSTER and HEATHER DELL joined DAVID DOVER and STAKING ENGINEERS GUY JOHNSON and SCOTT OLSON on a drive along the route that the proposed power line will be built. DOVER said that the ECI engineers provided positive feedback on the timeline and feasibility of the power line project. Sandfire expects the final Environmental Impact Study in August followed by the Record of Decision in September.
- 10. COOPERATIVE SOLAR - PHASE 2.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY and ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported that ORION THORNTON looked at the proposed site and confirmed that his initial bid proposal stands. BOB EVANS moved to have staff proceed with a roof-top installation of up to 192 solar panels. After further discussion, CATHY KOMBOL seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 11. BOARD RETREAT.** The board began making preliminary plans to hold a board retreat in January 2020 by listing topics, potential facilitators and reviewing available calendar dates. The board delegated scheduling the retreat and getting a facilitator to ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER.



- 12. FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK reviewed the June 30, 2019 operating report and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER presented the June 30, 2019 ratios report. BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve the June 2019 financials. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 13. POWER OUTAGE REPORT.** GENERAL MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report prepared by JANINE RIFE DIDIER covering power interruptions for January-July 2019.
- 14. OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that SERVICEMAN LOUIE HOULD was promoted to foreman. RIKALA wants to promote a lineman to fill the position created by HOULD'S promotion.
- 15. SERVICE POLICIES HANDBOOK.** The Board recommended that the Service Policies handbook discussion be tabled until next month to permit office staff time to collectively review the handbook.
- 16. BOARD POLICY 602 – LINE EXTENSION POLICY – SUBDIVISIONS.** After reviewing the proposed changes suggested by the engineering department, JASON SWANZ moved to approve Board Policy 602 – Line Extension Policy – Subdivisions, as amended. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 17. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported that he is looking forward to attending the NRECA Legal Seminar 59, August 12-14, 2019 in Denver, Colorado.
- 18. MECA SUMMER MEETING AND CLASS.** TERRY FROST, PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER, CATHY KOMBOL and BOB EVANS said that the instructor and class were good, and the topics covered were relevant to co-ops. TERRY FROST reported that the MECA audit for 2018 was completed with no change of numbers. MECA hopes to approve getting the *Rural Montana* magazine printed on glossy paper. MECA is pleased to be flying the United States flag for the first time in a decade.
- 19. MEMBERS 1ST/PRECORP MEETINGS.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reviewed the July 16 Members 1st and PRECorp board meetings.
- 20. SAFETY MEETINGS.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that MECA EDITOR RYAN HALL provided Media Relations Training and the line crews held MSDS training and discussed metering on July 17.
- 21. RESAP.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that he traveled to Park Electric Co-op in Livingston as part of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) to conduct a safety inspection. The RESAP inspections are sponsored by NRECA. RIKALA stated that he appreciates that Fergus Electric's crews work to keep FEC's pole yard tidy and picked up.
- 22. MECA INTERNATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported that the MECA International Planning Committee has plans to send interested line workers to Bolivia for 17 days.
- 23. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY reported that there were no estate capital credits to present this month as SENIOR BILLING CLERK/CAPITAL CREDIT ADMINISTRATOR SUSAN HINKLEY was absent due to the recent loss of her brother.
- 24. DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS/NEW MEMBERS LIST.** The Board reviewed the delinquent accounts showing those that were paid in full and those that were still owing. A list of new members was also reviewed.
- 25. EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC.** After a brief period of discussion, the Board decided to hold an employee appreciation picnic after the board meeting adjourns on the afternoon of August 29.

26. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting, Troy Kamps/MECA - Electrical Burns & Safety Jeopardy, Aug. 15
- b. Members 1st/PRECorp, Aug. 20, Gillette
- c. PRECorp Annual Meeting, Aug. 24, Buffalo
- d. Co-op Picnic, Aug. 29, 4 p.m.
- e. FEC Board, Aug. 29, Sep. 23, Oct. 31, Dec. 6 and Dec. 19 - 9 a.m.
- f. MECA Operations Conference, Sep. 9-12, Great Falls
- g. NRECA Region 9, Sep. 25-26, Spokane
- h. FEC Board and Christmas Awards Dinner, Friday, Dec. 6, Winifred

27. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

28. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

SECRETARY  ATTEST: PRESIDENT 

