

**MINUTES**  
**GENERAL BOARD MEETING – MAY 26, 2016**  
**FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees met in general session May 26, 2016 with PRESIDENT BOB EVANS calling the meeting to order at 9 a.m. VANGIE McCONNELL was scrivener. Other board members present were BRAD ARNTZEN, PAUL DESCHEEMAER, DAVID DOVER, TERRY FROST, JASON SWANZ and MIKE VLASTELIC. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK, FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER and CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, MIKE VLASTELIC 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 APRIL 28, 2016 general meeting, PAUL DESCHEEMAER moved to approve them. 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 members appeared.
5. **COMMUNITY SOLAR SURVEY.** In order to determine the member's interest in solar energy, MANAGER SWEENEY reported that he and JANINE RIFE DIDIER are working on a solar survey with WILL LUTGEN of Symbios Consulting.
6. **CENTRAL MONTANA RESOURCE COUNCIL.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that he had attended a Central Montana Resource Council meeting. CMRC is interested in solar energy/community solar as is Fergus Electric.
7. **ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW.** JANINE RIFE DIDIER, SALLY HORACEK and VANGIE McCONNELL reviewed the agenda for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting set for Saturday, June 11 at the Fergus County Trade Center.
8. **MEETING REPORTS.** MANAGER SWEENEY reviewed topics from the PRECorp Board Meeting in Gillette May 17. Most of the discussion covered forming a G & T. A business plan will be available for presentation at the November 7 Basin Electric annual meeting. DAVID DOVER, JASON SWANZ and MANAGER SWEENEY attended the Southern board meeting May 25.
9. **BOARD POLICY 209 – SAFETY.** After a review of the safety policy, BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve the policy as amended and PAUL DESCHEEMAER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A copy is attached.
10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The Board and CORPORATE COUNSEL met in an executive session to discuss health insurance arrangements.

- 11. OPERATIONS REPORT.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that, to date, 11 new meters have been installed, 107 new poles were added and 101 were retired of which 101 were junked. A spring storm with snow and strong winds hit Fergus Electric's service area on May 9 and 10. The storm brought down trees causing outages throughout the system. Six poles were lost. The Carters Pond, Hilger, Winifred, Roy, Heath and Ruby Gulch Substations were without power.
- 12. THANK EMPLOYEES.** PRESIDENT BOB EVANS expressed appreciation from the Board for employee efforts during the recent spring storm. EVANS asked that this be relayed to both inside and outside employees.
- 13. 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 April operating report prepared by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and the April analysis of operating statistics prepared by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER.
- 14. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS.** After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 575-575X for \$109,260.44 and No. 575-575X (A) for \$2,454.65, TERRY FROST moved to approve them. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 15. REPORT OF CORPORATE COUNSEL.** CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL reported on the Atna Resources bankruptcy (Kendall mine). He also noted that he had participated in two conference calls discussing the formation of a G & T with PRECorp.
- 16. CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS.** An update on unclaimed capital credit checks was presented by MANAGER SWEENEY. A revised list will be included in the packets given to the membership at the Annual Meeting.
- 17. SOLAR POWER SEMINAR.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported on the Solar Power seminar he attended in Tucson, Arizona May 10-12. He said it was very informative with a number of presenters from co-ops with solar arrays as well as companies that provide the equipment.
- 18. PHONE SYSTEM.** PATSE HANSON of Mid-Rivers will provide a proposal to upgrade Fergus Electric's phone system. It will be carefully studied before any decision is made.
- 19. NEW LINEMAN.** CASEY KOMBOL of Roundup started as an apprentice lineman on May 2, 2016. He was initiated into line work a few days after he was hired – spring blizzard gave him plenty to do.
- 20. UNION NEGOTIATIONS.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that union negotiations are scheduled for July 25-28 and August 8-9 and if more time is needed, August 22-23 will be used. The linemen will be represented by BILL RYAN (Local 44), RYAN d'AUTREMONT and LOUIE HOULD. The co-op will be represented by TRUSTEE BOB EVANS, CORPORATE COUNSEL KRIS BIRDWELL and MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY.
- 21. SIGNAL PEAK MINE TOUR.** Several trustees and employees enjoyed the May 4 surface tour of the Signal Peak Mine. They agreed it was an interesting operation.



**22. NWPPA ANNUAL MEETING.** MIKE VLASTELIC reported on the May 10-13 meeting at the Tulalip Resort in Washington. There were a number of interesting speakers and VLASTELIC felt it was one of the best NWPPA meetings he has attended.

**23. CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the May, 2016 estate capital credit retirements of \$14,497.19 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. DAVID DOVER moved to affirm the retirements and PAUL DESCHEEMAER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**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. ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE.** MANAGER SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA and METER TECHNICIAN KERBY DURBIN will plan a conference call with PRECorp to discuss a new metering system. PRECorp has the Advanced Metering Infrastructure system in place and Fergus is looking into a variety of systems for future installation.

**26. FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- a. Special Board Meeting, Headquarters, June 11, 9:30 a.m.
- b. Annual Meeting, Fergus County Trade Center, June 11, 11 a.m.
- c. Board Reorganization Meeting, Headquarters, June 11, 3 p.m.
- d. Safety – Pole Top and Bucket Truck Rescue, June 15
- e. PRECorp Board, Sheridan, June 21
- f. Fergus Board, June 23, July 28 & Aug. 25
- g. MECA summer Meeting, Glasgow, July 6-7, Mike & Paul
- h. Union Negotiations, July 25-27, Aug. 8-9, Aug. 22-23 – Bob, Kris, Scott

**27. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**

**28. ADJOURN.** PRESIDENT EVANS adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Terry Frost  
Secretary

Attest:

David Dover  
President

