

**MINUTES
GENERAL BOARD MEETING, JUNE 28, 2018
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

- 1. GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session June 28, 2018 with PRESIDENT BOB EVANS calling the meeting to order at 9 a.m. TERRY FROST was secretary and VANGIE McCONNELL was scrivener. Other board members present were BRAD ARNTZEN, PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER, CATHY KOMBOL, BRETT MAXWELL and JASON SWANZ. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER DAVID DOVER, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER were also present.
- 2. 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.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER moved to approve it. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** After reviewing the minutes of the May 30, 2018 general meeting and discussing them, BRETT MAXWELL moved their approval. PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. BRAD ARNTZEN moved to approve the special meeting minutes dated June 7, 2018. PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER seconded the motion which carried unanimously. BRETT MAXWELL moved to approve the reorganization meeting minutes of June 7, 2018. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion which carried unanimously. The June 7 annual meeting minutes were reviewed. They will be presented to the membership at the 2019 annual meeting.
- 5. CONFERENCE CALL ON NEW METERING SYSTEM.** RICH HALLORAN of Powder River Energy (PRECorp) reviewed details of the AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) that the cooperative will purchase. HALLORAN reviewed the updated contract with NRTC. Project plan details were also reviewed. PRECorp will assist Fergus Electric with meter installations.
- 6. NRTC CONTRACT.** After discussion, JASON SWANZ moved to authorize MANAGER SWEENEY to sign the NRTC (National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative) contract. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion which carried unanimously. NRTC provides advanced technology solutions to its members.
- 7. CFC EDUCATION.** MANAGER SWEENEY reported that CFC REPRESENTATIVE ERIC ANDERSON is willing to organize a financial retreat for the Board and Staff this fall. Several scenarios were discussed. ASSISTANT MANAGER DOVER will follow up with details.
- 8. PRECORP BOARD AND MEMBERS 1ST MEETINGS.** PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER and MANAGER SWEENEY reported on the June 18-19 PRECorp and Members 1st board meetings that took place in Sheridan, Wyoming. They reported that rates with Basin look to remain steady in 2019, but a revised contract between Basin and Members 1st is being reviewed. MANAGER SWEENEY noted that a paper titled, "PRECorp 2030: A Vision of Our Community" is interesting and worth reading.
- 9. TRUCK GARAGE.** LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reported that good progress is being made on the truck garage with one-half of the footers poured.
- 10. BLACK BUTTE/SANDFIRE RESOURCES COPPER MINE.** ASSISTANT MANAGER DAVID DOVER reported that Black Butte hopes to begin mining in January of 2021. Fergus Electric plans to start right-of-way acquisition soon with construction of the line projected for the summer of 2019 and 2020. Billing to cover costs for staking will be submitted to Sandfire Resources. DOVER also noted that PRECorp may help with staking the 40 miles of line. The next mine tour is set for July 3.

11. FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. The reports included the May operating report prepared by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and May analysis of operating statistics prepared by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER.

12. OPERATIONS REPORT. LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA reviewed the June 21, 2018 operations report covering operations and maintenance, engineering and safety. He noted that the Roundup crew, due to flooding, moved two poles. Lewistown crews are working on new irrigation services. Preparation continues for the Carters Pond to Hilger transmission project. The June safety meeting included a practice "Mayday" exercise. Along with local first responders and Lewistown Ambulance Service, Mercy Flight from Great Falls sent a helicopter and crew to participate in the drill.

13. INVENTORY OF WORK ORDERS. After reviewing Inventory of Work Orders No. 591-591X for \$82,493.21 and No. 591-591X(A) for \$640.74, TERRY FROST moved to approve them. PAUL DESCHEEMAER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

14. POWER OUTAGE REPORT. MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board reviewed a report prepared by VANGIE McCONNELL covering power interruptions for January through May.

15. NRTC PRESENTATION. CHAD DOSE, BILL SHANAHAN and EVE TAPSCOTT of NRTC – On-site Training gave an overview of their company's services. NRTC (National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative) provides solutions that help telecommunications and electric members bring all the advantages of today's evolving technology to rural America. This includes managed broadband, satellite broadband, AMI smart grid, workforce management, fixed wireless and video solutions.

16. FAIR DONATION. After discussion, the Board agreed to donate and set poles to support speakers at the rodeo arena at the Central Montana Fairgrounds.

17. SOLAR PANELS. In 2017, STAKING ENGINEER MELANIE FORAN applied for a grant offered by REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) for the Cooperative Solar Project Fergus Electric Co-op built. Recently, Fergus Electric was notified that REAP had selected the co-op to receive grant monies, which will be approximately \$50,000.

18. MECHANIC RETIRING. After 26 years at the cooperative, MECHANIC TOM SIMONS will retire effective August 25, 2018. Advertising for his replacement will ensue.

19. ESTATE CAPITAL CREDITS. The Board reviewed the June 2018 estate capital credit retirements of \$10,815.53 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. BRAD ARNTZEN moved to affirm the retirements and JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

20. 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.

21. FUTURE MEETINGS.

- a. Safety Meeting – Flagger Certification, the Trap, Logic & Sabotage, July 11
- b. MECA Summer Board, Billings, July 10-11
- c. FEC Board, July 26 – 9 a.m., Aug. 30 – 9 a.m., Sept. 27 – 9 a.m., Oct. 25 – 1 p.m., Nov. 30 – 1 p.m., Dec. 20 – 10 a.m.
- d. PRECorp Annual, Gillette, Aug. 25
- e. NWPPA Board, Walla Walla, Sept. 12-14
- f. NRECA Region 9, Anchorage, Sept. 25-27
- g. BLC Course 955.1 – Your Board's Culture: Its Impact on Effectiveness, Great Falls, Oct. 1

- h. MECA Annual, Great Falls, Oct. 1-4
- i. Board Retreat with CFC, Oct. 24-25
- j. Christmas Dinner, Elks, Fri., Nov.30

22. NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

23. ADJOURNMENT. PRESIDENT BOB EVANS adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

SECRETARY_____

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT_____