

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Headquarters Building – Fort Morgan, Colorado

March 22, 2021: The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Morgan County Rural Electric Association was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on the above date. Directors present were Dave Arndt, Jim Bostron, Randolph D. Graff, Larry D. Hoozee, Terry Linker, Brian Pabst, Timothy Peggram, Terry Tormohlen, and Cary Wickstrom.

Also present were David Frick, General Manager, Matthew Richardson, General Counsel, and initially, those members of staff who personally provide monthly staff reports to the Board of Directors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board reviewed draft minutes from the February 22, 2021 regular Board meeting.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of February 22, 2021 were approved as presented.**

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP: After reviewing the applications for Membership in the cooperative presented at today's meeting for consideration by the Board of Directors,

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, applications for membership numbered 26289 through 26328 were approved.**

CANCELLED MEMBERSHIPS: The Directors reviewed the monthly list of members who had withdrawn from the cooperative since the last meeting of the Board.

MEMBER INPUT: Mr. Pabst and Mr. Wickstrom reported on complimentary feedback from members regarding the Association's efficient responses to recent service calls.

SAFETY & HEALTH REPORT: Manager Frick presented and summarized the monthly Safety and Health Report. The Joint Health & Safety Committee met on March 10, 2021 and discussed Commitment to Safety, reviewed Federated Insurance's Injuries, Near Misses, and Damages Report, and discussed Safety Improvement Plans and CREA's RESAP certification program. Manager Frick reported regarding a recent slip and fall accident. He reported on damage to Association property caused by a recent grassfire and two instances of damage to Association poles that were struck by vehicles. Questions were asked and answered.

STAFF REPORT – HUMAN RESOURCES: Kristie Binder presented the Human Resources report. As previously requested, Ms. Binder had researched and presented regarding NRECA and Tri-State's employee discount programs. Ms. Binder also presented to the Board regarding upcoming director conferences.

STAFF REPORT – ENGINEERING: Stephan Sundet presented the monthly Engineering report to the Board. Stanley Construction consultants met with Association staff and the Association's RUS representative to commence planning the new 2022-2025 Construction Work Plan work. Mr. Sundet presented data on the Association's standard costs for the Association's electrical infrastructure assembly items, which are updated annually, adjusted when needed, and used to

estimate project costs. The standard costs calculations include overhead and labor components as well. Questions were asked and answered and discussion followed.

STAFF REPORT – OPERATIONS: Bobby Brenton presented the monthly operations report to the Board. Association crews built to new service locations, performed substation and regulator maintenance, and performed necessary repair work after a recent snowstorm. Mr. Brenton updated the Board regarding Great Plains Power’s progress on Construction Work Plan projects and presented photographs depicting work progress at the Chalk Bluffs Substation.

STAFF REPORT – MEMBER SERVICES: Rob Baranowski presented the monthly Member Services Department report. Member Services has been busy registering members for the virtual 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership. Mr. Baranowski presented a map demonstrating areas in Colorado that have received \$10.3 million in grant money from the Colorado Energy Department for electric vehicle charging station installations. Mr. Baranowski presented data on the numbers of public-facing electric vehicle charges within Colorado and data regarding fuel costs for electric versus gasoline-powered vehicles. Questions were asked and answered, and discussion followed.

Mr. Baranowski reported that, after recent weather-related power outages in Texas, many members had contacted the Association with questions about installing generators. Mr. Baranowski presented to the Board regarding offering possible rebates for member’s purchase of for double throw safety switches, which would increase safety for members, Association staff, and the public.

The Association’s scholarship recipients have been selected and will be announced in the near future.

MCREA is planning to provide partial sponsorship of the 2021 edition of the Bobstock Music Festival in Fort Morgan. Basin Electric and Tri-State Generation & Transmission will match MCREA’s contribution. Discussion followed.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board authorized a donation of \$2,000.00 to sponsor the 2021 Bobstock Music Festival in Fort Morgan.**

The Board discussed the Association’s lineman scholarship program.

Mr. Baranowski closed by advising the Board regarding preparations for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership.

STAFF REPORT – OFFICE SERVICES: Robb Shaver presented the monthly Office Services report. Mr. Shaver updated the Board regarding a recent cyber security threat involving an Association employee’s email account. Mr. Shaver also informed the Board of the USDA’s upcoming Loan Fund Accounting Review, whereby the USDA reviews the Association’s Construction Fund and other accounting.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Shaver reviewed the details of his customary monthly financial statements and reports. After questions, answers, and discussion, the President directed that the monthly Financial Reports be filed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Terry Linker presented the monthly Treasurer’s report, with attention paid to the monthly accounts payable check register reflecting checks issued during the previous

month. Following review and consideration of the register of accounts payable, President Wickstrom ordered that the check register be filed.

Members of staff exited the meeting.

MANAGER’S REPORT: Manager Frick presented his monthly report to the Board. CoBank has been confirmed as a presenter for the Board’s January 24-25th, 2022 strategic planning meeting. Manager Frick asked the Board where it would like to host the Association’s 2022 Annual Meeting of the Members and discussion followed.

Manager Frick reported that staff had reviewed Policy 6-7 “Protection of Personally Identifying Information” and presented proposed revision.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board adopted staff’s proposed revisions to Policy 6-7 “Protection of Personally Identifying Information” in the form presented.**

Manager Frick next presented proposed revisions to Policy 9-8 “Legal Counsel for Employees.”

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board adopted staff’s proposed revisions to Policy 9-8 “Legal Counsel for Employees” in the form presented.**

Manager Frick next presented proposed revisions to Policy 10-7 “Idle Service.”

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board adopted staff’s proposed revisions to Policy 10-7 “Idle Service” in the form presented.**

Manager Frick next presented proposed revisions to Policy 10-8 “Underground Facilities Information.”

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board adopted staff’s proposed revisions to Policy 10-8 “Underground Facilities Information” in the form presented.**

Manager Frick next presented to the Board regarding the Association’s dues for membership in the Colorado Rural Electric Association, the statewide trade association for electrical distribution cooperatives.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Wickstrom reported that he had received correspondence from the Association’s auditors regarding the upcoming audit

TRI-STATE G&T BOARD REPORT: Mr. Graff reviewed and discussed happenings at Tri-State G&T as the Cooperative’s delegate on the Tri-State G&T board.

WESTERN UNITED BOARD REPORT: Mr. Linker reported regarding Western United’s most recent financials and the happenings at Western United’s most recent board meeting.

COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD REPORT: Mr. Arndt reported on happenings at CREA, including CREA’s work regarding wildfire and cooperative governance legislation pending before the state legislature.

OTHER MEETING REPORTS: None.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS. The Board discussed whether to hold a 2021 employee appreciation picnic. The Board consensus was to plan an employee appreciation picnic for June 2021.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: President Wickstrom appointed Dave Arndt as the Association's delegate for the CRC meeting. Larry Hoozee was appointed as alternate.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was declared adjourned 2:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Larry D. Hoozee, Secretary