

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2017  
FERGUS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

1. **GENERAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** The Fergus Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Trustees met in general session June 22, 2017 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, DAVID DOVER, CATHY KOMBOL and JASON SWANZ. GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY, LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA, OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.** The Board noted the regular time for member input relative to any issue or item of interest or importance to them. No member appeared.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** After reviewing the meeting agenda, DAVID DOVER moved to approve it. PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.** After reviewing the minutes of the May 25, 2017 general meeting and discussing them, PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER moved their approval. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. A motion to approve the June 8, 2017 special board meeting minutes was made by JASON SWANZ. TERRY FROST seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. TERRY FROST moved to approve the June 8 reorganization meeting minutes. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
5. **UPDATE SIGNATURE CARDS.** With the election of new officers, all bank signature cards need to be updated. BRAD ARNTZEN moved for officers to sign new signature cards deleting the current VICE PRESIDENT DAVID DOVER and adding the new VICE PRESIDENT PAUL DESCHEEMAEKER. JASON SWANZ seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. **BID PROPOSALS.** The Board discussed having a contractor help compile a comprehensive list of items that should be included in a bid for the truck garage.
7. **COOPERATIVE SOLAR PROJECT.** MANAGER SWEENEY shared a list of members who had purchased solar panels. To date, 172 of the available 324 panels have sold. LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA gave a report on the progress of constructing the solar array. He noted that the REAP (Rural Energy for America Program) grant was not awarded in 2017 and the cooperative has already applied for next year (2018).
8. **COST OF SOLAR PANEL.** After discussion, TERRY FROST moved to set the cost per solar panel at \$595.00. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
9. **SOUTHERN MONTANA ELECTRIC G&T.** MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board noted that with the dissolution of Southern Montana Electric G&T, DAVID DOVER of Fergus Electric and DEEDEE ISAACS of Tongue River Electric would sign final dissolution papers. The Board agreed that ACCOUNTANT CARRIE BOYSUN should be recognized by Fergus Electric for her work on behalf of Southern.
10. **MEMBERS 1<sup>ST</sup> AND PRECORP BOARDS, SHERIDAN – JUNE 19 – 20.** BOB EVANS reported on the June meetings. He noted that the financials for both cooperatives look good. He also mentioned that the Carbon Creek coal bed methane is PRECorp's largest power user.
11. **CHECK REGISTER.** After discussion, the Board decided that including the check register in the agenda section of the board app on the iPad would allow for review at the Trustees' convenience.
12. **FINANCIAL AND OTHER MONTHLY REPORTS.** GENERAL MANAGER SCOTT SWEENEY presented financial and other monthly reports to the Board for discussion. Included in the items thus seen were the May operating report prepared by OFFICE MANAGER SALLY HORACEK and the May analysis of operating statistics prepared by FINANCIAL ANALYST JANINE RIFE DIDIER.

13. **TINTINA RESOURCES.** MANAGER SWEENEY discussed building electric service to the mine and noted that staff and board will meet with Tintina representatives at the Lewistown office July 14.

14. **OPERATIONS REPORT.** The Board considered the June 16, 2017 report prepared by LINE SUPERINTENDENT DALE RIKALA outlining operations and maintenance, engineering and safety. RIKALA reported that in 2017, 16 new meters have been installed. Seventy-two new poles were set with 68 retired of which 60 were junked. This compares to 11 new meters and 137 junk poles in June of 2016. STAKING ENGINEERS GUY JOHNSON and MELANIE FORAN attended an Avian Protection Training Seminar in Billings.

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

16. **BOARD POLICY 225 - WEED CONTROL.** The Board reviewed Policy 225 - Weed Control. TERRY FROST moved to approve it as written. BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

17. **BOARD POLICIES 228 - BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN FOR NON-HEALTH CARE FACILITY AND 230 - CLOTHING POLICY.** Both policies were reviewed and action tabled until the next general meeting.

18. **SIGNAL PEAK, LLC.** MANAGER SWEENEY and the Board discussed power usage of the coal mine.

19. **AFFIRMATION OF CAPITAL CREDIT ESTATE RETIREMENTS.** The Board reviewed the June 2017 estate capital credit retirements for \$23,850.66 prepared by SUSAN HINKLEY. PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER moved to affirm the retirements and BRAD ARNTZEN seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

20. **SAFETY MEETING.** The June 14 safety meeting included the annual hearing tests with Dr. Tina Berg and the crews practiced pole top and bucket rescue, which was observed by BOARD PRESIDENT BOB EVANS.

21. **DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS AND NEW MEMBERS.** The Board and Management reviewed a list of past due accounts - 30, 60 and 90 days and a list of new members.

22. **MECA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION.** JASON SWANZ moved to appoint TERRY FROST as Fergus Electric's representative on the MECA Board and CATHY KOMBOL as alternate. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

23. **MEMBERS 1<sup>ST</sup>.** After discussion, JASON SWANZ moved to appoint PAUL DESCHEEMAERKER as Fergus Electric's representative on the Members 1<sup>st</sup> Board with BOB EVANS as alternate. DAVID DOVER seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

24. **FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- a. MECA Summer Board, July 6-7
- b. Members 1<sup>st</sup>/PRECorp, Sundance, July 18
- c. Basin MAC, Deadwood, S.D, July 19-20
- d. Safety, July 20, Safety Jeopardy 1 & 2 and D.O.T. Load Securement
- e. TRECO Annual Meeting, Broadus, July 22, 6 p.m.
- f. Board, Aug. 2 (Wed), Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 27, Dec. 1
- g. Strategic Planning, Chico - Nov. 2 - 3
- h. Christmas Dinner, Tall Boys, Hobson, Dec. 1

25. **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.**

26. **MEETING ADJOURNED.** PRESIDENT BOB EVANS adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

SECRETARY



Attest: PRESIDENT

