

# MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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

**January 27, 2020:** 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, Randolph D. Graff, Larry D. Hoozee, Terry Linker, Brian Pabst, Timothy Pegram, Brian D. Schlagel, Terry Tormohlen, and Cary Wickstrom. Absent: None.

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:**

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of December 23, 2019 were approved.**

**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 25778 through 25800 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**CANCELLED MEMBERSHIPS:** The Directors reviewed the monthly list of members who had withdrawn from the cooperative since the last meeting of the Board.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:** Timothy Pegram reported that he had received several questions regarding Tri-State Generation and Transmission's recently announced Responsible Energy Plan.

**SAFETY & HEALTH REPORT:** Manager Frick presented and summarized the monthly Safety and Health Report. Manager Frick reported instances of damage to cooperative-owned property. On December 14, 2019, a motor vehicle struck and damaged an MCREA pole.

The Joint Health and Safety Committee met on January 14, 2020 and reviewed the Commitment to Safety Program and Federated's Injuries, Near Misses, and Damages report. Additionally, the Committee discussed MCREA's 2020 Safety Improvement Plan.

Manager Frick reported on the numbers of crew observations during the month of January and reported that MCREA crews received training on Sling and Chain Inspections and Yearly Harness, Personal Tools, and Truck Inspections during the preceding month.

Bobby Brenton and Alan Mason reported to the Board regarding a recent employee injury.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board entered executive session at 10:10 a.m. for the purpose of receiving legal advice. The Board reconvened its regular session at 10:50 a.m.**

**STAFF REPORT – HUMAN RESOURCES:** Kristie Binder advised the Board regarding the education and training seminars attended by MCREA staff during the preceding month, as well as on upcoming conferences, meetings, and events. Ms. Binder advised the Board that the IRS mileage rate had been reduced to \$.575 per mile for 2020. She also reminded the Board of the need to select voting delegates for the upcoming Western United and CFC annual meetings.

**STAFF REPORT – ENGINEERING:** Stephan Sundet presented the monthly engineering report to the Board. Mr. Sundet presented slides to the Board depicting the proposed transmission line route for the Stoneham Substation project. Mr. Sundet reported that MCREA had sent bid solicitations for the Last Chance Substation project, and that bids were due back in mid-February. Mr. Sundet presented historical data describing MCREA’s new construction by county from 2010 through 2019. Lastly, Mr. Sundet updated the Board on the Occidental Triton project.

**STAFF REPORT – OPERATIONS:** Bobby Brenton presented the monthly operations report to the Board. MCREA crews continue to work at installing new residential and industrial service locations, including installation of ten new repeaters during the preceding month. MCREA pole testers are inspecting poles in the southern part of the service territory. Mr. Brenton also reported on contractor Altitude’s Construction Work Plan progress.

**STAFF REPORT – MEMBER SERVICES:** Dave Henderson presented the monthly Member Services Department report. Director candidate petitions for the upcoming director election are due back by February 5, 2020. Mr. Henderson advised the Board of the winners of the 2020 Youth Tour and Youth Camp scholarships. Mr. Henderson asked the Board for volunteers to serve on the 2020 scholarship committee, and Mr. Tormohlen and Mr. Peggram agreed to serve. Mr. Henderson next circulated donation envelopes for CREA’s CARE/ACRE fund. Lastly, Mr. Henderson reported that MCREA had credited its customer generators for excess generation during 2019 and that approximately one-fourth of the net metered accounts generated more kWh than they consumed for the year.

**STAFF REPORT – OFFICE SERVICES:** Robb Shaver presented the monthly Office Services report. Mr. Shaver and Attorney Richardson reported to the Board regarding a member billing dispute.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Mr. Shaver reviewed the details of his customary monthly financial statements and reports.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Brian Pabst 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 Graff ordered that the check register be filed.

**MANAGER’S REPORT:** Manager Frick presented his monthly report to the Board. Buildings By Design crews are pouring concrete for the mechanic’s shop addition to the warehouse facility and the new building had been delivered. That project is still on schedule for its May 15, 2020 completion date.

Manager Frick next directed the Board’s attention to Policy 6-6 (“Anti-Discrimination”) and Policy 9-5 (“Purchase of Merchandise by Employees through the Association”), which had previously been provided for review. Staff recommended no revisions to those policies.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board reaffirmed Policy 6-6 “Anti-Discrimination” and Policy 9-5 “Purchase of Merchandise by Employees through the Association” as presented.**

Manager Frick next directed the Board’s attention to the staff’s recommend revisions to Policy 9-3 (“Health and Safety Program”), which had previously been provided for review.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board adopted staff’s proposed revisions to Policy 9-3 “Health and Safety Program.”**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** President Graff appointed Mr. Hoozee as MCREA’s alternate to the Western United annual meeting and Mr. Tormohlen as his alternate. President Graff appointed Mr. Arndt as MCREA’s delegate to the CFC annual meeting and Mr. Pabst as his alternate.

**TRI-STATE G&T BOARD REPORT:** Brian Schlagel reviewed and discussed at length the contents of the monthly written report he prepared and presented as the Cooperative’s delegate director to the board of directors of Tri-State G&T. Attorney Richardson updated the Board regarding the status of the United Power and Le Plata Electric consolidated proceeding against Tri-State G&T before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

**WESTERN UNITED BOARD REPORT:** Timothy Peggram reported that the Western United Board had not met since MCREA’s previous Board meeting but shared Western United’s most recent financials.

**COLORADO RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD REPORT:** Dave Arndt reported CREA had not met since MCREA’s December 2019 board meeting.

**OTHER MEETING REPORTS:** None.

**EMERGENCY BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was declared adjourned 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Larry D. Hoozee, Secretary