

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

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

February 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, Randolph D. Graff, Larry D. Hoozee, Terry Linker, Brian Pabst, Timothy Pegram, and Cary Wickstrom. Jim Bostron was present by telephone.

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.

Terry Tormohlen joined the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Board reviewed draft minutes from the January 25, 2021 regular Board meeting.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of January 25, 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 26250 through 26288 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CANCELLED MEMBERSHIPS: The Directors reviewed the monthly list of members who had withdrawn from the cooperative since the last meeting of the Board.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. Hoozee reported that members had expressed gratitude to the Association for maintaining service through recent cold weather.

SAFETY & HEALTH REPORT: Manager Frick presented and summarized the monthly Safety and Health Report. The Joint Health & Safety Committee met on February 10, 2021 and discussed Commitment to Safety, reviewed Federated Insurance's Injuries, Near Misses, and Damages Report, and CREA's RESAP certification program. The Joint Health & Safety Committee also discussed Safety Improvement Plan monitoring. Manager Frick reported on instances of damage to MCREA property. CREA conducted annual testing of MCREA's insulated sticks, personal grounds, and truck grounds from January 25th-28th. CREA also conducted CPR and First Aid training for MCREA staff.

STAFF REPORT – HUMAN RESOURCES: Kristie Binder presented the Human Resources report. Ms. Binder reminded the Board that the NRECA PowerXchange and TechAdvantage conferences begin on February 23, 2021. Ms. Binder announced that NRECA's Legislative Conference will be conducted virtually this year, from April 19-23rd. The CREA Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 9th. CREA should have emailed login information to Directors for attending that virtual meeting.

STAFF REPORT – ENGINEERING: Stephan Sundet presented the monthly Engineering report to the Board. The Construction Work Plan contract has been received from Stanley Construction and Mr. Sundet will schedule a kickoff meeting for that work. Mr. Sundet presented the Association’s annual large power lower load reports showing anticipated new large power forecasts for 2021. Mr. Sundet next presented maps showing new services constructed in 2020 by township and county. Questions were asked and answered, and discussion followed.

STAFF REPORT – OPERATIONS: Bobby Brenton presented the monthly operations report to the Board. MCREA crews installed eight new single-phase services during the preceding month, upgraded and relocated transformers, continued pole changeouts, and conducted regulator maintenance during the preceding month. Great Plains Power continues Construction Work Plan activities.

STAFF REPORT – MEMBER SERVICES: Rob Baranowski presented the monthly Member Services Department report. Mr. Baranowski presented information regarding installation of an electric vehicle charging station. Mr. Baranowski identified multiple suitable potential locations for an electric vehicle charging station. He also reported that Tri-State and the Colorado Energy Office offer grants for charging stations. Discussion followed. The Board consensus was to continue exploring installation of an electric vehicle charging station. The Board also discussed whether the Association should pursue a solar project.

Mr. Baranowski informed the Board that over twenty scholarship applications had been received and solicited interest from the Board in participating in the candidate interview process. Mr. Hoozee, Mr. Peggram, and Mr. Tormohlen expressed interest in participating in candidate interviews.

Mr. Baranowski informed the Board that the 2021 Youth Camp and Youth Tour have both been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Mr. Baranowski reported that only three nominating petitions had been received in connection with the Association’s 2021 Director election and therefore, the 2021 Director election is uncontested. Secretary Hoozee certified that the nominating petitions for Brian Pabst, Terry Tormohlen, and Cary Wickstrom, are in conformity with MCREA’s Bylaws and C.R.S. § 40-9.5-110.

- ◆ **By motion made, seconded, and carried, the Board accepted Secretary Hoozee’s certification of the nominating petitions.**

STAFF REPORT – OFFICE SERVICES: Robb Shaver presented the monthly Office Services report.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Shaver presented to the Board regarding the Association’s 2020 capital credit allocation from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. He 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. Manager Frick reported on potential guests for the Board's Strategic Planning meeting. Manager Frick requested that the Board schedule a date for its Strategic Planning meeting so that he can arrange for a presenter. The Board consensus was the schedule a strategic planning presenter from CoBank for a meeting in January.

Manager Frick and Attorney Richardson reported on the Bennt Creek Water Authority Application for Conditional Surface Water Rights and Water Storage Rights, which the Association had recently received. As part of that Application, the Applicants are proposing to construct underground water storage, including on property owned by the Association.

Manager Frick presented information regarding the national electric grid related to recent outages caused by cold weather in the state of Texas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None.

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 was unable to attend the most recent CREA board meeting due to a conflict. However, he presented the meeting notes to the Board. The Board engaged in discussion regarding conducting cost benefit analysis of continued membership in CREA.

Mr. Bostron exited the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

OTHER MEETING REPORTS: None.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS. None.

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 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Larry D. Hoozee, Secretary