

NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 6, 2024

I. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Norris Public Power District Board of Directors was held at the Beatrice District Office, located at 606 Irving Street, Beatrice, Nebraska on November 6, 2024. Vice President Sieck called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced that the District abides by the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and a copy of the Act is available for review by anyone present at the meeting. Vice President Sieck advised the Board that the Statutory Notice of the meeting had been published and that an Attendance Sign-in Sheet is available for public visitors.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance to the United States flag was recited.

III. Roll Call

Administrative Coordinator Emily Shockley called the roll.

Board Members Present: Todd Buel, Rodney Heinrichs, Dennis Hentzen, Stewart Huneke, Mark Knobel, Gary Kroese, John Novotny, Tom Sieck

Board Members Absent: Kenny Myers, Bruce Tegtmeier, Berneal Warner

Present Employees: Brue Vitosh, Trevor Wehrer, Emily Shockley, Tony Wallin, Braden Nowka

Attorney: Dave Jarecke

Present Guests: Alan Wallman

To excuse Kenny Myers from the meeting due to illness. Passed with a motion by John Novotny and a second by Mark Knobel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea

To excuse Bruce Tegtmeier from the meeting to attend the RESCO board meeting. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Todd Buel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea

IV. Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes

To approve the October 2, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Dennis Hentzen. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea

V. 2025 Budget Hearing - 9:05 a.m.

To suspend the public meeting and open the 2025 Budget Hearing. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by John Novotny. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis

Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea

The Board suspended the public meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Bruce Vitosh reported that a public notice for the Budget Hearing was performed as required in advance of the Budget Hearing.

Michelle Junker provided highlights of the 2025 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements, and Business Plan.

There were no public comments during the Budget Hearing.

Upon conclusion of the budget presentation and discussion with the Directors, the Budget Hearing was closed and the public meeting was reconvened at 9:36 a.m.

To close the 2025 Budget Hearing and reconvene the public meeting. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Dennis Hentzen. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea

VI. Public Comments

Bruce Vitosh introduced Tony Wallin and Braden Nowka who were present at the meeting.

Bruce Vitosh announced Norris Director election results. Alan Wallman defeated Jim Zvolanek in the Central Subdivision, Randy Weise ran unopposed for the Jefferson County position, and Todd Buel ran unopposed and was reelected to the Lancaster County position.

VII. General Manager and Department Reports

VII.A. General Manager Report

Berneal Warner arrived at the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

Trevor Wehrer provided the Safety and Training Report.

Bruce Vitosh provided the Personnel Report and highlights of the General Manager Report.

VII.B. Proprietary Customer Information

Michelle reviewed the Summary of Revenues for September 2024 in comparison to September 2023.

VII.C. Financial Statements

Michelle Junker presented financial information for the month of September 2024. Operating revenues for the month ending September 2024 were \$10,046,158 in comparison to the budget of \$8,306,919. Year-to-date operating revenues were \$75,553,991 in comparison to the budget of \$74,078,437. For the month ending September 30, 2024, net margins were \$2,658,678 in comparison to a budget of \$942,088. Year-to-date net margins were \$13,237,957 in comparison to a budget of \$8,253,535. Total cash and investments on September 30, 2024 were \$33,874,341.

VII.D. Finance and Accounting Report

Michelle Junker provided highlights of the Finance and Accounting Report.

VII.E. Engineering Report

The Board reviewed the Engineering Department Report.

VII.F. Operations Report

Trevor Wehrer presented highlights of the Operations Department Report.

Approval of the General Manager and Department Reports including the check listing, outgoing wire transfers and credit card statement for September 2024. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Mark Knobel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

VIII. Approval of Purchases \$125,000-\$750,000

VIII.A. None

IX. Approval of Formal Bids.

IX.A. None

X. Directors' Report

X.A. Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA)

Stewart Huneke communicated that the NREA Annual Meeting will be held on December 4 through 6, 2024 at the Younes North Conference Center in Kearney.

X.B. Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO)

Director and RESCO board member Bruce Tegtmeier was absent from the meeting.

X.B.a. Stewart Huneke RESCO Nebraska Director Representative

Stewart Huneke had indicated interest in completing Bruce Tegtmeier's term on the RESCO board. However, Stewart Huneke reported that Bruce Tegtmeier is eligible and intends to complete his current term on the RESCO board.

X.C. Comments

Bruce Vitosh communicated that the Directors were provided with a conflict of interest and insurance enrollment forms for completion.

Bruce Vitosh communicated that the NRECA PowerXchange is scheduled for March 9 through 12, 2025 in Atlanta. Emily Shockley will be sending registration forms to directors in December 2024.

Dennis Hentzen provided a report on the Nebraska Power Association Annual Conference he attended on October 29 and 30, 2024.

XI. Unfinished Business

XI.A. IBEW Negotiations

To enter into closed session to discuss IBEW Negotiations. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Dennis Hentzen. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

The Board entered into closed session at 10:49 a.m. to discuss IBEW negotiations.

Vice President Sieck reminded the Board that this is the only topic that will be discussed in closed session.

The Board resumed open session at 12:10 p.m.

To resume open session. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Todd Buel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII. New Business

XII.A. 2025 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements, and Business Plan

The proposed 2025 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements and Business Plan was reviewed. The proposed 2025 Operating Budget includes operating revenues of \$97,764,941, with net margins of \$9,373,000. The 2025 Capital Improvements Plan was proposed at \$18,462,000.

To approve the 2025 Operating Budget, Capital Improvements, and Business Plan. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by John Novotny. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII.B. 2025 Rate Schedule Revisions

Michelle Junker presented and discussed proposed rate schedule revisions. The overall proposed customer rate increase is 1.9% for customer rate schedules effective on bills rendered after January 20, 2025.

To approve proposed revisions to the District's 2025 Customer Rate Schedules. Passed with a motion by Dennis Hentzen and a second by Gary Kroese. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII.C. 2025 Dental and Vision Plans

Michelle Junker presented the 2025 dental and vision plans that are recommended to be offered to employees and Directors.

Approval of the Principal dental and vision insurance plans to be offered to employees and Directors in 2025. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by John Novotny. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII.D. 2025 District Health Savings Account, District Health Reimbursement Account, and Employee Premium Contributions

Michelle Junker presented and proposed 2025 District health savings account, District health reimbursement account, and employee premium contributions for the 2025 health insurance plans. District annual health savings account contributions for 2025 of \$1,000 for a single plan and \$2,575 for a family plan are recommended to remain the same as 2024. District annual health reimbursement account contributions proposed for 2025 of \$3,900 for a retiree and \$5,460 for a retiree and spouse are recommended to remain the same as 2024. In 2025, it is proposed that non-union employees will not be responsible for contributing towards annual health insurance premiums of \$11,876.64 for a single plan nor \$25,040.28 for a family plan. Union contributions to annual health insurance premiums are being negotiated. Health insurance premiums for 2025 increased 10% over 2024.

Approval of the 2025 District Health Savings Account contributions for all employees, 2025 District Health Reimbursement Account contributions for retirees, and 2025 non-union employee health insurance premium contributions as presented. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Berneal Warner. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII.E. 2025 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board reviewed the proposed 2025 Board Meeting Schedule.

Approval of the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule. Passed with a motion by Dennis Hentzen and a second by Todd Buel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

XII.F. 2025 Holiday Schedule

The Board reviewed the proposed 2025 Holiday Schedule.

Approval of the 2025 Norris Holiday Schedule. Passed with a motion by Stewart Huneke and a second by Rodney Heinrichs. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea


XIII. Notification of Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the boardroom at the Beatrice District Office.

XIV. Adjournment

To adjourn the meeting at 1:04 p.m. Passed with a motion by Stewart Huneke and a second by Gary Kroese. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Dennis Hentzen: Yea, Stewart

Huneke: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea



STEWART A. HUNEKE, SECRETARY

APPROVED:



BRUCE D. TEGTMEIER, PRESIDENT