

**NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 4, 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 September 4, 2024. President Tegtmeier 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. President Tegtmeier 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, Mark Knobel, Gary Kroese, Kenny Myers, John Novotny, Tom Sieck, Bruce Tegtmeier, Berneal Warner

**Board Members Absent:** Dennis Hentzen, Stewart Huneke

**Present Employees:** Bruce Vitosh, Jerry Enns, Michelle Junker, Trevor Wehrer, Emily Shockley, Evan Oltmans, Spencer Thompson

**Present Attorney:** Dave Jarecke

**Present Guests:** None

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

**IV. Approval of Previous Board Meeting Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024 Board Meeting. Passed with a motion by Tom Sieck and a second by Mark Knobel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

**V. Public Comments**

Bruce Vitosh introduced employee guests Spencer Thompson and Evan Oltmans.

## **VI. General Manager and Department Reports**

### **VI.A. General Manager Report**

Trevor Wehrer provided the Safety and Training Report.

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

### **VI.B. Proprietary Customer Information**

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

### **VI.C. Financial Statements**

Michelle Junker presented financial information for the month of July 2024. Operating revenues for the month ending July 2024, were \$10,431,021, in comparison to the budget of \$10,081,643. Year-to-date operating revenues were \$53,970,277, in comparison to the budget of \$55,033,660. For the month ending July 31, 2024, net margins were \$2,592,426, in comparison to the budget of \$2,054,999. Year-to-date, net margins were \$6,957,242 in comparison to the budget of \$4,584,587. Total cash and investments on July 31, 2024 were \$35,170,222.

### **VI.D. Finance and Accounting Report**

Michelle Junker provided highlights of the Finance and Accounting Department Report.

### **VI.E. Engineering Report**

Jerry Enns provided highlights of the Engineering Department Report.

### **VI.F. Operations Report**

Trevor Wehrer provided 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 July 2024. Passed with a motion by Rodney Heinrichs and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **VII. Approval of Purchases \$125,000-\$750,000**

### **VII.A. Electronic Vacuum Reclosers**

Jerry Enns presented and discussed quotes for 50 electronic vacuum reclosers. Enns recommended approving the quote from Graybar, in the amount of \$237,447.30, plus applicable sales taxes.

To approve the quote from Graybar, in the amount of \$237,447.30, plus applicable sales taxes. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Kenny Myers. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea,

Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **VIII. Approval of Formal Bids**

### **VIII.A. None**

## **IX. Directors' Report**

### **IX.A. Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA)**

Bruce Vitosh reported that upcoming NREA meetings in Lincoln include a Managers Association Meeting on September 17, 2024, and a Legal Seminar on September 18, 2024.

### **IX.B. Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO)**

Bruce Tegtmeier provided a financial and operational update on RESCO.

### **IX.C. Comments**

Board President Bruce Tegtmeier provided the following statement during Director comments:

The Board has been advised by management that several employees had a conversation with a member of the Board of Directors at Milford Lake in Kansas.

Regrettably, some of the fallout from that conversation was that the Board did not value the lineman.

As President of the Board, I assure all employees of Norris Public Power District that we greatly value our employees. Speaking as the President and a customer, I can assure all employees that I understand that this District cannot succeed without the highest quality and committed employees.

Furthermore, the Board will take appropriate action to stress and enforce our Director policies and seek to avoid any potential miscommunication between a Director and employees.

## **X. Unfinished Business**

### **X.A. 2023 Statistical Report**

Michelle Junker presented key statistical comparisons between Norris and its peers.

### **X.B. IBEW Negotiations**

To enter into closed session to discuss IBEW negotiations. Passed with a motion by Tom Sieck and a second by Todd Buel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

The Board entered into closed session at 11:02 a.m. to discuss IBEW negotiations.

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

The Board resumed open session at 11:51 a.m.

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

## **XI. New Business**

### **XI.A. Health, Life, Disability, Dental, and Vision Insurance Plan Renewals**

Michelle Junker recommended that the NRECA health, life, and disability insurance plans for employees, retirees, and directors in 2024 be offered in 2025.

Approval of the 2025 NRECA health, life, and disability insurance plans for employees, retirees, and directors. Passed with a motion by John Novotny and a second by Berneal Warner. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XI.B. Banking Resolution**

Michelle Junker presented a resolution from State Bank of Table Rock to invest \$240,000 in a seven-month CD, at an interest rate of 5.25%.

To approve the State Bank of Table Rock resolution as presented. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Tom Sieck. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

### **XI.C. General Manager Performance and Salary Evaluation**

To enter into closed session to discuss General Manager Performance and Salary Evaluation. Passed with a motion by Berneal Warner and a second by Todd Buel. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

The Board entered into closed session at 12:23 p.m. to discuss General Manager Performance and Salary Evaluation.

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

The Board resumed open session at 1:13 p.m.

To resume open session. Passed with a motion by Mark Knobel and a second by Todd Buel.  
Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

To increase the General Manager's annual salary by 5% beginning January 1, 2025. Passed with a motion by Gary Kroese and a second by Berneal Warner. Roll call vote. Todd Buel: Yea, Rodney Heinrichs: Yea, Mark Knobel: Yea, Gary Kroese: Yea, Kenny Myers: Yea, John Novotny: Yea, Tom Sieck: Yea, Bruce Tegtmeier: Yea, Berneal Warner: Yea

## **XII. Notification of Next Board Meeting**

Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., in the boardroom at the Beatrice District Office.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Board President Bruce Tegtmeier adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

  
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**THOMAS L. SIECK, VICE PRESIDENT**

APPROVED:

  
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**BRUCE D. TEGTMEIER, PRESIDENT**