

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF  
FALL RIVER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

December 18, 2023

The meeting of the Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors was held on Monday, December 18, 2023, at Ashton, Idaho. Having determined a quorum was present, President Behrens called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Angie Haws recorded the minutes. The invocation was given by Angie Haws. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDING OFFICERS

President Georg Behrens, Vice President Brent "Husk" Crowther, and Secretary/Treasurer Jodi Stiehl

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Past President Dede Draper, Anna Lindstedt, Jeff Keay, Brent Robson, Travis Markegard, and Doug Schmier

DIRECTORS ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS

CEO/General Manager Bryan Case, Attorney Jerry Rigby, Guest Speaker INL Distinguished Staff Scientist Travis McLing, Member Service Manager Clint Washburn, Operations Manager Brent Gamett, IT Manager Shannon Hill, IT Slade Orme, IT Nate Strahm, Engineering Manager Dave Peterson, and Executive Assistant Angie Haws.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Director Robson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Vice President Crowther seconded.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 20, 2023

**Director Robson made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2023, Board Meeting as presented. Director Markegard seconded.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

INL, TRAVIS MCLING-GEOTHERMAL PRESENTATION

Travis McLing, PhD at Idaho National Laboratory (INL) gave a presentation on Geothermal Energy Research. McLing touched on geothermal history, potential resources, analysis, projects, geothermal systems, energy storage, INL community engagement and education.

TEAMS & ONE DRIVE INTRODUCTION AND TRAINING-IT DEPARTMENT

Fall River IT staff members Slade Orme and Nathan Strahm provided board members training on Microsoft Teams and One Drive. Board materials and upcoming meetings will be scheduled and available using these formats.

## MEMBER COMMENTS

CEO Case reviewed the concerns and correspondence with the following members regarding demand, FR rates, social media, legislation, and a note of appreciation.

### CHRIS MEHR-DEMAND QUESTION

Included in packet.

### DAMON- DEMAND QUESTIONS

Included in packet.

### JEFF MILLER – RATE COMPARISON

Included in packet.

### HUGH MCKINNEY- MOVING FROM IF BACK TO FR, FR IS THE BEST

## FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS

### NOVEMBER 30, 2023, FINANCIAL REPORTS

CEO Case reported that the YTD net margins are within \$20k of the revised budget. The cost of purchased power is 6.9% under budget however, the YTD variance has moved closer to the budgeted amount.

The cashflow YTD of \$8.3 M has been generated from operations, \$8.3 M has been invested in plant and materials, \$3.1 M of principal on long-term debt has been paid down. Barney reported 57% of the capital budget has been spent. The Cooperative's equity ratio at the end of November was just over 50% but will likely drop to between 48 and 49% at year end with the general retirement of patronage capital. The annual growth rate of new services is 3.7% with 679 new services connected YTD. The expected income from FR Propane will be booked at year-end and will be more than the budgeted amount.

### PROPANE LOAN REQUEST

CEO Case reviewed the loan request from Fall River Enterprises for \$170,000.00 to be used to fund the purchase of consumer tanks.

### PROPANE LONG TERM NOTE

Included in the packet.

### PROPANE DEBT SUMMARY

Included in the packet.

**Director Schmier made a motion to approve the Fall River Enterprises loan request to purchase consumer tanks as presented. Director Lindstedt seconded.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### EV CHARGERS GRANT APPLICATION UPDATE

CEO Case reported the EV Charger Grant cost review has been completed, and some minor changes were made to the initial proposal. Final costs are close to the budgeted amount. The grant paperwork has been submitted and FR is anticipating receiving the

grant funds this month. There was a discussion on EV charger use, maintenance, and rates.

## COOPERATIVE BUSINESS

### RETAIL RATE MEETING AND INFORMATION

#### MEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

CEO Case reviewed the attendance and content presented at the November owner/member meetings held at each district office location. The meetings provided an opportunity for our owner / members to ask questions and discuss any concerns they may have about the 2024 rate increase and demand. At each meeting an overview and highlights of the cooperative as well as a detailed explanation of rate setting, infrastructure, demand calculations, tools, and conservation resources were discussed. The floor was open for the members to ask questions before closing the meeting.

#### MEMBER SIGN IN SHEET FOR RETAIL RATE MEETINGS

Included in the packet.

#### RETAIL RATE SUMMARY SHEET

Included in the packet.

### VOTING DELEGATE ASSIGNMENTS

The board discussed and nominated representatives for voting delegates at the upcoming NRECA, NRTC and Federated meetings.

#### NRECA VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

#### NRTC VOTING DELEGATE

**Director Draper made a motion for Vice President Crowther to serve as the NRECA and Federated voting delegate and Secretary Stiehl as the NRECA and Federated alternate and also for NRTC the voting delegate Secretary Stiehl and the NRTC alternate Vice President Crowther. Director Robson seconded.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE PROCESS

CEO Case reviewed the Nominating Committee process referencing the current bylaws.

#### BOARD TERM SUMMARY

Included in the packet.

#### DISTRICTS #1 HUSK CROWTHER, #5 BRENT ROBSON, AND #6 DEDE DRAPER

President Behrens noted district #1 – Rexburg/Rigby, #5- West Driggs/Tetonia, and #6- Ashton are up for election in 2024.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS POTENTIAL LIST

Included in the packet.

#### PNGC RESOURCE PLANNING-IRP DISCUSSION

CEO Case discussed the PNGC PowerPoint highlighting the process for resource development, options for consideration, next steps in development, purchase power agreements, output, resource ownership, projects, and the financial plan to support resource development.

#### BPA UPDATES

CEO Case reported on the impact as BPA customers regarding the LSRD's negotiations decisions. Case shared potential outcomes, concerns, and impact to utilities.

#### SECRET AGREEMENT PROPOSED IN LITIGATION- RIVER PARTNERS

Included in the packet.

#### PPC LETTER ON RESERVES DISTRIBUTION CLAUSE (RDC)

Included in the packet.

#### FALL RIVER'S EDUCATION & CAMPAIGN

The board discussed social media campaigns, message content, and tone.

#### PROPANE ASSIGNMENT OF SHARES FOR VOTING

CEO Case reviewed the protocol and process of distributing shares of the FR Electric subsidiary Fall River Enterprises.

**President Behrens made a motion to approve the Fall River Enterprises (Propane) assignment of shares as amended. Vice President Crowther seconded.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### ICUA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE INVITE LETTER AND LIST

CEO Case noted the invitation which was included in the board packet that was sent to FR District Representatives. The board discussed attendance at the upcoming event.

#### COOPERATIVE REPORTS

Director Lindstedt reported on the CFC meeting attended and stated her notes were emailed to the board members.

Director Markegard attended NRECA courses and FR owner/member rate meeting in Driggs in November.

Director Robson reported that the E&O Committee met this morning prior to the board meeting.

Director Draper reported she virtually attended the PPC meeting, and she also attended the E&O Committee meeting this morning as well as the INL tour in October.

Vice President Crowther reported on the INL tour attended in October. He also reported on the E&O Committee meeting this morning.

Director Schmier reported on upcoming NWPPA meetings.

Director Keay reported on communication with a member previously discussed in the board meeting.

President Behrens reported on the Idaho petition. He also gave an energy presentation to a High School.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Board and CEO expense reports, New Memberships, Purchase of Power Agreements, Check Report, Safety Report, Early Retirement of Patronage of Patronage Capital was reviewed by all Board Members in Board Package prior to meeting.

**Director Robson made a motion to approve the consent agenda as discussed. Secretary Stiehl seconded the motion.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Director Robson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 1:04 p.m. Director Schmier seconded the motion.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Vice President Crowther made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 1:20 p.m. Director Schmier seconded the motion.** A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### GRANT SUMMARY AND UPDATE

CEO Case updated the board on Grant application progress for projects. Additional applications for available grant funds may be submitted if they are in line with FR objectives and strategic vision.

##### FALL RIVER ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Included in the board packet.

##### STUFF THE TRAILER UPDATE

CEO Case reported on the 2023 Stuff the Trailer events happening in December.

**December 1st-Ashton**

**December 8th-Rexburg**

**December 15th-West Yellowstone**

**December 21st-Driggs**

Case stated he will provide an update including the number of pounds of food collected and the results of the winning High School Senior Class food drive.

Board Minutes of December 18, 2023

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR IDAHO FALLS POWER-STORAGE PROJECT  
Included in the board packet.

HYDRO FACILITIES UPDATE

Island Park, Chester, and Buffalo generated a total of 1,309,704 kWh in November. This amounts to 4.0% of all the kWh billed by PNGC in November and 4.2% of all kWh sold and used by Fall River in November.

Felt Hydro produced 1,879,457 kWh in November. When this is included with Island Park, Chester, and Buffalo it amounts to 9.7% of all the kWh billed by PNGC in November and 10.1% of all kWh sold and used by Fall River in November.

ISLAND PARK

Island Park hydro produced 519,590 kWh during the month of November.

BUFFALO

Buffalo hydro produced 159,613 kWh during the month of November.

FELT

Felt hydro produced 1,879,457 kWh during the month of November.

CHESTER

Chester Hydro produced 630,501 kWh in the month of November.

FALL RIVER SUPPORT OF FREMONT COUNTY GRANT APPLICATION FOR  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Included in the packet.

DONATIONS

Included in the board packet.

FALL RIVER'S MANAGEMENT REPORT

Included in the board packet.

REPORTS BOARD COMMITTEES, MEETINGS, AND MEMBER COMMENTS

POLICY COMMITTEE

Director Schmier reported the committee will have their next meeting in March of 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Key reported that the Committee will meet in February of 2024.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Nothing to report, calendar reminder the Pre-Audit conference call will be January 17, 2024.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nothing to report.

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman Robson reported the committee met at 9 a.m. this morning.

ATTORNEY RIGBY'S REPORT

Attorney Rigby reported on the Biden agreement and the LSRD's earlier in the meeting.


2023/2024 CALENDAR

Included on the board agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Director Robson and seconded by Director Draper to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken; THE MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.** The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: January 22, 2024

  
Secretary Jodi Stiehl