

**WHETSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, September, 19, 2024 commencing at 8:00 AM at the Whetstone Valley Electric Headquarters.

The meeting was called to order by President, Joel Adler who presided and Secretary, Matt Cameron, acted as Secretary.

**Directors Present:** Joel Adler, Matt Cameron, Scott Niedert, Krista Atyeo-Gortmaker, Bill Tostenson, Tom Berens, Paul Nelson, Dave Behrns, Wayne Jarman,

**Directors Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Page, Weber, Christensen, Anderson

**Others Present:**

**Review and Consideration of Agenda**

- A motion to approve the agenda was seconded and carried.

**Review and Consideration of Minutes**

- A motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2024 was seconded and carried.

**Review and Consideration of estate and special capital credit retirements:**

- A motion to approve the estate and special capital credit retirements was seconded and carried.

General reports available for review included the Loss Control Report, Check Listing, Credit Card statement, Cash Flow, Cyber Summary and Capitalized Construction Work Projects. The Board discussed the Federated Safety Loss Prevention Assessment.

**Management Reports**

**Operations Manager, Jon Christensen** submitted a written and oral report. Jon discussed what the crews have been doing and that projects are going good. He reported on the sale of 2 trailers and a truck at auction. There was an update given on the project with Ottertail Power and that it will be funded by RUS. Jon gave an update on the load management project and its progress. An update on the Aclara meters and Verizon communication board was also given.

**Member Services Manager, Mark Weber** submitted a written report of current activities and financials of the service and contracting department. He reported a sustained high volume of electrical and HVAC service requests. Mark also discussed instances where members requested assistance with unexpected high electric usage and general electrical and heating inquiries.

**Office Manager, Bridget Anderson** submitted a written report of the office services activities and financials. Her report also included details regarding billing errors that were recently discovered. She explained the changes that have been made to mitigate these types of errors in the future. Bridget also gave a detailed presentation of the monthly Form 7.

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**General Manager Report**

**General Manager, Page** submitted a written report. He highlighted the growth of commercial load over the past five years compared to other sectors. Page reported sales and expenses are within 1% of budget and that distribution plant growth is 5.2% year over year. He reported the average past due accounts have steadily declined over the past ten years. Page discussed a REDLG grant opportunity to assist the Sisseton Youth Baseball Association and build the REED revolving loan fund. Page also provided a brief history of the headquarters pole yard, noting that its condition has been steadily deteriorating since it was resurfaced in 2007.

**Association Meeting Reports:**

**East River** Behrns reported on activities of East River including recent changes on the ER Board of Directors and that East River is experiencing strong margins from energy sales and SPP revenue.

**SDREA** Tostenson reported on new employees at SDREA. He also discussed topics of the recent Leadership Summit including Board evaluations and the making of an exceptional Board.

**Committee Reports:** None.

**Other Business:**

- Following a Board and management discussion of procedures for addressing metering and billing adjustments, the Board requested policy and procedures to consider at the October meeting.
- After a discussion, a motion to approved the REDLG Grant application for the Sisseton Baseball Assn. with a commitment of \$1,500 was seconded and carried.
- The Board reviewed and discussed the governance topic regarding Key Board Traits - Trust, Respect and Openness.
- Following a discussion, a motion to amend the 2024 capital budget removing \$150,000 for the purchase of land was seconded and carried.
- Management staff discussed with the Board several capital budget items proposed for the 2025 capital budget.
  
- Following a discussion with General Manager Page, a motion to approve the proposed 2025 wage and compensation package was seconded and carried.
- There was a brief roundtable discussion and review of upcoming events.

**Executive Session:**

At 12:38 pm a motion to enter executive session was seconded and carried.

At 1:20 pm a motion to exit executive session was seconded and carried.

**Resolution for Next Regular Board Meeting:**

- A motion to set the next regular board meeting for Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 8:00 AM at the Cooperative Headquarters was made, seconded and carried.

**Adjournment:**

- A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried.

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President

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Secretary