



Solutions for the Future

557 Kenny Wren Road • P.O. Box 350 • Dillingham, AK 99576

Ph: 907-842-5251 • Fx: 907-842-2799 •

www.nushtel.com

Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board Treasurer, Wanda Wahl, called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:23 p.m.

Directors Present:

(Quorum Established)

Pete Andrew, President (Zoom)	Bruce Baltar, Director
Henry Strub, Vice President (Zoom/late)	Mark Lisac, Director
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer	Jean Barrett, Director
Annie Fritze, Secretary	James Hall, Director
Sue Flensburg, Director	

Directors Absent:

Staff Present:

Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Dennis Payne, Telecom Operations Manager
Joel Collins, Electric Operations Manager
Angie Venua, Comptroller

Guests:

Earl Hubb, Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc (BBTC) GM
Victoria Morrison, BBTC Administrative Assistant

Approval of Agenda: Bruce Baltar motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to approve the January 16, 2024, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda, with the following changes:

Addition to V. Introduction of Guests and Member Comments:

A. Earl Hubb, General Manager and Victoria Morrison, Administrative Assistant, BBTC Presentation.

The motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and James Hall seconded the motion to approve the December 19, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes with the following correction/addition:

Correction to the Financials Report: Small Commercial October 2023 kwh, incorrectly reported at 196,847 kwh and corrected to 353,415 kwh.

Sue Flensburg requested that additional information be added to General CEO Discussion, "Mr. Chaney also mentioned that the Aquatic Working Group meetings are going well. Sue Flensburg commented that WTSP Manager, Alison Eskeln, gave an update at the BBHLT Annual Meeting on December 16, 2023, and mentioned that the sonars to count smolt passage may be extended in 2024. Mrs. Flensburg also noted the Land Trust is requesting applications for the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership Grant Solicitation (proposals due in Feb 2024) and would forward the information to Will and Pete."

The motion carried 8-0.

Guests and Member Comments: Will Chaney introduced Earl Hubb, General Manager and Victoria Morrison, Administrative Assistant, from Bristol Bay Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (BBTC). Mr. Hubb spoke about potential ways NETC and BBTC could team up together to reduce costs and increase limited revenue. BBTC currently has two projects that NETC and BBTC could partner on: Bristol Bay Cellular Project and Alaska Web Net. Mr. Hubb spoke about the history of the two projects.

Mr. Hubb proposed to the board that NETC sell cell phones and accessories from the NETC Business Office as well as the possibility of partnering with BBTC on their Bristol Bay Cellular Project and Alaska Web Net Project.

Will Chaney and Pete Andrew echoed the benefits of partnering with another local Cooperative.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney – Mr. Lisac inquired about the Special Meeting that Wood Tikchik State Park Management Council (WTSPMC) held on 1.12.24 to discuss the Initial Study Report comments. Mr. Chaney noted that the meeting went well; he spoke about the process on how the comments are collected and submitted and the impact they have. It was suggested that a bullet point list or letter be drafted as a template for individuals who are in support of the project/study be available for use.
- B. Dennis Payne – Annie Fritze asked what changes are being made to the Alaska Plan. Mr. Payne explained that the changes are still to be determined. NETC has submitted their comments/suggestions.

Annie Fritze also asked what AMT and NDA stand for. Mr. Payne clarified that AMT is an acronym for America Media Technologies, a vendor who presented a possible IPTV product in place of the current Dish Network product. NDA is an acronym for non-disclosure agreement.

Annie Fritze inquired when will the public comment period for TempTel begin. Mr. Payne explained that The Army Corps of Engineers is requesting additional information, once the questions have been answered the public comment period should open shortly thereafter. Mark Lisac followed up with a question asking if it was The Army Corps of Engineers or the easement issue that is causing a delay in the process. Mr. Payne said it was The Army Corps of Engineers; however, construction has started in areas that NETC has right-of-way access granted.

- C. Joel Collins – Mark Lisac asked for an update on the issue in Manokotak. Will Chaney stated that Manokotak Power Company has obtained the necessary parts and have been on-line for approximately a week.

Annie Fritze asked for additional information regarding the possible grant opportunities for infrastructure resilience funding through Electric Power Systems (EPS). Mr. Collins explained that NETC is not applying for a grant through EPS, but rather working with EPS on the possibility of utilizing grid funding for a transmission line. Management is actively working with EPS in obtaining required information to move forward with this process.

- D. Angela Thames – Mark Lisac brought attention to the increase of 15 internet accounts since last month's board report.
- E. Angie Venua – Mark Lisac inquired about the overdue accounts receivable and if NETC has any recourse or remedy. Will Chaney explained that he is currently working with the legal team on solutions, possible Administrative Procedures and Tariff changes. Mr. Chaney will work on resolutions to submit to the Board in the near future.

Safety Moment: Work Safe: Responsibilities Beyond Linework was read by Will Chaney.

Discussion/Review:

- A. General Board Discussion – Mark Lisac will be attending the APA Legislative Session, in Juneau, AK at the end of the month and asked the Board if they had any topics they would like him to discuss. Mr. Lisac's current topic items include Insurance Line of Credit sunseting, easements, and PCE limitations. Board Vice President, Henry Strub and CEO/CM, Will Chaney will also be in attendance.

President, Pete Andrew, Director Sue Flensburg and Telecom Operations Manager, Dennis Payne will attend the ATA Winter Conference later this month.

- B. General CEO Discussion – Will Chaney spoke about the Active Shooter incident that took place at Kanakanak Hospital over the last weekend. Mr. Chaney reached out to Acting Chief of Police, Craig Maines. Officer Maines has agreed to speak to staff at the upcoming Monthly Safety Meeting.

Alaska Directional, LLC (AKD) has lashed fiber from the Central Office to Waskey and Lake Road, which is the overhead segment of the construction here in Dillingham; they will be departing Dillingham later this week until underground construction can begin.

Released Unredacted Section 106 Study to United Tribes of Bristol Bay (UTBB), and Cultural Alaska UTBB's section 106 contractor with signed confidentiality agreement.

UTBB, requestor, and Trout Unlimited, in support of, have submitted ISR comments requesting a 60-day extension to the ISR comment period. FERC granted a 20-day extension.

Action Items:

- A. **Approve Resolution 2024 – 01 Tariff Changes – Authorization to Withdraw Funds from Key Investment Services.** Jean Barret motioned to approve Resolution 2023 – 12 and Bruce Baltar seconded the motion.

The motion carried 9-0

- B. **Approve 2024 Operating Budget.** James Hall motioned to approve Resolution 2023 – 12 and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion.

The motion carried 9-0

Director Items:

- A. Future Board Items/New Business – None at this time.
- B. Unfinished Business – None at this time.
- C. Future Meetings & Conference Dates:
 - 1. APA State Legislative Conference, Jan 31 – Feb 1, Juneau, AK
 - 2. ATA 2024 Winter Conference, January 28-31, Lihue, Kauai, HI
 - 3. CFC KRTA & Strategic Planning Workshop, February 15 – 16, Dillingham, AK
 - 4. NETC 2024 Annual Meeting, April 2, 2024, Dillingham, AK
 - 5. ATA Annual Meeting 75th Anniversary, May 20 – 22, Anchorage, AK
 - 6. Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, May 20 – 23, Anchorage, AK
 - 7. APA Federal Legislative Conference, June 4 – 6, Washington, DC
 - 8. APA & ARECA Annual Meeting, September 10 – 13, Fairbanks, AK

Adjournment: Annie Fritze motioned, and James Hall seconded the motion to adjourn and with no further business to come before the board, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the January 16, 2024, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 8:51 pm.

The motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:

 2/20/2024
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist Date

Approved By:  2/20/2024
Annie Fritze, Secretary Date

