



Solutions for the Future

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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board President, Pete Andrew, called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:01 p.m.

Directors Present:

(Quorum Established)

Pete Andrew, President
Henry Strub, Vice President
Annie Fritze, Secretary
James Hall, Treasurer
Wanda Wahl, Director

Bruce Baltar, Director
Jean Barrett, Director
Mark Lisac, Director
Sue Flensburg, Director*
<*Zoom 6:07 pm >

Directors Absent:

Staff Present:

Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Deon Lopez, Comptroller
Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist

Guests:

Noah Harper, Member <Zoom 7:18 pm>

Approval of Agenda: Jean Barrett motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to approve the February 18, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda with no changes.

The motion carried 8-0

Approval of Minutes: Mark Lisac motioned, and Bruce Baltar seconded the motion to approve the January 21, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

The motion carried 8-0.

Guests and Member Comments: No comments made.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney, CEO/GM – Mark Lisac asked if Nushagak can apply for Round 17 Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) Grant. Will Chaney explained that Nushagak has reached AEA's funding cap, which is \$2 Million.
- B. Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager – Mark Lisac asked for an update on the Supreme Court case regarding the Universal Service Fund (USF). Michael Timmerman responded that the Supreme Court would start hearing comments on March 26, 2025.

According to Will Chaney's CEO Board Report, it was indicated that March 12, 2025, the fiber build should be "completed". With that being said, James Hall asked when members can anticipate connection to the fiber. Michael Timmerman explained that after the fiber build is complete there are additional steps necessary prior to connecting the member; this would include connecting equipment and testing. Mr. Timmerman further explained that only the members with fiber to the home will receive an initial connection. Fiber has been laid in Dillingham, but it has not been brought to the home; all materials to build fiber to the home in Dillingham are in inventory.

Mark Lisac referred to the amount of internet accounts that have been lost since 12/2022 (528) and was wondering if there are any plans on how to recover the loss. Will Chaney explained that with ownership of the fiber there will be new and exciting opportunities to increase revenue; there are some plans in work now. Mark Lisac would like to see plans made to regain membership, including pricing plans and advertisements.

James Hall asked what caused the most recent internet outage/issue. Michael Timmerman explained that the microwave equipment has not been updated; that there have been fixes and updates to the software that have not been applied. There are plans to make a site visit, tomorrow (2/19/25), to install updates and refuel.

- C. Electric Operations Manager (vacant) – No questions at this time.

- D. Deon Lopez, Comptroller – James Hall inquired when will the 2024 Year End Financials be ready for review. Deon Lopez stated they will be ready no later than April 4, 2025. Mr. Hall followed up by asking when the budget committee can expect to start meeting. Mr. Lopez is hoping the committee could have their first meeting before the Annual Meeting which will take place on April 8, 2025.
- E. Angela Thames, Business Office Manager – No questions at this time.

Safety Moment: The Dangers of Rushing

Discussion/Review:

- A. General Board Discussion – Wanda Wahl asked Henry Strub to give an overview of the State Legislative Conference that he attended earlier in the month. Mr. Strub gave an oral report on who he met with and the topics that were discussed. Mark Lisac and William Chaney were expected to attend the conference; however, the weather in Dillingham caused cancellation of the trip. Mark Lisac noted that he participated in the conference by watching the Legislative live feed and Mr. Lisac also mentioned that committee meeting recordings and meeting materials are available on the Alaska State Legislature website.

Pete Andrew thanked Michael Timmerman for his written report on the Alaska Telecom Association (ATA) Annual Meeting and then shared his appreciation for how well Mr. Timmerman represented Nushagak. Mr. Andrew then gave an overview of the ATA Annual Meeting.

With the completion of the 2-year study period, Pete Andrew brings attention to the importance of needing to make a board decision to move forward and make a plan, with the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Concept, or not. After discussion it was evident that additional information/steps, ie. Membership engagement, Lobbyist(s) needed, timeline of project and funding/budgeting need to be addressed before such decision is made.

- B. General CEO Discussion – Will Chaney gave thanks and shared his appreciation for the current employee group then gave updates on open positions and employee changes – Heather Savo transitioning from Accountant to Senior Accountant and Jim Denslinger's resignation effective February 28, 2025.

Mr. Chaney gave an update on the biological growth that was discovered in tank #4, and the possible course of action to remedy the issue. Due to the growth, and depending on the remedy, the spring fuel delivery of approximately 700,000 gallons may be cancelled and have one fuel delivery in the fall.

The IRA, LCM and Aesthetic USR Addendum reports have been submitted to FERC.

Right of Way (ROW) clearing has resumed.

Action Items:

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. Northwest Hydroelectric Assoc. Conference, Feb 24 – 26, 2025, Seattle, WA
 - 2. ATA Annual Meeting, May 12 – 14, 2025, Kodiak, AK
 - 3. AK Sustainability Energy Conference, June 2 – 5, 2025, Anchorage, AK
 - 4. APA Federal Legislative conference, June 3 – 5, 2025, Washington DC
 - 5. APA & AIE Annual Meeting, Aug 5 – 8, 2025, Cordova, AK

Adjournment: Wanda Wahl 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 February 18, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 7:35 pm.

The motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist 3/18/2025
Date

Approved By:



Annie Fritze, Secretary 3/18/2025
Date

