



Solutions for the Future

557 Kenny Wren Road □ P.O. Box 350 □ Dillingham, AK 99576
Ph: 907-842-5251 □ Fax: 907-842-2799 □ www.nushtel.com

**Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
21st Annual Membership Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual**

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Board President Pete Andrew called the 21st Annual Membership Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Fr. Scott Garrett from Holy Rosary Catholic Church led the invocation for the Annual Meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board President Pete Andrew introduced the Board of Directors and CEO to the membership.

They were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Pete Andrew, President | Present |
| Henry Strub, Vice President | Present |
| Annie Fritze, Secretary | Present |
| Wanda Wahl, Treasurer | Present (Zoom) |
| Steve Noonkesser, Director | Present |
| Chris Napoli, Director | Present |
| Sue Flensburg, Director | Present |
| Bruce Baltar, Director | Present |
| Josh Bullock, Director | Present |
| William Chaney, CEO/GM | Present |
| Trung Vo, Telecom GM | Present |

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/EMPLOYEES

William Chaney, CEO/GM & Robert Himschoot, Exiting CEO/GM introduced employees and guests: Attorney, Andy Leman with Kemple Huffman & Ellis, Crystal Enkvist with Alaska Power Association, Michael Rovito with Alaska Power Association, Christine O'Connor with Alaska Telecom Association, Cory Warnock with McMillian Jacobs, and George Hornberger, General Manager of INN Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Mike Megli, retired CEO/GM of NETC, spoke about his time at the Cooperative, focusing on his time spent with Central Office Technician, Emil "Dang It" Sorensen, who has retired after 37 years.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Board Secretary, Annie Fritze read the Certification & Determination of Quorum. She reported that at least 50 members, or 3% of the members, whichever shall be larger, as required per Article III, Section 5, "Quorum," of the Cooperative's bylaws participated in the Annual Meeting: a total of **238** members participated by casting ballots in the mail-in portion of the meeting and **76** members registered to participate in the live virtual member meeting.

CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING

Board Secretary, Annie Fritze read the Certification of the Notice of Meeting and declared that proper notice had been given to the membership.

READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Pete Andrew asked for a motion to approve minutes of the 2021, 20th Annual Membership Meeting. Steve Noonkesser motioned, and Chris Napoli seconded the motion to approve the 20th Annual Membership Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

George Hornburger, General Manager of INN Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INNEC) gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Hydro plant that INNEC actively operates.

- INNEC provides electrical power to three communities: Iliamna, Newhalen and Nondalton.
- In 1992 an application was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a license for the Tazimina Project.
- May of 1996 construction started

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- 1998 Fully Operational
- INNEC's diesel plant traditionally used 175,000 – 200,000 gallons of diesel annually.
- Between the years 2009 & 2021 INNEC has consumed 142,353 gallons of fuel supplementing hydro operations

Cory Warnock with McMillian Jacobs gave a PowerPoint Presentation/Status Update on the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Concept.

Key Developments over the past year

- Formation and collaboration with Aquatic Resources Working Group (ARWG)
- Continued Refinement of Conceptual Project Design
- Baseline Data Collection and Organization
- Multiple ARWG and Public Meetings along with presentations at relevant Regional Conferences.
- Filed a revised Preliminary Study Plan (PSP) with FERC on March 2, 2022

Next Steps for 2022

- Site Visits, Study Methods Evaluations
- Stream gage installation, complete temporary housing
- Review/Respond to PSP, Study Plan Determination from FERC
- Geotechnical Analysis
- Initiate Study Permit process for 2022 & 2023

Crystal Enkvist and Michael Rovito gave a presentation on what Alaska Power Association (APA) does and their mission. Crystal talked about Nushagak Cooperative's Board Vice-President Henry Strub, CEO's Bob Himschoot and Will Chaney and their involvement in different boards and committees. Michael Rovito gave an update on the current legislation at the state level, the APA State Policy Positions, and the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) program.

Christine O'Connor gave a presentation on the State of Telecom, the Governor's Task Force on Broadband, the Infrastructure, Investments & Jobs Act (IIJA).

CEO/GM Report:

CEO/GM William Chaney

Will Chaney thanked the presenters Mike Megli, Michael Rovito and Crystal Enkvist with Alaska Power Association, Christine O'Connor with Alaska Telecom Association, Cory Warnock with McMillen Jacobs, and George Hornburger, GM of INNEC, as well as the employee group for their hard work and dedication. Mr. Chaney shared his employment history at the Cooperative.

Mr. Chaney announced that as of tomorrow (3/16/2022) the office will be open to walk-ins, the office has been closed to in-person traffic since the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and that open positions are being filled. Mr. Chaney went over projects that have been completed this year including the power plant expansion and the increase of bandwidth on the internet

system and the future projects which include a Power Plant Supplemental Heat Upgrade and the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Concept.

Mr. Chaney thanked the membership and community for their support and understanding during the winter storms that took place in December and January, he also acknowledged the community of Aleknagik, Aleknagik Natives Limited and the City of Aleknagik for the help Nushagak received. A Legislative Citation Honoring the efforts of Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative and Community Partners was given to the following: Peter Heyano, Jon Clouse, Nick Schollmeier, Andrew Berkoski, Monte Murphy, Paul Kropoff, Jon Taylor, Pete Andrew, Steve Noonkesser, James Andrews, Ray Andrews, Steve Kohler, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA), Forestry Division of BBNA, Curyung Tribal Council, Southwest Regional School District and Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative.

General Manager Telecom Trung Vo

Mr. Vo thanked Emil "Dang It" Sorensen for this years of service at the Cooperative. Mr. Vo gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Broadband for Northern Bristol Bay – NETC Broadband Project.

Project Benefits

- High-capacity fiber Middle Mile build will bring 100GB/s of capacity to our communities
- Existing DSL and DOCSIS platforms provide 10MB/s speed with 400 GB/month data caps
- Microwave upgrades will allow Clarks Point & Manokotak to receive equivalent services
- Additional Middle Milke capacity

Project Timeline

- April – May Environmental approval complete, grant funds released, enter into Design Build contract or RFP process
- June – July Benin procurement of all materials and equipment for middle mile. Plan to ship materials and equipment to Dillingham, Ekwok, and Levelock during the fall of 2022 to be staged for winter 2022-23 buildout
- Procure and ship materials and equipment to install Aleknagik to Dillingham and FTTP fall of 2022 or spring of 2023
- Ekwok regeneration module to be built summer or fall of 2022 and shipped spring of 2023
- Start the buried fiber construction between Levelock and Alekngaik November/December 2022
- Buried fiber from Levelock to Aleknagik would be completed by April 2023. Test and acceptance to follow
- Completion of the FTTH in Aleknagik and fiber build out to Dillingham August to September 2023
- Project close out and demobilization

Exiting CEO/GM Bob Himschoot

Mr. Himschoot will be retiring on May 31, 2022, and William Chaney has been chosen by the Board of Directors to be the new CEO/GM, other position changes included Trung Vo as the Telecom General Manager, Angie Venua as the Comptroller, Angela Thames as the Business Office Manager, Jim Denslinger as the Electric Operations Manager, Angela Lopez as the HR Generalist/Executive Secretary and Noah Harper as the Communications Supervisor.

Mr. Himschoot spoke about the many successes that Nushagak has had during the five years that he has been at the Cooperative, including, but not limited to increasing total assets from \$18.5 million in 2016 to \$45 million in 2021, Power Plant Upgrade, Microwave Middle Mile Project, Supplemental Heat Upgrade, replacement of the Cable TV Head End facility and upgrade of equipment, the fiber and coax plant rebuild, upgrade of the DSL plant, microwave upgrade to Clarks Point and Manokotak and the building of a new data center and the increase of revenue from \$9.4 million in 2016 to \$11.6 million in 2021.

Mr. Himschoot shared that out of his 30 years in the telecom industry, the last five years have been a rewarding experience. Bob Himschoot stressed the idea of Teamwork and the important role it has within Nushagak, from the Board of Directors to the employees. Mr. Himschoot thanked the membership for their attendance and involvement.

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Director Chris Napoli announced the 2021 scholarship award recipients and briefly explained how the Nushagak Scholarship started. He introduced the scholarship committee members as follows:

MEMBERS

Chris Napoli, NETC
Annie Fritze, NETC
Laticia Swift, BBEDC
Pearl Strub, Member
Janice Bullock, DCSD

AMOUNT AWARDED

\$14,000.00

NUMBER OF QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

18

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

15

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ACADEMIC

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$1,500 Britney Dray | \$1,000 Angelica Marx |
| \$1,500 Tiera Schroeder | \$1,000 Torin Schroeder |
| \$1,500 Luke Wulvik | \$1,000 Abbey Whitcomb |
| \$1,000 Glen Andrews | \$500 Colten Hink |
| \$1,000 Molly Berkoski | \$500 Jean Krause |
| \$1,000 Logan Ito | |

VOCATIONAL

\$1,500 Sharadon O'Connor
\$1,000 Ilarion Chapman

ADDITIONAL

University of Alaska Bristol Bay Campus Dual Credit Program \$3,250

In 2021 a Scholarship in memory of Dr. Radenbaugh was established in conjunction with the regular Nushagak Cooperative Scholarship. The recipient that will be awarded this scholarship will demonstrate studies in the area of benefiting or improving the environment as were Dr. Radenbaugh's passions.

DR. TODD RADENBAUGH SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,500 Virginia Roque

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Pete Andrew recognized the Board of Directors and their years of service.

"Nushagak's Board of Directors have been working alongside the management team to bring forward thinking ideas while being mindful and knowing that we are member-owned. Over the years the Board of Directors have matured and continue to challenge the management team to bring cost-effective solutions for all three divisions.

I am proud to have a great diverse team on our board. I would also like to invite the youth, or our younger folks, to get on the board.

Energy costs, now and into the future. As we face continued turmoil across the world, every country that depends on fossil fuels for survival and life sustaining services face the same challenges we do. We must try and find solutions to be self-sustaining, and that's what drives me to stay on and try to and come up with solutions to keep costs low and sustainable for the future.

Nushagak in the past has studied wind, peat, and hydro sites like Lake Alva & Grant Lake to no avail. We are currently looking at studying the Nuyakuk Falls for the potential to produce electricity for six communities. As an electric provider we recognize that the natural resources, i.e., fish, that we rely on are very important to Nushagak, the members of the region, state, nation and the world. Nushagak has a fish first policy in place as a promise to the members

and stakeholders that we will not pursue this venture if the studies show that it would be detrimental to the resources in place.

Broadband - over the last few years, we have been working on solutions to bring you better broadband services. DIS, which is digital internet service. With good planning, and things falling into place, the fiber project from Levelock to Dillingham should start this fall. Fiber is on its way. Your board and management recognize that having good DIS in place will help economic growth and provide more available services to our members. Having good DIS will allow people to work from home with jobs across the world. Nushagak has engaged with tribes and village corporations to help with the deployment of another project. We recognize that a lot of federal dollars will be flowing and be available. I ask all of you to learn, ask questions and be engaged.

I am absolutely grateful that we do have a very diverse board and I'm very proud to be here. With that, we've got lots to do. Sincerely."

DIRECTORY COVER PRESENTATION

Pete Andrew announced the 2022 Directory Cover Photo Contest winner - Front Cover: Irene Sorensen.

CALL FOR BALLOTS

INTRODUCTION AND REPORT OF CREDENTIALS & ELECTION COMMITTEE

The committee members were announced as follows: Marilyn Rosene, Keggie Tubbs and Lola Carpenter. The voting results were read aloud as follows:

| | <u>Mail in Ballots</u> | <u>Cast at Meeting</u> | <u>Final Ballot</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Tally | | | |
| Total Ballots Received | 242 | none | 242 |
| Total Ballots Invalid | 4 | none | 4 |
| Total Ballots Counted for Votes | 238 | none | 238 |

Total invalid ballots: 4

Directors

| | |
|---------------|-----------|
| Bruce Baltar | 185 votes |
| Sue Flensburg | 188 votes |
| Wanda Wahl | 202 votes |

Election Results: Bruce Baltar, Incumbent, Sue Flensburg, Incumbent and Wanda Wahl, Incumbent were elected for a three-year term ending in 2025.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Via Zoom Chat

ADMINISTRATOR: The preliminary middle mile transport fiber route in the design and construction notes specifies in 34. that there is a minimum of 12 feet vs. the preliminary proposed fiber route of 30 feet x 8602 ft in Aleknagik. Why is there a difference in the minimum requirements and specs?

Trung Vo: I believe that answer is the footage is wider in case there needs to be a route change from left to right and in the end we will be using 12'. We are going for a wider range to have wiggle room based on the environment and the route that is best for the fiber.

ADMINISTRATOR: So once that is identified a minimum will be used?

Trung Vo: Yes. Once it has been identified the minimum will be used.

Trung Vo: John Heyano wants to thank Bob for his time as CEO and welcome Will.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business at this time.

RESULTS OF BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSALS:

Andrew Leman, Nushagak Cooperative's counsel stated there were no proposals this year.

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING

\$200 Gift Certificate to Bigfoot – Matthew & RoseMary Tucker

\$100 Gift Certificate to AC – Chelsea Ayars

\$100 Gift Certificate to Visa Gift Card donated by Kemppele, Huffman & Ellis – Dan Boyd

\$100 Gift Certificate to The Bayside Diner – Louise Egeland

\$100 Visa Gift Card – Peter Krause Sr.

\$100 Gift Certificate to L&M – James & Diane Folsom

\$50 Gift Certificate to Tide Table – Louise Lekanoff

\$100 Visa Gift Card – Mickey & Betty Lopez

\$100 Visa Gift Card donated by Kemppele, Huffman & Ellis – Ronald Bowers

\$100 Gift Certificate to Bailey's of Bristol Bay – James Maud

\$100 Visa Gift Card – Ellamae Chaney

\$100 Gift Certificate to Napa Auto Parts – Arthur & Joan Reynolds

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\$100 Gift Certificate to Alaska Commercial Company – Lilly Chuckwuk
\$100 Gift Certificate from Vitus – Jean Schlosser Sr.
\$50 Gift Certificate to Tide Table – Labova Augustus
Round Trip Ticket DLG/ANC on Alaska Airlines – Angela Lopez

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the membership, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the 21st Annual Membership Meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Angela Lopez 3/21/23
Angela Lopez, Human Resource Generalist/Executive Secretary/Recorder Date

Approved By: *Annie Fritze* 3/21/23
Annie Fritze, Secretary Date

