



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

Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Nushagak Cooperative Board Room, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board President, Pete Andrew called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 7:04 p.m.

Directors Present:

(Quorum Established)

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pete Andrew, President (phone) | Henry Strub, Vice-President, (phone) |
| Wanda Wahl, Treasurer (phone) | Annie Fritze, Secretary (phone) |
| Josh Bullock, Director (phone) | Sue Flensburg, Director (phone) |
| Chris Napoli, Director (phone) | Bruce Baltar, Director (phone) |
| Steve Noonkesser, Director | |

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present:

Robert Himschoot, CEO/GM (phone)
Trung Vo, Telecom Operations Manager (phone)
Angie Venua, Senior Accountant (phone)
Jim Denslinger, Power Plant Superintendent (phone)
Will Chaney, Electric Operations Manager (phone)
Gayla Powers, Human Resource Generalist (phone)

Guests: Cory Warnock, McMillen Jacobs Associates and Bryan Nass, BBSRI

Approval of Agenda: Steve Noonkesser motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the March 16, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting agenda with addition of item "C" to the action items. The motion carried 9-0.

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Henry Strub seconded the motion to approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes and the March 3, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 9-0.

Guests and Member Comments: Cory Warnock, McMillen Jacobs Associates---Bryan Nass, BBSRI gave the board an update on the Nuyakuk River Hydro Project.

Reports:

- A. Bob Himschoot – Submitted a written report. Sue Flensburg asked Bob to add the S.W. Salmon Habitat Partnership proposal grant which was ranked 3rd and once the partnership is notified of its allocation it will likely to be funded. Bob stated that it would be put on the next report.
- B. Angela Thames – Submitted a written report.
- C. Trung Vo – Submitted a written report. Josh Bullock asked if after the last time the tower was down if there is any trickle down for the houses. Trung answered several things happened with the cable plant because of the cold and that the radiators got covered with snow, overheated and shut down. Snow was cleared and they are watching for further issues. Josh also asked if Nushagak was looking at remedies for the future. Pete Andrew stated that Bob Himschoot would cover that in his CEO discussion.
- D. Jim Denslinger– Submitted a written report. Chris Napoli asked about the submission to ADEC the AAE (Assessable Emissions Estimate) for the facility operations permit and that he was under the impression that with the new gen-sets installed that this would go away. Jim stated that it would not go away because it is an assessment of the probable emissions and that it will always be there. Pete Andrew asked if the fees were similar to last years and Jim stated they were.
- E. Will Chaney– Submitted a written report. Henry Strub liked the idea of the BBNA fire prevention crew being used to help with Nushagak's right of way clearing. Mr. Strub asked if they would use some of their money to help pay for it.
- F. Angie Venua– Submitted a handout report.

Safety Moments: Read by Will Chaney.

Discussion/Review:

- A. General Board Discussion – Pete Andrew talked about the upcoming annual meeting.
- B. General CEO Discussion – Mr. Himschoot stated that 400,000-gal fuel were purchased. That amount will cover 2/3 what will be needed in the spring. The fuel sur-charge was adjusted due to the actual cost in 2020.

Will Chaney explained the right of clearing he set up through BBNA and that may be able to get money through some of their programs to help with our clearing on restricted properties and after that we could contract with them for the rest. Sue Flensburg asked if we wanted to see if Choggiung should be contacted to see if they would like to use the program as well.

Trung Vo gave an update on what Nushagak is looking into for alleviating the generator problem with snow on the mountain tower sites. This is a snorkel system and will be another way for it to breath and get air. Also, a camera will be installed for monitoring purposes. Mr. Himschoot stated that with this being the first year we had a great year of excess snow and weather to help work out future issues.

Mr. Himschoot updated the board on using a debt recovery service for past due accounts. He stated that we will contract Cornerstone to pursue old accounts. Sue Flensburg asked Mr. Himschoot to address Angie's comment about debt being applied to capital credits. Bob stated that yes, we would collect it back from those old accounts that when the capital credits are allocated it would be used after all other efforts are exhausted. Mr. Strub stated he did not like the idea of a collection agency. Pete Andrew stated that he felt it was a good idea where there is no other recourse, and we are a member's coop. Angie Venua commented that the majority of the 90 day past due is a bankruptcy. She also stated that Nushagak has never used a collection agency and only small claims. Steve Noonkesser and Chris Napoli both agreed this was a good idea and Chris stated just to make sure that we had certain areas in the contract with the collection agency.

Mr. Himschoot asked that a mock Zoom meeting be set up prior to the annual meeting and set a date.

- C. Nuyakuk Hydro System Presentation. Cory Warnock and Bryan Nass gave an update on the hydro project for the following:
- Describe progress made in feasibility evaluation and licensing process for the proposed project over the past year.
 - Document current status of study planning and mechanisms in place to finalize program.
 - Lay out short and long-term schedules for:
 1. Finalizing the study program
 2. Re-initiating the formal FERC licensing process
 3. Remainder of the study program and licensing effort
 - Discuss the current and future opportunities for involvement through:
 1. Meetings
 2. Calls
 3. Direct NETC contact
- D. Supplemental Heat System Presentation Jim Denslinger thanked Dave Bouker for the historical information provided on the existing supplemental heat system. The rebuild cost is estimated at 2.34M and this would be covered with the USDA Power Plant Upgrade loan and NETC capital. Jim stated that the system is well past its expected life span and that several areas of the current system have already failed generating the need for the upgrade and reconstruction of the current system. The project is projected to be completed by the Summer/Fall of 2021.

Action Items:

- A. **Resolution 2021-03 Telephone Capital Budget Amendment** Sue Flensburg motioned to approve Resolution 2021-03 and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.
- B. **Resolution 2021-04 CFC Loan Approval** Wanda Wahl motioned to approve Resolution 2021-03 and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0.

Henry Strub and Bruce Baltar voiced their concern with obtaining easements on the project for this loan but still retained their yes vote.

- C. **Approval for participation in the emergency broadband benefit program.**
Steve Noonkesser motioned and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to participate in the broadband benefit program. The motion passed 9-0.

Future Board Items-

Unfinished Business-

Future Meetings & Conference Dates:

Adjournment- Wanda Wahl motioned to adjourn and with no further business before the board President Pete Andrew adjourned the March 16, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Gayla Powers, Human Resource Generalist 03/16/2021
Date

Approved By:

Annie Fritze, Secretary Date