



Solutions for the Future

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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

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

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board Vice President, Henry Strub, called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: *(Quorum Established)*

Henry Strub, Vice President	Bruce Baltar, Director
Annie Fritze, Secretary	Jean Barrett, Director
James Hall, Treasurer <Zoom>	Mark Lisac, Director
Sue Flensburg, Director	

Directors Absent: Pete Andrew, President
Wanda Wahl, Director

Staff Present: Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Deon Lopez, Comptroller <Zoom>
Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist

Guests: None Present

Approval of Agenda: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the March 18, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda with the following addition:

VIII Discussion/Review Items:

C. Capitol Credit Disbursement

The motion carried 7-0

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the February 18, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

The motion carried 7-0.

Guests and Member Comments: No comments made.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney, CEO/GM – No questions at this time.
- B. Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager – Mr. Timmerman updated the board that all fiber has been laid in the ground, that there are four or five more splices to complete and once that is done testing and equipment configuration can begin.

Annie Fritze asked if there will be a cost analysis for the new fiber system; Mr. Chaney confirmed, stating that he has reached out to National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC).

Mark Lisac asked when fiber to the home will be available in Dillingham. Mr. Timmerman explained that all the equipment and materials are in inventory, however; the cost associated with contracting out the project is approximately \$2M, which is currently unfunded. The other option would be to train the telephone technicians to deploy fiber to the home, which then can be connected in sections. Mr. Chaney mentioned that when a new service is being constructed, that fiber is being brought to the home in anticipation of connection.

- C. Electric Operations Manager (vacant) – No questions at this time.
- D. Deon Lopez, Comptroller – James Hall questioned if the FY2024 financials will be available by April 4th as previously indicated. Mr. Lopez continues to work with the auditing firm, Aldrich, and anticipates a draft version to be completed by weeks end. Mr. Hall would like to review the FY2024 financials prior to the Annual Meeting; Mr. Lopez will look into getting the board the draft version prior to the Annual Meeting which is scheduled for April 8, 2025.
- E. Angela Thames, Business Office Manager – No questions at this time.

Safety Moment: Work Safe: Building a Well-Oiled Machine ready by Will Chaney.

Discussion/Review:

A. General Board Discussion – As the fiber build nears completion, and more connections and opportunities present themselves, Annie Fritze asked if the board will have a chance to review the capacity exchange agreement between Nushagak and GCI. Mr. Chaney explained that the contract does not expire until 2029, so there is no need to review at this time, but if there is a benefit to making modifications then the cooperative would be willing to review the contract earlier.

Annie Fritze commended Deon Lopez for doing a fantastic job on the financial reports.

Jean Barrett spoke to the importance of the letter addressed to Senator Daniel Sullivan, dated March 6, 2025, regarding a deep concern about the administration's tariffs on energy. This letter was an attachment to the CEO/GM board report. This letter was signed by William Stamm, CEO of Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc., Tom Atkinson, GM/CEO of Kotzebue Electric Association, Inc., Dianne King, CM/CEO of Naknek Electric Association, Inc, Reese Huhta, GM of Unalakleet Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc, and Willaim Chaney, GM/CEO of Nushagak Cooperative. Mark Lisac suggested this letter be available to the members at the Annual Meeting, Mr. Chaney followed up by suggesting that it also be posted on Nushagak's website.

Sue Flensburg attended a Wood-Tikchik State Park meeting and had noticed that public comments were not added to the draft meeting minutes; Sue encouraged that if someone made public comments, to attend the next meeting to ensure the public comment be added to the finalized minutes.

B. General CEO Discussion – Will Chaney started by informing the board that the employee group has been incredibly busy due to a shortage in staff; current staff total, 18 employees. Mr. Chaney reports that Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager, has been in the field making site visits to install new gateways which will ensure equipment is in place and ready for Q1 speed and latency testing. Mr. Chaney shared his appreciation for the group of employees who are going in many different directions.

Chris Williams continues to mulch Right-of-Way, currently Mr. Williams has completed just over seven (7) miles.

Sue Flensburg inquired about the park access permit process; will it be straightforward? Mr. Chaney believes that the permit will be granted without any issues. Mark Lisac followed up by asking what would happen if the permit was not approved, would the site need to be removed? Mr. Chaney confirmed that would be the case if the permit was not approved.

Action Items:

A. **Approve New Position – Facility/Vehicle Maintenance Technician.** Sue Flensburg motioned to approve new position, Facility/Vehicle Maintenance Technician and Jean Barrett seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0

B. **Approve Resolution 2025-03 Wells Fargo Credit Card Holders.** Sue Flensburg motioned to approve Resolution 2025 – 03 and Annie Fritze seconded the motion.

The motion carried 7-0

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. ATA Annual Meeting, May 12 – 14, 2025, Kodiak, AK
2. AK Sustainability Energy Conference, June 2 – 5, 2025, Anchorage, AK
3. APA Federal Legislative conference, June 3 – 5, 2025, Washington DC
4. APA & AIE Annual Meeting, Aug 5 – 8, 2025, Cordova, AK

Adjournment: Annie Fritze motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to adjourn and with no further business to come before the board, Board Vice President Henry Strub adjourned the March 18, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 7:25 pm.

The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist



4/15/2025

Date

Approved By:


Annie Fritze, Secretary


4/15/2025

Date