



Solutions for the Future

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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 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 19, 2024, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: *(Quorum Established)*

Pete Andrew, President (Zoom)
Henry Strub, Vice President
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer (Zoom)
Sue Flensburg, Director

Bruce Baltar, Director
Jean Barrett, Director
Mark Lisac, Director
James Hall, Director

Directors Absent: Annie Fritze, Secretary

Staff Present: Will Chaney, CEO/GM (6:28 PM)
Dennis Payne, Telecom Operations Manager
Joel Collins, Electric Operations Manager
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angela Lopez, HR Generalist/Executive Secretary

Guests: N/A

Approval of Agenda: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to approve the March 19, 2024, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda as submitted.

The motion carried 8-0.

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to approve the February 20, 2024, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

The motion carried 8-0.

Guests and Member Comments: None at this time.

Reports:

A. Will Chaney – Mark Lisac inquired about the Letter of Support for Nushagak Electric & Telephone Transmission tie to Naknek Electric Association GRIP Topic 3 Grant Application for the Nuyakuk Multiple Community 69kV Transmission Intertie Project. The Letter of Support was included in the March Board Packet, Mr. Chaney spoke to what the letter represents.

B. Dennis Payne – An internet outage that started in the early hours of March 12th and lasted through March 18th, with a brief restoration over the weekend, was caused due to generator 2 losing a module that controls the RPMs, this caused the voltage to increase; the increase in voltage caused the equipment to overheat. One of the two battery banks became completely drained. In addition to numerous day trips to troubleshoot, Mr. Payne overnighted onsite to complete the temporary repair. Many resources were utilized during the troubleshooting phase, including flying in a technician to work on the generators. Currently both generators are fixed, and one of the two battery banks is running. The internet is stable, troubleshooting and maintenance is ongoing. Mr. Payne expressed his appreciation to his staff for their hard work.

Wanda Wahl inquired if an automated phone number that membership can call to receive updated information was available. Mr. Payne suggested getting this service set up through ISPN, which is a 3rd party company that currently handles incoming calls to troubleshoot afterhours.

Henry Strub asked about the logistics of getting fiber to the home. Mr. Payne explained that the fiber will be brought to the residence either overhead or underground depending on the current construction, underground will be the preference. There will be a box on the outside of the residence that will connect internally, and from there the connection will be wireless. It was suggested that a Frequently Asked Questions or an informational page be made available to the membership. Mr. Payne will try to have one available for next month's board packet. It was also suggested that this information be available at the Annual Meeting.

C. Joel Collins – No questions at this time.

- D. Angela Thames – Sue Flensburg asked about the volume of calls regarding the outage. Ms. Thames responded that there were phone calls looking for updates; the Customer Service Department was able answer the memberships questions with the information they were provided from the technicians and management. Updates were made to Facebook as they were received. Phone calls showing support, understanding and appreciation were also received.

Wanda Wahl asked if the current cable tv subscribers have changed their internet packages in anticipation of the discontinuation of the cable tv services. Ms. Thames explained that there have been a few changes; however, the majority of the membership typically waits until the disconnect date which is April 15, 2024.

The Customer Service Department has placed phone calls to all cable tv subscribers informing them of the changes and their options; additionally, they have answered many questions. The Customer Service Department has also offered assistance to members that may need additional support.

- E. Angie Venua – No questions at this time.

Safety Moment: Work Safe: Three Points of Contact

Discussion/Review:

- A. Strategic Planning Session ***Tabled***
- B. 2024 Annual Meeting – Angela Thames, Business Office Manager lead the discussion for the upcoming Annual Meeting that is taking place on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The agenda and logistics for the meeting were outlined.

The Member Appreciation BBQ was also discussed; Ms. Thames will bring possible dates for the event to next month's meeting.

It was suggested that there be Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) or one-pagers available at the meeting about both the Nuyakuk Hydro and Fiber-to-the-Home projects.

- C. General Board Discussion – Pete Andrew proposed that Nushagak consider the potential benefits that a fuel coop could offer. Mr. Andrew is requesting, from the board, to continue having conversations with Mr. Chaney, NTEC's legal counsel, and BBNC's team to explore the possibilities of creating a fuel coop. The board agrees that this venture is worth exploring.

Mark Lisac has been attending the Aquatic Resource Working Group meetings, the information being gathered and shared in these meetings is extensive. Mr. Lisac will continue to attend these meetings.

Wanda Wahl inquired about the positions that have been recently filled. Mr. Chaney listed Deon Lopez as Senior Accountant, Tyler Eveslage and Jon Taylor as Power Plant Operators.

- D. General CEO Discussion – Will Chaney joined the meeting, in person, at 6:28 pm after responding to an electric outage.

Joel Collins, Electric Operations Manager, is obtaining his Return-to-Work letter and is expected to be back in the office soon. Mr. Collins will be on light duty.

Currently in discussion with Ekwok Natives Limited, including their lawyer, regarding an easement for the Fiber project. An in-person meeting will be held on Monday, May 25, 2024.

A Dillingham City Council meeting is currently in progress, one of the subjects being discussed is granting GCI easement access to lay fiber for their fiber build project. If possible, Mr. Chaney will attend the City Council meeting once this meeting has been adjourned. The board requested that an informational paper, in addition to the FAQ's, be made available to the membership explaining the Fiber Build project.

The spring fuel barge order will be for approximately 500k gallons, this will be enough to last through the 2024 summer season.

Plans for the Nuyakuk Hydro 2024 Study Season are being made, including in-person site visits to surrounding communities.

Action Items: None at this time.

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. NETC 2024 Annual Meeting, April 2, 2024, Dillingham, AK
 - 2. ATA Annual Meeting 75th Anniversary, May 20 – 22, Anchorage, AK
 - 3. Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, May 20 – 23, Anchorage, AK
 - 4. APA Federal Legislative Conference, June 4 – 6, Washington, DC
 - 5. APA & ARECA Annual Meeting, September 10 – 13, Fairbanks, 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 March 19, 2024, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 7:38 pm.

The motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist 4/16/2024
Date

Approved By:



Annie Fritze, Secretary 4/16/2024
Date

