



*Solutions for the Future*

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## **Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, June 15, 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, June 15, 2021, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 7:05 p.m.

#### **Directors Present:**

***(Quorum Established)***

Pete Andrew, President	Henry Strub, Vice-President
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer (Zoom)	Annie Fritze, Secretary
Chris Napoli, Director	

#### **Directors Absent:**

Steve Noonkesser, Director  
Sue Flensburg, Director  
Bruce Baltar, Director  
Josh Bullock, Director

#### **Staff Present:**

Robert Himschoot, CEO/GM  
Trung Vo, Telecom Operations Manager  
Angie Venua, Senior Accountant (Zoom)  
Will Chaney, Electric Operations Manager  
Gayla Powers, Human Resource Generalist (Zoom)

#### **Guests:**

**Approval of Agenda:** Chris Napoli motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the June 15, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting agenda. The motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Henry Strub motioned, and Chris Napoli seconded the motion to approve the May 18, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board Meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

**Guests and Member Comments: None**

**Reports:**

- A. Bob Himschoot – Submitted a written report.
- B. Angela Thames – Submitted a written report.
- C. Trung Vo – Submitted a written report.
- D. Jim Denslinger– Submitted a written report.
- E. Will Chaney– Submitted a written report.
- A. Angie Venua– Submitted a handout report.

Mr. Andrew asked for general updates regarding reports from management. Mr. Himschoot stated Nushagak lines were hit during construction of the city street project and had to be repaired. Problems also arose with the new transformer at OBI and it was corrected. Mr. Himschoot stated he received emails from APA urging for PCE advocacy to legislatures about the importance of not sweeping the PCE endowment back into the general fund. He also talked about the AEA Renewable Energy Fund which was inadvertently omitted in the state capital budget so they will do another appropriation bill in August to correct. Mr. Chaney updated the board on the D street excavation after Mr. Napoli notified him that the state had exposed the fuel lines. State moved their design to avoid exposing and potentially damaging further lines. Mr. Himschoot stated that Mr. Denslinger and Mr. Chaney inspected the exposed line and were happy to report that the line is looking good. Mr. Chaney stated that the city has committed to having Nushagak bury the primary lines on the city docks. Mr. Himschoot talked about 2 meetings with BBTC board and Igiugig Village Council SALMON Net, emails will follow up the meetings. He also stated that the broadband test deadline of June 30 is almost complete, also the new regulations for call block to get rid of robo calls (SHKN/STIR). Mr. Himschoot reported that the DEC permitting for the SPCC permit renewal on the tank farm is in process. He stated that later this year the pipeline testing will begin. He also stated that generators 12 and 13 rebuild is complete. Chris Napoli asked Trung Vo about the sweep training and what that entailed. Mr. Vo stated that. A training the technicians will learn to fine tune the current cable signal on the system. Henry asked if Nushagak had the ability to do the sweep in house. Mr. Vo stated that after the training that yes Chris Napoli asked about the after-hours agreement mentioned in Will Chaney's report. Will stated that it is an agreement between the customer and Nushagak in the event that during an after hours call it is determined when the problem the customer is experiencing is something that a certified electrician should be correcting yet Nushagak's linecrew can temporarily assist in getting the customer's power back on, the customer is under the obligation to get the electrician out to correct the issue as soon as possible and will not hold Nushagak liable for any temporary fixes done in assisting the customer. Pete Andrew commented on the issue experienced by the Apprentice Lineman when doing disconnects for non-pay arose. Mr. Himschoot stated that Nushagak has a

zero-tolerance policy for any threats or implied threats directed towards Nushagak employees when doing Coop business on a member's property. Henry Strub asked if Nushagak thought about getting meters that can be turned on and off in house rather than having to go to the member's home. Mr. Himschoot stated that the meters were in the budget and Mr. Chaney gave a brief overview of the type of meters Nushagak is looking to install and the possible date of installation. Wanda Wahl asked for further information from Will Chaney about the Business process consultation meetings held with NISC. Mr. Chaney stated that 3 meetings were scheduled and during these meetings NISC will review how Nushagak is using the current software, what Nushagak's needs are that could be accomplished with the current software and gave Nushagak updates on how to better utilize the software. He stated that much was learned to further assist Nushagak with their needs. Mr. Denslinger talked about the fuel line from Delta Western had been drained and now is no longer a liability for the Cooperative.

**Safety Moments:** Read by Will Chaney.

**Discussion/Review:**

- B. General CEO Discussion – Mr. Himschoot stated that he had nothing further after all the updates from the manager reports.
- C. General Board Discussion – Mr. Andrew started a discussion and update about the potential of a fiber optics coalition between Nushagak, BBTC and other tribal entities. He stated that himself, Mr. Himschoot and Mr. Noonkesser had started the talks with BBTC and some of the tribal entities. Mr. Andrew and Mr. Himschoot talked about the benefit and downside of such a coalition. Mr. Andrew stated that he felt it was Nushagak's obligation to share in our broadband excess with the tribes. This would ensure that the Bristol Bay region has access to the best broadband coverage at the best price. It could also help protect the tribes from entities that may come in and take advantage of the region by offering a product that they cannot deliver. Mr. Andrew talked about the need to keep the coalition streamlined and inclusive at the same time. Henry Strub and Chris Napoli talked of the concern that it be good for the current members and not create undue burden. They stated the board should have a strategy meeting. Mr. Napoli also talked about the need to not over burden the current staff. Mr. Himschoot stated that a work session can be done with the full board to keep all abreast of the negotiations. Mr. Himschoot asked if the board also thought a vision planning session was due since it had been approximately 4 years since the last one. He asked if the board would like him to contact Mr. Pearson again to head the session. The board stated yes to this idea.

**Action Items:**

- A. Resolution 2021-09 Accepting the \$16,783,726 RUS ReConnect Grant and Authorizing Grant Signatures. Chris Napoli motioned and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-09. The motion passed 5-0

**Future Board Items-**

**Unfinished Business-**

**Future Meetings & Conference Dates:**

**Adjournment-** Wanda Wahl motioned to adjourn and Chris Napoli seconded the motion to adjourn. With no further business before the board President Pete Andrew adjourned the June 15, 2021 Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting at 9:13 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gayla Powers, Human Resource Generalist

07/20/2021

Date

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Fritze, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date