



Solutions for the Future

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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board President Pete Andrew called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: *(Quorum Established)*

Pete Andrew, President
Annie Fritze, Secretary
Wanda Wahl, Director <Zoom >
Mark Lisac, Director

Sue Flensburg, Director
Bruce Baltar, Director
Jean Barrett, Director
Cade Woods, Director

Directors Absent: Henry Strub, Vice President

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

Guests: Chris Hladick, Visitor

Approval of Agenda: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the August 19, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda.

The motion carried 8-0

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to approve the August 19, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes, with a modification due to a spelling error on page 3 of 5 – “substance” should be “subsistence”.

The motion carried 8-0

Guests and Member Comments: Mr. Chris Hladick introduced himself and outlined his professional background, sharing relevant aspects of his personal journey.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney, CEO/GM – Sue Flensburg inquired about the request from Delores Larson, as the bullet point from the CEO Board Report was incomplete. Mr. Chaney apologized for not completing the statement. He explained that the request was for permission to use the Nuyakuk Visual Assessment/Aesthetics Report Conceptual Project Layout Rendering Video, which is available on the Nuyakuk Hydro website. Pete Andrew noted that this virtual rendition is subject to change.

Sue Flensburg asked whether the CEO Board Report attachment—the letter to Koliganek—was intended for review and revision or if it had already been sent. Mr. Chaney confirmed that the letter had been sent. Mrs. Flensburg expressed her appreciation for the letter, and other board members echoed her sentiment.

Mark Lisac asked whether there have been any updates on member outreach efforts related to the Hydro and Fiber projects. In response, Will Chaney shared that he had received preliminary information indicating that NTIA may be planning a visit at the end of October to discuss the closeout of the Fiber project. Mr. Chaney suggested that this visit could present a valuable opportunity to involve the board in the discussion. Mr. Chaney added that there has been limited advancement with the Fiber project due to delays in acquiring the necessary materials to proceed with the testing phase. No formal outreach materials have been distributed to the membership at this time.

Mr. Chaney and the board discussed a potential project to provide shore power at the City Dockyard. AML representatives are scheduled to visit on September 22–23 to explore the feasibility of the initiative, which aims to supply power to freezer vans and reduce reliance on generators. However, implementing the project may require reconfiguring the yard to accommodate the necessary power infrastructure. At present, the setup includes a makeshift generator container with cables running between containers. To effectively support operations, multiple power access points would need to be installed along the dock.

- B. Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations – Annie Fritze requested clarification regarding the rejection of the BEAD applications by the Alaska Broadband Office. Mr. Timmerman explained that the applications were declined due to exceeding the budget limits. He further noted that, in collaboration with Meridian, the team will revise the proposal to eliminate the submarine fiber component and instead prioritize improvements to the microwave infrastructure, which would reduce the application amount by approximately \$20 million.

Mark Lisac asked for clarification on who OptimERA is and what services they offer. Mr. Timmerman explained that OptimERA is an engineering and network service provider based in Unalaska that applied to participate in providing High-Cost Support (Internet) within our service area.

- C. Electric Operations Manager (vacant) – No questions at this time.
- D. Deon Lopez, Comptroller – Mr. Lopez’s report lists Project 2117, and Annie Fritze inquired about what Project 2117 is. Mr. Lopez stated that it is the Hydro Project.

Mark Lisac expressed support for Mr. Lopez’s Comptroller Board Report, particularly the emphasis on improving recruitment and retention strategies. The Board and staff engaged in a discussion, noting that the cooperative’s wage scale falls short of what larger companies typically offer. They also acknowledge that recruitment challenges are widespread across Alaska and the nation. While benefits packages are considered valuable, they may not always appeal to younger workers. The cooperative will continue to explore a variety of recruitment strategies, including: regional partnerships, career fairs, enhanced website presentation of job opportunities, cross-training, and internal advancement opportunities. Will Chaney noted that Andrew “Butch” Berglof has temporarily resumed his role as a power plant operator. Mr. Chaney also shared that Nushagak has received a verbal commitment from another candidate to fill the Facilities/Vehicles Maintenance Technician position.

- E. Angela Thames, Business Office Manager – No questions at this time.

Safety Moment: Work Safe – Knife Safety, Hand Protection was read by Will Chaney.

Discussion/Review:

- A. **General Board Discussion** – Pete Andrew recently attended several meetings in Washington, D.C., where he had the opportunity to meet with Mark Begich. Mr. Andrew was pleasantly surprised to learn that Nushagak Cooperative was already on Mr. Begich’s radar. During their conversation, Mr. Begich expressed interest in engaging further with Nushagak, which Mr. Andrew saw as a promising development.

Sue Flensburg and Mark Lisac shared information about the most recent and upcoming Lunch and Learn sessions being hosted by the University. They noted that the materials from these sessions will be made available on the University's website for those who are unable to attend or wish to review the content later.

Mark proposed the formation of a rural cooperative caucus within the Alaska Power Association to address issues unique to rural utilities, which are often overlooked when legislative attention is focused on rail belt utilities. One specific concern he highlighted was the disproportionately high cost of emissions monitoring—approximately \$400,000 annually—despite relatively low emissions levels of 200 to 400 tons. Mark plans to discuss this concept further with other rural cooperative representatives at the upcoming Alaska Power Association meeting in Cordova. Mr. Chaney confirmed that there have been previous discussions with APA regarding the need for stronger rural cooperative representation.

The board discussed the progress of the hydro project and the status of the draft license application, which is expected to be filed by mid-November. Section D, which covers feasibility and economics, is still incomplete. Mark provided feedback on the draft, expressing concerns about the lack of comprehensive data on salmon. In response, Will will follow up with Brian Nass to gather historical salmon data to help address this gap.

- B. General CEO Discussion** – Will Chaney informed the board that AK Directional is now under new management, with Travis Drake serving as CEO and Ben Cuttriss taking on the role of Business Development Manager.

Mr. Chaney provided an update on the tank farm maintenance project, noting that Tank 4 is now at the patch coating and final inspection stage. A “holiday test” will be conducted to assess the integrity of the coating, which involves dragging an electrified steel rag around the bottom of the tank. If static is detected, the coating has failed; if not, it passes. Following the test, a seven-day curing period will be required. Once complete, the newly coated tank will be ready in time for the fall fuel delivery.

Mr. Chaney provided an update on the 2025 fall fuel delivery, reporting that approximately 1.3 million gallons have been ordered at a total cost of around \$3,466,450.

Action Items:

- A. Approve Resolution 2025 – 10 Patronage Capital – Early Retirement of Estates (M.S.)** Mark Lisac motioned to approve Resolution 2025 – 10, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 - 0

- B. Approve Resolution 2025 – 11 Patronage Capital – Early Retirement of Estates (J. G.)** Mark Lisac motioned to approve Resolution 2025 – 11, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 - 0

- C. Approve Resolution 2025 – 12 Patronage Capital – Early Retirement of Estates (D.N.)** Mark Lisac motioned to approve Resolution 2025 – 12, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 - 0

- D. 2026 Annual Meeting Date Options:** 03.18.26, 03.25.26, 04.01.26* or 04.08.26
i. *Monday, March 30, 2025, is Swards Day

The board agreed, unanimously, to have Angela Thames use her discretion to determine the date of the 2026 Annual Membership Meeting.

- E. Elect Treasurer** – Sue Flensburg motioned to elect Wanda Wahl as the Treasurer, and Bruce Baltar seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 - 0

- F. Approve 2025 Budget** – Deon Lopez, Comptroller, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the proposed 2025 budget. Following the presentation and a thorough discussion by the board and management, Bruce Baltar motioned to approve the proposed 2025 Budget, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 - 0

- G. 2026 NRECA Group Benefits** – Angela Lopez, HR Generalist/Executive Secretary, provided a handout detailing the cost associated with maintaining the current level of benefits coverage for the upcoming 2026 year, and after some discussion, Jean Barrett motioned to approve the 2026 NRECA Group Benefits Coverage, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion.

The motion carried 8 – 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. APA & ARECA Annual Meeting, September 23 - 26, 2025, Cordova, AK
2. ATA Broadband Tech Showcase, October 29 – 30, 2025, Anchorage, AK
3. ATA Winter Conference, January 25 – 28, 2026, Poipu, Kauai

Adjournment: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to adjourn, and with no further business to come before the board, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the September 16, 2025, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 8:08 pm.


The motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist 10/21/2025
Date

Approved By:



Annie Fritze, Secretary 10/21/2025
Date

