



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

Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 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 19, 2023, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: *(Quorum Established)*

Pete Andrew, President (Zoom)	Sue Flensburg, Director
Henry Strub, Vice-President (Phone)	Mark Lisac, Director (Zoom)
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer	Jean Barrett, Director
Annie Fritze, Secretary (Zoom)	VACANT, Director

Directors Absent: Bruce Baltar, Director

Staff Present: Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angie Venua, Comptroller
Dennis Payne, Telecom Operations Manager
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist

Guests: No Guests

Approval of Agenda: Henry Strub motioned, and Annie Fritze seconded the motion to approve the September 19, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda.

The motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes: Sue Flensburg motioned, and Henry Strub seconded the motion to approve the August 15, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes with two spelling corrections.

The motion carried 7–0.

Guests and Member Comments: None at this time.

Reports:

- A. Will Chaney – Sue Flensburg asked for clarification on long lead time inventory. Will Chaney explained that orders that were placed last fall for Division 1, for pole mount and pad mount transformers, have been received.

Sue Flensburg asked for an update on finalizing the Easement Agreement with Ekwok and Aleknagik. The tri-council meeting in Ekwok was postponed, the agreement has not yet been finalized. An email was sent to members of Ekwok Natives Limited, City of Ekwok and Ekwok Admin at BBNA summarizing the details and potential benefits of entering into the Easement Agreement with Nushagak Cooperative. The email will be forwarded to NETC managers and Board of Directors.

Annie Fritze inquired about SB91. Will Chaney explained that SB91 grants Nushagak Cooperative access to the Wood-Tikchik State Park to conduct studies for the Nuyakuk River Hydro Concept.

- B. Dennis Payne – No questions at this time.
- C. Angela Thames – No questions at this time.
- D. Angie Venua – Annie Fritze asked what the timeframe for reimbursement on Work Order #200705 is, the Fiber build from Levelock to Dillingham. Will Chaney reported that Nushagak has received \$3.9 million as of today, 10/19/23.

Safety Moment: Work Safe: Safety is Common Sense was read by Will Chaney.

Discussion/Review:

- A. General Board Discussion – Pete Andrew spoke about a Training Without Walls (TWOW) session that took place in Dillingham. Pete Andrew, Wanda Wahl, and Jean Barrett participated in a panel discussion. Will Chaney is currently enrolled in the TWOW program.

Mark Lisac gave an oral report on the APA Annual Meeting that he attended in Valdez in August. Mr. Lisac has forwarded meeting materials and information to the board via email. Henry Strub voiced the importance of Nushagak's presence at these meetings, it's a way to share information with the industry and to gain support from peer groups and leaders.

- B. General CEO Discussion – Will Chaney gave an update on the bullet points from his written report:

Materials and equipment continue to arrive via barge for the fiber build.

The EIA is expected to be submitted by September 22, 2023, which once reviewed and completed, Nushagak can start drawing on the funds for construction of the middle mile project. This will allow forward funding in place of reimbursement.

Nuyakuk Hydro studies are being completed in preparation for the community meeting that will be held on December 6th, resource working groups are being formed, and camp will be closed by October.

RF Meters continue to be connected out in the field, there are 300 meters in stock and plans to make additional orders.

Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) will be conducting Community Facilities reviews, looking at Power Cost Equalization (PCE) allocations; to add or remove Community Facilities from eligibility.

Dennis Payne asked the board to participate in the KnowBe4 training email that was sent. The KnowBe4 training focuses on Cyber Security.

Action Items:

- A. **2024 NRECA Group Benefits** – Sue Flensburg motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to approve the 2024 NRECA Group Benefits, with no modifications.

The motion carried 7–0.

- B. **Set Date for 2024 Annual Meeting** – Sue Flensburg motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to set April 2, 2024, as the date for the next Annual Meeting.

The motion carried 7–0.

- C. **Vacant Board Seat** – Mark Lisac motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to nominate Jack Savo Jr. to fill the vacant board seat.

The motion failed 1–6.

Wanda Wahl motioned, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion to nominate James Hall to fill the vacant board seat.

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. NRECA Fast Tract Director Training, September 18-22, Anchorage, AK
 - 2. Alaska Electric Utility Legal Workshop, October 11-12, Anchorage, AK
 - 3. 2023 Broadband Showcase, November 1-2, 2023, Anchorage, AK
 - 4. ATA 2024 Winter Conference, January 28-31, Lihue, Kauai, HI

Adjournment: Wanda Wahl motioned, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion to adjourn and with no further business to come before the board, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the September 19, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 7:22 pm. The motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Angela Lopez 10/17/2023
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist Date

Approved By: Annie Fritze 10/17/2023
Annie Fritze, Secretary Date

