



*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](http://www.nushtel.com)

**Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting**

Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

800 Kenny Wren Road

Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

**MINUTES**

**Call to Order:** Board Treasurer, Wanda Wahl called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 6:07 p.m.

**Directors Present:**

*(Quorum Established)*

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

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

**Directors Absent:** Annie Fritze, Secretary  
Bruce Baltar, Director

**Staff Present:** Will Chaney, CEO/GM  
Dennis Payne, Telecom Operations Manager  
Joel Collins, Electric Operations Manager  
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager  
Angie Venua, Comptroller

**Guests:** No Guests

**Approval of Agenda:** Mark Lisac motioned, and Jean Barrett seconded the motion to approve the November 21, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda, with the following changes:

**Addition to X. Director Items:**

**C. Future Meetings & Conference Dates:**

- Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Project/Interim Study Reporting Meeting, December 5, Dillingham, AK
- UTBB Sustainable Energy Community Meetings, December 11 – 15, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok & Levelock, AK

The motion carried 6-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sue Flensburg motioned, and Mark Lisac seconded the motion to approve the October 17, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes with a correction to the spelling of Wanda Wahl's name under General CEO Discussion/Budget Committee.

The motion carried 6–0.

**Guests and Member Comments:** None at this time.

**Reports:**

- A. Will Chaney – Mark Lisac asked if the 13 Hydro ISRs (Initial Study Reports) are available for review. Will Chaney said that the reports are in review and will be available at the in-person meeting held in December. Mr. Lisac followed up with a question about the UTBB Sustainable Energy Community Meetings presentation, if the content will be updated. Mr. Chaney confirmed that the current presentation will include information gathered from the ISRs.
- B. Dennis Payne – Wanda Wahl requested an update on the Levelock/Ekwok Easement Agreement. Dennis Payne explained that there has been contact but a signed document has not yet been received. Mark Lisac asked if not having the signed document is holding up the project. Mr. Payne explained that the approval of the Environmental Assessment is the current hurdle, the Corps of Engineers had some concerns and new suggestions were submitted as of today, 11/21/23. James Hall inquired of there was a deadline set for Levelock/Ekwok to respond to or approve the Easement Agreement, Mr. Payne answered that there is not.

Henry Strub would like to see a Gantt Chart for Project Management with financials included. Mr. Strub asked what makes this Fiber Project a winter project. Mr. Chaney explained that the frozen ground can better support the equipment that will be laying the fiber.

Mr. Payne distributed a handout and explained the benefits of a CATV rate increase, he also noted that an internal audit of the equipment and billing is being conducted. When the fiber to the home project is complete the need for a new television platform will be necessary. The proposed rate increase is a short-term solution to aid in the decrease of revenue, future options need to be considered.

Mark Lisac inquired about the FCC's defined broadband speeds/standards. Mr. Payne explained that this change will impact the way testing is conducted, but the service that will be provided with fiber to the home will exceed the new standard.

C. Angela Thames – No questions at this time.

D. Angie Venua – No questions at this time.

**Safety Moment:** Work Safe: Practical Jokes & Horseplay was read by Will Chaney.

#### **Discussion/Review:**

A. Nominating/Credentials & Election Committees – The board asked staff for recommendations to fill these committees.

B. General Board Discussion – Mark Lisac asked Angie Venua if at the next budget meeting will the budget committee be addressing additional proposed rate increases. Mrs. Venua does not have proposals at this time, the budget committee will need to address this topic further. Board President, Pete Andrew, noted that the KRTA & Strategic Planning meeting date needs to be set to continue working on this process. Angela Lopez has been working on date availability and will contact the board for confirmation.

Mark Lisac attended the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) training in Anchorage, put on by NRECA. Mr. Lisac shared, via email, training materials as well as a set of hard copies for the board room library.

C. General CEO Discussion – Staff is working towards obtaining a line of credit for the Middle Mile Project to insure against pollution; options including a Pollution Policy through ARECA or in lieu of the policy, a \$140,000 deposit with the State of Alaska are being researched. Board Vice President, Henry Strub would like to assist with this process. Mr. Strub currently sits on the ARECA Insurance Exchange Board of Trustees.

Working with Alaska Directional (AKD) to install fiber from the Central Office to the Combined Services Building.

Will Chaney introduced the Electric Operations Manager, Joel Collins. Mr. Collins' first day was November 2, 2023.

**Action Items:**

- A. **3% Cable TV Rate Increase** – James Hall motioned, and Sue Flensburg seconded the motion to approve the proposed 3% Cable TV Rate Increase.

After discussion, James Hall and Sue Flensburg withdrew the motion to approve the proposed 3% Cable TV Rate Increase.

**Director Items:**

- A. Future Board Items/New Business – Board President, Pete Andrew reiterated the importance of the KRTA & Strategic Planning workshop.

Mr. Andrew also thanked members of the board for stepping up and attending meetings throughout the region. Mr. Andrew would like board members to continue to represent Nushagak at the upcoming UTBB Sustainable Energy Community Meetings.

- B. Unfinished Business – None at this time.

- C. Future Meetings & Conference Dates:

1. APA/ARECA Holiday Open House, December 13, 2023, Anchorage, AK
2. APA State Legislative Conference, Jan 31 – Feb 1, Juneau, AK
3. ATA 2024 Winter Conference, January 28-31, Lihue, Kauai, HI
4. ATA Annual Meeting 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, May 20 – 22, Anchorage, AK
5. Alaska Sustainable Energy Conference, May 20 – 23, Anchorage, AK
6. APA Federal Legislative Conference, June 4 – 6, Washington, DC

**Adjournment:** James Hall 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 November 21, 2023, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 8:05 pm.

The motion carried 6-0.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist



11/21/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Approved By:**

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

11/21/2023  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date