

**Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc.**

Conclusion of Recessed Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors from Prior Month  
and Regular Meeting of Board of Directors

Thursday, January 21, 2016

2211 Elk River Road

Steamboat Springs, Colorado

The Board of Directors of Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc., reconvened at 2211 Elk River Road, Steamboat Springs, Colorado at 11:00 a.m. on January 21, 2016.

Chairman Dean Brosious reconvened the recessed meeting of December 17, 2015. Upon calling roll, it was reported that the following Directors were present: Dean Brosious, Pat McClelland, Frank Roitsch, Russell Garrity, Mike Brinks, Larry Ellgen, Tom Fox, and Scott McGill. Also present were General Manager, Diane Johnson, and Board Secretary Larissa Wilson. After the Chairman declared that the Recessed Meeting was re-opened, there was no further business. The Chairman declared that all business of the Recessed Meeting was concluded and called for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion being made, duly seconded, and passed unanimously, the Recessed Meeting was adjourned.

**1. Call to Order**

Upon calling roll, it was reported that the following Directors were present: Dean Brosious, Pat McClelland, Frank Roitsch, Russell Garrity, Mike Brinks, Larry Ellgen, Tom Fox and Scott McGill. Also present were General Manager, Diane Johnson; Chief Operating Officer, Steve Johnson; Manager of Accounting Services and Warehouse and Facilities, Amy Mahon; Human Resources Manager, Randi Owens; Board Secretary Larissa Wilson; Member Relations Manager, Kathy Bertrand; Communications and Public Relations Manager, Tammi Strickland, guests Adrienne Dorsey from the Colorado Energy Office; Tom Figel, Chuck Watkins and Beth Copanas from GRID Alternatives; Guests Dana Hanson and Jay Lasseter from Landis + Gyr; and Member-owners John Spezia and Jeff Troeger.

**2. Executive Session**

After the Chairman declared the meeting open, a motion was made, duly seconded, and passed unanimously that the board of directors go immediately into an executive session under “new business” to consider documents and testimony given in confidence, and the general topics of such executive session will be to discuss and consider pending and potential property acquisitions, personnel matters, contract negotiations and pending or threatened litigation. Board members, Diane Johnson, General Manager, and Larissa Wilson, Board Secretary were in attendance during such executive session. Such executive session convened at approximately 11:00 a.m., and the board ended the executive session and returned to its public meeting session at approximately 1:00 p.m.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

A motion approving the amended minutes from the Recessed Meeting (other than the reconvened portion of such meeting this day) was made, duly seconded, and passed unanimously.

**4. Member-Owner Comment**

Mr. Spezia spoke on behalf of the Yampa Valley Housing Authority board of directors. Mr. Spezia encouraged Association board and staff to consider contacting the Yampa Valley Housing Authority and discussing the opportunity to partner in a solar garden

project. Ms. Johnson replied the Association is open to discussion, but cautioned conversation would not progress fast.

Mr. Troeger requested the opportunity to comment during Item 15a. Electrification of Cars. Mr. Brosious obliged.

## **5. Director Comments**

Mr. McGill noted a member is having trouble separating their business and personal accounts. Ms. Johnson agreed that process is complicated and requested Mr. McGill, Ms. Bertrand and Ms. Johnson discuss the issue after the meeting. Should the situation be determined to be complicated by policy issues, it should be brought to the board as a policy discussion.

Mr. Fox noted the RE Magazine articles about capturing carbon dioxide from coal and utility scale battery storage were interesting. Ms. Johnson noted the idea of utility scale battery storage is a critical discussion topic and she asked the board to consider what the future of the coop world would look like with regard to battery storage.

Mr. Roitsch noted crews were inspecting the connection between a line and a transformer in his neighborhood recently. Mr. Roitsch also thanked Mr. Johnson and staff for protecting birds and curious wildlife with the addition of bird abatement guards on various equipment.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **6. Guests: Chuck Watkins, Tom Figel, GRID Alternatives**

Adrienne Dorsey from the Colorado Energy Office, and Tom Figel, Chuck Watkins and Beth Copanas from GRID Alternatives, provided board and staff with a presentation outlining the mission and operations of GRID Alternatives, and provided the board with the opportunity to partner in a low-income solar grid project. Ms. Johnson noted projects such as this position the Association to understand what it means to own and operate a solar array in a socially conscious and productive way. Questions and discussion followed. A motion was made by Mr. McGill and duly seconded by Mr. Roitsch, to authorize the General Manager to sign a letter of commitment and begin to take the project with GRID Alternatives forward. Mr. Fox amended the motion to expand beyond the letter of commitment, to include the General Manager's ability to sign future documents as necessary and upon review by the Association attorney, to keep the project moving forward. Mr. McGill and Mr. Roitsch approved amended motion, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

### **7. Acceptance of the Financial and Statistical Reports for December**

Ms. Mahon provided financial highlights from the month of December. A motion accepting the preliminary and unaudited financial and statistical reports for December was made by Mr. Fox, seconded by Mr. Ellgen, and carried with a unanimous vote.

## **PENDING APPROVAL ITEMS**

There were no Pending Approval Items.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **8. Staff Reports**

#### **A. Finance**

There were no questions.

## **B. Operations**

### **I. Safety**

There were no questions.

### **II. Operations**

There were no questions.

### **III. Engineering**

There were no questions.

### **IV. IT**

There were no questions.

## **C. Human Resources**

Ms. Owens noted that the current open positions are Engineer, Engineer Tech, Substation Tech, Tech Support, and Craig Lineman.

## **D. Communications & PR**

Mr. Garrity inquired as to the response received from the Cen\$ible Energy program. Ms. Johnson responded that there has not been a large response providing sustainability for the program, and there is also no current staff available to raise funds for the program. Ms. Johnson urged directors to help recruit support from Moffat County. Mr. Ellgen asked if the program qualifies for United Way funding. Ms. Strickland will pursue this inquiry.

Mr. Roitsch requested a report showing the allocation of funds for donation to United Way. Ms. Johnson replied that donations are handled through the donation budget. The budget currently allows \$1000 to be donated to United Way, which includes \$500 for Moffat County United Way and \$500 donated to Routt County United Way.

## **E. Member Relations**

There were no questions.

## **F. Facilities and Warehouse**

There were no questions.

## **9. Allocation of funds for Deceased Members Capital Credits**

Each year the Association sets aside money so it is able to finalize estates for deceased members. Ms. Strickland will publish frequently asked questions in the next issue of the newsletter. The request to approve an allocation of up to \$125,000 to refund capital credits to estates of deceased members was made by Mr. Fox, duly seconded by Mr. Ellgen, and the motion passed unanimously.

## **10. Building Update**

Ms. Johnson noted that plans to update the Steamboat Springs campus are moving along. Modifications to the Craig campus are also being considered.

## **11. AMI**

Mr. Johnson and Ms. Bertrand presented an update to the AMI project and offered a demonstration of the project in action. Guests Dana Hanson and Jay Lasseter from Landis + Gyr were in attendance to answer additional questions and provide further clarification as needed. Mr. Garrity noted that communication to members by the Association contributed to the positive response to the project. A motion authorizing the General Manager to sign the deployment contract portion of the AMI project and move forward with the next phase of the project was made by Mr. Roitsch, duly seconded by Mr. Ellgen, and the motion passed unanimously.

**12. CREA**

Mr. McGill noted there was no December meeting.

**13. Western United**

Mr. McGill noted there was no December meeting.

**14. CEC**

Mr. Brosious noted that the array continues to battle snow buildup on its solar panels. The website continues to experience difficulty as well. The array is currently 81% sold.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**15. Open Director Discussion**

**A. Electrification of Cars**

The topic of electric cars and electric car charging stations was discussed. Mr. Brosious noted that major auto manufacturers are increasing production of electric cars, and posed the question, is the Association interested in installing charging stations and at what level, or what rate, would be charged for this energy consumption? Mr. Troeger noted it costs approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 to install a commercial charging station. Residential charging stations cost roughly \$500. Discussion followed. Mr. Garrity requested Ms. Johnson commit to reviewing the Association vehicle replacement plan and consider laying infrastructure in preparation for a future installation site. Ms. Johnson agreed to consider Mr. Garrity's request.

**B. Xcel Dinner Visit**

It was determined that Ms. Johnson will invite Xcel Energy business leaders to attend a future board meeting and present their outlook and opinion on energy trends, as well as provide input regarding tiered meter rates, lessons learned, retail rates, and education.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**16. Unfinished Business**

There was no Unfinished Business.

**17. New Business**

Mr. Brosious presented Mr. McClelland, Mr. Roitsch and Mr. McGill with their Director Gold Certificates.

**18. Recess**

A motion to recess this regular meeting of the directors of Yampa Valley Electric Association, Inc., until 11:00 am on Thursday, February 25, 2016 was made, duly seconded, and passed unanimously. The Chairman then declared this regular meeting recessed at 4:46 p.m.

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Chairman of the Board

Dated: February 25, 2016

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Secretary of the Board

Dated: February 25, 2016