

BERKSHIRE WIND POWER COOPERATIVE CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION

MARCH 5, 2021
10:00 AM

REGULAR SESSION

MINUTES

1a. CALL TO ORDER

After a roll call of those present on the call, Chairman Driscoll declared a quorum present and called the Regular Session of the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation Board of Directors Meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Those present:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Driscoll, Templeton; Peter Dion, Wakefield; Sean Hamilton, Sterling; Jon Blair, Ipswich; and Ronald C. DeCurzio, MMWEC.

OTHERS

Brian Quinn, Director, Engineering & Generation Assets and Jason Viadero, Chief Emerging Technologies Engineer, both of MMWEC; and Nicholas J. Scobbo, Jr., Clerk and Tammy Kane, Recording Secretary, Ferriter Scobbo & Rodophele, PC.

1b. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Hamilton and seconded by Dion and because this is a remote participation meeting on the basis of a roll-call vote as follows it was unanimously voted to approve the Agenda as presented.

Blair	"aye"
DeCurzio	"aye"
Dion	"aye"
Driscoll	"aye"
Hamilton	"aye"

1c. APPROVAL OF BOARD PORTION OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020 JOINT MEETING MINUTES AND APRIL 30, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Board only portion of the November 12, 2020 Joint Board and

Membership Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, and the April 30, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes, Regular Session, was made by Hamilton and seconded by Dion and because this is a remote participation meeting it was unanimously voted on the basis of a roll-call vote as follows to approve both sets of minutes:

Blair	“aye”
DeCurzio	“aye”
Dion	“aye”
Driscoll	“aye”
Hamilton	“aye”

1d. QUARTERLY UPDATE MEETINGS

Quinn stated on this past Monday and Tuesday all twelve (12) turbines were down due to extreme cold and wind, tripping the wind farm. MMWEC Staff started to return wind turbines to service one at a time, a few were back up and running on Tuesday then the re-closer opened again. MMWEC Staff spent Tuesday and Wednesday working on the re-closer and as of yesterday all turbines were up and running. Quinn stated the Cooperative has never seen a rapid response like this, especially in the cold weather. He commended MMWEC Staff for a job well done. Dion asked if the cause was the cold weather or wind speed, i.e., recent Texas events. Viadero stated it was tied to Eversource. Viadero explained that during certain conditions a signal will be sent to trip the wind farm. It was not the Cooperative's equipment that caused the problem. Hamilton asked the cut-out speed. Viadero replied 22 meters a second so probably at 50 mph the blades would disengage and pinwheel. On Monday the farm experienced winds of close to 80 mph. The turbines can operate at very low temperatures, down to negative 20, due to the Cooperative purchasing the cold weather package from GE. Viadero replied to Dion it was more wind than extreme cold that caused the issues and maybe Texas does not have cold weather packages. Quinn stated heat guns were used in the down tower cabin to warm the computer boards. Viadero stated enough heat is generated when everything is turning to heat up the cabin and bring things up to required temperatures.

Scobbo reminded Quinn that Quinn wanted to have Quarterly meetings with the Board. Quinn stated Quarterly meetings would improve communications and provide more frequent updates. DeCuzio asked if the By-laws required meetings in addition to the Annual Meeting. Scobbo stated no, he did not think so. There was a brief discussion as to the best time to hold the Quarterly meetings, i.e, 15 days after the close of the Quarter. July 15, 2021 was tentatively set as the first Quarterly meeting to be firmed up as the time draws near.

1e. PARTRIDGE TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT OUTAGES

Quinn stated there will be scheduled outages due to Eversource replacing the Partridge substation transformer. MMWEC addressed two (2) concerns with Eversource, first, why did the transformer need to be changed and second is there any way the anticipated outage of two weeks could be shortened. Quinn stated there will be an outage in March then again in June to install the transformer. March is a high wind month.

Last week MMWEC had a call with the Eversource Project Manager and Convex. The existing transformer is 25 MVA , it is the original. It is at the end of its useful life. Additional capacity is needed at Partridge and as a result, Eversource will be installing a 62 MVA transformer. Quinn reported that MMWEC asked the reasons behind the length of the outage. Eversource

responded that the Partridge substation is in a dense wooded area, it is a small substation, and it requires a lot of work to put a temporary transformer in place. Heavy duty equipment can't be brought in, so it requires a lot of shoveling. Work will be performed seven (7) days a week. Quinn stated the outage was to be weeks. Convex did not want an outage in July so Eversource moved it to June. Outage dates are March 22 – April 5 and June 21 – 28. Viadero provided an image of the one-line substation, single transformer. The June outage is when the switch to the new transformer will occur. Quinn stated due to the design of the substation there are limits as to what Berkshire can do to operate and/or receive power from Eversource so the batteries won't die. Driscoll asked Quinn to confirm there would be no electricity for ten (10) days. Quinn replied yes, the towers would be de-energized. MMWEC will ask Eversource to install a switch so MMWEC can feed and figure out a location so that an outage like this does not happen again. Driscoll stated he had a lot of concern with this ten (10) day outage. Dion stated this was unacceptable and asked what could be done. Viadero stated he could look at the Service Agreement specifications, MMWEC could push to be connected the distribution side. Scobbo stated Dion was right. Why can't Eversource install a temporary generator at the Cooperative substation or find some other means of feeding the Cooperative. Viadero replied on the technical side, he did not see why this could not be done. Scobbo stated we need to push back not only due to monetary impacts of the outage but also adverse effects to the Cooperative facilities. All agreed the outages, without any alternative service for the Cooperative are unacceptable. Dion stated we are billed for a metered service, this would not be allowed to happen anywhere else. MMWEC will push back at a high level. In a response to Hamilton's question as to whether the Cooperative would be billed for the upgrades by Eversource, Scobbo stated the Cooperative is out of Schedule 21, it does not pay for upgrades. Quinn stated lost generation revenues are estimated to be \$116,000, and the Cooperative should be reimbursed. Quinn further stated while on an Eversource call with multiple Eversource staff it seemed clear that Eversource had not vetted everything. A question was asked, is this non PTF, Scobbo replied yes, it is not PTF, but the Cooperative does not share the costs, because the Cooperative agreed on a flat price for the service with Eversource. The Cooperative pays a flat fee of approximately \$52,500 per year.

Quinn stated there has been no reply to date regarding a timeline and lost generation. MMWEC will call Eversource following this meeting.

Hamilton asked who MMWEC is talking to at Eversource, are they experienced, why are they giving this long timeline. Viadero replied MMWEC is talking to the Transmission Division out of the main Connecticut Office. Dion stated the Cooperative should not be flat for two (2) weeks. Quinn stated the message from the Board today is loud and clear. Dion asked if there was a Berkshire III and additional capacity was used would the Cooperative be charged a pro rata share.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Hamilton and seconded by Blair for the Board of Directors to enter into Executive Session for purposes of discussing the potential purchase, exchange or lease of real property, trade secrets and confidential, corporate-sensitive information where the corporation has determined that disclosure will have an adverse effect on the corporation's ability to conduct its business with respect to competitors, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and to reconvene the Board of Directors Meeting into Regular Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session for purposes of adjournment and on the basis of a roll-call vote as follows:

Blair	"aye"
DeCurzio	"aye"
Dion	"aye"
Driscoll	"aye"
Hamilton	"aye"

The Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 10:40 AM.

The Regular Session of the Board of Directors meeting reconvened at 11:19 AM.

3. **OTHER**

There was no other business to discuss.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

All business having been concluded, a motion was made by Hamilton and seconded by Dion to adjourn the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation Board of Directors meeting and because this is a remote participation meeting on the basis of a voice vote as follows, the motion was approved.

Blair	"aye"
DeCurzio	"aye"
Dion	"aye"
Driscoll	"aye"
Hamilton	"aye"

Chairman Driscoll declared the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation Board Directors meeting adjourned at 11: 21 AM.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST:



Clerk, Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative Corporation