

FEBRUARY 2020

# **Regular meeting**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 18, in Gillette, by President Walt Christensen. Reuben Ritthaler was not present.

# Safety

Minutes for the December 2019 safety meetings were accepted.

#### **Financials**

CEO CFAO Kolb outlined demand trends and rate class usage totals Year-end system sales for 2019 are down 2.8% compared to 2018. Kolb also gave an update on 2019 sales and expenses.

## **CEO Report**

Mike Easley reported on matters related to the All-Team Meeting, State of Wyoming, and Basin Electric.

# **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRE-Corp.

# Reports

Deputy GM Mills updated the Board on the 2019 Balanced Scorecard program with more than \$1 million in cost-saving submittals.

Member Service VP Bumgarner updated the Board on economic development, and Foundation projects.

Operations VP Halloran updated the Board on the AMI project.

Engineering VP Rogers reviewed a construction project moving a 69kV line at a local coal mine.

#### **General Information**

CFAO Kolb updated the Board on the status of the General Rate Case filing; 2019 Community Involvement Committee, scholarships, and director expenses.

Deputy GM Mills explained the parameters of an accelerated retirement benefits program.

# **Approved Items**

- Basin Scholarship
- PRECorp Scholarship funding
- Economic Development grant request
- Capital Credit discount rate
- VCAP participation

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

PRECorp employees John Tieman, Tim Velder, telephonically Members 1st Directors Paul Descheemaeker (Fergus) and Jim Collins (TRECO); and managers Tary Hanson (TRECO) and Scott Sweeney (Fergus).

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, March 17, in Sheridan. A rate case information meeting is set for 4:30 p.m.



PRECorp file photo

The morning sunrise in south central Campbell County.

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JANUARY 2020

# Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 21, in Sundance, by President Walt Christensen. Alison Gee and CEO Mike Easley attended telephonically.

# Safety

Minutes for the November 2019 safety meetings were accepted.

#### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2019 sales and expenses. Year-to-date system sales for November 2019 are down 3.3% compared to 2018. Kolb also outlined the basis and made a recommendation for a special capital credit retirement in 2020.

### **CEO Report**

Deputy GM Brian Mills reported on matters related to balanced scorecard, contractual talks, and Basin Electric.

## **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

## Reports

Deputy GM Mills recognized afety Coordinator Cynthia Wollen for outstanding work in the safety culture

Member Service VP Bumgarner updated the Board on economic development, PSC matters, and upcoming public meetings on the GRC.

Operations VP Halloran updated the Board on the AMI project.

Engineering VP Rogers reviewed the 2019 Avian Protection Plan report. Bird mortalities and related outages are trending downward.

# **General Information**

Hirst-Applegate attorney Kara Ellsbury updated the Board on the status of the General Rate Case filing.

Peter Barron Stark reviewed the

results of the 2019 Employee Opinion Survey.

Ray Miner reviewed private bid contracts and master service agreement procedures; and maximum dollar amounts that trigger CEO or Board approval.

## **Approved Items**

- 2020 contract limits
- Supplemental capital credit retirement

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

PRECorp employees Ray Miner, John Tieman, Tim Velder, Cynthia Wollen; Hirst-Applegate attorney Kara Ellsbury; Telephonically: Peter Barron Stark; Members 1st Directors Paul Descheemaeker (Fergus) and Jim Collins (TRECO); Fergus Electric GM Assistant David Dover, and TRECO GM Tary Hanson.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, February 18, in Gillette. A rate case information meeting is set for 4:30 p.m.



Photo by Rowdy Downey/PRECorp

The morning sunrise in south central Crook County.

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## MARCH 2020

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:31 a.m., Tuesday, March 17, by President Walt Christensen. Mike Helvey was not present. The meeting was held telephonically for National emergency safety precautions from the spread of the COVID-19 virus

# Safety

Minutes for the February 2020 safety meetings were accepted.

## **Financials**

CFAO Kolb outlined demand trends and rate class usage totals. System sales for 2020 are down 5.4% compared to 2019. Kolb also gave an update on 2020 sales, expenses, and depreciation compared to budget.

### **CEO Report**

Mike Easley reported on matters re-

lated to cooperative outreach, renewable energy credits, and Basin Electric.

# **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

## Reports

CFAO Kolb outlined the response to a check fraud event that occurred March 11. Culprits sent bogus checks to random non-members in the United States outside of the PRECorp service territory. Victims are providing information to PRECorp to help with the investigation.

### **General Information**

CFAO Kolb updated the Board on the state of the energy markets and credit analysis among PRECorp commercial members.

President Christensen and other board members commented on the value of an energy forecast presentation at the Wyoming REA Annual Meeting in Cheyenne.

VP of Engineering Rogers updated the Board on the design of a 69kV line for a ONEOK pumping station in Crook County.

## **Approved Items**

- 69kV line "Green Route" recommendation
- Pumpkin Butte road maintenance agreement
- Nominating committee
- Quarterly unpaid accounts receivable write-off

## **Guests to the Meeting:**

PRECorp employee Tim Velder, Members 1st Directors Paul Descheemaeker (Fergus); Dave Dover (Fergus).

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, April 21, in Sundance. A 2020 General Rate Case information meeting for members is tentatively set for 4:30 p.m.



A tom turkey near Murphy Gulch in Sheridan County.

PRECorp photo by Luke Blakeman



## APRIL 2020

# Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order via Zoom, at 9:32 a.m., Tuesday, April 21, by President Walt Christensen. All members were present.

#### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 sales and expenses compared to budget. Year to date system sales for 2020 are down 5% compared to 2019.

## Safety

Minutes for the February 2020 safety meetings were approved.

## Legal Report

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to meetings with State of Wyoming, Federal, and Basin Electric Cooperative officials. Easley has also shared with the Board employee communications during the COVID-19 response.

# **General Information**

CFAO Kolb updated the Board on Public Service Commission information requests for the 2020 General Rate Case application. CEO Easley walked through the CO-VID-19 response at PRECorp to best take care of struggling members.

## Reports

CFAO Kolb highlighted the credit assessment report in the quarterly metrics report. Kolb also provided information on Basin's investment rates.

VP Bumgarner highlighted a grant that has been received from the Lola Homsher Foundation from the Wyoming Historic Preservation Commission for the 75th Anniversary Book project.

VP Halloran updated the Board on the progress of the AMI installation project. The schedule has been impacted slightly by social distancing and COVID-19 response.

Procurement Manager Ray Miner reported on the 2020 physical inventory report.

# **Approved Items**

- Easement revisions
- 2021 Annual Meeting venue
- Anixter alliance contract
- Financial levers to alleviate economic hardships on the membership

## Guests to the Meeting:

Attending in person or telephonically were PRECorp employees Ray Miner and Tim Velder; TRECO representatives Jim Collins and Tary Hanson; Fergus representatives David Dover and Scott Sweeney.

# Upcoming meeting:

Tuesday, May 19, in a venue to be determined.



Friends in high places, Wright, WY.



**MAY 2020** 

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order via Zoom, at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 19, by President Walt Christensen. All members were present.

### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 sales and expenses compared to budget. Year to date system sales for 2020 are down 4.7% compared to 2019.

## Safety

Minutes for the March 2020 safety meetings were approved.

## Legal Report

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on

matters related to meetings with State of Wyoming, Federal, and Basin Electric Cooperative officials. Easley has also shared with the Board reopening plans from the COVID-19 response.

CEO Easley reported on actions from the state legislature regarding COVID-19 federal relief funds distributions. Financially, PRECorp will likely see a delayed impact later in the spring or early summer.

# **General Information**

CFAO Kolb updated the Board on Public Service Commission scheduling for the 2020 General Rate Case application.

The AMI meter installation project is slated to be completed in September 2021. Costs of installation continue to go down as the process continues to become more efficient.

### Reports

CFAO Kolb highlighted eBay surplus vehicle and equipmentsale. Three vehicles and two trailers, plus some excess poles.

### **Approved Items**

- · Easement revisions
- NARM power line bid
- Open credit procedure
- Capital credit retirement

# Guests to the Meeting:

Attending in person or telephonically were PRECorp employees C.J. Griffith, Linda Tokarczyk, and Tim Velder; TRECO representatives Jim Collins and Tary Hanson; Fergus representative and Scott Sweeney.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, June 16, in a venue to be determined.



Photo by Todd Seeley/PRECorp

A late spring snow battles the greening pasture near Sundance.

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**JUNE 2020** 

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 16, in Sundance by President Walt Christensen. All members were present either in person or via Zoom.

#### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 sales and expenses compared to budget. Year to date system sales for 2020 are down 6.0% compared to 2019.

## **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

## Safety

Minutes for the April 2020 safety meetings were approved.

### **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to meetings with State of Wyoming, Wyoming cooperative officials. Easley has also shared lessons learned from the COVID-19 response.

CEO Easley reported on large customer forecasting and future planning exercises.

### **General Information**

Eide Bailly auditor Derrick Larson provided the annual cooperative audit report. Larson updated the Board on new accounting pronouncements and procedures. No deficiencies were noted in the auditors' internal control report.

The August 22 Annual Meeting will be held in person so long as it is permitted, with health safety precautions in place for attendees and employees.

VP Halloran said 23 poles were broken in an early June windstorm, and another 10 poles were lost in a Johnson County range fire.

### Reports

CFAO Kolb highlighted results of an eBay surplus vehicle and equipment sale. Three vehicles and two trailers, plus some excess poles brought more overall than the listed prices.

Kolb also reviewed budget forecast scenarios.

## **Approved Items**

- 2019 audit report
- CoBank loan refinance and pre-payment
- Extend disconnect for non-pay moratorium through June
- Quarterly bad-debt write-off
- 2020 election judges
- Butte Substation contract

# Guests to the Meeting:

Attending in person or via Zoom were PRECorp employees Hazel Beck, Missy Biegler, Karri Blasi, Danea Crowder, Cindy Hadden, Abby Olson, Cindy Stoddard, Tim Velder, and Sandi Wagaman; Eide Bailly auditor Derrick Larson; TRECO representative Jim Collins; Fergus representatives Paul Descheemaeker, Carson Sweeney and Scott Sweeney.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, July 21, in a venue to be determined.



Photo by Todd Seeley/PRECorp

A train runs below Rozet Ridge.

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**GILLETTE** 



**JULY 2020** 

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:32 a.m., Tuesday, July 21, in Sundance by President Walt Christensen. All members were present either in person or via Zoom.

#### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 sales and expenses compared to budget. Year to date system sales for 2020 are down 9.1% compared to 2019.

## **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

#### CEO Report

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to meetings with Wyoming Public Service Commission, Wyoming utility officials, Basin Electric, and Wyoming Business Council.

CEO Easley reported on large customer forecasting and future planning exercises. Efforts are underway to make longer-term budgeting and contingency budgets based on changing market conditions.

### **General Information**

The August 22 Annual Meeting will be held in person so long as it is permitted, with health safety precautions in place for attendees and employees.

CFAO Kolb discussed final preparations for the General Rate Case hearing at the Public Service Commission.

# Reports

Engineering VP Rogers updated the Board on easement negotiations.

System Operations VP Halloran updated the Board on the progress of the AMI meter installations.

Kolb reviewed the 2019 Capital Credit Allocation for approval.

#### Safety

Minutes for the May 2020 safety meetings were approved.

# Approved Items

- RUS loan refinance
- 2020 election judges
- Capital Credit allocation
- Donation to WREA lineman scholarship fund
- Butte Substation betterment

## **Guests to the Meeting:**

Attending via Zoom were TRECO representatives Jim Collins and Tary Hanson; Fergus representative Carson Sweeney.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, August 18.



Lightning in the night on Interstate 90.



# AUGUST 2020

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:32 a.m., Tuesday, August 18, in Sundance by President Walt Christensen. All members were present either in person or via Zoom.

### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 sales and expenses compared to budget. Year to date system sales for 2020 are down 10.3% compared to 2019.

# Legal Report

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

### **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to meetings with Wyoming Public Service Commission, Wyoming utility officials, Basin Electric, and Wyoming Business Council.

CEO Easley reported on CO-VID-19 pandemic response. The August 22 Annual Meeting will be held in person, with health safety precautions in place for attendees and employees.

# **General Information**

CFAO Kolb discussed the General Rate Case hearing at the Public Service Commission. PRECorp was approved for the rate and tariff changes effective September 1, 2020.

Brandon Riddle provided updates on the AMI installation project. Riddle also demonstrated the functionality of the meters realtime for the Board.

Director Paul Baker updated the Board on happenings with the Basin Electric Board of Directors.

#### Reports

Engineering VP Rogers updated the Board on easement negotiations.

System Operations VP Halloran updated the Board on the progress of the AMI meter installations.

#### Safety

Minutes for the May 2020 safety meetings were approved.

# Approved Items

- Final Annual Meeting schedule
- Bylaw amendment

# Guests to the Meeting:

Attending via Zoom were TRECO representatives Jim Collins and Tary Hanson; Fergus representatives Paul Descheemaeker and Carson Sweeney.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, September 22.



Photo by Deb Malo/PRECorp

Smoky sunset looking toward the Bighorn Mountains.



# SEPTEMBER 2020

# Reorganization meeting

Attorney Mark Hughes called the annual Reorganizational Meeting to order at 9 a.m. The Board elected officers as follows: President Reuben Ritthaler, Vice-president Philip Habeck, and Secretary-Treasurer Gerry Geis. Committees and other appointments were made.

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:20 a.m., Tuesday, September 22, in Sundance, by President Reuben Ritthaler. All members were present.

### Safety

Minutes for the July 2020 safety meetings were accepted.

# **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 financials. Year-to-date system sales for July 2020 are down 10.5% compared to 2019.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to financial planning, employee development, and meetings with Basin Electric and the Wyoming Business Council.

# **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

# Reports

VP of Member Service Bumgarner reported on member requests and recapped the 2020 Annual Meeting. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, August 21, at Upton Middle School.

VP of Engineering Rogers said staff are responding to issues with landowners regarding liability dealing with fires while acquiring easements for new power lines.

HRO/Deputy GM Mills discussed insurance and benefits plan features coming this year.

VP of IT Bifulco presented plans to upgrade data storage infrastructure in PRECorp facilties.

### **General Information**

The Board reviewed challenges with after-hours outage reporting. Discussion was held on options for communicating with members who lose connectivity during outages.

# **Approved Items**

- Quarterly reserve write-off.
- Officer reorganization resolution for bank authorizations.
- IT equipment budget change.
- Policy changes.
- Equity management plan.

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

Attending telephonically were; Fergus rep Paul Descheemaeker and GM Carson Sweeney; and TRECO rep Jim Collins and GM Tary Hanson.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, Oct. 20, in Sundance.



A view from the bucket truck in the Devils Tower area.

Photo by Rob Heiman/PRECorp

### SUNDANCE - CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS



# OCTOBER 2020

# Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 20, in Sundance, by President Reuben Ritthaler. All members were present.

### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 financials. Year-to-date system sales for August 2020 are down 10.9% compared to 2019, due primarily to declining coal and CBM sales. Expenses are down 5.3% compared to forecast.

#### Safety

Minutes for the August 2020 safety meetings were accepted.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on matters related to financial planning, status updates for employees, and meetings with Basin Electric. Easley also discussed strategic opportunities to adapt to the changing business landscape as a result of the COVID-19 response.

# **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp.

## Reports

CFAO Kolb presented electronic funds transfer options for cooperative reimbursements which promise opportunity for cost savings.

VP of Operations Halloran reported on the progress of the AMI metering project. Completion is still slated for September 2021.

VP of Engineering Rogers said the city of Gillette requested a minor language change to an easement.

# **General Information**

The Board reviewed financials for a potential general capital credit retirement. The cooperative retired G&T capital credits in mid-2020. CFAO Kolb reviewed the history

of capital credit retirements and impacts on the cooperative's equity management plan.

PRECorp Cybersecurity Analyst Josef Chesney gave an annual update on cybersecurity work and the return on investment.

## **Approved Items**

- Auditor engagement
- COPA filing
- IRS Form 990
- Retire \$1.8 million in capital credits
- SPP rate change
- Line extension policy modifications

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

Attending telephonically were; Fergus rep Paul Descheemaeker and GM Carson Sweeney; and TRECO reps Jim Collins, Todd Tibbetts, and GM Tary Hanson.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, November 17, in Sundance.



A view of a grain field and a snow-capped Devils Tower in Crook County.

Photo by Gary Kipp/PRECorp

### SUNDANCE - CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS





# NOVEMBER 2020

## Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, November 17, in Sundance, by President Reuben Ritthaler. All members were present.

### **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 financials. Year-to-date system sales for September 2020 are down 11.1% compared to 2019, due primarily to declining coal and CBM sales. Expenses are down 5.3% compared to forecast.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on individual meetings with employees, and meetings with WREA and Basin Electric.

# Legal Report

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp. Legal services will transition to Kara Ellsbury in January 2021.

# Reports

CFAO Kolb announced the EV is being outfitted for implementation into the PRECorp fleet.

Deputy GM Mills updated the Board on the 2020 Balanced Scorecard metrics

Fleet manager Bruce Olson outlined the criteria for repairing, selling, or using hail damaged vehicles.

### **General Information**

CEO Easley outlined some of the COVID-19 protocols that are being implemented inside coop facilities ranging from air handling to spacing allowances.

## **Approved Items**

- Road access agreement
- Capital credit retirement
- Unclaimed capital credits donation
- 2021 budget
- Foundation Board reappointments

# Safety

Minutes for the September 2020 safety meetings were accepted.

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

PRECorp retiree Gary Kipp; attending telephonically were; Fergus rep Paul Descheemaeker and GM Carson Sweeney; and TRECO reps Jim Collins, Todd Tibbetts, and GM Tary Hanson.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, December 15, in Sundance.



Photo by Deb Malo/PRECorp

A view of the sunrise over Sundance Mountain in Crook County.

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# DECEMBER 2020

# Regular meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Powder River Energy Corporation was called to order at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 15, in Sundance, by President Reuben Ritthaler. All members were present.

# **Financials**

CFAO Kolb gave an update on 2020 financials. Year-to-date system sales for October 2020 are down 12.1% compared to 2019. Positive revenue and gross margin variances to forecast are attributed to the removal of CBM from the forecast.

## Safety

Minutes for the October 2020 safety meetings were accepted.

# **CEO Report**

CEO Mike Easley reported on meetings with PRECorp managers, All-Team Meeting planning, and meetings with Wyoming Business Council.

## **Legal Report**

Attorney Mark Hughes reported on legal issues relevant to PRECorp. Legal services will transition to Kara Ellsbury with Hirst Applegate in January 2021.

### **General Information**

PRECorp is initiating a pilot project using a real-time weather data reporting system to assist in outage prediction.

PRECorp will present the COPA and the SPP filing at the Dec. 22 Wyoming Public Service Commission open meeting.

## Reports

CFAO Kolb announced the new functions for expense reports, and the upcoming CoBank Line of Credit renewal. Deputy GM Mills updated the Board on the 2020 employee benefits enrollment process.

Executive Staff reported on efforts to publicize work of the Foundation Board and use of Christmas party funds for charitable giving.

# **Approved Items**

- Transfer unspent CIC donation funds to Foundation
- 2021 insurance coverage
- Uncollectible account writeoff

# **Guests to the Meeting:**

PRECorp retiree Deb Malo; attending telephonically were: Fergus reps Paul Descheemaeker and GM Carson Sweeney; and TRECO rep Jim Collins.

# **Upcoming meeting:**

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in Sundance.



Photo by Deb Malo/PRECorp

A view of the smoky sunset in Crook County.