

GVEA Member Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting 04/14/21 (send to pr@gvea.com)

The meeting was called to order at 04/14/21 6:32 p.m. by chair Richard Theilmann

MAC in Attendance: (Teams Virtual Meeting) The roll call was taken. **A** = Absent **E** = Excused **P** = Present

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| P Dan Beck | A Korene Long |
| P Mike Bradley | P Matthew Mund |
| P Audrey Brown (phone audio) | P Alyssa Norris |
| P Alison Carter | P Bobbie Ortiz |
| P Carol Colp (audio) | P Angela Richie |
| P Carol-Lee Gho (phone audio) | P Rodney Rutherford |
| P Ben Gorman | P Karm Singh (audio only) |
| P Anita Hartman (phone audio) | P Richard Theilmann |
| P Bob Hildebrant | P Harmony Tomaszewski |
| P Terry Hinman (audio) | P Enlow Walker |
| P Russell Johnston | |
| P John Kelleher | |
| P Benjamin Loeffler | |

9 call in total of 28 signed in

GVEA staff present (from agenda): John Burns-Ceo, Meadow Bailey-Director of External Affairs & Public Relations, Kathryn Strle-Treasury manager, Grace Wilson- public relations coordinator, Alex Olesen-ROW maintenance supervisor

Board Members present (from agenda): Chris Bunch

Visiting Members present (list names):

The agenda was approved: **without** amendments.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved: **without** corrections.

Safety Moment Topic: Meadow Bailey- Flood Preparedness Week: Floods are a danger in the interior during break up. Be aware for ice jam flooding.

MAC Report Volunteer, GVEA Board Meeting Tues. April 27th 6:30 - Ben Loeffler

FOR ALL SECTIONS BELOW – LIST PERSON SPEAKING AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF TOPICS COVERED (not verbatim)

Bobbie was Monday, March 22 representative to the board meeting. Possibly have meadow email dates so that new people have an opportunity to plan.

Visiting Member Comments: (3 min. limit ea.)

New Business Topic (from agenda):

ROW Update, Alex Olesen: Right of way clearing is a critical component to providing a safe and reliable electrical service. They use cycle-based clearing. They prevent vegetation from contacting lines, this helps prevent grow in and fall in outages. Stay 300 feet away from clearing equipment. Challenges include: access, weather, vegetation health and growth and hazard trees. Plant smart in the ROW. (short, non obstructive)

Update from On-Bill – Matthew Mund: expanding what the program will look like. They are pursuing a program that saves money, yet uses technology to save electrical use. They are taking their time to “do it right” They are almost completed with their checklist. It will be a self-sustaining program. There should be zero impact on rates or members. (Rural Energy Savings Program USDA)

BOD Election Judges sign up, Meadow Bailey: Please be looking for the email, we will need approx.. 4 people.

Board Report topics covered (not verbatim – list topics covered):

Chris Bunch: District 5 Director – We did not file for higher rates. Public relations plan was put forward. Annual meeting is coming in approx.. 3 weeks (75th anniversary). Board meetings will be held on Tuesdays.

Questions: **Can we have the meeting in Delta?** Looking at that... **Is there a long term plan for lowering the rates:** they are looking into it. Rates have been flat for 2 years. The board is at a critical crossroads to factor in options. The board and staff are very focused on making decisions that are in the best interest of GVEA. **We should build our own inner-tie.** A new inner-tie is another thing that would be talking about. High costs. Hind sight is 20/20.

Unfinished Business: n/k

MAC Roundtable: Thank you to Chris, Alex and John for your information. Great presentations. A shout out to line workers in "line workers" month. In person classes are happening at UAF, lets be in person at the next meeting. It was good to enclose the outdoor payment access in Delta. Thank you for the local Delta office to be open in April. Thank you for listening to MAC comments and concerns.

New applications are going out in the next bell for new MAC members. Cold Climate Housing has classes coming up.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm