

Hardwick Electric Commission

Regular Meeting

Minutes – March 17, 2026

Attendees: Commissioners: Michael Ambrosino, Chair, Renaud Demers, Roger Prevot, Jake Lester, Myles Kamisher-Koch; Staff: Scott Johnstone and Renae DiGregorio; Public: Will Marlier, ONCRDC, Dana Allen, FluidState Consulting, Stuart Arnold, Caspian Lake Association.

Chair Ambrosino called a Regular Meeting of the Hardwick Electric Commission to order at 6:01 pm at 20 Church Street, 3rd floor meeting room, in Hardwick having declared a quorum present.

There were no changes to the agenda offered.

Public Comment: Mr. Arnold wanted to check the progress on the Greensboro Beach property transfer explorations to the Lake Association. Mr. Arnold noted that a task force has been created in Greensboro to explore funding and other steps necessary to execute this proposal. Commissioners and Mr. Johnstone noted that HED will need to meet and align with the Selectboard prior to any further action. This exploration will continue through the discovery phase but likely stalled due to Select Board seat changes.

The approval of minutes was next on the agenda. Commissioner Ambrosino moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 17th. Commissioner Kamisher-Koch seconded the motion, and all voted favorably.

Next on the agenda was a request to amend the original 2025 DuBois & King contract to continue support of the work necessary to gain FEMA approval both to floodproof the generation building (turbine) and to install new penstock(s). The work necessary to gain these approvals exceeded the original scope. The amendment value is an additional \$12,000 from original amount. General Manager Johnstone recommending the commissioners sign the amendment so work can continue moving in the right direction for

the hydro recovery. Commissioner Ambrosino made a motion to authorize the amendment of the Penstock contract. Commissioner Prevot seconded the motion and all concurred.

Next on the agenda was a request to change the alternative VPPSA Board Member to Renae DiGregorio, removing David Upson (Town Manager) as the alternate. Mr. Johnstone confirmed that the General Managers representation will still be present at VPPSA meetings and this adjustment is to serve only as an alternative and additional member. Commissioner Lester made a motion to add Renae DiGregorio as the VPPSA alternative representative and remove David Upson for HED. Commissioner Demers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next on the agenda was further discussion and the design presentation regarding the Caspian Public Beach Clean Water project. Mr. Marlier and Mr. Allen noted they have completed the preliminary study and design phases of this project. The presentation highlighted the project's mission to preserve the recreational use of the beach while implementing mission critical updates to the shoreline protection and runoff management to reduce excessive phosphorus levels. Design plans outlined enhance buffering around stream run-off areas, safeguarding boundaries, adding a "rain garden" to the edge of the parking lot, stabilizing the boat launch, shoreline restoration, and upgraded walkways. Impacts of this project are projected to remove 1.15 kg of phosphorus each year, which is on the smaller side of removal but still impactful. Grant funding for this project typically measures \$30 thousand per kg of phosphorus removal, preliminary costs of this project are estimated to be \$60 thousand. Mr. Marlier was confident that other funding sources would be available with no landowner match necessary. Commissioners are all in agreement that HED is supportive of the mission and suggests that HED support be a highlighted partnership during efforts of public engagement during the project from ONCRDC. Commissioners recommended that Mr. Marlier and Mr. Allen engage with the Hardwick Selectboard to get support and any ongoing agreements should be cycled through the Selectboard and/or Town Managers office since this project has no dam impact.

The Commission next took up a review of the financial report. Cash position was reported to be stable and consistent with prior reports. Commissioners requested that cash flow and any cash flow concerns should be highlighted during all future commission meetings. In addition, organizing presentations of finance impacts in a more effective way between normal operations and ongoing ad hoc projects. Artificial A/R was discussed and requested to be prioritized for December book adjustments, it's still likely that a large portion of the A/R OTHER will be written off and deemed uncollectible. Mr. Johnstone was happy to report that the HED team had a very productive meeting with CCI/Fidium in regard to arrearages and ongoing relationship dynamics for pole and vegetation maintenance. No final resolutions have been made, but both parties agreed to continue the dialog within the next month. Mr. Johnstone expressed this was a huge first step in the right direction. In addition, Solar Net Metering billing discrepancies and refund calculations are still ongoing. Once the final assessment by the PUC is completed and the adjusted framework is defined, HED software is prepared to handle the next steps and HED will continue to conduct refund impact reviews.

The General Managers report was the next item of business. Items within the report were discussed as were a few others including:

General Manager Johnstone updated the Commisionors that HED had a meeting with DPS regarding HED Utility Health Assessment. It was very productive and the dialog was helpful to continue championing short term and long-term planning for HED.

Mr. Johnstone updated the commissioners on the contract renewal for the HED enterprise system (Meridian). Mr. Johnstone said that HED has been generally satisfied and happy with the service with Meridian and recommended that HED sign a two-year extension with Meridian. The shorter time frame is recommended to satisfy the AMI integration and explore the possibility of merging finance systems in the future as a result of other operation planning strategies. Mr. Johnstone requested feedback from the commission regarding exploring other communication and customer interface features from Meridian that HED has not subscribed to in the past. The Commission expressed that HED should

expand in-house community and customer engagement opportunities before exploring a costly upgrade.

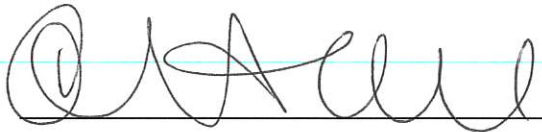
The team is highly anticipating the new bucket truck delivery, which should be any week now. The manufacturer is finishing up last-minute adjustments, and should be delivered soon.

At 7:06 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Ambrosino to go into executive session under VSA 313 (a)(1) (E) and (F) and to include the general manager and controller in the executive session. Commissioner Lester seconded and all voted in the affirmative.

At 7:56 pm the Commission returned to open session.

At 7:56 pm a motion was made to adjourn the regular meeting by Commissioner Prevot.

Seconded by Commissioner Kamisher-Koch and passed unanimously.

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4/21/2020

Recorded by:

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Date

4/21/20

Commissioner:

Date