



October 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes

***Opening & Introductions:***

The October meeting was held at Honors Hall. Barry Britain opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Members present were: Alamo Worksource, CTTC, Coleman, Comal ISD, Detex, Edisto, Great American Produces, Hawkins Personnel, ITM, JBPrice, NB Chamber, NBU, Priority Personnel, Star Manufacturing, The Coach Approach, TXI and VIP Staffing.

Guests present were Tricor 360

***Officer Reports:***

Paul provided an update on the financial status

***Committee Reports:***

P/R: the committee was working with the NB High School on a career fair, but the school cancelled. There are other career fairs planned that NBMA will participate in.

***Featured Program:***

Greg Baumbach, Executive Director of Electrical Services for NBU, was the guest speaker.

NBU has made some recent achievements. 2000 acre-feet of Edwards Aquifer water rights were purchased. This will postpone the need for surface water treatment by 5-10 years. NBU has a high credit rating and has a recent bond issue for \$10 million. These funds will be used to restructure existing financing at better rates and be used for infrastructure expansion. NBU has \$30 million in capital projects scheduled for the next 5 years. Most of funds will be used towards wastewater improvements. NBU has not put through any rate increases this year on water and there are no plans for an increase in NBU portion of electric rates.

Greg discussed the changes and challenges of electricity. Generation, transmission, changing market design, increasing regulations and security are the main priorities.

Consumption has been down this year in all rate classes. ERCOT shows a reserve of 20% margin in electrical capacity. ERCOT has adequate capacity and new generation facilities coming on line by 2014. \$8 billion will be spent state-wide over the next 5 years on transmission improvements and new infrastructure to move wind generated electricity to areas of demand.

Growth in electricity demand has slowed and is expected to be 1.2% in the next year. NBU is working on reliability issues in their current distribution structure instead of expansion. NBU is installing fault detectors to locate and fix problems. They are also rearranging and adding redundant feeds at substations.

NBU is looking at "Smart Grid" for future projects. This system will target demand and response to conserve energy. It will increase efficiency to reduce consumption. NBU will need to install time of use meters. "Smart Grid" will change electrical distribution in the state to a Nodal market operation which will increase the efficiency of distribution state-wide.

Climate change legislation will affect pricing. Although no bills have been passed by the federal government, NBU expects that legislation will be forthcoming in the next year that will affect prices for carbon emissions, cap and trade costs, and other fees. Since most of the electricity in the state is generated from natural gas, this legislation will affect pricing.

***Chamber Report:***

Rusty Brockman demonstrated the new Chamber web site. The Chamber is moving towards paperless communication by including all postings, newsletters, videos, etc... on the website and via email.

The committee has been working on the manufacturing video to promote industry in the area. Rusty is working on soliciting funding from various organizations to assist with the cost of the video production and distribution.

Rusty mentioned that CTTC is looking for financial assistance for the Accuplacer tests.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held at 11:45am on November 17 at Honors Hall. The program is New Braunfels city Manager, Mike Morrison.

Respectfully submitted:  
Paul Webber  
NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2009