

• SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 •



GENERAL MANAGER'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN



Virginia Harman

Board approves budget adjustment to complete fiber project

Mountain Park Electric's "middle mile" fiber optics project is nearing completion and is expected to come in nearly \$1.9 million under the estimated cost. Due to the fiber installation contractor's pandemic-related labor challenges that delayed the project's start and early work from 2020 to 2021, the budget timeline over the project's four years fell out of sync with expenditures.

As such, to be able to complete the middle mile this year, the Board approved a budget adjustment of \$402,000.

The original project budget totaled \$9,735,000. Although the actual budget has come in well below that figure at \$7,840,045, which includes the added \$402,000, the 2023

portion of the project's budget has exceeded expectations because of work delays in previous years. MPE's middle mile will connect the offices in Granby, Walden, and Kremmling, providing improved business continuity and disaster recovery. It will also add capabilities for MPE employees in the field with more efficient and technologically advanced devices for improved fire mitigation and distribution automation.

MPE is also considering two proposals from companies wishing to lease MPE's middle mile infrastructure to build out affordable broadband to 100% of MPE membership. Both proposals offer revenue components for MPE to recuperate its investment in the middle mile development.

Other Board Meeting Actions

- The Board discussed the schedule of upcoming MPE community events. MPE members are invited to attend the Coffee with Your Co-op events for a free coffee and pastry. They will be hosted from 8 – 10 a.m. at coffee shops across the MPE service area, as follows:
 - Sept. 19 – Big Shooter in Kremmling
 - Sept. 21 – Gravity Haus in Winter Park
 - Sept. 26 – The Hub in Grand Lake
 - Oct. 17 – River Rock Cafe in Walden
 - Oct. 19 – Simple Coffee Co. in Fraser
 - Oct. 24 – Mid Town Cafe in Granby
- The Board appointed each of its members to the Mountain Parks Services, Inc. Board of Directors during the official Annual Meeting Consent of Shareholders. Mountain Parks Services, Inc. is a single shareholder corporation, a for-profit subsidiary, fully owned by MPE. Later, during a meeting of Mountain Parks Services, Justin Fosha was re-elected as the subsidiary's president; Cray Healy was elected vice president; and Mark Volt was elected secretary and treasurer.