



June 12, 2025



CEO'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN



Virginia Harman

MPE LEADING EFFORTS FOR AREA WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Co-op invests in two smart camera systems for 24/7 smoke monitoring

The Board heard an update from Operations Vice President Adam Paulson on how the co-operative has contracted with Pano AI for their wildfire detection and monitoring.

Paulson explained that two of the AI-powered cameras are being installed – one on a tower at Winter Park Resort and another on a tower on Walton Peak on Rabbit Ears Pass – to provide extensive coverage in Grand and Jackson counties leading into wildfire season.

The cameras detect wildfire smoke, then the team at Pano AI quickly reviews the footage and notifies MPE and area fire and emergency management teams.

“Mountain Parks is leading the way to try to mitigate wildfire risks in our service territory,” said Paulson. “We are hopeful the Pano AI system is a tool the area fire districts can use. With this 2-year contract for two cameras, we can see

how it works and if it's beneficial for these fire departments. If it has positive results, we may see about getting buy-in to get help to expand the coverage from two cameras to four.”

Pano AI crews are scheduling installation of the cameras and training for MPE and area emergency response personnel.

MPE CEO Virginia Harman participated in a wildfire roundtable discussion at the Colorado Rural Electric Cooperative (CREA) Annual Meeting in February. She shared with the Board that a fellow roundtable participant, Chief Mike Morgan of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, said the state was looking to help support funding of fire mitigation efforts on the local level. She spoke with Morgan about MPE working with area fire districts and Pano AI and the need for support and partnerships moving forward.

Other Board Meeting Items

- The Board was notified by Vice President of Member Relations Aaron Street that the USDA had approved MPE's Community Benefits Plan (CBP) in conjunction with the New ERA grant, and that Harman had executed the CBP agreement. The USDA told MPE it was the first of more than 50 New ERA awardees to submit its CBP for review. Once CBP implementation documentation is submitted and approved,

MPE hopes to begin receiving payments from the more than \$100 million grant. It is spread over 20 years to support MPE's power purchase agreement. The CBP funding of at least \$100,000 annually for 10 years, or a total of at least \$1 million, will expand existing programs and launch new initiatives that strengthen rural resilience across its service territory. See www.MPEI.com/New-ERA for more information.