

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

St. Matthews, South Carolina
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
January 22, 2026

Pursuant to due notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") was held on January 22, 2026 in the Boardroom at the Headquarters Office in St. Matthews, South Carolina.

The following trustees were present: Barbara Weston, Ida L. Dixon, S. George Wilson, William Robinson, James R. Dantzler, Willie Jeffries, Joe Strickland (Via Telephone), Gary Geiger, and Jacqueline S. Shaw. Also present were Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John Felder, General Council, Tina Turnage, VP of Finance, Frank Furtick, VP of Engineering and Operations, Kristen Zeigler, VP of Human Resources, Keith Scharf, VP of Safety and Loss Control, Wilford Thompson, VP of Member Services, Louis Arsenault, VP of Technology and TriCoLink Services, and Executive Assistant, Cindy Sarratt, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION

President Ida Dixon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, Willie Jeffries gave the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 19, 2025

On motion by Barbara Weston, seconded by Jackie Shaw and carried, the minutes of the Regular Monthly Board of Trustees Meeting of December 19, 2025 were approved.

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Draft System Summary Reports and Monthly Financial Statements for December 2025 for the Cooperative and TriCo Development were approved as presented by the CEO. The Annual Audit is Pending.

NEW MEMBER REPORT

The CEO reported that 68 new members made application for service from December 2025. Those members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the following resolution was passed: RESOLVED, that the applications of new members for December 2025 are hereby accepted and approved.

There were 62 Final Bills sent out for the month of December. Those members are no longer receiving electric service from the Cooperative.

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SAFETY REPORT

Mr. Lowder reported that there were no Lost Time Accidents, No Hours Lost, No OSHA Recordable Accidents, no Vehicle Accidents, no Employee Injuries, and no miscellaneous accidents reported in December 2025. One consumer damage claim was filed when a bad neutral caused appliance damage. Mr. Lowder then explained that we did not meet the five-year matrix due to the workplace accident in 2023 where the drunk driver ran through the work zone.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee met on January 22, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. and reviewed expenses for December. All accounts were found to be in order and were accepted by the Audit Committee.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

No report.

CEO COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Barbara Weston reminded the board that the CEO review forms were due back today.

ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

No report.

POLICY AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

A Policy and Bylaws Committee Meeting will be scheduled for February to consider the Financial Policy again.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

CENTRAL UPDATE

Mr. Lowder reported that the Central Executive Committee met on January 7, 2026. The meeting summary is posted on BoardEffect.

STATEWIDE UPDATE

Mr. Lowder reported that the Statewide board will meet on February 5, 2026. Mr. Lowder then updated the board on the results of the CFC cost savings analysis of having two organizations. The Executive Committee approved posting the Statewide CEO position. It will not be a nationwide search. John Tiencken was hired to vet the applications.

OLD BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Executive Session: On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the board entered executive session to discuss confidential economic development information. Then on motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

FIBER PROJECT UPDATE

The Fiber Project Update was given during the TriCoLink Board Meeting, which followed the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF NRECA VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

On motion by Barbara Weston, seconded by William Robinson, and carried, Gary Geiger was elected Voting Delegate and Chad Lowder was elected Alternate Voting Delegate to NRECA.

APPOINTMENT OF CENTRAL DELEGATES

On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board voted to keep the remaining delegates to Central Electric Power Cooperative; Chad Lowder and Barbara Weston.

RESOLUTION: TRUSTEE ATTENDANCE AT NRECA POWERXCHANGE CONFERENCE

On motion by Barbara Weston, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the following resolution was approved;

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Trustees are encouraged to attend and represent the Cooperative at regional, national, and statewide meetings;

AND WHEREAS, the following Trustees have requested permission to attend the 2026 NRECA PowerXchange Conference in Nashville, TN March 7-11, 2026: Ida Dixon, George Wilson, William Robinson, Joe Strickland, Jim Dantzler, and Gary Geiger;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the Trustees' request to attend the 2026 NRECA PowerXchange Conference in Nashville, TN.

CO-OP DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE

The CEO shared pertinent information about Co-op Day at the Statehouse on February 19, 2026 and the following board members indicated that they plan to attend: Ida Dixon, George Wilson, Jim Dantzler, Barbara Weston, Joe Strickland, William Robinson, and Gary Geiger.

ORS AUDIT REPORT REVIEW

Mr. Lowder reported that the Cooperative received a positive Audit Report from ORS. The Report is posted in BoardEffect.

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WEBBER ELEMENTARY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND

After much discussion, Barbara Weston made a motion to not support a donation to Webber Alumni Association at this time. The motion was seconded by Jim Dantzler. The motion passed with a vote of 5 Yeas (Joe Strickland, Gary Geiger, William Robinson, Barbara Weston, and Jim Dantzler) to 2 Nays (George Wilson and Willie Jeffries). Jackie Shaw abstained from voting on the motion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In order that arrangements can be made, the trustees were asked to notify Cindy Sarratt if they are planning on attending the CFC Director Workshop in Greenville February 12-13, 2026, the NRECA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. April 26-29, 2026, and the ECSC Summer Conference at Wild Dunes Resort June 1-3, 2026.

NEW HORIZON MEMBERSHIP

The New Horizon membership proposal was shared with the board by the CEO.

CEO COMMENTS

Mr. Lowder presented a status of the 2025 Strategic Goals. A final report is pending the annual audit. Mr. Lowder then gave a report of the construction projects.

DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Lowder informed the board that plans to put a payment kiosk in Santee are being finalized with the Town of Santee.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Mr. Lowder reported that he and the staff are looking at some dates in February to schedule district meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board entered executive session to receive confidential legal advice. Then, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by William Robinson, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

RECESS TO CONDUCT THE TRICOLINK BOARD MEETING

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the Board of Trustees recessed the board meeting to hold the TriCoLink Board Meeting. Following the TriCoLink Board Meeting the board will reconvene the Cooperative Board Meeting and hold the election of officers.

Following the TriCoLink Board Meeting, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the Cooperative Board Meeting reconvened.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected by secret written ballot:

President	-	Barbara F. Weston
Vice-President	-	F. Joseph Strickland, Jr.
Secretary	-	Jacqueline S. Shaw
Treasurer	-	Gary F. Geiger

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by George Wilson, seconded by Barbara Weston, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

Barbara F. Weston, President