

## **TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

September 22, 2022

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 September 22, 2022 in the Boardroom at the Headquarters Office in St. Matthews, South Carolina.

The following trustees were present: Ida L. Dixon, S. George Wilson, Gary F. Geiger, F. Joe Strickland, Jr. (via telephone), William Robinson, James R. Dantzler, Willie Jeffries, and Jacqueline S. Shaw. Also present were Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John G. Felder, Sr., General Counsel, Frank Furtick, VP of Engineering and Operations, Michael Weeks, VP of Finance and Administration, Keith Scharf, VP of Safety and Loss Control, Wilford Thompson, VP of Member Services, Kristen Zeigler, VP of Human Resources, and Cindy Sarratt, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION**

In the absence of President Barbara Weston, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ida Dixon at 6:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, Willie Jeffries gave the Invocation.

### **MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no members present or online during the Member Comment Period.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF August 25, 2022**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of August 25, 2022 were approved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS AND MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The System Summary Reports and Monthly Financial Statements for August 2022 were approved as presented by the CEO.

#### **NEW MEMBER and FINAL BILLS REPORT**

At the September 22, 2022 board meeting the CEO reported that 112 new members made application for service in August 2022 and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and Carried, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLVED, that the application of new members is hereby accepted and approved.

There were 149 Final Bills sent out for the month of August. Those members are no longer receiving electric service from the Cooperative.

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA recordable accidents, no employee injuries, no consumer damage claims, and no miscellaneous accidents reported in July. The following two vehicle accidents occurred during an outage: a limb fell on a ladder rack and a windshield was broken by a low limb.

#### **OPERATION ROUND UP REPORT**

Chad Lowder reported that grants in the total amount of \$16,325 were awarded at the meeting on September 12, 2022.

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Ida Dixon reported that the Audit Committee met on September 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed expense accounts and credit card invoices for all board members, the CEO, and the Attorney for August 2022. All accounts were found to be in order. The report of the Audit Committee was accepted.

##### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

No report.

##### **CEO COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

No report.

##### **ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

No report.

##### **POLICY AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **UPDATES**

### **CENTRAL UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that Central had a board meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. A Summary of the meeting and the status of Project 180 were posted on BoardPaq.

### **STATEWIDE UPDATE**

The CEO reported that there will be a board meeting in October. Dues are expected to increase approximately 9%.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that multiple projects are looking at the Tri-County Global Industrial Site, a project is looking at the DP World Site, and The Calhoun County Industrial Site has a letter of intent. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

### **MONTHLY OUTAGE REPORT**

The Monthly Outage Report was posted on BoardPaq.

### **FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE**

The Fiber Project update will be given at the TriCoLink Board Meeting following the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REAFFIRM APPOINTMENT OF CREDENTIALS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE**

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, Shirley Abraham was substituted for a former appointment by Willie Jeffries. Therefore, be it affirmed that Beatrice Sumter, Rosena Brown, Jeff Coker, Bonnie Martin, and Shirley Abraham are appointed to the Credentials and Election Committee for 2022.

### **APPOINTMENT OF CFC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE**

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, Chad Lowder was appointed as the CFC Voting Delegate and Gary Geiger was appointed as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

### **APPOINTMENT OF ECSC TRUSTEES, VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE**

On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, Chad Lowder was appointed as the ECSC Voting Delegate and William Robinson was appointed as the Alternate

Voting Delegate. Chad Lowder and William Robinson were appointed as Trustees to the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina for 2022.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEETING BILL CREDIT AND GRAND PRIZE**

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the 2022 Annual Meeting Registration Gift will be a \$25 Bill Credit and the Grand Prize will be a Zero Turn John Deere Mower, valued at approximately \$5,600.

**CEO COMMENTS**

**2023 BUDGET AND BUSINESS PLAN SCHEDULE**

Mr. Lowder announced that a meeting to review the preliminary budget for 2023 will be held on November 18, following the employee appreciation luncheon. Final approval of the budget will be taken up at the December board meeting.

**ALTERNATE WORK SCHEDULE IMPLEMENTATION**

Mr. Lowder reviewed the alternate work schedule that will be implemented on November 1, 2022.

**2022 RESAP RESULTS**

The CEO reported a good preliminary report of the 2022 RESAP results. We went up to 79% for Satisfies or Exceeds all of our safety criteria from 73.5% in 2019.

**MEETING SUSPENDED TEMPORARILY**

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board Meeting was suspended temporarily at 6:48 p.m. in order to have the TriCoLink Board Meeting. The Tri-County Electric Cooperative will reconvene following the TriCoLink Board Meeting.

**MEETING RECONVENED**

Following the adjournment of the TriCoLink Board Meeting, on motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the Board Meeting of Tri-County Electric Cooperative reconvened.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the board entered executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Then, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by George Wilson, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President