

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

St. Matthews, South Carolina  
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting  
May 28, 2020

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 May 28, 2020 at the Cooperative's headquarters office in St. Matthews, South Carolina and via teleconference. In order to comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance of social distancing due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreaks, the meeting took place in the Auditorium.

The following trustees were present: Ida L. Dixon, Barbara F. Weston, S. George Wilson, Gary F. Geiger, F. Joe Strickland, Jr., Willie E. Jeffries, William Robinson, James R. Dantzler, and Jacqueline S. Shaw (via telephone), these being all of the trustees of the Cooperative. Also present were Frank Furtick, COO, Chad T. Lowder, CEO, John G. Felder, Sr., General Counsel, and Cindy Sarratt, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

### **CALL TO ORDER – INVOCATION**

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara F. Weston at 6:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, Gary Geiger gave the Invocation.

### **MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD**

No members were present during the Member Comment Period; therefore, the Member Comment Period was dispensed with.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 23, 2020**

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of April 23, 2020 were approved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS**

The System Summary Reports were approved as presented by the CEO.

#### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Monthly Financial Statements were approved as presented by the CEO.

### **NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that from April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020 89 new members made application for service and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

RESOLVED, the applications of new members are hereby accepted and approved.

### **SAFETY REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were no lost time accidents, no hours lost, no OSHA Recordable accidents, no employee injuries, no vehicle accidents, no consumer damage claims, and no miscellaneous accidents reported in April 2020.

### **UPDATES**

#### **CENTRAL UPDATE**

Chad Lowder reported that the Central Board met by conference call on May 13, 2020. The Santee Cooper situation is still progressing.

#### **STATEWIDE UPDATE**

Chad Lowder reported that NRECA cancelled the Regional Meeting. A determination regarding the ECSC Winter Conference will be made later.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TRICO GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE**

The CEO updated the board on the status of the Industrial Site. Infrastructure is being built and there has been some interest shown in the site.

#### **RICHLAND DISTRICT OFFICE REMODEL STATUS**

Mr. Lowder reported that the subcontractors came out today. Construction will start mid-June and will last 6-8 weeks.

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

Mr. Lowder reported on some possible State and Federal funding assistance. Financing documents for the first phase will be presented at the June board meeting. McCall-Thomas Engineering Company submitted the lowest bid on the make ready engineering, which will start in June. The goal is to start building fiber in late August, with the first customers coming online late October or first of November. The Connexion Project Manager will report here on June 8, 2020.

#### **Approval of subsidiary name and logo**

Mr. Lowder reported that Chernoff Newman out of Columbia assisted with developing a subsidiary name and logo. On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the subsidiary name will be TriCoLink and the logo was approved as presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Audit Committee met today and reviewed credit card invoices, which contained credits from cancelled events due to COVID-19. The Committee also reviewed the attorney's invoice.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder updated the Board on the Cooperative's response to the COVID-19 pandemic regarding work processes, office operations, and collection processes. Mr. Lowder reported that, as of today, the Cooperative has 4,190 delinquent accounts with a total deficit of \$675,000 in revenue.

### **DISCUSSION OF SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT VOTING**

The CEO presented the bylaw language changes resulting from the Referendum question results from the 2019 Annual Meeting.

### **SC FARMERS TO FOOD BANK SPONSORSHIP**

The CEO reported that a donation in the amount of \$2,500 will be made to the SC Advocates for Agriculture Farmers to Food Banks Program. The Cooperative will also request a matching donation from the CoBank Sharing Success Program. Using funds from the Farmers to Food Banks Program, food distributors across the state will purchase products from South Carolina farmers and donate that food to food banks and pantries to help bridge the gap of food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS WITH CCD CERTIFICATES**

Barbara Weston announced that, in accordance with Article V, Section 5.02, 4, a. of the Bylaws of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, as amended on November 23, 2019, the following eight Trustees have taken and passed all five courses required to obtain their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and are hereby congratulated: James R. Dantzler (3/1/2020), Ida L. Dixon (3/1/2020), Gary F. Geiger (3/1/2020), Willie E. Jeffries (3/1/2020), Jacqueline S. Shaw (6/12/2019), Frederick Joseph Strickland (3/1/2020), Shephard George Wilson (3/1/2020), and Barbara F. Weston (3/1/2020). Certificates are typically distributed to recipients at the NRECA Regional Meeting, but since the Meeting has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Certificates will be mailed to the Cooperative.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board entered executive session to discuss economic development and receive legal advice. 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 Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

S. Jacqueline S. Shaw

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

S. Barbara F. Weston

Barbara F. Weston, President