

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

August 26, 2021

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 August 26, 2021 at the Headquarters Office in St. Matthews, South Carolina. 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., 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, COO, Michael Weeks, CAO, and Cindy Sarratt, who recorded the minutes of the meeting. In addition, Stephanie Beauregard from Booth and Associates attended to give an update on the Cost of Service Study.

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, 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 July 22, 2021

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of July 22, 2021 were approved.

REPORTS

SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS AND MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The System Summary Reports and Monthly Financial Statements for July 2021 were approved as presented by the CEO.

NEW MEMBER REPORT

The CEO reported that from July 1-31, 2021 92 new members made application for service and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the following resolution was approved:

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

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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, and no miscellaneous incidents reported in July 2021. One consumer damage claim was filed due to a cracked septic tank lid. The septic tank was abandoned so we filled it in with dirt. The CEO also reported that the Cooperative is still in first place for our division of the President's Safety Contest.

REPORT OF OPERATION ROUND UP BOARD MEETING

Chad Lowder reported that the Operation Round Up Board met on August 9, 2021 and awarded grants totaling \$26,491.40. The next Operation Round Up Board meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Barbara Weston reported that the Committee met on August 26, 2021 and reviewed the expense reports and credit card invoices for the Board, CEO, and Attorney for the period July 1 - 31, 2021. It was noted corrections had been made to the expense reports from last month. All accounts were approved by the Audit Committee.

UPDATES

CENTRAL UPDATE

No report.

STATEWIDE UPDATE

The CEO reported that highlights of the August 5, 2021 ECSC Board Meeting, a letter from Jim Matheson to Congress, and the Cooperative's pages for the August edition of the *South Carolina Living* magazine are posted on BoardPaq. Mr. Lowder then shared Statewide's presentation on "The Challenge of Electrifying Our Economy."

COST OF SERVICE STUDY UPDATE

Stephanie Beauregard of Booth and Associates gave an update on the Cost of Service Study. The presentation was included on BoardPaq for the board to review. The board was encouraged to submit questions to be answered at the September board meeting before the approval of the Study.

NEW BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The CEO requested that the Board enter executive session to receive the Economic Development Update. On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by William Robinson, and carried, the board entered executive session. Then, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the board returned to regular session after having taken no action in executive session.

FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE

Chad Lowder gave a Fiber to the Home Project Update.

NEW BUSINESS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE FORM

The board was reminded to sign the annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form before leaving.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by William Robinson, and carried, the following individuals were appointed to the Nominating Committee and Election and Credentials Committee:

Nominating Committee: LaShaun Brawley, Mark Smith, Fred Stabler, Wanda Abraham, William Wolfe, David Clarkson, and Gilbert Strock.

Election and Credentials Committee: Beatrice Sumter, Jimmy Terry, Shirley Abraham, Jeff Coker, Rosena Brown, and Shane Fanning.

REVISED DATE FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The CEO announced the following revised dates for the Nominating Committee Meeting and Election and Credentials Committee Meeting:

Nominating Committee Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Election and Credentials Committee Meeting: Monday, September 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

CEO COMMENTS

COVID-19 SURVEY FROM STATEWIDE

The CEO presented a COVID-19 survey of data compiled by Statewide for 19 co-ops as of July 2021. He also explained additional measures he may take to prevent exposure.

ORS AUDIT

Mr. Lowder reported that the Cooperative recently underwent an audit by ORS. The SC ORS 2021 Compliance Examination document is posted on BoardPaq. ORS was very pleased with the Audit.

IMPROVING THE MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Mr. Lowder reported that a Team of employees has been meeting to review member-related processes with the end goal of improved process efficiencies, higher levels of member satisfaction, higher levels of employee satisfaction and reduced costs. The Team's recommendations are included on BoardPaq. Mr. Lowder also reported that we will begin addressing one of the concerns immediately by hiring a couple of individuals through Kelly Services to be dedicated phone service representatives.

SUMMER OUTAGE REPORT

Chief Operating Officer, Frank Furtick, gave a summary of some of the summer outages.

CALHOUN COUNTY COMMUNITY FIBER EVENT

The Calhoun County Library has asked if our campus can be a backup location to host a Community event sponsored by Calhoun Connects, a community-directed information resource. There were no objections to use of our campus for an event.

KINGVILLE FESTIVAL

George Wilson announced that the Kingville Festival will be held September 17-18 and encouraged everyone to attend.

POLICY REVIEW OF 100 SERIES

The members of the Policy and Bylaws Committee were asked to bring their proposed revisions to the 100 Series Policies to the September board meeting. A Committee meeting will be scheduled for a later date to discuss any proposed revisions.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the board adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

Barbara F. Weston, President