

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

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

August 25, 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 August 25, 2022 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, 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**

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara F. Weston at 6:00 p.m. Following the Call to Order, George Wilson 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 28, 2022**

On motion by Willie Jeffries, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of July 28, 2022 were approved.

### **REPORTS**

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

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

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

At the August 25, 2022 board meeting the CEO reported that 85 new members made application for service in July 2022 and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and Carried, the following resolution was approved:

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

There were 186 Final Bills sent out for the month of July. 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, and no miscellaneous accidents reported in July. One vehicle accident occurred when a deer ran into a truck during an outage call. One consumer damage claim was filed when a member had ATV damage when they hit a pole that was pre-staged in the field.

#### **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Audit Committee met on August 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. and reviewed expense accounts and credit card invoices for all board members, the CEO, and the Attorney for July 2022. One mileage correction was noted for Mrs. Shaw. Otherwise, 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**

The CEO reported that there will be a Central board meeting in September. He then reported that Central and Santee Cooper are in talks right now about generation resources.

### **STATEWIDE UPDATE**

Mr. Lowder reported that Statewide is having a Meet and Greet Fundraiser for Joe Wilson on September 12, 2022. If the board members would like to attend and donate, they were asked to notify Mr. Lowder. In other Statewide business, Mr. Lowder explained the increased costs of the *South Carolina Living* magazine. The board voted to subscribe to eleven issues for 2023.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The CEO gave an update of active projects interested in locating in our service area.

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

Mr. Lowder gave an update of the Fiber project.

#### **MONTHLY OUTAGE REPORT**

The CEO reported that there were 96 outages in July.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

On motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the following members were appointed to the Nominating Committee: David Clarkson, Sara L. Webber, William Wolfe, Mark Smith, Fred Stabler, and Gilbert R. Strock. Barbara Weston, William Robinson, and Jackie Shaw did not make appointments.

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

On motion by Joe Strickland, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the following members were appointed to the Credentials and Election Committee: Beatrice Sumter, Rosena Brown, Jeff Coker, Bonnie Martin, and Shirley Abraham. Barbara Weston, William Robinson, and Jackie Shaw did not make appointments.

### **REVIEW OF 2022-2023 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN**

The CEO discussed the Affirmative Action Plan for 2022-2023 with the board. No action was required by the board.

### **CEO COMMENTS**

#### **ALTERNATIVE WORK SCHEDULE**

Mr. Lowder informed the board that he is considering implementation of alternative work schedules for the employees. No firm decision has been made yet.

#### **TRI-COUNTY/TRICOLINK FACILITY EXPANSION**

Mr. Lowder presented preliminary plans for future facility expansion to the St. Matthews office due to the fact that increased office space is needed to accommodate present and future Tri-County and TriCoLink employees. Until the expansion is done, the TriCoLink employees will be brought over to the St. Matthews office and quartered in half of the auditorium. The other half of the auditorium will still be used for meeting space. The roof of the St. Matthews office will need replacing soon and the asphalt will need to be brought up to standards.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

The CEO and the Board discussed whether or not to continue having monthly board meetings in the auditorium or move back to the boardroom. The group agreed that the board meetings will be held in the boardroom beginning with the September board meeting.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

Mr. Lowder reminded the board of the following dates:

Sept. 19	TriCoLink Celebration and Media Day
Sept. 20-21	Bd and Staff Strategic Planning Meeting
Oct. 6	Calhoun Cnty. Bus After Hrs. 5-7pm
Oct. 10-12	NRECA Regional Mtg-Hollywood, FL
Nov. 18	Employee Thanksgiving Luncheon
Nov. 19	Annual Meeting
Dec. 4-7	ECSC Winter Conf. in Greenville SC

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

Mr. Lowder notified the board that the offices will be closed from Noon-3pm on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> for Employee Development and Training.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the board entered executive session to discuss a personnel issue. 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

George Wilson was wished a Happy Birthday, after recently celebrated a milestone birthday on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Barbara Weston announced that she is a candidate for a Richland County School District 1 Commissioner At Large seat. The election will be held on November 8, 2022.

Great Co-ops: a link to the TKI Assessment Survey will be emailed to the board next week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Joe Strickland, and carried, the board adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President