

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

St. Matthews, South Carolina
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
September 23, 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 September 23, 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. James Chavez, President and CEO of the South Carolina Power Team appeared to make a special presentation.

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, Jim Dantzler gave the Invocation.

MEMBER COMMENT PERIOD

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

JAMES CHAVEZ – PRESENTATION

James Chavez, President and CEO of Palmetto Economic Development Corporation (SC Power Team) presented Chad Lowder with a plaque and a Resolution of Appreciation for his service on the Board of Trustees of Palmetto Economic Development Corporation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF August 26, 2021

On motion by George Wilson, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of August 26, 2021 were approved.

REPORTS

SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS AND MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

NEW MEMBER REPORT

The CEO reported that from August 1-31, 2021 99 new members made application for service and those new members are now actively receiving electric service from the Cooperative. Thereafter, on motion by William Robinson, 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 filed in August 2021.

REPORT OF OPERATION ROUND UP BOARD MEETING

Chad Lowder reported that next Operation Round Up Board meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2021.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Barbara Weston reported that the Committee met on September 23, 2021 and reviewed the expense reports and credit card invoices for the Board, CEO, and Attorney for the period August 1 - 31, 2021. All accounts were approved by the Audit Committee. The Committee asked for more information about ACRE and ECHO and asked that the CEO share an explanation of both with the full board, which he then did.

UPDATES

CENTRAL UPDATE

The CEO reported that the Summary of the September Central board meeting was included on BoardPaq.

STATEWIDE UPDATE

Mr. Lowder reported that Tri-County's local pages for the October edition of the *South Carolina Living* magazine were included on BoardPaq. Also, he reported that he and William Robinson attended a Statewide Budget meeting. The budgets were set by committee and will go on to be approved by the full board.

OLD BUSINESS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In his Economic Development Update, the CEO announced that the news release for Premium Peanut was included on BoardPaq. The contract is pending.

FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE

Chad Lowder gave the Fiber Project update.

OUTAGE REPORT

Frank Furtick gave an outage report.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF COST OF SERVICE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the Cost of Service Study, the board was presented with two alternatives as adjustments to the Facility Charge. On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the board voted to approve Alternative 2:

General Service 1 Phase	\$30 Facility Charge/\$50 minimum bill
General Service 3 Phase	\$50 Facility Charge/\$75 minimum bill
Time of Use 1 Phase	\$40 Facility Charge/\$60 minimum bill
Time of Use 3 Phase	\$50 Facility Charge/\$75 minimum bill

Then, on motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, a \$1 increase was added to the pole-only charge for an outdoor light.

Chad Lowder then announced that the new rate structure will be advertised in the November edition of the *South Carolina Living* magazine and will be implemented in December 2021.

CHANGES TO 2021 CAPITAL BUDGET

The CEO explained some changes to the 2021 Capital Budget.

APPOINTMENT OF ECSC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE AND NOMINATION OF TRUSTEES TO THE ECSC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, Chad Lowder was elected as Voting Delegate and William Robinson was elected Alternate Voting Delegate to the ECSC. Then, on motion by George Wilson, seconded by Jim Dantzler, and carried, Chad Lowder and William Robinson were nominated as Trustees to the ECSC Board of Trustees.

TCEC

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MEMBERSHIP IN ECSC AND MAGAZINE SELECTION

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the Cooperative will join the ECSC for 2022 and receive 11 issues of the magazine.

CEO COMMENTS

COVID UPDATE

Mr. Lowder reported that 23 of our 64 employees are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (36%).

2021 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The CEO reported that the three incumbent Trustees were officially nominated by the Nominating Committee. One person has filed to be a Petition Candidate. The Credentials and Election Committee will meet on Monday, September 27, 2021 to certify the candidates. The Cooperative will again have drive-through registration due to COVID-19.

OTHER COMMENTS

GEORGE WILSON

Mr. Wilson thanked the Cooperative for their support of the Kingville Festival. Over 1,500 people attended. The Health Department provided testing for COVID and administered vaccinations.

Willie Jeffries

Mr. Jeffries reported that he attended the luncheon for Congressman Jim Clyburn at Statewide and that Congressman Clyburn made a great speech.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by George Wilson, and carried, the board entered executive session to receive confidential economic development information and legal advice. Then, on motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board returned to regular session, having taken no action in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Gary Geiger, and carried, the board adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

Barbara F. Weston, President