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

St. Matthews, South Carolina

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

June 24, 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 June 24, 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., 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 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, Representatives from Conexon attended 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, 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 May 27, 2021**

On motion by Jim Dantzler, seconded by Willie Jeffries and carried, the minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of May 27, 2021 were approved.

**REPORTS**

**SYSTEM SUMMARY REPORTS AND MONTH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

**NEW MEMBER REPORT**

The CEO reported that from May 1-31, 2021 87 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 Gary Geiger, 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, and no employee injuries reported in May 2021. Three minor vehicle accidents

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occurred during storm restoration. One consumer damage claim was received after a lost neutral caused appliance damage. Federated will cover this claim.

The CEO explained two miscellaneous incidents.

**REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Barbara Weston reported that the Committee met on June 24, 2021 and reviewed the expense reports and credit card invoices for the Board, CEO, and Attorney for the period May 1-31, 2021. All accounts were approved by the Audit Committee.

**UPDATES**

**CENTRAL UPDATE**

The CEO announced that the Central Board will discuss moving forward with Santee Cooper during the upcoming July board meeting.

**STATEWIDE UPDATE**

The CEO reported that the highlights of the ECSC board meeting at the Summer Conference and the magazine pages for the July edition were posted on BoardPaq. Mr. Lowder also reported that H 3194, the Santee Cooper reform bill, was signed into law by Governor McMaster. He then explained some of the key changes the law will provide.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

In his Economic Development Update, Chad Lowder reported that the Cooperative will submit a bid to provide power for DPU in Orangeburg. Also, the Black Water Subdivision has been bought out. The new owners have plans to build 773 homes on Lake Marion.

**FIBER TO THE HOME PROJECT UPDATE**

Jonathan Chambers, a Partner with Conexon, introduced other Conexon employees present: John Haynes, Jr., Tim Frederick, Ronnie McWhirter, and Mark Walker. He then addressed the board and gave a lengthy presentation as to the status of the Fiber to the Home Project and projections for the future of the project.

**ANNUAL MEETING TIME LINE REVIEW**

Mr. Lowder reported that some key Annual Meeting dates and deadlines are posted on BoardPaq. He encouraged the board members not up for election this year to provide their nominees for the Nominating Committee and the Credentials and Election Committee as soon as possible, but no later than August 26, 2021.

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**NRECA REGION 2 AND 3 MEETING**

The CEO announced that the NRECA Region 2 and 3 Meeting will be held in person and online October 5-7, 2021. The Director Education Courses will only be offered in person. The board was encouraged to inform Cindy Sarratt of their preferences so that she can register them for the conference and obtain hotel reservations for those who plan to attend in person.

**CEO COMMENTS**

The CEO informed the board that he, Mike Couick, Willie Jeffries will meet with the President of South Carolina State University next week to share ideas.

**JULY BOARD MEETING**

It was the consensus of the group that the July board meeting be held in the Auditorium.

**CEO VACATION**

Mr. Lowder announced that he will be on vacation July 5-9, 2021. Frank Furtick will also be on vacation. Any urgent matters can be directed to Michael Weeks.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by William Robinson, seconded by Willie Jeffries, and carried, the board entered executive session to 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**

On motion by Gary Geiger, seconded by Jackie Shaw, and carried, the board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Jacqueline S. Shaw, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Barbara F. Weston, President