

MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. met at the office of the Cooperative for the monthly meeting on June 17, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by President Crossland. The following trustees were present: Crossland, Hobbs, Joy, Rohleder, Luetters, Heier, Keller, Weinhold and Schaus. Also present were Tom Ruth, General Manager; Stacey Malsam, Nolan Numrich and E. Jay Deines, Attorney, who kept the minutes of the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held May 12, 2021, were presented. The minutes were approved as presented. The agenda was approved as presented.

Resolutions concerning allocating 2020 patronage capital were presented and discussed. It was moved by Hobbs and seconded by Keller to adopt the two (2) resolutions. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Resolution to apply for RUS approval of a Winter Storm Uri Expense Deferral Plan was presented and discussed. It was moved by Rohleder and seconded by Heier to adopt the resolution. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Nolan Numrich discussed the SmartHub online customer portal and the new billing format. He also brought forth some requested changes to billing policies to assist with the implementation of the new billing system and to simplify payment arrangements. It was moved by Hobbs and seconded by Schaus to grant the temporary waiver of disconnects for June. Upon vote taken, the motion carried. A proposal to simplify payment arrangements and make them available throughout the year was made. It was moved by Rohleder and seconded by Heier to adopt the proposed changes to simplify payment arrangements for 24 months and will be revisited again at that point. Upon vote taken, the motion carried. A billing policy change was then requested to allow the ability to make short-term payment arrangements allowing a maximum of an additional 2 weeks past disconnect date when deemed appropriate by management. It was moved by Hobbs and seconded by Keller to accept the short-term payment arrangement changes. Upon vote taken, the motion carried. A billing policy change to allow waiving disconnect/reconnect fees for members who sign up for Pre-Pay Power was requested. It was moved by Rohleder and seconded by Weinhold to accept the proposed policy change. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Nolan advised the board on the operation of the CoBank Sharing Success Program in partnership with the Golden Belt Foundation. It was moved by Joy and seconded by Rohleder to grant the Board of Directors authority to approve or deny applications for CoBank Sharing Success Funds. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Tom Ruth, Manager, discussed the current Drug Policy and presented a DOT version of which Western Cooperative needs to comply with. It was moved by Luetters and seconded by Keller to adopt the red line version of the presented policy. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

The need to select a voting delegate and alternate for NRECA was discussed. It was moved by Joy and seconded by Luetters to elect Hobbs as voting delegate and Keller as Alternate. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Manager Ruth reviewed with the board the PESTEL strategic planning initiative and gathered further input from the board on the upcoming strategic planning session set for July.

Tom Ruth gave his monthly management and financial report. Stacey Malsam reported on various topics.

A list of delinquent accounts to be written off the books, was presented. It was moved by Luetters and seconded by Keller to approve the write-offs. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

Joy and Rohleder reported on Sunflower activities for the last month.

Checks, direct deposits, and wire payments were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Rohleder and seconded by Keller that the payments be accepted as made. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

A list of members requesting a refund or transfer patronage capital credits, which list is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes was presented. It was moved by Luetters and seconded by Heier to approve the request for refund or transfer of patronage capital credits. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

RUS, CFC and CoBank reports were given by Manager Ruth,

The KEC report was given by Hobbs.

The NRECA report was given by Manager Ruth.

The minutes of the May 13, 2021, safety meeting and accidents were reviewed and discussed.

A list of contracts for electrical service was presented. It was moved by Joy and seconded by Schaus execute the contracts. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

A list of applicants for membership was presented. It was moved by Rohleder and seconded by Heier that the applicants be approved for membership. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.


It was moved by Joy and seconded by Heier to go into executive session at 1:50 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the General Manager's annual performance evaluation with the meeting to resume at 2:30 p.m. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

The meeting was called back to order within the specified time. Manager Ruth was called back to the meeting to discuss the review and compensation. Manager Ruth exited the meeting and further discussion was held by the board. It was moved by Joy and seconded by Rohleder to


raise Manager Ruth's yearly salary. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

It was moved by Luetters and seconded by Keller to give Manager Ruth a one-time bonus. Upon vote taken, the motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting will be July 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.


Secretary

Approved by:


President