

Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
August 27, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the cooperative office in Hooker, Oklahoma, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Business Items:

Minutes

Minutes, and the Summary Minutes, from the Board Meeting on July 23, 2021, were reviewed and approved.

Executive Session

The Board adjourned for an Executive Session to discuss succession planning.

Collegiate Delegate Candidates

Staff will conduct interviews to determine the three finalists to serve one-year terms. The final three Collegiate Delegates will be introduced at the 2021 Annual Meeting on September 23rd and then attend their first Board meeting on September 24th.

2021 Annual Meeting

Zac Perkins obtained confirmation from the Board of their intent to proceed with the plan for an in-person Annual Meeting on September 23rd with a few changes to comply with CDC Guidelines. A group of employees have been assigned to help Hunny's personnel serve the meal while wearing masks and gloves. There will be hand sanitizing stations set up for use by the members as an additional precaution. Messaging for the 2021 Annual Meeting will mention that no vote is required at this year's meeting.

GSEC Statement of Qualifying Facilities (QF) Resolution

Motion to accept the GSEC Statement of Qualifying Facilities (QF) Resolution was approved.

GSEC Amendment to the Amended and Restated Wholesale Power Contract Resolution

Motion to accept the Resolution to amend and restate the Amended Wholesale Power Contract was approved.

Corporate Policy 4 – Relationship Between Board and CEO

Motion to accept the policy as presented by staff was approved.

Corporate Policy 8 – Ethics

Motion to accept the policy as presented by staff was approved.

Presentation

Zac Perkins announced that today was Brenda Merkle's last day in the office before her retirement. A cake was presented to commemorate the occasion.

Committee Reports

Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) – Ronny White

Ronny White reported that he attended the OAEC Board on August 10th, along with Chris Purdy and Lyle Mathis.

Kansas Electric Cooperatives (KEC) – Larry Dunn

Larry Dunn reported that the KEC Board met on August 2nd and 3rd and celebrated KEC's 80-year anniversary with the Governor Laura Kelly and Senator Jerry Moran addressing the attendees. Robert Bryce spoke on the efficiency of each state utilizing two or three small nuclear reactors to produce electricity, General Funk and the retirement of Larry Detwiler in 2021, providing a good meeting format.

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative (GSEC) – Shawn Martinez

Shawn Martinez reported that he and Zac Perkins attended the GSEC Committee Meetings on August 9th and the Board meeting on August 10th, with the meetings held in Amarillo at the Embassy Suites.

Accounting Review Committee – Zac Perkins

Larry Dunn reported that the Accounting Review Committee did not meet.

Benefits Committee – Ronny White

Ronny White reported that the Benefits Committee did meet prior to the Board meeting on August 27th to discuss the information provided for 2022 salary increases and requested a second executive session to provide the information to the Board.

Motion was approved to go into Executive Session with only the Board and Micah Davis remaining in the meeting. Micah Davis exited the meeting after providing the information for discussion.

Motion was approved to come out of Executive Session. Zac Perkins, Jim Fletcher, Kirk Collier, Micah Davis, Chris Giles, Lyle Mathis, Brenda Merkle, Chris Purdy and Debbie Miracle returned to the meeting.

Discussion Items:

CEO Update

Zac Perkins reported on the following topics:

- The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021.
- Lee Tafanelli, CEO of KEC will attend the annual meeting and attend the Board meeting the following day.
- David Hedrick with Guernsey has almost completed the Cost of Service Study and the Board opted to schedule a special meeting before the end of the year for the presentation.
- The sunset date for Personnel Policy 23 – COVID-related Leave of Absence will expire at the end of September and TCEC is not planning to extend the leave of absence, acknowledging that if an employee contracts COVID, they will use their sick leave for time away from work.
- Tesla filed to be a Retail Electric Provider (REP) in Texas, which doesn't directly affect TCEC but may affect other GSEC members.

The Departmental Reports were provided in the Board Book.

Legal Update

Jim Fletcher provided an update on the small claim's lawsuit resulting from the nonpayment of the invoice from moving an overhead line. The matter was settled for one-half of the amount billed as settlement.

Jim Fletcher and Zac Perkins provided an update on the Beaver fire case mitigation with Bill Cathcart representing TCEC and a group of Plaintiffs, settled with TCEC to receive 16% of the total settlement of approximately \$500k, less attorney fees. There were over \$5M in damages claimed.

Jim Fletcher also reported on the uncontested district meetings held the last week of July for District #3 – Ronny White, District #4 – Beau Rapp and District #9 - Richard Radcliff. None of the meetings met the quorum and no vote was cast. The Board members will continue to serve another 3-year term.

Member Contacts

Member contacts received by the Trustees in August reported on:

Members appreciating the outage notice for the transformer station.

Staff receiving a few complaints about having to pay the rider fees on meters that weren't on in February.

Questions about the progress made toward hiring a serviceman in Cimarron County.

A member pleased with the service received on a pole replacement.

A member's complaint of a lack of concern from an employee regarding the broken payment drop box.

Old Business

None to discuss.

New Business

None to discuss.

Next Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2021 and the next regular Board meeting will be held on Friday, September 24, 2021.