

Regular meeting of the Board of
Directors of Decatur County
Rural Electric Membership
Corporation held April 27, 2023
at the headquarters facilities on
1430 W. Main,
Greensburg, Indiana at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting was opened by Chairman, Steve AmRhein, and Brian Scheidler kept the minutes of the meeting. All board members were present. Also present was CEO, Brett Abplanalp, and employees Matt Raver and Sam Ruf.

Suzanne Parmer moved to approve the agenda. Dale Wernke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Barnhorst moved to disclose the cost and results of the whistleblower investigation by roll call vote. Dale Wernke seconded the motion; Brian Scheidler-Yes, Dale Wernke-Yes, Suzanne Parmer-No, Clay Nuhring-No, Carl Riedeman-No, Jeff Lawrence-No, Jason Barnhorst-Yes and Steve AmRhein-Yes. The motion did not pass, 4-4 vote.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Dale Wernke moved to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023, board meeting. Suzanne Parmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Safety Min & Cool Moment

The cool moment was presented by Brett Abplanalp and included the successful first responders live line demonstration, highlighting the dangers of downed power lines. The safety moment was presented by Brett Abplanalp and included the commitment to “Zero Contacts” phase two with NRECA.

Broadband Ready Community Update

Rick Nobbe presented to the board the work that has been done to receive the certificate that designates Decatur County as a broadband ready community. This designation is critical for existing or new broadband providers that want to apply for grants to expand or create new services. Rick Nobbe also covered existing services available in Decatur County today.

Fiber Feasibility Project Update

The board then went into executive session due to a non-disclosure agreement in place to discuss the fiber feasibility project. The board went back into regular session at 8:08 p.m.

Sam Ruf went over grant updates and work going on to prepare for grant openings in 2023-2024. Membership in Accord Telecommunications Collaborative was also discussed with the board.

Election Candidate Bio Approval Process

Sam Ruf discussed recommendations for how a director candidate’s bio would be approved for future elections. The consensus of the board was to move forward with drafting language for board agreement.

CEO and Director Ionl

Chairman Steve AmRhein addressed the board members that did not respond to the request with the given dates and times. Steve AmRhein asked all board members complete this by the next board meeting.

CEO Updates

Brett Abplanalp updated the board on strategic projects. Brett Abplanalp then covered March company metrics as prepared on CTO. March's median temperature was 7% cooler than our five-year average with heating degree days at 756, with the five-year average being 671. Our Hoosier purchased energy was down 2.3% compared to our five-year average with demand 2.6% lower than our five-year average. Year to date energy sales are -6.35% under budget YTD.

There was no major storm for the month of March. Lost consumer hours were 820 compared to our 5-year average of 3,688. The number of outages was 37 compared to our five-year average of 40.

Outage causes for the month were: trees not in ROW and trees.

Financial Updates

Matt Raver reported on March financials as prepared on CTO. Net utility plant increased \$262,879 in March and our current equity is 61.78%. Revenues are over YTD budget and power costs are over resulting in a gross margin under budget of \$198,017 YTD. Controllable expenses are under budget by \$171,532. The cash flow statement shows a March beginning balance of \$1,250,251 and we ended the current month with a net decrease in cash of \$672,326 resulting in an ending cash balance of \$577,925. Matt Raver stated that per our approved budget, in the next sixty days we will be reaching the point where we will need to borrow additional funds to match our construction bills. The current interest rate for short term is 6.75% and long term is 3.66%. Matt Raver asked if we needed board approval to pull short term money to pay our bills. It was stated to notify the board when short-term funds are borrowed.

Discuss Changing Email Voting Rules in Bylaws

Current bylaws require board action by written consent to be approved by all directors, not the majority. Brett Abplanalp discussed a legal opinion that states if one director opposes then that motion should be debated as a board. No changes were made to the current bylaw.

Policy/Bylaws Review & Report Out

Brett Abplanalp presented redlines and a review of the following policies with no material changes:

- a. Policy 1-12: Marketing
- b. Policy 2-4: Membership Corporation Regulations for Service to Electric Motors
- c. Policy 2-09: Non-Permanent Three Phase Service
- d. Policy 10-04: Employee Health and Wellness

Jason Barnhorst moved to approve all changes as presented. Jeff Lawrence seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Education & Training

Brett Abplanalp gave a presentation on the new MISO peak prediction tool provided by Hoosier Energy.

The Hoosier Energy Board Update

Jason Barnhorst reported out on the Hoosier Energy Annual Meeting, and he was elected chairman of the Hoosier Finance and Audit Committee.

IEC Board/Committee Update

Steve AmRhein reported on the IEC board meeting.

Suzanne Parmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Dale Wernke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Brian Scheidler, Secretary

Attest: _____
Steve AmRhein, Chairman