

Minutes of the
Decatur County REMC
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday July 26th, 2018
1430 W Main St.
Greensburg, IN at 6:30pm

Chairman Tom Crowe called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, and Jason Barnhorst kept minutes of the meeting.

All members of the board were present. Also present was DCREMC CEO Brett Abplanalp, and DCREMC personnel; Karen Forshee, Shawn Matthews, and Jeanne Loechle. Larry Feltner of Prime Group, LLC was also present.

Upon motion by Steve AmRhein, seconded by Michael Brelage, and carried, the agenda of the meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

DCREMC Human Resources Manager and Executive Secretary Jeanne Loechle gave an overview of her duties and responsibilities at DCREMC highlighting her role in assisting CEO, Benefits Administration, HR Compliance and Workers Comp. Currently, Jeanne is focusing on the following projects; health insurance benefits for employees, implementing new core competencies, and forming SOPs for performance reviews and cross training.

The financial report was given by Karen Forshee and reviewed on Call to Order. Karen reported that controllable expenses are still running higher than budget, but the latest estimate (LE) indicates by year end operating margins will be on track with the budget. It was also noted that there have been 52 new services for a total of \$235,000 and 46 unplanned pole replacements which have increased investment in distribution plant for the year.

Larry Feltner of Prime Group presented a proposal for a new rate design to the board based on fairness, equity, and cost causation. After discussion and review, the board asked Larry to present a proposed flat seasonal rate for the three new commercial classes to avoid seasonal peak charges for those members. Larry will present this information at a later date.

Shawn Matthews of DCREMC presented proposed changes to the current line extension policy. Shawn identified and reviewed 10 gaps, opportunities, and proposals as well as changes to Rule 25, Policy 2-1, and Policy 2-3, Rules and Standards.

Upon motion by Jason Barnhorst, seconded by Lawrence Young, and carried, the proposed changes to Rule 25, Policy 2-1, and Policy 2-3 were approved as prepared by unanimous vote.

Upon motion by Lawrence Young, seconded by Dale Wernke, and carried, line extensions true-ups due July 26th, 2018 and prior will be foregone, with the exception of the two members who are due a credit (credit will be refunded to those members). The new line extension policy and protocol will begin July 27, 2018. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Upon motion made by Lawrence Young, seconded by Michael Brelage, and carried, the consent agenda of the meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

Hoosier Energy report was given by Tom Crowe. Tom reported that Donna Walker has been named the new CEO and will take over in mid-November. There will be a strategic planning meeting held August 6th and 7th in French Lick. Upon general consensus of the directors, DCREMC will attend the fall tours of Hoosier on October 3rd.

Top Ten project list update was given by Brett Abplanalp. 1.) Rate design and the Cost of Service Study, 2.) health insurance quotes for DCREMC employees will be in by October 1st, 3.) IT lifecycle management and security, 4.) member contact tracking will be implemented August 1st ahead of schedule, 5.) strategic planning event will be held August 30th and 31st, Tom VanParis of IEC will be the facilitator.

Old Business:

Upon motion by Michael Brelage, seconded by Jeff Lawrence, and carried, Ellen Davis was elected to represent district 8 of DCREMC Community Trust, passed by unanimous vote.

New Business:

Brett reviewed the 2017 IEC billing survey.

A strategic planning meeting will be held At IEC for all DCREMC management and directors August 30-31st

There will be an employee appreciation day scheduled for the end of August.

Upon motion by Lawrence Young, seconded by Brian Scheidler, and carried, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45pm

Jason Barnhorst, Secretary

Attest: _____

Tom Crowe, Chairman