

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Feb. 27, 2025

A meeting of the board of directors of West Central Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative, in Higginsville, Missouri, at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 27, 2025, pursuant to the bylaws of the cooperative and previous resolution of the board of directors. The meeting was called to order by President Densil Allen Jr. Attorney Sheri Smiley caused the minutes of the meeting to be kept. The following directors were present: Allen Jr., Clark Bredehoeft, Richard Strobel, Dale Jarman, Robert Simmons, Stan Rhodes, Jeremy Ahmann and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland. Director Colby Dowell was absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of Jan. 22, 2025; expenditures for the month of January 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

CFO Rebecca Hoefficker presented the January 2025 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. She reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. She also gave the investment report. She presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. She reported on interest rates and the impact of large loads and cold weather on the budget and projections for February margins. She reported West Central Services has been closed out and patronage capital has been transferred to the co-op. Deferred revenue on large-load demand was discussed and how it will be recorded and approved through the year was reviewed. She gave updated budget numbers. The budget was approved and the financial reports were accepted as presented.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following November reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written Operations Report. He reported on crews, and outages and causes for the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He also gave a brush crew and right-of-way report as well as reporting on the contract signed with Asplundh.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of Jan. 31, employees have worked 821 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 33,933 miles as of the end of January without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He reported on new sites to be served and materials. He reported that the system held up very well under the extreme cold weather in January and February. A SCADA system update was given. He gave an overview of the meters and the age of the meters. New meters will need to be ordered for the system at the Holden substation and at Lone Jack as the old meters continue to die.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlottzauer provided his written Member Services Report. His report included RoundUp enrollment and RoundUp updates. He gave updates on Youth Tour and CYCLE presentations and participation at area schools' STEM events. He gave a net metering report. Chamber meetings attended were reported on. He also attended the legislative conference and gave updates on that. A PCI compliance update was given. The Pay Now link was discussed and he would like to move forward with setting up the link.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. They reported the meeting was held by Zoom because of the bad weather. They discussed margins, the annual meeting and a potential bylaw change.



AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft gave a report from the Feb. 5 meeting he attended. He provided the department reports. AECl gave an update and large loads discounts and revenue deferrals were reported on.

APPROVE JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT

The board approved entering into the proposed Joint Venture Agreement between the co-ops which was presented by Newland.

APPOINT NW VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Simmons was named the NW voting delegate and Newland the alternate for the upcoming NW Annual Meeting.

APPOINT CRC VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

Simmons was named the CRC voting delegate and Newland the alternate.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 3.19

Newland presented the new policy 3.19 that will supersede all other policies. Staff had recommended changes on the capitalization policy. A motion was made to amend the policy to \$5,000.00, and the policy was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 4.7

Policy 4.7 was approved with recommended changes.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SECTION 5

Review and approval of Section 5 was tabled until next month.

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 5.4 and 5.5

Policies 5.4 and 5.5 were approved with recommended changes

REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICY 5.5-1, 5.6, and 5.11

Policies 5.5-1 and 5.6 were reaffirmed, as there were no changes recommended. Policy 5.11 was approved as amended to allow for a full day off, rather than a half day, if an employee is going to be a pall bearer at a funeral, capped still at 3 days.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Newland presented the monthly Manager's Report. He discussed rates and the rate studies that were performed by Toth and Associates. He provided different rate options. The board accepted Option 2, which will result in no increase to the service availability charge and a 6.5% revenue increase. He discussed staffing and interns and employee reviews. Information that is being provided throughout the month was discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:27 a.m. and was out at 12:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$4,439,753	\$4,439,753	\$3,690,136
Power Bill Expense	2,547,564	2,547,564	1,974,367
Operation & Maintenance Expense	724,712	724,712	597,304
Depreciation Expense	215,362	215,362	207,040
Interest Expense	144,772	144,772	137,833
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,632,410	3,632,410	2,916,544
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	807,343	807,343	773,592
Other Margins	21,561	21,561	19,621
TOTAL MARGINS	\$828,904	\$828,904	\$793,213