

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held Aug. 28, 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. Aug. 28, 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, Colby Dowell and Elizabeth Houtsma. Also present was General Manager Michael Newland.

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 on July 24, 2025; expenditures for the month of July 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Newland presented the August 2025 Operating Report (RUS Form 7) and Comparative Operating Statement. He reviewed the Financial and Statistical Report and Treasurer's Report with monthly and annual budget comparisons. He also gave the investment report. He presented and reviewed statistical data pertaining to operating revenue, expenses, margins, assets, liabilities, cash flow management, and KWH sales and ratios. He reported on interest rates, the impact of large loads on the budget and projections for August. He gave updated budget numbers. He reviewed investments. New services connected were reported on. The impact to margins from large loads was discussed. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

DISCUSS AND APPROVE CLOSURE OF F&C BANK ACCOUNT

Newland discussed a letter received by F&C Bank regarding an account with a low balance. The board approved closing the account.

APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS

The following staff reports were approved:

Operations Report

Operations Manager Scott Gard provided an oral report to supplement his written operations report. He reported on crews, expansions worked on, and outages and causes for the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report including a school attended by the mechanic. He reported the mechanic has been very busy in the shop and they are considering hiring a part-time employee. A brush crew and ROW update was given. Damage to a truck caused by a pole falling on it was updated. An additional bucket truck was discussed. Currently the co-op is renting two bucket trucks. The cost of a new bucket truck is \$225,000.00. The board voted to amend the budget by \$225,000.00 for the purchase of the new truck.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written safety and engineering report. As of July 31, 2025, employees have worked 1,022 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 38,699 miles as of the end of July without a serious accident. He reported that the workers compensation MOD factor was just received and it is the lowest it has been since the year 2000. RESAP audits have been participated in. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. He discussed the Holden substation project. He reported on projects being worked on. He discussed the NW Wildfire Mitigation program and discussed a potential policy for moving the line for third party structures to go under. The policy committee will review for a potential policy.

Member Services Report: Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer



provided a written member services report. He provided updates on Operation RoundUp, the communication department activities and net metering. Chamber meetings and member surveys were reported on. The NISC bill redesign was discussed. A report on the state fair was given. Issues with solar companies giving false information that they are working with the co-op are circulating again.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. They reported on the new manager search, new large loads, and updates on the Turney gas plant and AECL. The retreat in September will now be held on one day.

AMEC REPORT

Bredehoeft reported on the meeting held on Aug. 6. He gave departmental reports, updates on the Rural Missouri magazine, announced that Jim Bagley was elected as the NRECA representative and gave updates on training and development and grant writing for co-ops that is now available through AMEC. An AECL update was given.

CFC FORUM REPORT

The directors who attended the forum gave updates on the speakers.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Newland led a discussion on a wrap-up of the annual meeting. Comments from members were discussed. A total of 1,000 meals were served. Next year's annual meeting was discussed. The Policy Committee will look at a policy for allowing board candidates to speak at the meeting and how re-counts on ballots would be handled.

REVIEW BOARD STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The board received the standing committee assignments for 2025 and 2026. Simmons will be removed from the Strategic Planning Committee and Ahmann will be added.

LEGAL REPORT

Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Newland gave the manager's report. He gave a staffing report. The salary committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15. The sick leave policy was discussed and changes were made to meet the state law requirements that go into effect Aug. 28. The Bates City franchise agreement was discussed. Annexations were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

An advertisement in the Rural Missouri magazine was discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 11:34 a.m. and was out at 12:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$4,062,964	\$24,977,656	\$21,258,371
Power Bill Expense	2,400,712	15,172,739	12,991,344
Operation & Maintenance Expense	962,515	5,399,400	5,132,190
Depreciation Expense	219,591	1,521,919	1,462,190
Interest Expense	135,665	980,500	921,776
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,718,483	23,074,558	20,507,500
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	344,481	1,903,098	750,871
Other Margins	24,493	219,535	198,567
TOTAL MARGINS	\$368,974	\$2,122,633	\$949,438