

From the WCE boardroom

Regular meeting of the Board of Directors held March 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. March 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, 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 of Feb. 27, 2025; expenditures for the month of February 2025; new membership applications and membership terminations, and the Treasurer's Report.

FINANCING AND TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of CFO Rebecca Hoeflicker, Newland presented the February 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 and the impact of large loads and cold weather on the budget and projections for March margins. He gave updated budget numbers. The financial reports were accepted as presented.

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, and outages and causes for the month, including the impact of heavy winds during the month. He gave a mechanic and fleet report. He also gave a brush crew and right of way report and an update on the new digger truck was given. Crews were sent to help with tornados and high wind damage to West Plains, Missouri.

Safety and Engineering Report: Engineering Manager Pete Nelson provided an oral report to supplement his written Safety and Engineering Report. As of Feb. 28, 2025, employees have worked 849 days without a lost-time accident. Co-op employees drove a total of 28,716 miles as of the end of February without a serious accident. He reported on safety meetings, crew visits, and gave an engineering/staking department report. The Highway13 project was reported on.

Member Services Report: Newland gave the report for Member Services Manager Brent Schlotzhauer, who had provided his written Member Services Report. He provided updates on school presentations, business appreciations, and reported on the continuing education he attended. He gave a net metering report. Chamber meetings attended were reported on. He gave an update on the CRC Dispatch center and how calls from recent wind storms were handled.

DISCUSSION ON METER RESEARCH AND RECOMMENDATION

Newland and Nelson presented research done on meter options. They included a summary to the board of the aging meter system. Staff's recommendation is to not update old equipment that is outdated. Staff has studied different metering systems and software and staff recommendation was given. They rec-



ommend phasing the new metering system in over the next several years. The board voted to follow staff's recommendations on the new metering system.

DISCUSSION OF COST OF OVERHEAD AND UNDERGROUND NEW SERVICE

Newland provided information on the cost of overhead and underground new builds, including the current price per foot. It was tabled until next month.

REVIEW AND APPROVE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENT

Newland provided different scenarios for capital credit retirement for 2025. Staff's recommended retirement is \$1,200,000 of the oldest credit and \$300,000 of 2024, which is an 80/20 split. The board accepted staff's recommendations.

POLICIES 3.10, 3.16 AND REVIEW AND APPROVE SECTION 3

Policy amendments to 3.10 and 3.16 came from the Policy Committee. The board voted to amend the policies per the committee's recommendations. Section 3 was tabled until next month.

NW REPORT

Simmons and Newland gave the NW Report. The annual meeting was discussed. They discussed margins, plant, the mobile generator and capital credits.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Jarman reported on the scholarship committee. He reported there were five students receiving funds from the John & Kathryn English Scholarship Trust, and 23 students receiving a WCE Scholarship for \$1,000.00 each.

NRECA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The board members who attended reported on the meeting.

DISCUSS BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

The board reviewed the self-assessment report.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Sheri Smiley gave the legal report for the month.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Michael Newland gave the Manager's Report. He reported he just completed employee reviews, discussed a retirement and staffing, and gave an update on the Lone Jack project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called at 12:02 p.m. and was out at 12:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2025 Statement of Operations

	This month	YTD 2025	YTD 2024
Revenue	\$4,372,226	\$8,811,979	\$6,943,420
Power Bill Expense	2,295,559	4,843,123	3,728,317
Operation & Maintenance Expense	752,864	1,477,576	1,213,579
Depreciation Expense	216,386	431,749	414,776
Interest Expense	131,009	275,781	255,770
Total cost of Service (Total Expenses)	3,395,818	7,028,229	5,612,442
Operating Margins (Revenue less Expenses)	976,408	1,783,750	1,330,978
Other Margins	25,667	47,229	41,097
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,002,075	\$1,830,979	\$1,372,075