

Regular meeting of the Board of  
Directors of Decatur County  
Rural Electric Membership  
Corporation held August 28, 2024  
at the headquarters facilities on  
1430 W. Main,  
Greensburg, Indiana at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Steve AmRhein called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Steve Nobbe recorded the minutes. All board members were present. Also in attendance were CEO Brett Abplanalp, employees Matt Raver, Johnny Schisler, Jeanne Loechle and Sam Ruf, and Ryan Heater from IEC Government Relations.

Jason Barnhorst moved to approve the meeting agenda. Suzanne Parmer seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

#### State & Federal PAC Presentation

Ryan Heater, VP of Government Relations for Indiana Electric Cooperatives (IEC), gave a presentation to the board, providing updates on key issues at both the state and federal levels. He also emphasized the importance of the PAC and how its funds are used to support critical initiatives.

#### Safety Minute and Cool Moment

Brett Abplanalp shared a safety moment focused on the dangers of encountering bee swarms and handling hives at home. He also highlighted a special achievement, recognizing Steve Nobbe for completing his required training and earning his CCD certification. Additionally, Brett acknowledged those who participated in the lineman rodeo and received awards for their efforts.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in team hurt man rescue: Collin Crabtree, Evan Tallent, Joe Vanderbur
- Overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place Caleb Litmer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place in apprentice skill climb Caleb Litmer

#### Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Suzanne Parmer moved to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2024, board meeting, as well as the executive board meeting minutes from the same date. Dale Wernke seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

#### Fiber-to-the-home Project Update

Sam Ruf provided an update on the progress of the joint venture, including the timing for the Next Level Indiana award and the BEAD application.

#### CEO Update

Brett Abplanalp updated the board on strategic projects including safety improvement plan, pole replacement program, RF meter feasibility and updated organizational chart.

Brett Abplanalp then covered the company metrics as prepared on CTO. July's median temperature was 1.4% warmer than our five-year average. Wholesale purchased energy was down 2.7% when compared to our five-year average. Demand was down 1% from our five-year average. Year to date energy sales ended 1.95% positive to budget. There was no major storm for the month of July.

#### Financial Update

Matt Raver gave the financial update. Net utility plant increased \$19,425 in July and our current equity is 64.23%. Revenues are over YTD budget and power costs are over resulting in a gross margin above budget of \$263,809 YTD. Controllable expenses are under budget by \$433,456 mainly driven by labor and ROW. The cash flow statement shows a beginning balance of \$582,317 and we ended the current month with a net increase in cash of \$181,872 resulting in an ending cash balance of \$764,189.

#### New Business

##### 2025 Cost of Service Study

The board reviewed a Statement of Work (SOW) for soliciting bids for a cost-of-service study to be conducted in 2025. The board reached a consensus to proceed with the bidding process and approve the SOW.

##### Donated Capital

There was a discussion on unclaimed capital credit dollars growing on our balance sheet. These unclaimed funds are due to reasons such as members moving away without providing a forwarding address or passing away without heirs. Our auditor reviewed our process and confirmed we are following best practice. No action was taken.

##### Policy Review

The board reviewed updates to policies 10-17: Drug-Free Workplace and 10-18: Employee Drivers. The revisions were minor, consisting mainly of clarifications in response to recent changes in labor laws. Additionally, policy 10-14: Selection of Employees was amended to remove the requirement for internal posting of newly created nonunion positions. Dale Wernke moved to approve the recommended changes, Carl Riedeman seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the updates.

#### Old Business

##### Bylaw Legal Review

The board reviewed the recommended changes to the bylaws. After discussion, a few additional revisions were requested. The changes will be made, and the board will revisit the updated bylaws in September.

##### Long Term Debt / Loan Withdrawal

Matt Raver presented a withdrawal from a completed construction work plan loan for the board's consideration. After deliberation, the board decided to table the discussion for future review.

#### Operations Building

Brett Abplanalp presented a preliminary timeline for the construction of the Operations building to the board. No action was taken at this time.

#### Executive Contract

Chairman Steve AmRhein presented the final draft of the CEO's employment contract. Jason Barnhorst moved to approve the contract, Dale Wernke seconded, and the board unanimously approved the agreement.

#### Affiliated Organizations

Jason Barnhorst gave a brief update from Hoosier Energy.

Steve AmRhein gave a brief update from IEC.

#### Director Training/Conference Report Out

Steve Nobbe discussed his take aways from his 5<sup>th</sup> and final CCD course, 2630.

Carl Riedeman moved to adjourn the meeting. Suzanne Parmer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m. and the board moved into executive session.

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Steve Nobbe, Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Steve AmRhein, Chairman