

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THE SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

November 17, 2021

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:59 p.m. by Anne Dorough, President.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary Bustamante called the roll and reported those present and attending as follows:

TRUSTEES PRESENT:        Anne L. Dorough, President (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 5

                                     Luis Aguilar, Vice President (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Paul Bustamante, Secretary/Treasurer (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 1

                                     Leroy Anaya, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     James Nelson, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 2

                                     Donald Wolberg, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Michael Hawkes, Trustee  
                                     Representative, District 4

TRUSTEES ABSENT:        None

ALSO, PRESENT:            Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
                                     Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
                                     Rauni Montoya, Accounting Supervisor (via teleconference)  
                                     David Montoya, Safety Compliance Officer (via teleconference)  
                                     Steve Dettmer, Line Superintendent (via teleconference)  
                                     Marilyn Madrid, Member Services Supervisor (via teleconference)

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: None; due to Governor Lujan-Grisham's executive order restricting essential business to limit operations to only those absolutely necessary to carry out essential functions.

**QUORUM**

Secretary Bustamante declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Manager Herrera led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Hawkes. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the Agenda as presented.

### **CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve the minutes from October 27, 2021, as distributed; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from October 27, 2021, as distributed.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

Trustee Hawkes reported that Commnet would be giving a broadband presentation at the upcoming Socorro County Commissioner meeting on November 23, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. at the Socorro County Annex Building. Trustee Hawkes invited Manager Herrera and any Trustee wanting to attend.

Trustees Aguilar, Bustamante, Nelson, and Wolberg expressed interest in attending the Socorro County Commissioner meeting. Manager Herrera thanked Trustee Hawkes for the invitation; however, he had scheduled to attend collective bargain agreement negotiations in Albuquerque that day.

Manager Herrera reported that no Members had called in or were present for Member Comments.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$690,506.73 for October 2021 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Expenditure Report for October 2021.

Manager Herrera reported the Visa credit card expenditures, complete with supporting receipts, made available to the Board of Trustees for October 2021.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the credit card report for October 2021.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19 that SEC has seen an increase in the number of employees who have tested positive for COVID-19, been in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case, or had symptoms of COVID-19 and are awaiting test results. Manager Herrera stated that the number of employees out has caused SEC to work with minimal staff, but everyone is helping by taking on additional duties to help the members and keep the lights on. Manager Herrera reported that SEC would continue to follow the NM COVID Safe Practices for Employers guidelines and continue to social distance, wear masks, and sanitize all buildings. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the COVID-19 Update for October 2021.

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating that SEC has received complaints about blinks on Schmittle Lane, in Lemitar. Manager Herrera reported that he contacted ACE Drones to fly the approximately five (5) miles of line or approximately 130 poles to see what they could find and awaiting the results. Manager Herrera stated they did identify a blown arrestor on a pole that line crews fixed immediately and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Engineering Report for October 2021.

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that SEC had received several thank you cards from kids in the 4-H Club and the Republican Women's Group.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Manager's Report for October 2021.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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Ms. Montoya carefully reviewed in detail the RUS Form 7 Report for October 2021 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Ms. Montoya for the RUS Form 7 Report for October 2021.

### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the October Safety Report. Mr. Montoya reported that he has been in contact with Willie Lucero from NM Trust Land in attaining a permit for the repeater on Luera Peak as SEC does not have one. Mr. Montoya stated that he has been working with members in getting the signed easements for the upcoming Magdalena 69kV transmission project and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

#### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the October Job Briefing Reports.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Montoya for the Safety Report for October 2021.

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

#### **CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Mr. Dettmer reported for October activities, crews completed 21 work orders, closed 7 work orders, and completed 43 service orders with most service orders for area lights. Mr. Dettmer reported that crews also cut 80 trees and trimmed 18 trees.

Trustee Wolberg thanked the line crew for trimming the trees near his house that was in the lines as the crew did a great job.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Dettmer reviewed several major outages that either affected over 100 members or those for which the outage time was lengthy and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees

President Dorough thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for October 2021.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

#### **ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for October 2021.

#### **NM PRC MEMBER CONCERNS**

Ms. Madrid reported that SEC had no Member informal complaints filed with the NM PRC in October 2021. Ms. Madrid reported the second case she had reported at the October meeting has also been resolved and closed, finding SEC was not in any violation.

President Dorough thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for October 2021.

### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported that Mr. Capps was out of the office today and reviewed the October Communications and Public Affairs Report.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for October 2021.

#### **TRI-STATE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya gave the Tri-State Board of Directors' activities report for November 2021.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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Manager Herrera reported at the September Board meeting all Trustees were asked to come up with ideas to recommend to Trustee Anaya for the Tri-State Donation totaling up to \$1,000 annually.

After much discussion, Trustee Hawkes made a motion to accept Trustee Anaya's recommendation of \$500 to the Kids' Science Café and \$500 to a member in need of a kidney transplant; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Tri-State Report.

**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for November 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for November 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

There was no President's Report given at this time.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar gave the Finance Committee Report, which met on October 27-28, 2021, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Aguilar for the Finance Committee Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya reported on the Standing Committee Meeting held on November 17, 2021, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tri-State Rate Design Committee Representative**

After extensive discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to ratify the Board of Trustees' actions to send to Trustee Anaya and Manager Herrera's name for the Tri-State Rate Design Committee Representative; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg  
No: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Tri-State Modified Contract Termination Payment FERC Hearing Intervening**

Manager Herrera reported that Tri-State has received approval on the Contract Termination Payment and will be having a hearing with FERC. Manager Herrera stated that Tri-State had asked all member cooperatives to participate as an intervenor in this process to be on the docket.

After extensive discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to intervene on this motion in support of Tri-State Modified Contract Termination Payment at the FERC Hearing; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, and President Dorough  
No: Trustee Nelson and Wolberg

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Abstain: Trustee Hawkes  
Motion carried.

Borderland LLC Special Service Contract

Manager Herrera reported that Borderland is a 100-megawatt wind farm located east of Quemado with NextEra Energy. Manager Herrera reported Borderland has 36 wind turbines interconnecting to Tucson Electric Power. Manager Herrera stated that when the wind turbines are not producing, NextEra Energy would need a backup energy service. Manager Herrera reported that SEC has signed with Tri-State for a delivery point to provide these ancillary backup services to the Borderland Wind Farm at a retail rate under our load management rate. Manager Herrera stated that due to the uniqueness of this project being connected at the 345 connection, which SEC does not have the ability to do, Tri-State would do this metering for SEC. Manager Herrera reported that Tri-State would bill SEC for the energy NextEra Energy uses for the wind farm, and SEC would bill NextEra Energy.

After discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve the Borderland LLC Special Service Contract; motion seconded by Trustee Hawkes.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg  
No: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

Broadband Feasibility Study Response

Manager Herrera reported that a Request for Proposal (RFP) had been published, with SEC receiving six (6) responses. Manager Herrera stated that the Finance Committee reviewed all the responses and recommended that the Board approve Power System Engineering, Inc. proposal if grant money can be utilized for the Broadband Feasibility Study.

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the Power System Engineering, Inc. proposal if grant money can be utilized for the Broadband Feasibility Study; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg  
No: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

Integrated Supply Alliance

Manager Herrera reported that an RFP had been published, with SEC receiving three (3) responses. Manager Herrera stated that the Finance Committee reviewed each response by ten different categories and, after much consideration, recommended that the Board approve Techline for the Integrated Supply Alliance.

Trustee Bustamante made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve Techline for the Integrated Supply Alliance; a motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg  
No: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 118 – Services of Consultants

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 118 – Services of Consultants, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 118 – Services of Consultants with proposed changes.

After discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 118 – Services of Consultants as corrected; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg

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No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of 2022 Budget

Manager Herrera and Ms. Montoya went over the draft 2022 Budget explaining the proposed capital items and vegetation management changes. Manager Herrera stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the budget and recommended that the Board approve the 2022 Budget as presented.

After discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation of the 2022 Budget as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Capital Credit Estate Retirements

Manager Herrera reported that SEC General Counsel Lorna Wiggins Esq. had previously reviewed the Patronage Estate Capital Retirement requests as provided in the Trustee's BoardPaq. Ms. Wiggins reviewed the retirement documents and stated that they appeared to be in order and were ready for the Board's consideration:

ESTATE RETIREMENTS:

	Operating Margins	Plains G&T	Investment in Associated Organizations	Cushion of Credit & Other Non-Ops	Tri-State	Gains	Unpaid Balance	Total	Total without Tri-State
None									

JOINT ACCOUNT ESTATE RETIREMENTS:

	Operating Margins	Plains G&T	Investment in Associated Organizations	Cushion of Credit & Other Non-Ops	Tri-State	Gains	Unpaid Balance	Total	Total without Tri-State
JM-Nov-21-A	\$141.36	\$1.40	\$15.98	\$12.31	\$74.68	\$0.00	(\$52.28)	\$193.45	\$118.77

After discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve the Retirement of Patronage Capital as presented, absent any Tri-State allocations, to the accounts mentioned above; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

There were no Line Extensions Contracts open for consideration.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

Trustees Wolberg requested Board approval to attend the Economic Development Department held online on November 22, 2021.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve for Trustees Wolberg to attend the Economic Development Department; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

A roll call vote was conducted by President Dorough and is as follows:

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

November 17, 2021

There was no need for an Executive Session.

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**

After discussion, Trustee Bustamante made a motion to set the next committee meeting's date and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for December 22, 2021, with Committee meetings starting at 1:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other items open for discussion, Trustee Bustamante moved to adjourn; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

November 17, 2021

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Bustamante, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Dorough, President

I, Paul Bustamante, do hereby certify that I am the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc., herein called the "Cooperative," and the above is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 17, 2021. A Quorum of Trustees was present and acted upon throughout the meeting, and none of the Minutes of the above have been rescinded or modified.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Bustamante, Secretary/Treasurer