

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

April 23, 2022

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Macey Center, New Mexico Tech Campus, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m. Lorna Wiggins, Attorney.

**ROLL CALL**

Attorney Wiggins called the roll and reported those present and attending as follows:

TRUSTEES PRESENT:      Ward McCartney, Trustee  
   Representative, District 1

   James Nelson, Trustee  
   Representative, District 2

   Luis Aguilar, Trustee  
   Representative, District 3

   Leroy Anaya, Trustee  
   Representative, District 3

   Donald Wolberg, Trustee  
   Representative, District 3

   Dave Wade, Trustee  
   Representative, District 4

TRUSTEES ABSENT:      None

ALSO, PRESENT:            Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
   Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
   Jimmy Capps, Chief Financial Officers  
   Lorna Wiggins, Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: David L Wade

**QUORUM**

Attorney Wiggins declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Wiggins approved the Agenda as presented.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments brought forth by SEC Members.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

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Attorney Wiggins administered the Oath of Office to Trustees Wade and McCartney.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**CHAIR**

Attorney Wiggins called for the election of the Office of Chair by secret ballot.

After all Trustees cast their secret ballots, Attorney Wiggins announced and declared Trustee Nelson as Chair.

**VICE-CHAIR**

Attorney Wiggins called for the election of the Office of Vice-Chair by secret ballot.

After all Trustees cast their secret ballots, Attorney Wiggins announced and declared Trustee Aguilar as Vice-Chair.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to combine the Secretary and Treasurer positions; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Wiggins called for the election of the Office of Secretary/Treasurer by secret ballot.

After all Trustees cast their secret ballots, Attorney Wiggins announced and declared Trustee Wolberg as Secretary/Treasurer.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

Trustee Anaya made a motion to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. and for the Board to postpone any action and stand in abeyance; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Wiggins adjourned the meeting until Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

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

April 27, 2022

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) continued on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by James Nelson, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL**

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT: James Nelson, Chairman  
Representative, District 2

Luis Aguilar, Vice-Chairman  
Representative, District 3

Donald Wolberg, Secretary/Treasurer  
Representative, District 3

Leroy Anaya, Trustee  
Representative, District 3

Dave Wade, Trustee  
Representative, District 4

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Ward McCartney, Trustee\*  
Representative, District 1

ALSO, PRESENT: Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
Jimmy Capps, Chief Financial Officer  
David Montoya, Safety Compliance Officer  
Steve Dettmer, Line Superintendent  
Marilyn Madrid, Member Services Supervisor  
Bill Miller, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss (via teleconference)  
Trey Rowe, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss (via teleconference)  
Lorna Wiggins, Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins (via teleconference)

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: David L Wade and Cyndi Mae Wade

**QUORUM**

Secretary Wolberg declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Nelson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF CONTINUED AGENDA**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the Continued Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Nelson approved the Agenda as presented.

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**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the minutes from March 23, 2022, as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Nelson approved the minutes from March 23, 2022, as presented.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

There were no comments brought forth by SEC Members.

\* Trustee McCartney entered the meeting during the discussion of this agenda item.

**PRESENTATION OF 2021 IRS FORM 990**

Manager Herrera stated that Bill Miller, CPA Partner with Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss (BSGM), joined them via teleconference.

Mr. Miller thanked the Board for allowing him to present via teleconference and proceeded to go over, in extensive detail, the 2021 IRS Form 990. Mr. Miller answered questions posed by the Trustees.

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve the 2021 IRS Form 990; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Nelson thanked Mr. Miller for his presentation.

**PRESENTATION OF 2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT**

Manager Herrera stated that Trey Rowe, CPA Partner with BSGM, was joining them via teleconference.

Mr. Rowe thanked the Board for allowing him to present via teleconference; and proceeded to go over the December 31, 2021, and 2020 Audit reports stating that BSGM did not have any findings related to significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and found SEC records in great shape, offering a clean opinion of the Cooperative financials. Mr. Rowe answered questions posed by the Trustees.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the 2021 Financial Audit; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Rowe for his presentation.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$1,320,785.63 for March 2022 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the Expenditure Report for March 2022.

Manager Herrera reported the Visa credit card expenditures, complete with supporting receipts, made available to the Board of Trustees for March 2022.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the credit card report for March 2022.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19 and stated for March, SEC had no employees test positive. Manager Herrera reported that SEC continues to check people who come to the office and stay up to date on the governor's orders which will be reviewed in May 2022.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the COVID-19 Update for March 2022.

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating the Circle K gas station will be building a new gas station, a 1,000-amp service, breaking ground in June to start construction. Manager Herrera stated that a developer is in the process of building a 36-unit apartment complex within the industrial park, and SEC is working with their engineers on this project,

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scheduled to break ground at the end of 2022. Manager Herrera reported with the legalization of marijuana in New Mexico, SEC has seen an increase in grow houses, with members wanting anywhere from a 4,000-amp service up to a mega-watt service. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the Engineering Report for March 2022.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding the NM DoIT Broadband Program, as reported at the March meeting, CTC Technology & Energy (CTC) and SEC have finished solidifying the questions that will be sent to all SEC members in English and Spanish regarding broadband in their homes and businesses. Manager Herrera reported that DoIT would be paying for the additional cost to mail out the survey and return the surveys in a pre-paid envelope that will go out with SEC's billing insert. Manager Herrera stated that those members who return their survey would be entered for a drawing for one of five gift cards. Manager Herrera reported that those members who only receive e-bill notifications would also receive a link to be able to participate in the survey. Manager Herrera stated that CTC and SEC would be holding upcoming community leader education and stakeholder discussions on May 3, 2022. Manager Herrera reported that New Mexico had released a Request for Information (RFI) to get information to see the interest in broadband across the state and who is interested in providing this service. Manager Herrera stated that SEC has filled out this RFI and hopes others across the SEC service area complete it to show an interest and need within the SEC service area. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the NM DoIT Broadband Program Report for March 2022.

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that the SEC had received a few thank you cards from kids in the 4-H Clubs. Manager Herrera reported that with the recent winds, the neighbor's roof blew off and fell on top of the roof of the Board room. Manager Herrera stated significant damage had been done to the Board room roof and will be working with the insurance to get the roof repaired.

Chairman Nelson thanked Manager Herrera for the Manager's Report for March 2022.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Capps reviewed the RUS Form 7 Report for March 2022 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Mr. Capps for the RUS Form 7 Report for March 2022.

#### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

##### **SAFETY REPORT**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the March Safety Report and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

##### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the March Job Briefing Reports.

Chairman Nelson thanked Mr. Montoya for the Safety Report for March 2022.

#### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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

Mr. Dettmer reported for March activities, crews completed 12 work orders, closed no work orders, and completed 60 service orders, with most service orders for area lights. Mr. Dettmer reported that crews cut 3 trees and trimmed 5 trees in March.

##### **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.

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Chairman Nelson thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for March 2022.

**MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

**ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for March 2022 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

**NM PRC MEMBER CONCERNS**

Ms. Madrid reported that SEC had no Member informal complaint filed with the NM PRC in March 2022. Ms. Madrid stated that the complaint filed in April 2022 had been resolved and closed, finding SEC was not in any violation. Ms. Madrid proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for March 2022.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Mr. Capps reviewed the March Communications and Public Affairs Report and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Mr. Capps for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for March 2022.

**TRI-STATE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya gave the Tri-State Board of Directors' activities report for April 2022.

Manager Herrera reported on the Rate Design Committee Update activities for April 2022. Manager Herrera reported that the committee discussed the cooperative guiding principles and discussed whether the current A-40 rate design is the appropriate structure for the "come-back FERC filing" required of Tri-State in September 2023. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Nelson thanked Trustee Anaya and Manager Herrera for the Tri-State Report.

Chairman Nelson called for a ten-minute recess at the end of this discussion item at 5:32 p.m.

Chairman Nelson called the meeting back to order at 5:42 p.m.

**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for April 2022.

Chairman Nelson thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for April 2022.

Chairman Nelson thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chairman Nelson reported that a copy of the first quarter Trustee Worksheets was made available for review. Chairman Nelson announced the following committee assignments for the upcoming year:

Standing Committee: Donald Wolberg (Chair), Luis Aguilar, Ward McCartney, and James Nelson (ex-officio)

Finance Committee: Luis Aguilar (Chair), Leroy Anaya, Dave Wade, and James Nelson (ex-officio)

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**OLD BUSINESS**

District 5 Trustee Vacancy

After extensive discussion, Trustee Aguilar called for a vote by secret ballot.

Chairman Nelson called for a five-minute recess to allow the new Trustees to review the District 5 Trustee candidate information provided at 6:25 p.m.

Chairman Nelson called the meeting back to order at 6:31 p.m.

Chairman Nelson announced and declared Ron Burnett was the new District 5 Trustee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Line Construction Bids

Manager Herrera reported that SEC had two (2) larger projects at North Oscura Peak (NOP) and the San Antonio Crossing that had poles rejected during pole decay inspection. Manager Herrera stated that SEC does not have the equipment or the staffing to complete these jobs. Manager Herrera reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed two (2) bids for the Line Construction, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve the Transformer Power bid for \$423,591.60 to do the three (3) structures at NOP and four (4) structures at the San Antonio Crossing.

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the bid from Transformer Power for \$423,591.60; motion seconded by Trustee McCartney. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees as reviewed.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees as reviewed; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee with proposed corrections.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee as corrected; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee as reviewed.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee as reviewed; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee as reviewed.

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Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee as reviewed; motion seconded by Trustee McCartney. 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
EM-April-22-A	\$133.79	\$0.00	\$23.00	\$18.22	\$112.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$287.39	\$175.01
EM-April-22-B	\$695.66	\$8.11	\$47.85	\$22.85	\$345.41	\$42.32	\$0.00	\$1,162.20	\$816.79
EM-April-22-C	\$467.05	\$4.80	\$70.13	\$63.49	\$254.57	\$10.76	\$0.00	\$870.80	\$616.23
EM-April-22-D	\$470.64	\$0.00	\$68.21	\$56.19	\$317.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$912.14	\$595.04
EM-April-22-E	\$656.53	\$10.15	\$26.53	\$8.49	\$203.11	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$904.81	\$701.70

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-April-22-A	\$409.27	\$4.91	\$39.76	\$30.30	\$171.35	\$30.09	\$0.00	\$685.68	\$514.33
JM-April-22-B	\$296.93	\$4.02	\$22.52	\$16.45	\$110.43	\$23.61	\$0.00	\$473.96	\$363.53
JM-April-22-C	\$254.36	\$0.56	\$31.50	\$25.68	\$148.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$460.91	\$312.10
JM-April-22-D	\$457.14	\$5.67	\$39.59	\$28.78	\$188.47	\$20.57	\$0.00	\$740.22	\$551.75
JM-April-22-E	\$360.37	\$0.44	\$12.11	\$1.87	\$140.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$515.25	\$374.79
JM-April-22-F	\$520.78	\$0.00	\$70.27	\$59.44	\$329.88	\$0.00	(\$29.89)	\$950.48	\$620.60
JM-April-22-G	\$234.44	\$7.12	\$3.55	\$0.00	\$1.33	\$49.56	\$0.00	\$296.00	\$294.67

Trustee Wolberg 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 Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

There were no Line Extensions Contracts open for consideration.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

There was no Trustee Travel brought forward for consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Nelson called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Aguilar made a motion and seconded by Trustee Wolberg to return to Regular Session at 7:02 p.m.

Chairman Nelson stated that there was no action taken during Executive Session.

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**



REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 27, 2022

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to set the next committee meeting's date and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for May 18, 2022, with Committee meetings starting at 1:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

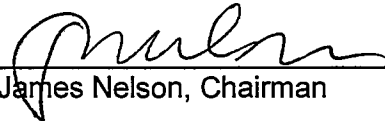
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

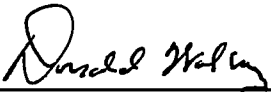
Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Wolberg, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Nelson, Chairman

I, Donald Wolberg, 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 April 23, 2022, and the Regular Meeting Continuation held on April 27, 2022. 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Wolberg, Secretary/Treasurer