

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

December 20, 2024

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Friday, December 20, 2024, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Leroy Anaya, President.

**ROLL CALL**

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

- TRUSTEES PRESENT:
- Leroy Anaya, President  
Representative, District 3
  - Ron Burnett, Vice President  
Representative, District 5
  - Eileen Latasa, Secretary/Treasurer  
Representative, District 2
  - Ward McCartney, Trustee\*  
Representative, District 1
  - M Kenneth Bowden, Trustee  
Representative, District 3
  - Stephen Rosas, Trustee,  
Representative, District 3
  - David Lyn Wade, Trustee  
Representative, District 4
- TRUSTEE(S) ABSENT: None
- ALSO PRESENT:
- Manuel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer
  - Donna Wilkins, Interim General Manager
  - Jimmy Capps, Chief Financial Officer
  - David Montoya, Safety Compliance Officer
  - Jason Otero, Line Superintendent
  - Marilyn Madrid, Member Services Supervisor

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: Shelby Saulsberry

**QUORUM**

Secretary Latasa declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Anaya led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Burnett moved to approve the Agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Bowden. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya approved the Agenda as presented.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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Trustee Bowden moved to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting of November 19-20, 2024, as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Wade. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya approved the Minutes from November 19-20, 2024, as presented.

After discussion, Trustee Rosas moved to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2024, as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Burnett. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya approved the Minutes from November 21, 2024, as presented.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS**

President Anaya stated that he had received a donation from Tri-State, which was awarded to the Datil Coyote Club on behalf of Socorro Electric.

Ms. Saulsberry thanked on behalf of the Datil Coyote Club, the Board, and Tri-State for this award and stated it would help the students in the area.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Interim Manager Wilkins reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$3,496,394.87 for November 2024.

President Anaya thanked Interim Manager Wilkins for the Expenditure Report for November 2024.

Interim Manager Wilkins reported the Visa Credit Card expenditures, complete with supporting receipts, made available to the Board of Trustees for November 2024 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Anaya thanked Interim Manager Wilkins for the Visa Credit Card Report for November 2024.

Interim Manager Wilkins reported on the following for the Engineering Report for November that SEC had 19 site visits scheduled and sent out 13 estimate packets to members. She reported that the Magdalena Substation was successfully energized on December 10, 2024, and SEC contractors continue to work on energizing the regulators, substation bus, and switchgear in the substation. She stated the regulators were tested on December 17, 2024, and the results returned good, aside from a bushing that has been brought to the manufacturer's attention and will be corrected. She stated that SEC continues to work with T&D to prepare for the Quemado substation load transfer scheduled for January 20, 2025, which Mr. Otero has planned to complete on January 16, 2025.

Interim Manager Wilkins also reported on the following: Altitude had requested an outage to install a pole in a congested area where a three-phase distribution line crosses below the current transmission line. She stated the outage is scheduled for December 21, 2024, starting at 7:00 a.m. and lasting approximately two hours. She noted that this is the last pole to be installed so the fiber can be brought in from Socorro to Magdalena. She reported that construction for the remaining transmission conductors will continue until the last steel structure near the Tri-State Socorro substation. She stated a temporary pole had been set between the last steel structure and the Tri-State substation to get the fiber up. She reported that two steel poles are still in production by the manufacturer and will be installed once the poles have been delivered. She stated another outage may occur on January 3 or 4, 2025, but Mr. Otero will confirm before notice is provided to all members.

The Board was also informed by Interim Manager Wilkins on the following items: Ward Systems continues to be on track to complete the Magdalena Fiber project by the end of February 2025 as scheduled. She stated Ward Systems continues to install the mainline throughout Magdalena and the Network Interface Devices (NIDs), and service drops from the main line to residents. She reported that there had been some complaints from members regarding crews entering the property without proper notice to install fiber and cutting gate chains. She stated that SEC discussed these concerns with ACRS (Broadband Project Management). She reported that ACRS had contacted these members and stated they would follow the proper notice required by SEC when entering members' property.

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Interim Manager Wilkins reported that, due to the upcoming holidays, all transmission contractors will be off-site starting December 22, 2024, returning on January 2, 2025, and all fiber contractors will be off-site starting December 21, 2024, and returning on January 5, 2025. Interim Manager Wilkins proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Anaya thanked Interim Manager Wilkins for the Engineering Report for November 2024.

Interim Manager Wilkins reported that SEC had received several 4-H Donation Thank You cards which were made available to the Board of Trustees. Interim Manager Wilkins stated that with the upcoming Christmas holiday, she requested that the Board of Trustees consider allowing the employees off early on Christmas Eve to enjoy the holidays with their families.

After discussion, Trustee McCartney moved to approve allowing SEC employees off early for the Christmas Eve holiday; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya thanked Interim Manager Wilkins for the Manager's Report for November 2024.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Capps carefully reviewed the RUS Form 7 Report for November 2024 RUS Form 7 in detail.

President Anaya thanked Mr. Capps for the RUS Form 7 Report for November 2024.

### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the November Safety Report.

#### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the November Job Briefing Reports.

President Anaya thanked Mr. Montoya for the Safety Report for November 2024.

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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

Mr. Otero reported on November activities, with crews completing 23 service orders.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Otero reviewed the outages occurring in November 2024 and answered questions the Trustees posed.

President Anaya thanked Mr. Otero for the Operations and Maintenance Report for November 2024.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

Ms. Madrid reported on the Energy Delinquent Report for November 2024. Ms. Madrid reported that for November 2024, SEC had 38 members with medical certificates totaling \$128,838.85, 12 members with active arrangements totaling \$9,659.48, and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Ms. Madrid reported that no SEC Member complaints were filed with the NM PRC in November 2024.

President Anaya thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for November 2024.

### **TRI-STATE REPORT**

President Anaya presented the Tri-State Board of Directors’ activities report for December 2024 and then answered questions posed by the Trustees.

**NMREC REPORT**

Trustee Burnett presented the NMREC activities report for December 2024.

President Anaya thanked Trustee Burnett for the NMREC Report for December 2024.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Anaya welcomed new Chief Executive Officer Manuel “Manny” Gonzales to Socorro Electric Cooperative. President Anaya reported that both he and CEO Gonzales had a good meeting with Mayor Bhasker and Mr. Donald Monette, City Administrator Treasurer. President Anaya reported that in January 2025, Districts 1, 4, and 5 will be open to members to file for candidacy and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Burnett reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on December 20, 2024.

President Anaya thanked Trustee Burnett for the Finance Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Policy 122 – Retention of Corporate Records**

Interim Manager Wilkins reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 122 – Retention of Corporate Records, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 122 – Retention of Corporate Records as reviewed.

After discussion, Trustee Latasa moved to return Board Policy 122 – Retention of Corporate Records for additional consideration; the motion was seconded by Trustee Bowden. President Anaya requested a roll call vote:

Interim Manager Wilkins conducted a roll call vote and is as follows:  
Yes: Trustees Bowden, Latasa, and McCartney  
No: Trustees Burnett, Rosas, Wade, and President Anaya  
Motion failed.

President Anaya moved to table Board Policy 122 – Retention of Corporate Records to January 2025, after hearing no motion to approve as reviewed as recommended by the Standing Committee.

**Board Policy 133 – Appointment to Board of Directors or Membership of an Organization**

Interim Manager Wilkins reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 133 – Appointment to Board of Directors or Membership of an Organization, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 133 – Appointment to Board of Directors or Membership of an Organization as reviewed.

Trustee McCartney moved to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 133 – Appointment to Board of Directors or Membership of an Organization as reviewed; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Capital Credit Estate Retirements**

Interim Manager Wilkins reported that SEC General Counsel Lorna Wiggins Esq. had previously reviewed the Patronage Estate Capital Retirement requests as provided in the Trustee’s BoardPaq and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees. 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	Tri-State	Gains	Unpaid Balance	Total	Total without Tri-State
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				& Other Non-Ops					
Dec-24-A	\$133.64	\$7.08	\$4.06	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54.24	\$0.00	\$199.02	\$199.02

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
N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

After discussion, Trustee McCartney moved to approve the Retirement of Patronage Capital as presented, absent any Tri-State allocations, to the accounts mentioned above; the motion was seconded by Trustee Burnett. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

There were no Line Extension Contracts open for consideration.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

There were no Trustee Travel requests brought forward for consideration.

NRECA 2025 PowerXchange Voting & Alternate Delegate

Trustee Burnett moved to make President Anaya the Voting Delegate and Trustee Latasa the Alternate Delegate for NRECA; the motion was seconded by Trustee Bowden. The motion carried unanimously.

After further discussion, Trustee Burnett moved to make President Anaya the Voting Delegate and Trustee Latasa the Alternate Delegate for Federated Rural Electric, CFC, and NRTC; the motion was seconded by Trustee Latasa. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Bowden moved to go into Executive Session to discuss employment matters and strategic and long-range business plans; the motion was seconded by Trustee Wade. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:35 p.m.

\* Trustee McCartney was excused from the Executive Session at 3:35 p.m. and did not return after the Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

Trustee Burnett moved and was seconded by Trustee Rosas to return to the Regular Session at 4:47 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya stated that no action was taken during the Executive Session.

SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING

After discussion, Trustee Burnett moved to set the date and time of the Committee meetings for January 31, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for January 31, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Trustee Bowden. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other items open for discussion, Trustee Bowden moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

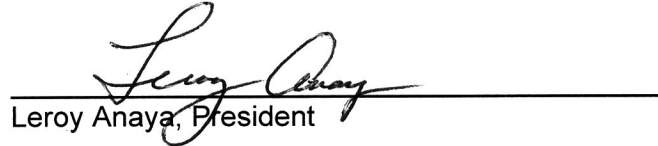
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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Eileen Latasa, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

  
Leroy Anaya, President

I, Eileen Latasa, 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 December 20, 2024. 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.

  
Eileen Latasa, Secretary/Treasurer