

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

July 28, 2021

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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

                              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\*\* (via teleconference)  
                              Representative, District 4

TRUSTEES ABSENT:     Luis Aguilar, Vice President\* (via teleconference)  
                              Representative, District 3

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)  
                              Jimmy Capps, Director of Communications and Public Affairs (via  
                                  teleconference)  
                              Lorna Wiggins, Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins (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**

July 28, 2021

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

President Dorough approved the Agenda as presented.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Anaya had a correction to the June 23, 2021 minutes.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the minutes from June 23, 2021, as corrected; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from June 23, 2021, as corrected.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

\* Trustee Aguilar joined the meeting during the discussion of this agenda item at 2:02 p.m.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$867,651.89 for June 2021 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

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

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

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19, stating the New Mexico's executive order stated that it would follow the CDC guidelines for vaccinated and unvaccinated mask requirements. Manager Herrera reported that recently CDC updated its guidelines regarding wearing masks indoors for vaccinated individuals. Manager Herrera stated once CDC updates its website with these new requirements, it will be updating the requirements for all staff and members coming into the office; and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating NextEra Energy, the Borderland Wind 100MW project developer, had requested service from SEC for station power to the project wind turbines, which could be between one (1) to two (2) MWs. Manager Herrera stated that initially, the request was made to Tucson Electric Power (TEP); however, since the wind turbines is not in their service area, the request was made to SEC. Manager Herrera reported that he is working with Tri-State to set up a delivery point at the TEP substation to provide power to SEC. Manager Herrera stated that he met with White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) to install a microgrid (1-1.5 MW) for their office complex building with more information to come. Manager Herrera reported that Magellan Pipeline has changed the scope of work for their job and will be providing their own transformer at their San Antonio and Bernardo compressor sites. Manager Herrera stated SEC would have a primary meter at each location for billing, just as we do with New Mexico Tech. Manager Herrera stated that TDS Broadband contacted SEC about attaching a lighter fiber cable where they currently have their copper coax cable attached, but they are considering the possibility of going underground. Manager Herrera reported that T&D Services is still working on the Socorro to Magdalena 69kV line design, working on the geological conditions and re-routing around the drainage arroyo. Manager Herrera stated that the exit from the Tri-State substation option is being reviewed; progress is at approximately 60%. Manager Herrera stated that the Magdalena substation drawings are being worked on with progress at 60%. Manager Herrera reported that progress is at 60% for the Bernardo and Burris paperwork drawings for the pole insets at the I-25, railroad, and US-60 crossings. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

July 28, 2021

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting SEC had received a thank you card from a 2021 scholarship recipient from the SEC Foundation. Manager Herrera stated that there had been a waterline break in the room next to the board room, which caused flooding and significant damage to this room with some seepage into the board room. Manager Herrera reported at least three to four (3-4) feet of sheetrock from the floor up would need to be replaced.

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

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the June Safety Report.

#### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the June Job Briefing Reports.

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

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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

Mr. Dettmer reported for June activities, 11 work orders were closed, completed 14 work orders, and completed 47 service orders with most service orders for area lights. Mr. Dettmer reported that crews have started to pull the old poles out on the Bullock Street Project but are waiting for cable and telephone lines to be removed from the remaining poles. Mr. Dettmer stated the White Sands Missile Range linework is still being worked on and is almost complete. Mr. Dettmer stated that crews are still working on the station power line extension for the Borderland Wind project with nearly all the poles in place. Mr. Dettmer reported the recent monsoon rains have slowed construction of the line due to the line crews having to address the several outages caused by the storms.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Dettmer reviewed several major outages that either affected over 100 members or those for which the outage time was lengthy. Mr. Dettmer stated that some of the outages in our west area were due to an issue with the Quemado substation.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for June 2021 and all the crews' hard work.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

#### **ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for June. Ms. Madrid stated that SEC had made 142 payment arrangements, totaling \$139,699.23 for those members who did not pay their bills during the COVID moratorium period. Ms. Madrid reported of the many utility assistance programs available for members to help pay their bills. Ms. Madrid stated SEC had received payments totaling \$241,188.81 to help those members who applied for assistance.

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

Ms. Madrid reported that SEC had no Member informal complaints filed with the NM PRC in June 2021.

President Dorough thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for June 2021 and the department's hard work.

July 28, 2021

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

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

President Dorough thanked Mr. Capps for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for June 2021.

**TRI-STATE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya gave the Tri-State Board of Director's activities report for July 2021.

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

**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for July 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for July 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

\*\* Trustee Hawkes left the meeting at the end of the discussion of this agenda item at 3:18 p.m.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dorough reported the 2021 Trustee Expense reports for the second quarter had been provided for all Trustees to review. President Dorough also requested for Trustees to keep their expense reports current.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar gave the Finance Committee Report, which met on July 21, 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 July 28, 2021, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2019 Bad Debt Write-offs**

Manager Herrera reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed Bad Debt Write-off for 2019, with electric accounts totaling \$55,577.73, other accounts receivable totaling \$2,135.20, and contracts totaling \$12,541.14 for a total of \$70,254.07. Manager Herrera reported that SEC would still try to collect on these accounts. Manager Herrera reported the Committee's recommendation that the Board approves the 2019 Bad Debt Write-off of \$70,254.07.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the 2019 Bad Debt Write-off of \$70,254.07; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar.

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.

July 28, 2021

Consideration of CoBank Nominating Committee Ballot

Manager Herrera reported SEC had received a ballot from CoBank regarding accepting the proposed nomination committee.

Trustee Nelson made a motion to accept the entire CoBank 2022-2023 Nominating Committee Slate as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar.

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

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, and Nelson

No: None

Abstain: Trustee Wolberg

Motion carried with one abstention.

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-July-21-A	\$358.18	\$7.15	\$33.89	\$24.32	\$137.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$560.73	\$423.54
EM-July-21-B	\$736.68	\$7.80	\$69.43	\$54.28	\$290.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,158.19	\$868.19
EM-July-21-C	\$529.08	\$11.03	\$16.81	\$2.80	\$168.99	\$357.35	\$0.00	\$1,086.06	\$917.07
EM-July-21-D	\$111.12	\$0.00	\$49.15	\$48.56	\$105.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$314.14	\$208.83

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-July-21-A	\$214.08	\$0.77	\$22.41	\$17.34	\$104.86	\$0.00	(\$118.06)	\$241.40	\$136.54
JM-July-21-B	\$479.26	\$8.19	\$44.63	\$36.17	\$203.62	\$44.08	\$0.00	\$815.95	\$612.33
JM-July-21-C	\$453.99	\$7.82	\$43.94	\$32.51	\$200.90	\$25.42	\$0.00	\$764.58	\$563.68

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 Wolberg.

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

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

Manager Herrera reported a line extension contract for Susan Stanford for \$5,525.82 was being presented to the Board for approval. Manager Herrera recommended that the Board approve the contract for Ms. Stanford.

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve the contract for Susan Stanford for \$5,525.82; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar.

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

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 28, 2021

There were no Trustee Travel requests brought forward for consideration.

Consideration NMRECA Voting and Alternate Representative

Trustee Anaya made a motion to nominate Trustee Wolberg as NMRECA Voting Representative.

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

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to nominate Trustee Anaya as NMRECA Alternate Voting Representative.

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

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of NRECA Director Election Voting and Alternate Delegate

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to use the same slate for the NRECA Director Election Voting and Alternate Delegate as used for the NMRECA Voting and Alternate Representative; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar.

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

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

President Dorough called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:39 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Bustamante made a motion and seconded by Trustee Aguilar to return to Regular Session at 4:04 p.m.

President Dorough stated that there was no action taken during Executive Session.

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**

After discussion, Trustee Bustamante made a motion to set the Committee meeting's date and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for August 18, 2021, with Committee meetings starting at 1:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

President Dorough adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING


July 28, 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 July 28, 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