

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

March 23, 2022

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:58 p.m. by Paul Bustamante, Chairman.

**ROLL CALL**

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

TRUSTEES PRESENT:        Paul Bustamante, Chairman  
                                     Representative, District 1

                                     Luis Aguilar, Vice-Chairman  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     James Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer  
                                     Representative, District 2

                                     Leroy Anaya, Trustee  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Donald Wolberg, Trustee  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Michael Hawkes, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 4

TRUSTEES ABSENT:        None

ALSO, PRESENT:            Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
                                     Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
                                     Rauni Montoya, Accounting Supervisor  
                                     David Montoya, Safety Compliance Officer  
                                     Steve Dettmer, Line Superintendent  
                                     Marilyn Madrid, Member Services Supervisor  
                                     Jimmy Capps, Director of Communications and Public Affairs  
                                     Lorna Wiggins, Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins (via  
   teleconference)

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: Tara Jaramillo, Dave Wade, David L Wade, Ward McCartney, and Cyndi Mae Wade

**QUORUM**

Secretary Nelson declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Bustamante led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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Chairman Bustamante approved the Agenda as presented.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

Tara Jaramillo, District 2 member, provided some background information about herself and explained why she is running for NM House District 38.

Ward McCartney, District 1 member, provided the Trustees with information about Tri-State and their renewable generation sources.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$841,590.94 for February 2022.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the Expenditure Report for February 2022.

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

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the credit card report for February 2022.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19 and stated for February, SEC had one (1) employee 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.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the COVID-19 Update for February 2022.

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating that SEC has seen an increase in site visits with many members moving into the area. Manager Herrera reported that Techline continues to have difficulties obtaining quotes due to manufacturers' reluctance to provide quotes for fear of continued fluctuations in metal pricing and uncertainty with access to electrical components. Manager Herrera stated that the NM Environment Department had reviewed the petroleum storage tanks information submitted on our behalf by Western Technologies, Inc., and determined our tanks met all the requirements, and was approved. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the Engineering Report for February 2022.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding the NM DoIT Broadband Program for February, stating CTC Technology & Energy (CTC) and SEC are working on solidifying questions that will be sent to all SEC members in English and Spanish. Manager Herrera reported that Jimmy Capps is working with the company that prints and mails all-SEC bills to determine the additional cost to include these surveys within the billing inserts. Manager Herrera stated that CTC and SEC had discussed combining some community leader education and stakeholder discussions into one long meeting. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the NM DoIT Broadband Program Report for February 2022.

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that the SEC had received numerous thank you cards from kids in the 4-H Clubs; received patronage allocations from Federated Rural Electric, Meridian Cooperative, CoBank, and NMRE Self-Insurers Fund Workman Compensation Refund for 2021. Manager Herrera reported that March's Board meeting would be Rauni Montoya's last meeting. Manager Herrera stated that Jimmy Capps will be assuming Ms. Montoya's job responsibilities and thanked Ms. Montoya for all of her hard work during the 19-years that she has been with the SEC.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Manager Herrera for the Manager's Report for February 2022.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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Ms. Montoya carefully reviewed in detail the RUS Form 7 Report for February 2022 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

All trustees thanked Ms. Montoya for her hard work and wished her good luck.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Ms. Montoya for the RUS Form 7 Report for February 2022.

**SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**SAFETY REPORT**

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

**JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the January Job Briefing Reports.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Mr. Montoya for the Safety Report for February 2022.

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Mr. Dettmer reported for February activities, crews closed 25 work orders, completed 15 work orders, and completed 47 service orders, with most service orders for area lights. Mr. Dettmer reported that crews cut 5 trees and trimmed 15 trees in February.

**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.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for February 2022.

**MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

**ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for February 2022.

**NM PRC MEMBER CONCERNS**

Ms. Madrid reported that SEC had one (1) Member informal complaint filed with the NM PRC in February 2022. Ms. Madrid stated that the complaint had been resolved and closed, finding SEC was not in any violation.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for February 2022.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

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

Chairman Bustamante thanked Mr. Capps for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for February 2022.

**TRI-STATE REPORT**

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

Manager Herrera reported on the Rate Design Committee Update activities for February 2022. Manager Herrera reported that the committee has received beneficial educational processes and has had great in-depth discussions. Manager Herrera stated that the committee was given a deadline of May 2023 to recommend to the Tri-State Board for the upcoming FERC come-

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back filing. Manager Herrera reported that there was discussion on whether the current A-40 rate design is the appropriate structure for the "come-back FERC filing" required of Tri-State in September 2023 and what the committee will need to review. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for March 2022.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for March 2022.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Chairman Bustamante reported that a copy of the Form 990-PF for 2021 had been made available to all Trustees.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 16, 2022.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Trustee Aguilar for the Finance Committee Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya reported on the Standing Committee Meeting held on March 23, 2022, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

Chairman Bustamante thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**District 5 Trustee Vacancy**

Manager Herrera provided the information in the By-Laws of the options available and what the Board has previously done for other District Trustee Vacancies.

After discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to fill the District 5 seat by Board appointment for a one (1) year term; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

Trustee Aguilar called for a roll-call vote.

A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Bustamante and is as follows:

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

No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

After further discussion, Trustee Aguilar made a motion to amend the motion to fill the District 5 seat by Board appointment for a three (3) year term; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

A roll call vote was conducted by Chairman Bustamante and is as follows:

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, 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

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BoardPac. 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-Feb-22-A	\$715.15	\$16.96	\$9.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$192.31	\$0.00	\$933.78	\$933.78
EM-Feb-22-B	\$379.01	\$5.09	\$39.60	\$33.05	\$280.75	\$0.00	(\$77.96)	\$659.54	\$378.79
EM-Feb-22-C	\$390.46	\$7.27	\$16.72	\$0.89	\$129.78	\$23.31	\$0.00	\$568.43	\$438.65
EM-Feb-22-D	\$791.88	\$11.29	\$58.42	\$39.67	\$296.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,197.88	\$901.26
EM-Feb-22-E	\$415.64	\$5.24	\$34.28	\$23.87	\$167.75	\$12.52	\$0.00	\$659.30	\$491.55
EM-Feb-22-F	\$489.50	\$6.38	\$38.99	\$26.29	\$209.76	\$66.37	\$0.00	\$837.29	\$627.53

**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-Feb-22-A	\$282.67	\$5.09	\$21.12	\$14.60	\$89.56	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$413.04	\$323.48
JM-Feb-22-B	\$133.44	\$0.62	\$11.00	\$8.45	\$58.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$211.90	\$153.51
JM-Feb-22-C	\$396.02	\$5.73	\$11.74	\$0.00	\$110.16	\$27.77	\$0.00	\$551.42	\$441.26
JM-Feb-22-D	\$517.11	\$10.14	\$22.74	\$12.44	\$123.76	\$53.03	\$0.00	\$739.22	\$615.46
JM-Feb-22-E	\$402.98	\$5.88	\$15.27	\$2.19	\$142.83	\$102.01	\$0.00	\$671.16	\$528.33

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 Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Line Extension Contracts**

Manager Herrera reported a line extension contract for Ray and Roxanne Heckman for \$8,105.15 was being presented to the Board for approval. Manager Herrera recommended that the Board approve the contract for Mr. and Mrs. Heckman.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve the contract for Ray and Roxanne Heckman for \$5,525.82; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Trustee Travel**

Trustee Anaya, Nelson, Wolberg, and Chairman Bustamante requested Board approval to attend the NMRECA Annual Meeting scheduled for May 31-June 2, 2022, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve Trustee Anaya, Nelson, Wolberg, and Chairman Bustamante to attend the NMRECA Annual Meeting; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Anaya requested Board approval to attend the CFC Forum scheduled for June 20-22, 2022, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve Trustee Anaya to attend the CFC Forum; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Chairman Bustamante called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:55 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

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Trustee Wolberg made a motion and seconded by Trustee Anaya to return to Regular Session at 4:31 p.m.

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

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**

Manager Herrera stated that as per the By-Laws, the next regular scheduled Board meeting is to be held after the Annual Meeting of the Members on April 23, 2022. Manager Herrera stated the election of officers is completed, and then the meeting has been continued to a later date, and the remainder of the agenda was completed at that time.

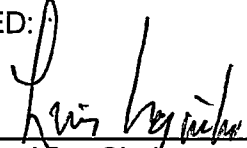
**ADJOURNMENT**

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


Chairman Bustamante adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Luis Aguilar, Vice Chairman

I, James Nelson, 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 March 23, 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.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer