

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

June 26, 2024

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) was held on Wednesday, June 26, 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 (via teleconference)  
                                  Representative, District 5

                                  Stephen Rosas, Secretary/Treasurer  
                                  Representative, District 3

                                  Ward McCartney, Trustee\*  
                                  Representative, District 1

                                  Eileen Latasa, Trustee  
                                  Representative, District 2

TRUSTEE(S) ABSENT:    M Kenneth Bowden, Trustee  
                                  Representative, District 3

ALSO PRESENT:         Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
                                  Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
                                  Jimmy Capps, Chief Financial Officer  
                                  David Montoya, Safety Compliance Officer  
                                  Jason Otero, Line Superintendent  
                                  Marilyn Madrid, Member Services Supervisor  
                                  Jerrid Williams, Director of Communication and Public Affairs

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: Coyo Wade, David L Wade, Luis Aguilar

**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 McCartney moved to approve the Agenda as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya approved the Agenda as presented.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Latasa moved to approve the Minutes from May 22, 2024, as presented; the motion was seconded by Trustee McCartney. The motion carried unanimously.

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President Anaya approved the Minutes from May 22, 2024, as presented.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

No Member Comments were brought forth.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$1,449,853.92 for May 2024.

President Anaya thanked Manager Herrera for the Expenditure Report for May 2024.

Manager Herrera reported the Visa credit card expenditures, complete with supporting receipts, made available to the Board of Trustees for May 2024.

President Anaya thanked Manager Herrera for the credit card report for May 2024.

Manager Herrera reported for the Engineering Report that SEC continues to work with Tri-State on the shoofly project for the Sun Zia transmission, which is impacting the Bernardo substation and transmission feeder lines. Manager Herrera stated that SEC still has over 70 site visits open and is working on training the new staking tech, who is learning the process. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

Manager Herrera reported that SEC had received patronage allocations from Western United Electric Supply for 2017.

President Anaya thanked Manager Herrera for the Manager's Report for May 2024.

**MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

**ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for May 2024, which had significant changes due to the board-approved 2022 write-offs.

**NM PRC MEMBER CONCERNS**

Ms. Madrid reported there were no SEC Member complaint(s) filed with the NM PRC in May 2024.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

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

**SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**SAFETY REPORT**

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

**JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the May Job Briefing Reports.

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

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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Mr. Otero reported on April activities, with crews completing 32 service orders and 51 work orders. Mr. Otero reported on the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) project that crews have been working on and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Otero reviewed the outages occurring in May 2024.

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

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

Mr. Williams reviewed the May Communications and Public Affairs Report.

President Anaya thanked Mr. Williams for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for May 2024.

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

President Anaya gave the Tri-State Board of Directors' activities report for June 2024.

#### **NMREC REPORT**

Manager Herrera presented the NMREC activities report for May and June 2024 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Anaya thanked Manager Herrera for the NMREC Report for June 2024.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Anaya reminded Trustees to turn in their quarterly time logs.

#### **ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Latasa reported on the Ethics Committee Meeting held on June 20, 2024. Trustee Latasa reported that the Ethics Committee recommended to the full Board of Trustees that Trustee McCartney may no longer request items be included on an agenda for the Board regarding any existing and/or potential vendors. Trustee Latasa stated this would be in addition to the current conditions that Trustee McCartney is already subject to, including he cannot attend executive sessions, special meetings, strategic planning meetings, request funding for Trustee Travel, that he does not discuss cooperative business with the City of Socorro Mayor and other elected officials for the remainder of his term on the Board of Trustees. Trustee Latasa reported if Trustee McCartney declines to follow these conditions, the Ethics Committee further recommends that Trustee McCartney no longer be recognized by the Board chair during meetings for the remainder of this term as a Trustee.

President Anaya thanked Trustee Latasa for the Ethics Committee Report.

#### **PRESIDENT SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

President Anaya reported on the President Special Committee meeting held on June 20, 2024, with a recommendation to the full Board of Trustees.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Burnett reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on June 20, 2024, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Anaya thanked Trustee Burnett for the Finance Committee Report.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

President Anaya reported on the Standing Committee Meeting held on June 20, 2024, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Board Policy 108 – Standards of Conduct

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Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 108 – Standards of Conduct, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 108 – Standards of Conduct as reviewed.

Trustee Latasa moved to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 108 – Standards of Conduct as reviewed; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 109 – Conflicts of Interest

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 109 – Conflicts of Interest, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 109 – Conflicts of Interest as reviewed.

Trustee Rosas moved to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 109 – Conflicts of Interest as reviewed; the motion was seconded by Trustee Latasa. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 110 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Relationships with Vendors

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 110 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Relationships with Vendors, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 110 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Relationships with Vendors with revisions.

Trustee Latasa moved to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 110 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Relationships with Vendors with revisions; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Policy 111 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Outside Business and Related Activities

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 111 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Outside Business and Related Activities, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 111 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Outside Business and Related Activities as reviewed.

Trustee Rosas moved to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 111 – Ethics and Conflicts of Interest in Outside Business and Related Activities as reviewed; the motion was seconded by Trustee Latasa. The motion carried unanimously.

Bernardo to Burris Distribution Rebuild Construction Bid

Manager Herrera reported that T&D Services conducted the Bernardo to Burris distribution rebuild construction bidding process and received six bids. Manager Herrera stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the proposed bids and recommended that the Board approve the bid from Altitude Energy, LLC for \$3,597,006.57, and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

After discussion, Trustee Rosas moved to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to award the bid to Altitude Energy, LLC for the Bernardo to Burris Distribution Rebuild construction; the motion was seconded by Trustee Latasa. The motion carried unanimously.

District IV Trustee Vacancy

Manager Herrera reported at the May 22, 2024, Board meeting to announce the vacancy to fill the District IV seat for the remainder of the term for the late Trustee Dave Wade, with a deadline of June 21, 2024. Manager Herrera reported that SEC received four Affidavits Declaring Candidacy and resumes for the District IV seat and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

After discussion, President Anaya called for secret ballot voting for the District IV seat.

After all Trustees cast their secret ballots, President Anaya announced and declared David Lyn Wade as District IV Trustee. President Anaya thanked all the members who submitted for the vacancy.

Consideration of Action on Recommendation from Ethics Committee

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Manager Herrera reported that the Ethics Committee had provided a recommendation to the entire Board regarding action on Trustee McCartney.

Trustee Latasa moved to accept the Ethics Committee's recommendation regarding action on Trustee McCartney; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Action on Recommendation from President Special Committee

Manager Herrera reported that the President Special Committee had recommended that the Board approve the Notice of Claim Under the New Mexico Civil Rights Act to be sent to the City of Socorro and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

After discussion, Trustee Rosas moved to accept the President Special Committee's recommendation to approve the Notice of Claim Under the New Mexico Civil Rights Act to the City of Socorro; the motion was seconded by Trustee Latasa. The 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 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 & Other Non-Ops	Tri-State	Gains	Unpaid Balance	Total	Total without Tri-State
June-24-A	\$733.44	\$14.42	\$50.99	\$34.03	\$219.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,052.27	\$832.88

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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

Manager Herrera reported that the line extension contract for Gwen Luna falls under the minimum and meets all the requirements. Manager Herrera stated that Ms. Luna's line extension was being provided to the Trustees for informational purposes, and no action was needed on this line extension contract.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

Trustees Latasa, Rosas, and President Anaya requested Board approval to attend the NMRECA Directors Training, scheduled for August 2024, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Trustee Burnett moved to approve Trustees Latasa, Rosas, and President Anaya to attend the NMRECA Directors Training; the motion was seconded by Trustee McCartney. The motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Latasa and President Anaya requested Board approval to attend the NRECA Region 10 Meeting, scheduled for October 21-23, 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri.

Trustee Burnett moved to approve Trustee Latasa and President Anaya to attend the NRECA Region 10 Meeting; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

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Trustee Rosas and President Anaya requested Board approval to attend the NMRECA Annual BBQ, scheduled for September 5, 2024, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Trustee McCartney moved to approve Trustee Rosas and President Anaya to attend the NMRECA Annual BBQ; the motion was seconded by Trustee Burnett. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

President Anaya called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:18 p.m.

\* Trustee McCartney was excused from the Executive Session at 3:18 p.m. and did not return after the Regular Session.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Rosas moved and was seconded by Trustee Burnett to return to the Regular Session at 5:31 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

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

President Anaya stated in accordance with SEC Bylaw Section 6.08, subsections 2, 3, and 8, the Board met in closed session to discuss the update on union negotiations with the IBEW Local 611, to discuss issues related to real property, and to deliberate regarding confidential business matters.

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**

After discussion, Trustee Latasa moved to set the date and time of the Committee meetings for July 17, 2024, and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for July 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

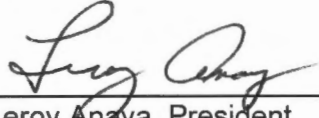
With no other items open for discussion, Trustee Latasa moved to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Trustee Rosas. The motion carried unanimously.

President Anaya adjourned the meeting at 3:34 p.m.

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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 June 26, 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