

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

July 22, 2020

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC), held on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 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

                                     Luis Aguilar, Vice-President (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Paul Bustamante, Secretary/Treasurer (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 1

                                     James Nelson, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 2

                                     Leroy Anaya, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

                                     Donald Wolberg, Trustee (via teleconference)  
                                     Representative, District 3

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT:        None

ALSO, PRESENT:            Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
                                     Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
                                     Ronnita 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)

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: None; due to Governor Lujan-Grisham executive order restricting all groups to no more than five (5) individuals.

**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 22, 2020

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

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.

President Dorough approved the Agenda as presented.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the minutes from June 24, 2020, 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, Hawkes, Nelson, and Wolberg  
No: None  
Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from June 24, 2020, as presented.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

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

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported on the expenditure check register totaling \$902,586.43 for June 2020 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Expenditure Report for June 2020.

Manager Herrera reported on the Visa credit card expenditures complete with supporting receipts, which were made available to the Board of Trustees for June 2020.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the credit card report for June 2020.

Manager Herrera provided an update to COVID-19 procedures stating with Governor Lujan-Grisham rescinding her Executive Order for out-of-state travel, and those that do must self-quarantine for 14-days, SEC has asked all employees not to leave New Mexico. Manager Herrera explained that those employees that leave New Mexico and are self-quarantine for the 14-days could use a one-time allotment that is provided to them by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which has been confirmed by NMRECA attorneys. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating that SEC was working with T&D Engineering Services on the blinks occurring on the circuit feeding along Evergreen Street and to the Socorro General Hospital. Manager Herrera continued stating that T&D Engineering Services had traced the problem it down to a bad connector in the line recloser that had been recalled by the manufacturer. Manager Herrera stated that SEC is still conducting site visits with members and in fact, he has three (3) line extension contracts, requesting financing, for the Board of Trustees to consider under New Business. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Engineering Report for June 2020.

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that SEC has a five-year lease agreement with the State Land Office for a tower located on M Mountain, which is ready to renew. Manager Herrera stated that there are also other entities attached to our tower: TWN and ITG, which are both Internet providers. Manager Herrera stated that at next month's Board Meeting, he would be presenting a Tower Attachment agreement for the Board to consider with ITG.

July 22, 2020

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the Manager's Report for June 2020.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ms. Montoya carefully reviewed in detail the RUS Form 7 Report for June 2020 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Ms. Montoya for the RUS Form 7 Report for June 2020.

### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

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

#### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the June Job Briefing Reports.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Montoya for the Safety Compliance Report for June 2020.

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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

Mr. Dettmer reported on June activities that crews trimmed or cut down 395 trees. Mr. Dettmer stated that 82 service orders had been completed, with 27 of those being area light issues. Mr. Dettmer reported crews completed 12 work orders and that no work orders were closed for June. Mr. Dettmer proceeds to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Dettmer gave a review of several major outages that either affected over 100 members or those that the length of the outage was lengthy.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for June 2020.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

#### **ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for June 2020. Ms. Madrid reported from the Active Delinquent amounts with medical certificates totaling \$142,070.25 and Active Accounts with arrangements totaling \$4,599.61. Ms. Madrid reported that SEC has been notified by LIHEAP that members may qualify for a second LIHEAP payment for the current fiscal year ending on September 30, 2020, due to the COVID-19. Ms. Madrid proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Ms. Madrid reported that SEC had no Member complaints filed with the NM PRC in June 2020.

President Dorough thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for June 2020.

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

Mr. Capps reviewed the June Communications and Public Affairs Report.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Capps for the Communications and Public Affairs Report for June 2020.

### **TRI-STATE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya gave the Tri-State Board of Director's activities report for July 2020.

July 22, 2020

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

President Dorough reported that Tri-State was reaching out to all member cooperatives requesting each to send letters of support in their efforts with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) implementation, the Buy Down Payment Methodology, and policy changes.

After discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to sign the Buy Down Payment Methodology letter and Board Policy 101 and 115 Filing letters; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

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

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

No: None

Abstain: Trustee Wolberg

Motion carried.

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

### **NMRECA REPORT**

Manager Herrera reported NMRECA has not met since the last SEC Board Meeting but they will meet in August.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the NMRECA Report.

### **MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg reported on the MRGEDA activities for July 2020.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dorough reported that the 2020 Trustee Expense reports for the second quarter had been provided for all Trustees to review.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar reported on the Finance Committee Meetings held on June 17, 2020, and June 19, 2020, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Aguilar for the Finance Committee Reports.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya reported on the Standing Committee Meeting held on July 15, 2020, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Nelson reported on the Performance Evaluation Committee Meeting held on July 15, 2020.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Nelson for the Performance Evaluation Committee Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **2020 Member's Annual Meeting**

Manager Herrera reported that as per SEC By-Laws, the quorum number required for an Annual Meeting is approximately 256 members. Manager Herrera stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a probability of Governor Lujan-Grisham not allowing gatherings of no more than 100 people, which does not meet our By-Law quorum requirements. Manager Herrera stated notices would need to be sent out to members to address the upcoming 2020 Member's Annual Meeting.

July 22, 2020

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to cancel the 2020 Member's Annual Meeting; 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.

President Dorough stated that SEC would have a combined 2020 and 2021 Member's Annual Meeting.

#### Pole Trailer Quote

Manager Herrera reported after approval of the Pole Trailer Quote, Mr. Dettmer reached out to Brooks Brothers to order the trailer and found that Mr. Dettmer could get two (2) trailers, a pole trailer and a flatbed trailer, for the price of one (1) trailer. Manager Herrera stated it was presented again to the Finance Committee, and it was the Finance Committee recommendation to approve the updated Pole Trailer quote from Brooks Brothers Trailers.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the updated Pole Trailer quote from Brooks Brothers Trailer for two (2) trailers; motion seconded by Trustee Nelson.

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.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Board Policy 129 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 129 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc., and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 129 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. with revisions.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommended revisions to Board Policy 129 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar.

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.

##### Board Policy 130 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 130 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 130 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association with revisions.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommended revisions to Board Policy 130 – Appointment to Board of Trustees of New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association with corrections; 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.

##### Consideration of 2020 Audit Agreement

Manager Herrera reported that SEC had received the 2020 Audit Agreement from Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert, and Moss (BSGM). Manager Herrera stated Trey Rowe, a partner of BSGM, would conduct the audit, and if the audit is presented via teleconference, it will reduce the cost.

July 22, 2020

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the 2020 Audit Agreement with BSGM; motion seconded by Trustee Nelson.

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.

Consideration of CFC Bylaw Amendment Ballot

Manager Herrera reported that due to COVID-19, CFC is not hosting its regional meetings where the CFC Bylaw Amendments are presented to be voted on. Manager Herrera stated that CFC sent cooperatives a ballot to vote electronically on these proposed amendments, which was due before the next regular Board meeting. Manager Herrera reported a copy of the proposed amendments had been made available to the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Nelson made a motion to accept the CFC Bylaw Amendments; 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.

CoBank 2020 Director Election

Manager Herrera reported that the Mid-Plain Region is up for election, which is SEC's CoBank region in which there are two (2) candidates, Duane R. Anderson and Jason L. Brancel. Manager Herrera stated each candidate's bio had been made available to the Board of Trustees.

After discussions, Trustee Nelson made a motion to nominate Duane R. Anderson. President Dorough hearing no other nominations elected Duane R. Anderson for CoBank Mid-Plains candidate.

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
Elaine L. Ingram	\$205.22	\$17.91	\$10.48	\$2.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$236.51	\$236.51
Mary Zamora	\$503.72	\$16.45	\$27.45	\$16.45	\$127.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$691.98	\$564.07
Naomi R. Bergam	\$170.56	\$0.00	\$24.27	\$19.11	\$122.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$336.01	\$213.94

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
No Joint Accounts for Consideration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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 Nelson.

July 22, 2020

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.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

Manager Herrera reported three (3) line extension contracts for Robert Lamonica for \$9,322.35, Clayton Self for \$9,765.87, and Thomas Penner for \$7,429.42 were being presented to the Board for approval. Manager Herrera recommended that the Board approve the contracts for Mr. Lamonica, Mr. Self, and Mr. Penner.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the contracts for Robert Lamonica for \$9,322.35, Clayton Self for \$9,765.87, and Thomas Penner for \$7,429.42; motion seconded by Trustee Nelson.

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.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

There were no Trustee Travel requests brought forth for consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and employment matters; 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.

President Dorough called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Nelson made a motion and seconded by Trustee Wolberg to return to Regular Session at 4:12 p.m.

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

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 date and time of Committee meetings for August 19, 2020, and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for August 26, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

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

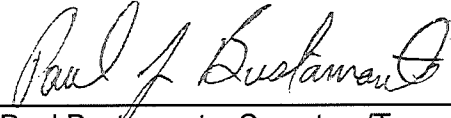
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

President Dorough adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 22, 2020



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 22, 2020. 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