

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

February 24, 2021

**INDEX**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC), held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 310 Abeyta Ave, Socorro, New Mexico.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 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

                                     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:        None

ALSO, PRESENT:            Joseph Herrera, General Manager  
                                     Donna Wilkins, Administrative Assistant  
                                     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, Attorney, Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins (via  
   teleconference)

SEC MEMBERS PRESENT: None; due to Governor Lujan-Grisham's executive order restricting all groups depending on color metrics in place, allowing no more than five (5) individuals under the red level, ten (10) under the yellow level, and twenty (20) under the green level.

**QUORUM**

Secretary Bustamante declared a Quorum of Trustees present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Manager Herrera led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Aguilar 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 Wolberg made a motion to approve the minutes from January 27, 2021, as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from January 27, 2021, 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 \$665,327.43 for January 2021 and answered questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera reported on the Visa credit card expenditures, complete with supporting receipts, made available to the Board of Trustees for January 2021, and answered questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera carefully reviewed in detail the RUS Form 7 Report for January 2021 and answered questions posed by the Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the RUS Form 7 Report.

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19 stated Socorro County Commissioner and Fire Chief Joe Gonzales arranged for SEC employees to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, with only 11 employees participating. Manager Herrera congratulated Commissioner and Fire Chief Gonzales for the well-organized vaccine process and the ease of receiving the vaccination. Manager Herrera stated SEC had received notice that three (3) additional employees had received the vaccine through other means. Manager Herrera reported that the SEC's main lobby might open once Socorro County gets to a higher state mandated color level.

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

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating that the NMRECA has engaged a consultant, BKI Engineering Services, to create a coordinated wildfire mitigation plan. Manager Herrera reported that Federated insurance requires each policyholder to have a wildfire mitigation plan, and the consulting services will cost each participating cooperative \$2,500. Manager Herrera stated that ACE Drones would be flying over SEC's 3-phase taps in the northern area to inspect over approximately 200 poles. Manager Herrera stated that outages in this area are usually related to raptor birds. Manager Herrera reported that White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) had finished a new design for a mile long of a new 3-phase line. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera reported the 2021 Credentials & Elections Committee (C&E) had met on February 10, 2021, with Committee members Bruce Brown (District 5), Chet DeMoss (District 4), Peter Gonzales (District 3), Dennis Harris (District 4), Prescilla Mauldin (District 3), Milton Ulibarri (District 3) and Chuck Zimmerly (District 3). Manager Herrera stated that Mr. Gonzales was elected as Chair with Ms. Mauldin elected as Secretary. Manager Herrera stated each committee member reviewed the notice published to all SEC members in the January 2021 Enchantment magazine, stating there were two (2) open positions for District 3 and that

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members had 30-days to file. Manager Herrera stated that due to the deadline falling on Sunday, January 31, 2021, the deadline was extended to February 1, 2021. Manager Herrera stated after the C&E reviewed the qualifications of the two (2) submitted candidate applications for incumbents Leroy Anaya and Dr. Donald Wolberg, Mr. Zimmerly made a motion with Mr. Harris seconding, to accept the submitted applications. Manager Herrera reported that Ms. Mauldin made a motion to dispense with the election balloting since both open positions are non-contested and elect the District 3 candidates by acclamation, which Mr. Harris seconded. Manager Herrera stated the motion carried unanimously.

Manager Herrera stated that SEC had reserved NM Tech Macey Center for the upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members, which has some restrictions that will only allow 28 people total, including SEC and Macey Center staff. Manager Herrera reported that Macey Center would allow the SEC to use their Zoom and YouTube account to do the Annual Meeting's streaming. Manager Herrera stated SEC has also looked at getting a Zoom and YouTube account to do the streaming ourselves. Manager Herrera reported that postcards would be mailed out soon and needed to know the Board's desire on how to proceed.

After much discussion, Trustee Hawkes made a motion to direct Manager Herrera to move forward with a virtual meeting for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members; motion seconded by Trustee Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough thanked Manager Herrera for the 2021 Credentials & Elections Committee Report.

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that by SEC had installed Sophos, a new spam filtering process for e-mails. Manager Herrera stated the Village of Magdalena had approved the new Franchise Agreement, which includes a 3% franchise fee that is a pass-through to those members within the Village of Magdalena. Manager Herrera stated this new franchise fee would be applied to start in March 2021. Manager Herrera informed the Trustees that SEC Burris outpost had been broken into with the thieves damaging the digger truck window, costing \$1,200 to replace. Manager Herrera stated nothing was taken as all trucks and bins were locked with keys placed in a secure location. Manager Herrera reported he would be looking with an architecture to see about erecting a mason wall and gate where the trucks can be parked within the yard.

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

### **SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

#### **SAFETY REPORT**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the January Safety Report.

#### **JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the January Job Briefing Reports.

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

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

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

Mr. Dettmer reported for January activities, crews trimmed eight (8) trees, completed 29 work orders, closed 31 work orders, and completed 44 service orders with most of the service orders for area lights.

#### **OUTAGE REPORTS**

Mr. Dettmer reviewed several major outages that either affected over 100 members or those for which the outage time was lengthy.

President Dorough thanked Mr. Dettmer for the Operations and Maintenance Report for January 2021.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

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**ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for January 2021. Ms. Madrid reported that SEC has been reaching out to members to set up payment arrangements to help members before Governor Lujan-Grisham's Executive Order is lifted so members can start paying their accounts. Ms. Madrid stated SEC has set up 20 payment arrangements that total \$15,311. Ms. Madrid reported that SEC currently has 71 members with medical certificates that total \$169,215 outstanding as reflected within the Active Member Delinquent Report. Ms. Madrid proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

**NM PRC MEMBER CONCERNS**

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

President Dorough thanked Ms. Madrid for the Member Services Report for January 2021.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

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

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

**TRI-STATE REPORT**

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

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

**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for February 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for February 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dorough reported any Trustee who has not turned in their 2020 Form 990 questionnaire or signed General Manager's Annual Evaluations to get them turned in to Ms. Wilkins.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar gave the Finance Committee Report, which met on February 17, 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Aguilar for the Finance Committee Report.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Anaya reported on the Standing Committee Meeting held on February 17, 2021, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Board Policy 101 – Functions of The Board of Trustees

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Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 101 – Functions of The Board of Trustees, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 101 – Functions of The Board of Trustees as reviewed.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 101 – Functions of The Board of Trustees as reviewed; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg.

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.

Board Policy 102 – Board Meetings

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 102 – Board Meetings, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 102 – Board Meetings with proposed revisions.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 102 – Board Meetings with proposed revisions; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg.

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.

Board Policy 103 – Board Minutes

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 103 – Board Minutes, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 103 – Board Minutes with proposed revisions.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 103 – Board Minutes with proposed revisions; motion seconded by Trustee Wolberg.

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 MRGEDA Dues

Manager Herrera reported the MRGEDA dues for 2021 are up for renewal, and in the past, SEC has paid for the Corporate/Government Membership at \$500. Manager Herrera stated SEC is considered an ex-officio member of the MRGEDA Board.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to proceed with the Corporate/Government Membership of \$500; 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 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
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EM-Feb-21-A	\$1,123.77	\$26.78	\$83.25	\$58.66	\$398.07	\$108.04	\$0.00	\$1,798.57	\$1,400.50
EM-Feb-21-B	\$1,255.45	\$21.05	\$93.01	\$62.19	\$485.68	\$0.00	(\$25.00)	\$1,892.38	\$1,406.70
EM-Feb-21-C	\$570.31	\$16.38	\$16.15	\$7.69	\$55.87	\$28.86	\$0.00	\$695.26	\$639.39
EM-Feb-21-D	\$722.62	\$2.26	\$64.59	\$48.78	\$365.79	\$0.00	(\$140.39)	\$1,063.65	\$697.86

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-21-A	\$566.00	\$5.74	\$48.58	\$35.12	\$257.66	\$0.00	(\$426.61)	\$486.49	\$228.83
JM-Feb-21-B	\$607.82	\$17.30	\$32.16	\$19.19	\$172.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$848.93	\$676.47
JM-Feb-21-C	\$459.00	\$8.78	\$37.12	\$28.12	\$167.69	\$32.43	\$0.00	\$733.14	\$565.45
JM-Feb-21-D	\$366.67	\$0.00	\$45.92	\$36.01	\$247.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$695.61	\$448.60
JM-Feb-21-E	\$203.78	\$0.00	\$42.63	\$37.03	\$208.26	\$0.00	(\$152.96)	\$338.74	\$130.48
JM-Feb-21-F	\$57.78	\$3.72	\$1.77	\$1.13	\$0.00	\$28.31	\$0.00	\$92.71	\$92.71

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 Anaya.

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

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

No: None

Abstained: Trustee Anaya

Motion carried with one abstention.

Consideration of Line Extension Contracts

Manager Herrera reported a line extension contract for William Chavez for \$5,717.06 was being presented to the Board for approval. Manager Herrera recommended that the Board approve the contract for Mr. Chavez.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the contract for William Chavez for \$5,717.06; motion seconded by Trustee Anaya.

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

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

No: None

Abstained: Trustee Wolberg

Motion carried with one abstention.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

There were no Trustee Travel requests brought forward for consideration.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

President Dorough called for an Executive Session.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:45 p.m.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Aguilar made a motion and seconded by Trustee Hawkes to return to Regular Session at 3:56 p.m.

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

**SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING**

Trustee Anya made a motion to set the Committee meeting's date and time for March 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. and the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting for March 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante. Motion carried unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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

President Dorough adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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 February 24, 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