

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

March 24, 2021

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Michael Hawkes\*, Trustee (via teleconference)  
Representative, District 4

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)

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.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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President Dorough approved the Agenda as presented.

\* Trustee Hawkes entered the meeting during the discussion of this agenda item at 2:05 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2021, as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from February 24, 2021, as presented.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to approve the minutes from March 11, 2021, as presented; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante. Motion carried unanimously.

President Dorough approved the minutes from March 11, 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 \$684,744.41 for February 2021 and answered questions posed by the Trustees.

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

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

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

Manager Herrera carefully reviewed in detail the RUS Form 7 Report for February 2021.

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

Manager Herrera provided an update regarding COVID-19 stating all SEC staff is doing a great job of wearing a mask and practicing social distancing. Manager Herrera states that SEC will be opening its lobby doors on April 1, 2021, limiting to only three (3) people at a time and roping off the lobby. Manager Herrera stated anyone who enters the lobby must wear a mask, with a mask being provided if they do not have one.

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

Manager Herrera provided the Engineering Report stating that SEC's 10-year long-range plan was completed back in 2010 by SGS Whitter, and it is time to complete a new long-range plan. Manager Herrera reported that T&D Services is working on completing a new 10-year long-range plan with information SEC has provided. Manager Herrera stated that a report for the Board to review and approve would be made available in April or May 2021. Manager Herrera stated that he had been selected to work with the NM PRC on updating the net metering interconnection manual. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

Manager Herrera concluded by reporting that since SEC remained a Basin Electric member, they provide strategic planning services, and they have some upcoming availability. Manager Herrera reported that Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss (BSGM) concluded their field audit with everything looking good and no general audit entries to be made. Manager Herrera stated that SEC had also received patronage capital credit payments from CoBank, Southeastern Data Cooperative, and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. Manager Herrera proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees.

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

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**SAFETY COMPLIANCE REPORT**

**SAFETY REPORT**

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

**JOB BRIEFING**

Mr. Montoya reviewed the February Job Briefing Reports.

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

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT**

**CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Mr. Dettmer reported for February activities, crews trimmed five (5) trees, completed 22 work orders, closed 22 work orders, and completed 53 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 and proceeded to answer questions posed by the Trustees

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

**MEMBER SERVICES REPORTS**

**ENERGY DELINQUENT REPORT**

Ms. Madrid presented the Energy Delinquent Report for February 2021 and 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 February 2021.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT**

Mr. Capps reviewed the February 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 February 2021.

**TRI-STATE REPORT**

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

After extensive discussion, Trustee Anaya made a motion to send Tri-State the requested support letter to provide comments and intervene with FERC regarding Tri-State Board Policy 125; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

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

Yes: Trustee Aguilar, Anaya, Bustamante, and Nelson

No: Trustee Hawkes and Wolberg

Motion carried.

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

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**NMRECA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the NMRECA report for March 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the NMRECA Report.

**MRGEDA REPORT**

Trustee Wolberg gave the MRGEDA report for March 2021.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Wolberg for the MRGEDA Report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Dorough reported that a copy of the Form 990-PF for 2020 had been made available to all Trustees. President Dorough stated this money comes from unclaimed capital credits used to support the scholarships provided to area high school youth, the electric cooperative youth tour, and other educational events.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Aguilar gave the Finance Committee Report, which met on March 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 March 7, 2021, with recommendations to the full Board of Trustees.

President Dorough thanked Trustee Anaya for the Standing Committee Report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees**

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees, and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees as reviewed.

Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 104 – Committees of the Board of Trustees as reviewed; 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.

**Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee**

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee with proposed revisions.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to accept the Standing Committee's recommendation of Board Policy 105 – Finance Committee with proposed revisions; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

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 106 – Ethics Committee**

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Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee as reviewed.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 106 – Ethics Committee as reviewed; 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.

Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee

Manager Herrera reported that the Standing Committee reviewed Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee and the Committee recommended that the Board approve Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee as reviewed.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to accept the Standing Committee’s recommendation of Board Policy 107 – Standing Committee as reviewed; motion seconded by Trustee Bustamante.

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
EM-Mar-21-A	\$409.40	\$7.83	\$33.38	\$24.79	\$154.43	\$0.00	(\$0.53)	\$629.30	\$474.87

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-Mar-21-A	\$419.50	\$10.70	\$30.75	\$22.16	\$132.39	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$615.50	\$483.11
JM-Mar-21-B	\$351.77	\$6.89	\$29.29	\$21.98	\$143.72	\$28.04	(\$45.38)	\$536.31	\$392.59
JM-Mar-21-C	\$318.80	\$2.75	\$35.15	\$26.05	\$179.53	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$562.28	\$382.75
JM-Mar-21-D	\$535.06	\$9.17	\$48.87	\$36.64	\$227.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$856.77	\$629.74
JM-Mar-21-E	\$5.94	\$1.71	\$1.02	\$0.72	\$0.00	\$22.16	\$0.00	\$31.55	\$31.55

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 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 Line Extension Contracts

There were no Line Extension Contracts open for consideration.

Consideration of Trustee Travel

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Trustees Nelson and Wolberg requested Board approval to attend the NRECA 2021 Legislative Conference being held online.

Trustee Anaya made a motion to approve for Trustees Nelson and Wolberg to attend the NRECA 2021 Legislative Conference being held online; 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.

CRC Voting & Alternate Delegate

After discussion, this item is to be moved to the April Board Meeting.

Set the Date for Strategic Planning

Manager Herrera reported that Basin Electric Cooperative provides Strategic Planning for cooperatives that are members at no cost, which SEC is a member. Manager Herrera reported that Basic Electric Cooperative is available the week of May 10, 2021 to do Strategic Planning.

After discussion, Trustee Wolberg made a motion to do Strategic Planning May 12-13, 2021, with Basin Electric Cooperative being the facilitator; motion seconded by Trustee Hawkes.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items to discuss in Executive Session.

SET DATE/TIME FOR REGULAR MEETING

President Dorough stated that as per our By-Laws, the next regular scheduled Board meeting is to be held after the Annual Meeting of the Members on April 10, 2021. President Dorough stated the election of officers is completed and then the meeting has been continued to a later date and the remainder of the agenda completed at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

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


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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Bustamante, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne Dorrough, 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 March 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