

**Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
**June 26, 2025**  
**Greenville, IL**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. at the office of Southwestern Electric Cooperative headquarters in Greenville, IL pursuant to notice given. President Jerry Gaffner called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following directors were present constituting a quorum:

Jerry Gaffner  
Sandy Grapperhaus  
Annette Hartlieb  
Bill Jennings  
Brad Lurkins  
Ann Schwarm (via video conference)  
Jared Stine  
Marvin Warner  
Ted Willman

Staff members present were Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Operating Officer Vic Buehler, Chief Financial Officer Nathan Taylor, Manager of Business Development Erin Jurke, and Executive Assistant Brooke Scott.

**Introduction of New Manager of Business Development:**

Williams introduced Jurke to the board. Her first day was June 10. She gave a brief overview of her professional and personal life. Jurke will be attending board meetings quarterly to give an update. The board welcomed her to SWECI, and Jurke left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the regular board meeting held on May 22, 2025, were considered. On a motion made by Lurkins, seconded by Jennings and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.

## **Executive Session:**

At 6:58 p.m., Warner made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Hartlieb seconded; motion carried. At 8:09 p.m. Hartlieb made a motion to leave executive session. Jennings seconded; motion carried.

The meeting recessed at 8:09 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

## **Staff Reports & Presentations**

### **Report of Operations and Construction:**

CFO Nathan Taylor's report included:

- Financial Summary as of May 31, 2025
  - Revenue
  - Total Operation and Maintenance Expense
  - Total Cost of Electric Services
  - Net Operating Margins
  - Non-Operating Margins
  - DSCR
- YTD cashflow summary
- Long-term Debt
- Financial metrics
- Revenue by rate class
- Cost of Power
- Number of employees by department
- Write-offs through May

May's list of membership applications and June's list of terminations were sent to the board prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Willman, seconded by Grapperhaus, and carried to accept 35 applications for membership for May 2025, in accordance with Section 2 of the bylaws, and to formally acknowledge the termination of 21 memberships for June 2025, effective as of the date on which the cooperative ceased furnishing services, and the release of capital credits to members and members' estates totaling to \$32,611.33.

Taylor presented the mid-year WPCA update. A motion was made by Warner, seconded by Jennings and carried to increase the PCA factor to \$0.01501 effective July 1, 2025.

Taylor answered questions regarding the 2024 Form 990, which was sent to the board prior to the meeting. On a motion made by Jennings, seconded by Grapperhaus and carried, the 2024 Form 990 was approved as presented.

Taylor gave an update on the 2025 Election Ballot. Five candidates were nominated and one candidate filed by petition. The ballot placement lottery was held on June 24. The Credentials and Elections Committee will be appointed at the July board meeting. On a motion made by Hartlieb, seconded by Grapperhaus and carried, the ballot was approved as presented.

Grapperhaus made a motion to approve the Operating Report and Work Order Summary in the amount of \$164,375.12 for April 2025. Stine seconded; motion carried.

#### CEO's Report:

CEO Bobby Williams's report included:

- Strategic Plan update
- Auction results for equipment from Freedom
- Cooperative Difference survey
- Facilities
- EV charging stations
- Resale of Electricity
- Highlights from June's Safety Committee Meeting.

#### COO's Report:

COO Vic Buehler's report included:

- St. Elmo fiber connection
- AMI project update
- Easements

#### AIEC Board Meeting Report:

Schwarm attended the AIEC Board Meeting in June. She gave a report to the board. The topics of discussion included AIEC's new general counsel, PAC memberships, legislation, training, Youth Tour, and AIEC's Annual Meeting.

### **Unfinished Business:**

A motion was made by Schwarm and seconded by Jennings to authorize management to pursue a site survey and soil sample testing for the potential facilities location in Alan E. Gaffner Industrial Park. Discussion included needs, costs, and communication. The motion passed with 4 in favor, 4 abstained, and 1 opposed.

Several member matters were discussed including an email received about closing the P.O. Box, autopay, and disconnect for non-payment. Management will respond to the members.

The 2025 Scholarship Recipient parade was a success, with signs delivered and the group was able to meet with most recipients and their families. The Policy & Bylaws Committee will meet on July 16 or 17.

SWECI was recognized for being an FFA supporter for more than 75 years. Williams and Stine attended the awards ceremony.

### **New Business:**

No new business was discussed.

Buehler, Taylor and Scott left the meeting at 9:47 p.m.

### **Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Jennings, seconded by Willman, and carried to enter into executive session at 9:48 p.m. for the annual progress review of the CEO. A motion was made by Stine, seconded by Warner, and carried to leave executive session at 10:47 p.m.

### **Adjournment:**

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

Annette Hartlieb

Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:

Jerry Gaffner

Jerry Gaffner, President