

Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 28, 2020
Greenville, IL

Call to Order and Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Director Jerry Gaffner in Greenville, IL pursuant to notice given. President Ann Schwarm 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
Rich Gusewelle
Annette Hartlieb
Bill Jennings
Sandy Nevinger
Ann Schwarm
Jared Stine
Ted Willman

Staff members present were Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Financial Officer Becky Jacobson, and Executive Assistant Brooke Scott.

Solar Array Tour:

Gaffner offered to host May's regular board meeting so the board could view solar arrays in operation. The board toured Gaffner's co-generation system. Topics discussed included how arrays generate power, connection to the grid, inverters, safety devices, and metering.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 23, 2020 were considered. On a motion made by Grapperhaus, seconded by Nevinger and carried, the minutes were approved as presented.

Staff Reports & Presentations

Report of Operations and Construction

CFO Rebecca Jacobson's report included:

- Balance Sheet review.
- Work-in-progress (WIP) & cash position status.
- Accounts receivable, accumulated operating provisions and other deferred credits.
- Long-term Debt.
- Statement of Operations for four months ended April 30, 2020.
- Status on revisions to budget.
- Several departmental updates.

Operating Report and Work Order Summary Approval

Hartlieb made a motion to approve the Operating Report and Work Order Summary in the amount of \$1,227,748 for April 2020. Willman seconded; motion carried.

Report on Nominations Committee Meeting:

At 7:39 p.m. File entered the meeting via phone call, and discussion was suspended for the presentation of the 2020 slate of candidates for Districts I, II, and III as submitted by the 2020 nominations committee. Barb Tedrick was selected as the nominations committee chairperson. All committee members were present via teleconference at tonight's meeting. The following names were submitted by the nominations committee:

District I:	Mark Gusewelle	Edwardsville
	Arthur "Bill" Schnur	Edwardsville
	Marvin Warner	Pocahontas
District II:	Sandy Nevinger	Greenville
District III:	Annette Hartlieb	Vandalia

Jennings moved to approve the 2020 slate of candidates for Districts I, II, and III as submitted by the 2020 nominations committee. Stine seconded; motion carried. File left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

CEO's Report

CEO Bobby Williams' report included:

- No lost time accidents reported for April 2020.

- Update on Emergency workforce plan due to COVID-19.
- Suspension on service disconnections for non-payment and late fees due to COVID-19.
- Update on several ongoing projects.

2020 Annual Meeting Discussion/Additional Topics:

At 7:55 p.m. File entered the meeting via phone call, and the CEO's Report was suspended to discuss the 2020 Annual Meeting. On May 21, 2020, the board held a special meeting to discuss how to hold a safe and effective Annual Meeting during the COVID-19 Pandemic. File gathered the main ideas discussed and presented three alternative Annual Meeting registration options for consideration. A motion was made by Jennings, seconded by Willman, and carried to adopt option 3, as stated below, with the clarification that no drawings for bill credits will be held during the business meeting.

Option 3: In lieu of having a drawing for a free year of electricity during the business meeting and bingo prior to the meeting, members who register absentee or early without their preprinted registration cards will receive a \$40 bill credit, members who register absentee or early with their preprinted registration cards will receive a \$50 bill credit, members who register on Saturday, September 12, 2020 without their preprinted registration cards will receive a \$20 bill credit, and members who register on Saturday, September 12, 2020 with their preprinted registration cards will receive a \$30 bill credit.

Absentee voting will be offered at the Greenville headquarters during normal business hours August 28 through September 11, 2020. Stine made a motion to offer early, drive-thru voting at the St. Jacob facility on September 1, 2020 and September 9, 2020 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m., and at the St. Elmo facility on September 2, 2020 and September 10, 2020 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. Gusewelle seconded; motion carried. File left the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

CEO's Report (Continued)

CEO Bobby Williams' continued report included:

- An update on legal matters.
- Member matters.
- Discussion on several topics from the staff reports.

The meeting recessed at 8:59 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Membership Applications and Terminations

A list of membership applications and terminations was sent to the board prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Grapperhaus, seconded by Nevinger, and carried to accept 75 applications for membership for April 2020 in accordance with Section 2 of the bylaws.

A motion was made by Hartlieb, seconded by Stine and carried to formally acknowledge the termination of 8 memberships for April 2020, effective as of the date on which the cooperative ceased furnishing services, and the release of capital credits to the members' estates totaling to \$23,083.10.

2020 NRECA Membership Dues:

The 2020 NRECA annual membership dues are due in the amount of \$35,326.00. A motion was made by Willman, seconded by Gusewelle, and carried to approve payment of the \$35,326.00 for the 2020 NRECA membership dues.

Report on Director Education:

Jennings participated in the NRECA virtual training course, 963.1 Strategic Technologies and their Impact on the Cooperative. A written report was sent to the board. Jennings gave a verbal report. Some of the topics discussed were peak shaving, unbundling bills, and focusing on future needs of the cooperative.

Unfinished Business:

Cooperative Building Solutions (CBS) will have a report on the facility needs assessment ready to present to the board in July. After discussion, a special meeting will be held on July 16th at 6:00 p.m. to review and discuss the report.

Williams confirmed that we are still advertising for the media specialist position, as we have not found the right candidate. The board discussed the results of the member survey conducted by Touchstone Energy Services in 2019 and the percentage of members that read the *Southwestern*.

New Business:

The board discussed the process for members to get ahold of a director. Several directors confirmed that they have landlines in addition to cell phones. Members can also call the office and a director will return their call.

The board discussed the application form for rebate bill credits. Williams will confirm the terminology on the form matches the information provided on the member's bills.

Art Director Mike Barns received a silver award from the NRECA 2020 Spotlight on Excellence.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:

Ann Schwarm, President