

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GUNNISON COUNTY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.:

The regular meeting of the Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, active cases in Gunnison County, and public health orders, the Board conducted its meeting remotely via video and audio conference. Instructions for member and guest access to the meeting were included in the electronically posted notice of the meeting on the GCEA website at the following web address: <https://gcea.coop/Board-Agendas-Minutes>

Notice and agenda for this meeting was posted Thursday, June 11, 2020. The June 23 annual meeting agenda was also posted June 11. A revised regular meeting agenda was posted June 17 to include additional action regarding a Touchstone member survey.

A quorum of a majority of directors was met with all seven directors in attendance. Directors attending were Greg Wiggins, Morgan Weinberg, Bart Laemmel, Michelle Lehmann, Tom Carl, Polly Oberosler, and Mark Daily (Districts 1-7, respectively).

Attorney David Dodero, Chief Executive Officer Mike McBride, Chief Financial Officer Marcia Wireman, Chief Operations Officer Roger Grogg, Strategy Execution Specialist Matt Feier, and Executive Assistant Sherry Shelton Booth also attended.

President Bart Laemmel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

District 1 member guest Frank Stern was present for the virtual meeting.

Motion by Director Greg Wiggins to accept the June 23, 2020 regular meeting agenda carried unanimously.

President Laemmel spoke to the June 1 death of former District 5 director Paul Hudgeons who served on the GCEA Board from June 2002 until his retirement in June 2017. Directors and employees arranged for a combined contribution in memory of Mr. Hudgeons.

Director per diems were submitted by electronic mail (email) for Secretary/Treasurer Michelle Lehmann's approval.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Director Mark Daily to accept the June 23, 2020 consent agenda as amended carried unanimously.

Items approved via the consent agenda include: Resolution No. 1 – June 2020 GCEA membership for May 2020, May 2020 Work Order inventory # 644, and special equipment for May 2020.

There were no CEO expenses for May.

The May 2020 net-to-plant total is \$28,516 and the 2020 year-to-date net-to-plant total is \$207,365 through May 2020. Special equipment and labor cost for the month of May 2020 is \$7,918. The year-to-date special equipment and labor cost through May 2020 is \$28,777.

May 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes were removed from the consent agenda to change language regarding clarification that recent food bank support is due to the COVID-19 financial hardships on our members and our communities.

Motion by Director Michelle Lehmann to accept the May 27, 2020 regular meeting minutes as amended carried unanimously.

Solar Consultant Selection

Strategy Execution Specialist Matt Feier led review for six solar consultant proposals; SES Feier developed a bidder decision matrix for comparisons. Discussion followed.

Motion by Director Mark Daily to authorize CEO McBride to contract with the identified preferred solar consultant, North Star Renewables, LLC, for the identified scope and price to proceed with the local solar site selection process carried unanimously.

Application for Membership and Agreement for Electric Service

CFO Wireman led review for the suggested electronic application for GCEA membership and service. She provided a demonstration for the new electronic application process. Attorney Dodero provided legal counsel. Discussion followed.

Motion by Director Mark Daily to approve the Application for Membership and Agreement for Electric Service revised for residential and commercial existing services where the estimated metered loads are 750 kW or less, as presented; and to allow an applicant who applies for electric service online to agree and accept the terms and conditions by marking a checkbox, rather than requiring a signature carried unanimously.

Touchstone Member Survey

CEO McBride presented considerations for participating in a member survey conducted by Touchstone Energy. Anticipated benefits were reviewed. Discussion followed.

Motion by Director Tom Carl to authorize CEO McBride to enter into an agreement with Touchstone Energy to conduct the National Survey on the Cooperative Difference and the YAM (Young Adult Members) online discussion in the GCEA service territory carried.

Billing Assistant Sarah Tamarcaz and Member Relations/Billing Supervisor Holly Palmer joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Meter Data Management System Orientation

Billing Assistant Sarah Tamarcaz demonstrated how to use the meter data management (MDM) tool in NISC's CIS program. She explained which details are available through the MDM system including outage information and event codes. Sarah explained the internal ability to add markers to usage graphs which can be made viewable by the member. She demonstrated portlets for service orders, billing, and usage and indicated the ability the GCEA employee has to directly email specific information to the member. Time of Use (TOU) MDM information and the validating, evaluating and estimation (VEE) editor options were also reviewed. Discussion followed inclusive of feedback from the engineering department regarding our powerline system communications challenges. The applicability for this software is a benefit for helping pinpoint member usage concerns. Future application in evaluating different circuits and automated systems for members' ability to change usage patterns was also discussed. Examples of current engineering analysis applications were noted by COO Grogg.

Billing Assistant Sarah Tamarcaz and Member Relations/Billing Supervisor Holly Palmer left the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

District 1 member guest Jeff Delaney of the Gunnison Valley Climate Crisis Coalition (GVCCC) joined the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Climate Action Coalition Feedback

SES Feier led discussion for the inaugural meeting of the GCEA sponsored Climate Action Coalition (CAC). Representatives from the following groups participated in the CAC meeting: CB South Climate Committee, CBMR/Vail Resorts, Coldharbour Institute, Gunnison County, Gunnison Valley Climate Crisis Coalition, Hinsdale County, Sustainable Development Strategies Group, Town of Crested Butte, Town of Mt Crested Butte, We Own It!, and Western Colorado University. GCEA Member Frank Stern shared his feedback. Extensive discussion

followed inclusive of the previously and continuing consideration for a proposals from other power suppliers. Also noted is the greater impact GCEA has on making progressive changes by remaining a Tri-State member.

Annual Meeting Review

CEO Mike McBride reviewed questions and comments regarding the annual meeting and its virtual format and presentation.

Monthly Reports: Safety/Loss Control Activity Report

COO Roger Grogg reviewed the Safety/Loss Control Activity report. Discussion included safety protocols practiced by GCEA employees amid concerns that the spread of the novel coronavirus continues to generate exposure, especially as incoming visitors from spiking areas enter the valley. He advised that we continue to have weekly all-employee WebEx meetings with topics that include current public health orders, national, state, and local COVID-19 statistics, safe work practices, and review of modified work schedules as employees transition back to reporting for work at their designated offices and outposts.

COO Grogg reported on the review of a Federated near-miss report that included eight close calls. Additional safety training for the month included annual bloodborne pathogens training which was provided online by CREA and a fork lift training module issued to our certified fork lift operators.

COO Grogg reported that the Safety Advisory Committee recognized GIS Administrator Erica Soerensen with a safety award. Erica identified a potentially dangerous pole while reviewing drone images.

GCEA had no close calls or accidents.

Motion by Director Tom Carl to accept the Safety/Loss Control Activity report for June 2020 carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports: Association Update

CEO McBride led a review of association and industry updates including interaction with the Taylor Local Users Group, a recently introduced Colorado PUC rate survey, City of Gunnison EV fast charger infrastructure challenges, and future board meeting formats to accommodate partial in-person/partial remote participation.

Discussion occurred throughout Mike's report.

Jeff Delaney left the meeting at approximately 11:55 a.m.

Member Comments

CEO McBride shared a member comment regarding the monthly community solar lease options, member interaction at the recently reopened Crested Butte office, and an interaction at headquarters with a member who discovered he had a bill credit on his account to offset charges for recent months for which he thought he would need to make payment arrangements. CEO McBride also shared an example of a high usage concern that was the result of a member's additional load and reported on member assistance that highlighted GCEA's supportive role in our small community.

Monthly Reports: Financial Review

CFO Wireman provided an update regarding the PPP loan, its promissory note execution, and the loan's flexibility. She also reported on additional member assistance funds available through (LEAP) due to COVID-19 impacts. She addressed financial impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic including trends in aged accounts receivable and provided a historical and current comparison for accumulation of bad debt.

CFO Wireman reviewed financial highlights including May 2020 kWh sales and purchases, average monthly load factor, operating revenue, cost of purchased power, operating expenses, depreciation and interest expense, and operating margins.

Monthly Reports: Operations Update

COO Grogg provided the reliability review for May 2020 and explained interruption causes for the month.

Additional pole images were reviewed including one taken during the recent drone patrol and a later photograph of the same pole now with an Osprey nest; plans for a remedy and an Osprey deterrent were reported. COO Grogg also shared a photo of the headquarters solar array construction progress.

COO Grogg reviewed May load profile graphs inclusive of GCEA's monthly power bill and load statistics.

Affiliated Organizations and Committee Reports

Attorney David Dodero reviewed items he had worked on in the previous month including legislative matters, GCEA's electronic member application, and the Tri-State contract for our solar project. Discussion followed inclusive of GCEA relaying feedback to Tri-State as the pioneer contract for its community solar policy.

Mark Daily reported on **Tri-State** (TS) activities. His extensive report included updates regarding legislation affecting cybersecurity and utility infrastructure purchases, a recently developed cost reduction committee, and conversations with CAC members. Discussion followed. Highlights from the April operations report were also reviewed.

Tom Carl reported on **CREA** activities and various legislative matters. Tom Carl also reported on **WUE** activities.

Directors Miscellaneous

Director Morgan Weinberg reported on the online courses he is taking during COVID-19 response as provided by NRECA for his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification. In person training is likely more beneficial.

Scheduling of Meetings and Events

1. Wednesday, **July 29, 2020** Regular Board Meeting
2. Wednesday, **August 26, 2020** Regular Board Meeting
3. *Tentative*, Tuesday, **September 15, 2020** Strategic Planning
4. Wednesday, **September 30, 2020** Regular Board Meeting
5. Wednesday, **October 28, 2020** Regular Board Meeting
6. Wednesday, **November 18, 2020** Regular Board Meeting
7. Wednesday, **December 23, 2020** Regular Board Meeting

Frank Stern left the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Director Mark Daily to adjourn the Gunnison County Electric Association Regular Board Meeting held on June 23, 2020 carried unanimously. There being no further business before the Board, President Bart Laemmel adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Executive Assistant Sherry Shelton Booth.

/ Bart Laemmel /
President

/ Michelle Lehmann /
Secretary/Treasurer

Date Approved: July 29, 2020