
MINUTES OF MEETING
San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
July 30, 2024

The regular Board of Director's Meeting of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at the headquarters office located in Monte Vista, Colorado. Directors present were Keenan Anderson (president), Stephen Valdez (vice-president), Scott Wolfe, Kim Wakasugi, and Creede Hargraves. Also present were Tyler Denning (corporate attorney), Eric Eriksen (chief executive officer), JoAn Waudby (chief financial officer), Terry Daley (engineer), Shawn McKibbon (chief operations officer), Carol Silva (human resources specialist), Jennifer Alonzo (marketing/communications manager – left meeting at 11:00 AM), Stacy Valdez (manager of customer service/billing) and Michelle Trujillo (human resources officer/assistant corporate secretary). Wade Lockhart joined the meeting via Zoom. Carol Lee Dugan was unavoidably absent.

Call to Order

Keenan Anderson called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Welcome of Guest(s)

Keenan Anderson introduced Kent Singer, Executive Director of Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA). Singer provided an update on recent staff departures and plans for filling those positions. He stated that CREA is seeking direction from their member cooperatives regarding the current net metering statute and future reform for fair and equitable rates.

Kent Singer and Eric Eriksen attended a water meeting at the Colorado Division of Water Resources on July 29, 2024 in Alamosa. The overall purpose of the meeting was to introduce new State Engineer Jason Ullman.

Member Communication

Mail was circulated among the board members.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried by those present to approve the consent agenda as presented. The consent agenda included the July 30, 2024 meeting agenda and regular meeting minutes from June 25, 2024 and special meeting minutes from July 11, 2024.

Management Reports

CEO/Executive Report: Eric Eriksen reviewed the submitted report. He talked in more detail about the recent leadership strategic retreat, LSSI current project progression and program development, explained the employee quarterly review process and recent tour of Three S Ranch.

Safety Report: Michelle Trujillo reviewed the submitted safety report and it stood as presented. It was noted that our cooperative has had no lost time accidents and fewer injuries as well as nearing the 2,000,000 mile mark without any reportable accidents.

Reliability Report: Terry Daley reviewed the submitted report and talked about significant outage events over the summer related to wind. He is looking into weather patterns that indicate stronger than normal wind events that have impacted our system specifically on a section of transmission line between Waverly and San Acacio. He briefly reviewed current large scale projects and mentioned there have been no updates to pending grants.

Cyber Security: Ross Coombs reviewed the submitted report and briefly mentioned that the recent CrowdStrike situation did not impact SLVREC but did hit CFC on a small scale. He called out a situation where our security training vendor, KnowBe4, was almost hacked by someone utilizing artificial intelligence during an interview process posing as an applicant.

Human Resources: Michelle Trujillo reviewed the submitted report and explained the open position for a lawn care/yard work contractor, talked about work to revamp all policies, the upcoming employee satisfaction survey and establishing an annual meeting committee for planning and organizing the 2025 annual meeting. Carol Lee Dugan expressed interest in this committee at a prior meeting and Kim Wakasugi is also interested. A meeting will be set up before the next board meeting.

Marketing: Jennifer Alonzo reviewed the submitted report. Discussion was held regarding the Electrify & Save energy audits and marketing efforts, branding and updated logos on vehicles and new signage and Senator Cleave Simpson's and Chris Hansen's Fellowship Program and the value of including the Cooperative perspective.

Break: 10:57 AM
Reconvene: 11:06 AM

Michelle Trujillo asked the board about a volunteer to handle the purchasing of animals at the upcoming SLV Fair and Keenan Anderson volunteered and asked for budget information so he has an idea of the spending limits.

Customer Services: Stacy Valdez reviewed the submitted report and talked about the status of the recent iVUE billing software conversion and some issues they are working through, mentioned the review of the current retirement of electric service procedure and stated the opt-out meter exchanges were completed without incident.

Operations: Shawn McKibbon reviewed the operations report and spoke in more detail about keeping up with scheduling of jobs, explained photos of the recent transmission outage with 6 poles down and showed videos of the new portable vehicle lift in the mechanic shop.

Financials: JoAn Waudby reviewed the submitted report and explained that the reported revenue is higher than last year due to FERC denying the initial Tri-State rate filing but REC imposing a rate increase anticipating the approval of the Tri-State rate filing. The revenue standing will change if FERC approves the second rate filing from Tri-State. Lastly, preliminary cost of service study information may be available at the August meeting.

Board Action

Tyler Denning explained the purpose of Board Policy BP 1-013 Consumer Complaint, Appeals and Complaint Resolution and discussion ensued. This policy was tabled and will be reconsidered during the August meeting.

Further discussion was held regarding Board Policy BP 1-014 Voting and Elections. Director Wade Lockhart wrote a letter to the Board of Directors prior to the meeting asking for further discussion on this policy and how it coincides with specific articles in the established SLVREC Bylaws concerning notification of meetings to members. Tyler Denning reviewed both documents with the Board and the board decided to table this policy for further review. This policy will be reconsidered during the August meeting.

Approval of Board Policies

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried by those present to approve the following Board Policies:

BP 3-005	Financial Planning and Budgeting	Approved
BP 3-006	Financial Conditions and Activities	Approved

Lunch: 12:02PM

Reconvene: 12:45PM

JoAn Waudby presented up-to-date interest rates as of July 30, 2024 and discussion ensued.

Approval to Convert Short-term Debt to Long-term Debt

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to accept the loan proposal with updated interest rates for the conversion of short-term debt to long-term debt.

Agreements for Purchase of Power

The current list of Agreements for Purchase of Power was reviewed and discussed. (Copy attached hereto and made a part hereof.)

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Corporate Attorney – Tyler Denning

Denning reviewed the submitted report and it stood as presented.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Colorado Rural Electric Association – Stephen Valdez

Valdez reported that the Washington DC Youth Tour took place last month. He would like our student to speak at the 2025 Annual Meeting regarding this experience. He expressed his appreciation for Kent Singer and the time he has spent on the road physically visiting Colorado cooperatives in an effort to build better connections and improve member engagement. Lastly, the annual fish fry is August 29th and he invited board members to attend if available.

Western United – Stephen Valdez

The monthly report was in the packet and the upcoming meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2024.

Tri-State – Scott Wolfe

The monthly report was in the packet and Wolfe reported that Phase 1 of the ERP for the Craig area is moving forward with no opposition from city officials. There is potential for a future gas plant to take over some infrastructure which would be a benefit for that area. Tri-State is still waiting to hear from FERC on the new rate filing. The 200MW solar plant came on the system in Escalante. With the exit of some cooperatives from Tri-State, Wolfe stated that excess power generation is being sold on the open market and has had positive returns.

NRECA Voting Delegate – Creede Hargraves

Hargraves reported that NRECA has filed an appeal to the supreme court regarding the EPA Power Plant Rule. He will be attending the Region VII meeting later this year along with Steve Valdez. Artificial Intelligence and the impacts to cooperatives will be on the agenda among other items such as future load demands and power generation.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Future Dates:

There is a work session on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

The next regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 9:30 AM.

Board Comments:

None


Motion to Adjourn

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried by those present to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 PM.

SEAL


Keenan Anderson, President


Wade Lockhart, Corporate Secretary


Michelle Trujillo, Assistant Corporate Secretary