

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 17, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Highline Electric Association was held at the office of the Association in Holyoke, Colorado at 9:00 A.M. on April 17, 2024.

ROLL CALL

President Mike Bennett presided at the meeting. Directors present in person were:

Mike Bennett	Leo Brekel
Ted Carter	David Carlson
Merlin Prior	Lisa Schilke
Aaron Sprague	Brad Stromberger
Pam Stieb	Jim Lueck

Director Steve Oestman arrived during the Member Services Report.

Manager Dennis Herman and Attorney Levi Williamson were present in person. Staff members Alex Astley, Jim Jackson, Rance Ferguson, and Elise Pocock were present in person or via video conference. Attorney Williamson recorded the minutes of the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was revised and adopted as revised.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the incumbent officers:

President-Mike Bennett  
Vice President-Jim Lueck  
Secretary-Merlin Prior  
Treasurer-Pam Stieb

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the March 21, 2024, and March 26, 2024 Regular Meetings of the Board of Directors were presented. The minutes of the March 26 meeting were revised. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as presented and revised.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Herman presented the Manager's Report. He reported on kWh Purchased, kWh Sold, Operating Revenue, Billing Summary, Expenses, Operating Margins, and Cash & Investments through March 2024. Herman reported that it is necessary to increase the limits on the existing lines of credit with CoBank and CFC and that he will need to draw down additional loan funds soon. Herman presented the CAMU rate survey. He reported on the final EPA rule regarding transformers and on the Colorado net-metering working group.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Rance Ferguson presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on windstorm damage. He reported on Highline crew work and personnel matters.

Ferguson presented the Safety Report. There were no accidents. He also presented the outage report.

#### MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser's written report was presented. The report included new services, rebates, RLF loan activity, renewable systems, and EV charging station activity.

#### ENGINEERING REPORT

Alex Astley presented the Engineering Report. He reported on project work in engineering, information technology, metering, staking, and communications. He provided status updates on the following large projects: Sterling-West Plains Transmission Line, Atwood Substation Construction, and the Trailblazer substation.

#### CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of March 31, 2024. Highline paid \$3,728.68 in fees on \$298,466.50 worth of credit card payments in March.

Jackson presented the balance sheet, Form 7, cash flow report, and check register.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-3 Qualifications for Directorship & Disclosure of Conflicts (revised)
- b. Policy 1-9 Annual Meeting (no recommended changes)
- c. Policy 1-17 Storm Restoration Procedures Plan (no recommended changes)
- d. New Members and Membership Refunds
- e. Subordination Agreements or Release of Liens
- f. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent, with estate refunds identified by Attorney Williamson contingent on his approval.

#### 2025 ANNUAL MEETING DATE AND DATE OF RECORD

Herman presented a proposed 2025 Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting date of March 25, 2025, and a proposed date of record for said meeting of February 24, 2025. It was properly moved, seconded, carried to adopt March 25, 2025, as the date of the 2025 Highline Electric Association Annual Meeting with February 24, 2025, as the date of record for said meeting.

#### UPDATE ON GRANT APPLICATIONS

Herman reported on the status of Highline's grant applications.

#### 2023 AUDIT

Manager Herman led discussion of the previously provided 2023 Consolidated Audit Report of Highline Electric Association and Highline Services, Inc. Herman reported that the final audit opinion was unmodified. It was properly, moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the audit report as presented.

#### TRI-STATE UPDATE

Duane Highley, Tri-State CEO, entered the meeting and provided an update on the happenings at Tri-State.

Highley left the meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to enter executive session for confidential discussion regarding a personnel matter, with all Directors, Manager Herman, Alex Astley and Attorney Williamson present. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 12:25 p.m. and reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

#### MEMBER ORGANIZATION DELEGATION ELECTIONS

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to elect the following Highline delegates:

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Board of Directors: Leo Brekel

Western United Electric Board of Directors: Ted Carter, Delegate; Jim Lueck, Alternate

Colorado Rural Electric Association Board of Directors: Jim Lueck, Delegate; Ted Carter, Alternate.

Nebraska Rural Electric Association: Merlin Prior, Delegate; Dennis Herman, Alternate.

#### TRI-STATE

Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State G&T Board of Directors and the annual meeting of members.

#### CREA

Jim Lueck reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors.

#### MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

There was no Emergency business.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

  
SECRETARY

  
PRESIDENT