

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 19, 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 December 19, 2024.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Director Leo Brekel attended via video conference.

General Manager Dennis Herman and Attorney Levi Williamson were present in person. Staff members Alex Astley, Jim Jackson, Elise Pocock, Tad Huser, and Kris Camblin 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.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the November 21, 2024, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors were presented. The minutes were revised to correct the spelling of Craig Johnson's name. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as presented.

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 November 2024.

Aaron Sprague reported on the RRWCD's efforts to retire irrigated acres in the district.

Herman reported that the Nebraska Power Review Board ruled that Nebraska LB 1370 does not apply to existing facilities.

Herman provided an update on FERC matters, including Highline's legal expenses.

Highline submitted a grant application with DOLA for a battery project at the Fairfield substation.

Herman reported on his attendance at the NRECA Board of Directors meeting. CFC is considering removing NRECA's two seats on the CFC Board of Directors.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Kris Camblin presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on substation and other facilities projects, training, and line-crew activity. He reported that fire mitigation efforts were not necessary this month.

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

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. Huser reported on new services, rebates, revolving loan fund loans, renewable interconnections, and EV charger utilization.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Alex Astley presented the Engineering Report. He reported on project work in engineering, information technology, metering, staking, and communications. He reported on the status of large projects, including the Chase transformer upgrade, the Trailblazer substation project, and MVEA transformer.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of November 31, 2024. Highline paid \$3,508.96 in fees on \$227,669.73 worth of credit card payments in November. He presented a summary of the 2024 capital credit retirement.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-18 Code of Ethics & Conflict of Interest (no recommended changes)
- b. Policy 2-2 Employee Benefits (recommended changes)
- c. Policy 2-4 Wage & Salary Administration (recommended changes)
- d. New Members
- e. Subordination Agreements and Release of Liens
- f. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

BILL CREDITS

Herman recommended offering members bill credits of \$.50 per month for paperless billing and autopay. Members would receive \$1.00 per month for participating in both.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the bill credits as recommended.

POLICY 3-7 SCHOLARSHIPS

Herman presented revised Policy 3-7. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the policy as presented.

RUS LOAN EXTENSION

Herman presented a resolution requesting a one-year extension of the Advance Period for Highline's RUS AV8 loan.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the resolution as presented.

COST OF SERVICE STUDY PRESENTATION

Jeff Wernert, with the Prime Group, entered the meeting via video conference. He presented information from the cost of service study done by the Prime Group. Wernert left the meeting.

Herman presented proposed rates based on the recommendations of the Prime Group, including an AMR opt out tariff.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the rates and tariffs as presented, effective February 1, 2025.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 12:58 p.m.

Director Leo Brekel left the meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER EVALUATION

The Board reviewed the process for review of General Manager Herman's job performance in 2024.

TRI-STATE

The written report of the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors was reviewed.

CREA

Jim Lueck reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors. The CREA Board continues to consider creating an associate membership option. CREA is monitoring the possibility of wildfire mitigation legislation in the next Colorado legislative session. General Manager Herman was elected President of the CREA Managers' Association.

WESTERN UNITED

Ted Carter provided a status update on Western United. Revenue is up.

NREA ANNUAL MEETING

Merlin Prior reported on his attendance at the NREA Annual Meeting. Highline will see a marginal increase in dues for 2025.

MIDWEST ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

Jim Lueck reported on his attendance at the Midwest Electric Annual Meeting.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Mike Bennett as Highline's delegate and Ted Carter as the alternate to the CREA Annual Meeting.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Jim Lueck as Highline's delegate and Ted Carter the alternate to the Western United Annual Meeting.

General Manager Herman will be Highline's delegate to the NRTC Annual Meeting.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Herman reported on Highline's vehicle fleet needs. He recommends purchasing a bucket truck and selling an existing bucket truck after it is repaired.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to purchase and sell the bucket trucks as recommended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT