

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
August 17, 2023

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 August 17, 2023.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the July 20, 2023, regular meeting of the board of directors were presented. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as presented.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Herman presented the Manager's Report. He presented graphs of kWh Purchased, kWh Sold, Operating Revenue, Expenses, Operating Margins, and Cash & Investments through July 2023.

Aaron Sprague reported that the Colorado Attorney General informed the RRWCD Board that he believes Nebraska will build the canal in Northeastern Colorado.

Herman reported that Ballyneal is no longer willing to sell a golf outing for Highline to donate to the CARE auction. Herman will find another auction item in Highline's territory to donate. Herman reported that Highline's \$1,500/3,000 high deductible health insurance plan will change to \$1,600/3,200, keeping it eligible for HSA. Tri-State withdrew its proposed BDP rate and is now proposing an equalization payment formula.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding member information and to receive legal advice regarding the same, with the following in attendance: all directors present at the meeting, all staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and Attorney Williamson. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

Herman reported that he had a minor accident while driving his Highline vehicle. There were no injuries.

#### OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Rance Ferguson presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on system storm damage, the status of the Sterling to West Plains transmission line project, sales of Highline vehicles via auction, and crew activity.

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

#### MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. He discussed new services, rebates, RLF loan activity, renewable systems, and EV charging station activity.

#### ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineering Manager Alex Astley presented the Engineering Report. He reported on projects in the engineering, IT, metering, staking, and communications departments. Astley reported on the status of the Sterling-West Plains Transmission Line project. Astley reported on Highline irrigation load control activity in July.

#### CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of July 30, 2023. Highline paid \$2,887.61 in fees on \$186,551.58 worth of credit card payments in July. Jackson presented the Form 7, cash flow report, and check register.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-23 Consumer Data Protection
- b. Policy 2-4a Employee Compensation-Deferred Compensation
- c. Policy 3-1 Member Education
- 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.

#### NRECA REGION 7 VOTING DELEGATE

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Dennis Herman as Highline's voting delegate to the NRECA Region 7 and CFC meetings.

#### COBANK DIRECTOR ELECTION

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to vote for the incumbent director in the CoBank election.

#### COST OF SERVICE STUDY

Manager Herman presented three bids for a cost-of-service study. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to accept the bid from the Prime Group.

#### CARPET BID REVIEW

Manager Herman presented three bids for replacing the carpet in the headquarters building. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to accept the bid from Carpet Comfort Center.

#### GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Manager Herman reported on the status of the solar project real estate transactions and grant applications.

#### TRI-STATE

Manager Herman provided an update on Tri-State G&T. He reported that Tri-State is applying for New Era grant funding. The Adams County District Court judge issued a ruling in the United Power v. Tri-State case. Some of United's claims were dismissed. The judge ruled that the non-coop entities were improperly admitted to Tri-State. Herman reported on the FERC ruling regarding Tri-State's stated rate. The FERC rejected Tri-State's Policy 119. Herman presented the Tri-State Board report and financials.

#### CREA

Director Jim Lueck reported that there was no regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors since Highline's last meeting. Lueck reported on his attendance at the CoBank meeting.

#### NREA

Director Prior reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the NREA Board of Directors. The 2022 audit is still not final.

#### WESTERN UNITED

Director Ted Carter reported on his attendance at a committee meeting of the Western United Electric Board of Directors. Sales are down compared to this time last year.

#### MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

  
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SECRETARY

  
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PRESIDENT

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