

BUTLER RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**BOARD OF TRUSTEES****March 31, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Butler Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Cooperative office, at 3888 Stillwell Beckett Road, Oxford, Ohio on March 31, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Tom McQuiston at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Board members present were: Tom McQuiston, David Evans, Butch Foster, Jay Hasbrook, Bob Hoelle, Ron Kolb, Jim Meador, Bob Spaeth, and Mike Tilton. Others present were: Thomas Humbach, Attorney; Lee Geiger, Attorney; Tom Wolfenbarger, General Manager; Julie Abbott, Director of Administration. Others presenting reports: Greg Phillips, Director of Corporate Services; Judie Persinger, Director of Accounting & Finance; Mike Murray, Director of Operations; Lisa Staggs Herrmann, Director of Member and Community Relations; Charlie Young, Manager of Engineering and Adam Osborn, Manager of Safety & Compliance. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and an invocation by Jim Meador.

MINUTES

An electronic copy of the minutes was submitted for review prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Ron Kolb, seconded by Mike Tilton, that the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 24, 2021, be approved. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT**REVIEW STATEMENTS AND CHECKS WRITTEN**

The unaudited financial statements were presented to the Board by Judie Persinger. Bob Hoelle reviewed a report of the checks written for the month of February. A motion was made by Jay Hasbrook, seconded by Butch Foster, that the past payment of bills be approved and the unaudited financial statements be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO POLICY B06

Judie Persinger proposed recommended changes to Policy B06 Checks, Use and Signing of and requested board action for approval. A motion was made by Mike Tilton, with a second by Bob Spaeth, to approve the changes as presented for Policy B06. Motion carried.

FEDERATED INSURANCE

Judie Persinger presented insurance renewal with Federated Rural Electric Insurance for two years for the board to review. She included a premium comparison of the current coverage with changes for the renewal. She will ask for board action at an upcoming board meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Charlie Young presented information on the delayed Tolbert substation transformer. He provided an update on fiber progress for Butler and member sites and reviewed the project payments status. Charlie reported on net metering systems and the community solar production for February. An electronic copy of the SAIDI, SAIFE, and CAIDE graphs were presented.

SAFETY & COMPLIANCE REPORT

Adam Osborn presented the Safety & Compliance report for the month of February which included internal and field visits. He provided pictures and information of a car accident in March which included an oil spill and involved the EPA. A report was given on a storm outage call regarding safety concerns for a crew from another organization. Contact was made with their management to share concerns for those involved and the seriousness of the event. Adam provided performance measures and OSHA 300A information for 2020. He provided a review of investigations and follow-up calls and 2021 goals for the Safety Improvement Plan.

OPERATIONS

Mike Murray reported on the activities of the internal line crews and on substation work for the month. The internal crews are continuing the last phase of infrastructure installation at the Whitewater Trails subdivision.

Mike provided a Physical Facilities update on the cooperative's septic system. He reviewed a proposal for Byrco to design and build a new mound for the septic system. Bob Spaeth motioned, seconded by Butch Foster, to accept the proposal as presented and to move forward with Byrco for the project. Motion carried.

A report was submitted on the outages for the month of February.

MEMBER SERVICES

Lisa Staggs Herrmann reported on member issues and concerns received during the month of March. She provided an update on the Oxford Relay for Life and Family Day. Lisa submitted a list of Community Connection grant awards given in March. She reviewed plans for the virtual BREC Annual Meeting on April 29, 2021 and the board election process. April 28, 2022 has been scheduled for the Annual Meeting next year. Lisa announced the following scholarship winners:

Michael L. Sims Scholarship \$2,500	Levi Grimm, Ross High School
R. Fred Woodruff \$1,500	Joseph Copeland, Homeschool/Talawanda H.S. Sarah Johnson, Ross High School
Touchstone Energy Achievement \$1,500	Sophia Thompson, Talawanda High School
Children of Members Scholarship \$2,500	Zachary Schulte, St. Xavier High School

Children of Members Scholarship
\$1,000

Madeline Iden, Talawanda High School
Emma Schrimper, Talawanda High School
Samantha Farfsing, Harrison High School
Ashley Shelton, Ross High School
Kelly Robertson, Ursuline Academy
Kylie Brosey, Talawanda High School

\$50 Annual Meeting Winners:

Michael Graf	Sandra Deaton	Mary R. Lawson Trust
David B. Hacker	Ronald Miller	

CORPORATE SERVICES

Greg Phillips reported on a Knowbe4 phishing test and several red flags in the past month. He proposed an upgrade of audio/visual equipment for the conference center. Greg received two quotes and requested approval to use Radiant Technology for the upgrade. Bob Spaeth made a motion, with a second by David Evans, to approve the upgrade of equipment as proposed. Motion carried.

VOIDED & NEW MEMBERSHIPS

A motion was made by Butch Foster, seconded by Mike Tilton, that 53 memberships be accepted into the membership of the Cooperative for February. There were no voided memberships in February. Motion carried.

CAPITAL CREDITS

A motion was made by Ron Kolb, seconded by Jim Meador, that the past payment of capital credits for 30 estates, totaling \$95,628.60 be approved. Motion carried.

CAPITAL CREDITS SETOFFS

A total of 27 setoffs totaling \$2,811.82 were submitted for February. A motion was made by Bob Spaeth, seconded by Jay Hasbrook, to approve the setoffs. Motion carried.

BAD DEBTS WRITE-OFF

A total of \$3,021.07 was submitted to the Board to be written-off for February. A motion was made by Jay Hasbrook, seconded by Bob Spaeth, to write-off bad debts. Motion carried.

MANAGER'S EXPENSE REPORT

It was moved by Bob Spaeth, seconded by Jim Meador, that the Manager's expense report for February in the amount of \$49.05 be approved. Motion carried.

LEGAL UPDATE

Tom Humbach reported on a member issue involving a relocation of a meter on enclosed an porch.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT

DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

The three Trustees reported on the virtual Directors Conference. They reported on highlights of the meeting.

NRECA 2450 COURSE

Jay Hasbrook provided feedback on his attendance of the virtual NRECA 2640 course on Financial Decision Making on March 11.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Tom McQuiston addressed the attendance of future National Annual Meetings and Directors Conferences. 2021 was an exception to the past practice of Trustees attendance of either the Directors Conference or the National Annual Meeting, but not both, in the same year. Resuming next year, Trustees will choose which one of these two conferences they would prefer to attend in the same year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**BUCKEYE POWER INC.**

Tom Wolfenbarger submitted an electronic report to the Trustees prior to the meeting.

STATEWIDE REPORT

Tom McQuiston submitted an electronic report to the Trustees prior to the meeting. He reported on the upcoming meeting schedule.

NRECA BOARD REPORT

Tom McQuiston submitted an electronic report to the Trustees prior to the meeting for the February 2021 NRECA board meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Julie Abbott reviewed member survey comments and compliments from members and provided an update on the effects of COVID-19 at the cooperative over the past year. She provided information on the Cardinal Plant tour offered in September of 2021. Five Trustees expressed interest to attend the tour. Julie will confirm attendance at the April board meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Tom Wolfenbarger presented resolutions and information, including rate schedule, for the transition from Net Metering to Net Billing. He provided electronic copies of the resolutions prior to the board meeting for review. Tom recommended instantaneous net billing and the option to allow grandfathering of existing systems and requested board approval of resolution modifications including Rate Schedule NM-20. A motion was made by Bob Spaeth, seconded by Mike Tilton, to approve the modified resolutions as presented. Motion carried. Jay Hasbrook motioned, with a second by Mike Tilton to approve the modifications to Rate Schedule NM-20 as presented. Motion carried.

Tom announced the creation of a Member Advisory Group that is tasked to recommend ideas to management to improve member experiences and ideas for management to distribute information to employees. The group consists of a multi-departmental representation of employees and will meet quarterly.

The virtual Legislative Conference will be on April 19 – 22. Jay Hasbrook, Butch Foster, and Tom Wolfenbarger requested to be registered. Jay Hasbrook made a motion, with a second by Mike Tilton, to give approval to register the three as requested. Motion carried.

Tom reported on the review of the Texas event that was discussed at the Buckeye Board meeting. He distributed an electronic, monthly activities report.

OTHER ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence were received and reviewed by the Trustees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business to discuss, Tom McQuiston declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



David Evans
Secretary/Treasurer