

Minutes
Meeting of Trustees of the Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, May 23, 2022, at 6:00 pm
Arab Electric Cooperative, Inc. Auditorium

1. Roll Call—Trustees Present: Janet Bright-District 1¹, Jordan Stewart-District 2, Dianne Prestridge-District 3, Bill Stricklend-District 4, Tyler Barnes-District 5; Jeff Warren-District 6; Nathan Clark-District 7, Charles W Whisenant-District 8 and Ty Smith-District 9. Also present were Stacey White-General Manager; Clint Maze-Board Attorney, Cooperative Employees, and other members of the public.
2. Invocation (Agenda Item #2)—Jeff Warren
3. Pledge of Allegiance (Agenda Item #3)—Bill Stricklend
4. Approval of the Amended Agenda (Agenda Item #4)—The President called for an amendment to the agenda to add the administration of the oath of office to the newly appointed trustee, Jordan Stewart. Dianne Prestridge made a motion to amend the agenda as requested by the President, seconded by Ty Smith. Motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays. Thereafter, Bill Stricklend made a motion to approve the Amended Agenda, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 0 nays.²
5. The oath of office for Trustee Jordan Stewart was administered by the Board Attorney.
6. Approval of the Minutes (Agenda Items #5)—There was a motion to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 Regular Meeting of the Trustees made by Dianne Prestridge, seconded by Nathan Clark. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.
7. Management Update (Agenda Item #6)— The General Manager presented the Three-Month Cash/Investment Accounts Balances Report, the Monthly Report to TVA, the Monthly Operational Budget Report and the Monthly Collection and Meter Department Report for April 2022. The reports were previously emailed out to the Board prior to the meeting and are made a part of the minutes. The General Manager reported that the City of Arab, Alabama project is progressing, but that the removal of the old poles is being delayed by Spectrum not relocating its lines to the new poles timely.

The General Manager gave an update on the Circulus project is continuing and it is anticipated that the power contract will be signed and in effect on June 1, 2022. The mapping ERSI continues and the Brindlee Mountain Substation and they are still on schedule to have the entire system mapped by December 2022. The next substation to be mapped will be the Union Grove Substation.

¹ Janet Bright participated via telephone conference.

² No votes were recorded for Trustee Jordan Stewart until she was duly sworn into office.

The General Manager informed the Board that it is time to renew the Cooperative's liability insurance policy with Federated Insurance. The premium last year was \$109,792. The annual premium for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is \$124,123.00. The increase is \$14,331. While premiums generally trend upwards, the majority of this increase is the result of the Brashiers Chapel substation being added to the policy.

The fence around the staging/storage yard on the south side of the Cooperative headquarters is complete and the equipment shed has been started. Finally, the CRC call center has added a feature which allows members to text in information related to outages to the call center.

8. Personnel Committee³ Update (Agenda Item #7)—There was no report from the Personnel Committee.

9. Finance Committee⁴ Update (Agenda Item #8)—The Finance Committee Chairman presented the FY2023 proposed budget in the April Board Meeting. After asking if there were any questions from the Board, Bill Stricklend made a motion to adopt the budget as presented by the Finance Committee, seconded by Jordan Steward. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

10. Right of Way Committee⁵ Update (Agenda Item #9)—There was no report from the Right of Way Committee.

11. Old Business (Agenda Item #10)—Mrs. White informed the Board that the exit feeders are still under construction and that progress is being made, however the progress is slower than is desired. The Board requested that the General Manager meet with Corbitt and discuss establishing a deadline for the completion.

The General Manager is setting up a meeting to meet with Dewy Brazelton for the expansion of the Sundown Substation. Also, the General Manager informed the Board that the Old Cullman Road project is supposed to be complete by June 1, 2022.

12. Discussion Item: Orbit 1 CSA Customer Portal (Agenda Item # 11)—The General Manager presented information to the Board on the Cooperative switching to Orbit 1 Customer Portal, and replacing the existing credit card payment service. As discussed in the April meeting, there is a onetime cost to the Cooperative to set up the portal of \$7,250 and then a reoccurring cost of \$775 per month. After further discussion, Tyler Barnes made a motion for the Cooperative to switch to Orbit 1, seconded by Dianne Prestridge. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

³ The Personnel Committee is comprised of Tyler Barnes—Chairman, Janet Bright, Dianne Prestridge, and Jeff Warren. The General Manager—*Ex Officio*, Kellie Garrett, Wayne Mahathey and Mike King are employee representatives on the Personnel Committee.

⁴ The Finance Committee is comprised of Bill Stricklend—Chairman, Dianne Prestridge, Nathan Clark and the General Manager—*Ex Officio*.

⁵ The Right of Way Committee is comprised of Nathan Clark—Chairman, Janet Bright, Tyler Barnes, Ty Smith, the General Manager—*Ex Officio*, and the Right of Way Supervisor, Brett Barnard—*Ex Officio*.

13. Action Item: Cybersecurity Policy (Agenda Item # 12)—The Cooperative received the approval from all stakeholders on the proposed cybersecurity policy that was jointly drafted by the Cooperative and Dragos Industrial Cybersecurity. Based on the approval, Bill Stricklend made a motion to adopt the Cyber Security Policy as proposed, seconded by Jordan Stewart. The motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

14. Declaration of Surplus Items: (Agenda Item # 13)—The General Manager recommended declaring as surplus a 2009 Ford Ranger truck with 134,642 miles. Dianne Prestridge made a motion to declare the truck as surplus and use the truck as a door prize for the annual meeting of the members, seconded by Jeff Warren. The motion passed with 7 yeas and 1 nay.

15. Member comments (Agenda Item #18)—There was an opportunity given for member comments and none were received.

16. There was an announcement made that the June 2022 meeting of the Board of Trustees would be held on June 27, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Cooperative Headquarters Auditorium.

17. Adjourn—There was a motion by Ty Smith, seconded by Bill Stricklend, to adjourn. Motion passed with 8 yeas and 0 nays.