

# MINUTES



**Wiregrass Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Board of Trustees  
August Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 29, 2023, 7:50 pm - 9:30 pm  
Hartford**

## **In-Person Attendance**

Danny McNeil; David Winstead; Debra Baxley; Donald Ray Wilks; Greg McCullough; John Clark, Jr.; Randy Odom; Tracy Reeder

## **Remote Attendance**

Kip Justice

### **I. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Wiregrass Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on August 29, 2023, at the Headquarters Office of the Cooperative in Geneva County, Alabama.

### **II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

Invocation was given by Randy Odom and Debra Eubanks Baxley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. Those Absent**

### **IV. Introduction of Guests**

### **V. Action Items-Agenda**

#### **A. Approve Consent Agenda**

Items included in the Consent Agenda include the review and approval of the Safety Report and Hours Worked Report; the Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2023, Board of Trustees Meeting and to Vote on 230 persons who have requested membership in the Cooperative in July and who have complied with requirements of the By-Laws, and who are now receiving service. Vote off 194 members who have ceased to receive electric service in July, and who have requested to withdraw their membership.

Move: Debra Baxley Second: Greg McCullough Status: Passed

#### **B. Approve CoBank Ballot - Director Election/Nominating Committee Election**

This is a mail ballot only. For the convenience of stockholders, CoBank is conducting the election for the 2024-2025 Nominating Committee simultaneously with the 2023 director elections this year - mail ballot. It was a consensus of the Board to appoint Les Moreland, CEO as authorized to complete mail ballot for the CoBank - Director Election, as well as the Nominating Committee Election. No further discussion needed.

Move: Tracy Reeder Second: Greg McCullough Status: Passed

#### **C. Appoint CFC District 3 Voting Delegate**

The CFC District 3 meeting will take place at The Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky on October 12, 2023.

A motion and second were made to allow Les Moreland, CEO, to vote by completing a mail ballot on behalf of the Cooperative. Motion Passed.

Move: Tracy Reeder Second: Danny McNeil Status: Passed

#### **D. Consider Approval - Updated Rate Tariff**

Trustee, David Winstead, relayed that the Executive Committee reviewed the recommendation by management to update the Rate Tariff as follows:

Dissolve Prepay Rates 23 and 27. These are the prepay rates for Ag Production and the Ag Production Ancillary Rider. There are no members on either rate. Effective August 30, 2023.

In the July meeting, management recommended phasing out Rate 11 and 21 (Residential Street Light Rider) effective as soon as Meridian could make the programming changes. The \$4.75 street rider rate would then be listed as a miscellaneous reoccurring charges versus a higher facility charge. All rate changes to Rates 1 and 20 would apply also to Rate 11 and 21 until the programming changes have been made. After weeks of testing, it was found that there is a conflict with posting capital credits to active accounts. Once we move to the new Meridian platform, we will be able to successfully make this change. For now, management requests that Rate 11 and 21 (Residential Street Light Rider) remain active in the tariff at the approved rates at the July meeting. Effective immediately.

Management recommends the following changes to the rate below effective September 1, 2023:

At the July 25, 2023 board meeting, management recommended phasing out Rate 22 General Service Prepay <5kW. Effective September 1, 2023, management recommends grandfathering (instead of phasing out) the existing accounts on Rate 22, meaning that this rate is not available to new connects/reconnects. In addition, if a member becomes disconnected they must reconnect within 5 days to remain on this rate. After 5 days, they will transition to Rate 2 with traditional billing.

In July, the tariff was amended to implement a 3KW default or allowance at \$6.00 for Rate 1 and 20 effective October 1, 2023. At this time, management recommends including the Prepay Residential Rate 11 and 21 as well, effective October 1, 2023.

In September, management will be presenting changes that have been modeled to Rates 3, 15, 40 41 and 42 on the minimum demand. Management hopes to present a sample bill with the Minimum Demand listed in September. In October, management will present residential demand in excess of 3kW.

No second needed. Motion passed.

Hereto attached as Exhibit "A".

## VI. Report from Audit & Finance Committee

### A. Consider Approval - Banking Resolution - Electronic Drafts

Trustee, Randy Odom, brings a motion before the board for approval to rescind authorization for Louanne Simonton to submit electronic drafts of funds for members to pay their accounts (ACH Debits) on behalf of Wiregrass Electric and authorize Blair Padgett to submit electronic drafts of funds for members to pay their accounts (ACH Debits) on behalf of Wiregrass Electric. No second needed. Motion passed.

Hereto, attached as Exhibit "B".

### B. Consider Approval - Amended Fleet Budget 2024

Trustee, Randy Odom, brings a motion before the board for approval to amend the 2024 Fleet Budget to \$575,258. No second needed. Motion passed.

## VII. Lisa LeNoir- Chief Financial Officer

Lisa LeNoir, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial and Operating Report for July. A motion was made to accept the operating report as presented and a second. Motion passed.

Move: Randy Odom Second: Donald Ray Wilks Status: Passed

## VIII. Report from Corporate Planning and E&O Committee

### A. Consider Approval - Workplan - 2024-2027

Trustee, Greg McCullough, brings a motion before the board for approval of the proposed 2024-2027 Construction Workplan. The total for the 4-year work plan is \$38,948,424. Trustee, Donald Ray Wilks opposed. No second needed. Motion passed. Hereto, attached as Exhibit "C".

IX. Jason Thrash- Vice President of Engineering & Operations

Jason Thrash, Vice President of Engineering & Operations, updated the Board on the RF Meter Project. Additionally, he reviewed Hurricane Idalia.

X. Brad Kimbro- Chief Operating Officer

Brad Kimbro, Chief Operating Officer, updated the Board on the progress of the spec building built by the Geneva County Commission through the Economic Development Loan Program with PSE in the Geneva County Industrial Park. Further, he reviewed the upcoming Operation Round Up Charitable Golf Tournament. Additionally, he discussed the feasibility study for HWY-167 (The Highway Project).

XI. Les Moreland- Chief Executive Officer

XII. Report of Legal Activities- Russ Parrish

XIII. Report from AREA (Kip Justice, AREA Representative)

Alabama Rural Electric Association Board of Trustees Meeting was held Monday, July 17, 2023 in conjunction with the AREA Summer Conference, and discussion was held concerning the same, led by AREA Trustee representative, Kip Justice. The next AREA Board of Trustees Meeting will be held Thursday, September 28, 2023.

XIV. Report from PowerSouth (Debra Eubanks Baxley, PSE Representative)

Power South's Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Friday, July 28, 2023 and August 25, 2023; discussion was held concerning the same, led by Power South Trustee representative, Debra Eubanks Baxley. The next Power South Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Friday, September 22, 2023.

XV. Next Board Meeting

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25, 2023 at the Hartford office of the Cooperative. Committees will meet at 6:15 p. m. with the board meeting immediately following.

XVI. Adjourn

A motion and second was made to conclude this meeting of the Cooperative Board of Trustees.

Move: Debra Baxley Second: Randy Odom Status: Passed



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President

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Secretary

SEAL