

SOUTHEAST COLORADO POWER ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southeast Colorado Power Association (SECPA) was held **January 15, 2025**, at the SECPA headquarters, 27850 Harris Road, La Junta, CO.

1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call**

President Truman Wright called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m. Directors present were: Clint Anderson (participated via teleconference), Lawrence Brase, Brad Buck, Randy Phillips and Merlin Rushton. Michelle Gardner was absent.

Staff present: CEO Kevin Brandon, COO Mark Hall, CFO Aaron Johnson, CHRO Angela Bamber, and Executive Assistant Debbie Howard.

Casey Martin, outside legal counsel, joined meeting via conference call 12:20 – 1:00 p.m.

2. **Agenda Modifications** – None.

3. **Member and/or Public Participation** – None.

4. **Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made and seconded to approve December 18, 2024, Board minutes. **MOTION** carried.

5. **Chief Executive Officer – Brandon**

- A. Board Policy 116 - Redline copy and final draft copy of BP 116 were presented. Martin had sent BP-116 at 10:40 a.m. prior to the meeting. Brandon noted the Board did not have the opportunity to review policy. Martin reviewed some suggested changes. Motion was made and seconded to approve policy incorporating modifications as discussed. **MOTION** carried.

- Reported on Tri-State Contract Committee meeting he attended virtually.
- CREA held a virtual meeting to discuss wildfire mitigation. Hall related that Federated Insurance requires SECPA to have a wildfire mitigation plan which he has and has been asked to share with several co-ops.

6. **Legal – Martin**

- Johnson has submitted several delinquent accounts to Martin requesting he take over the accounts for legal collection and further action.
- Plans to attend CREA Annual meeting.
- Addressed a summons Brandon had received and forwarded to Martin requesting SECPA to file a response to the Petition in Condemnation for property in Kiowa County within SECPA territory by Public Service Company of Colorado. Hall explained the SECPA lines in the proposed condemnation area are being moved and all agreements and easements are already in place with the landowner. Excel has paid SECPA for moving lines outside Excel's easement. Excel offered to give SECPA permission to operate within their easement with a signed letter, but Hall chose to reach out to the landowners to acquire an easement the same as SECPA does on all jobs.

7. **Finance & Membership – Johnson**

- Reviewed November Income Statement, Balance Sheet, various graphs & Check Register.
- November Net Margins, \$8,886; YTD, \$2,089,398.
- Cash Flow Summary report included details for Cash from Operating Activities, Investment Activities and Financing Activities.
- Total YTD delinquent penalty charges \$214,520.
- There were 22 new memberships; 15 withdrawals; 11,117 accounts billed.

A. **Credit Card Policy**

Examples of credit card fees charged by other area co-ops were shown. Three options for credit card policies were presented. Possibility of approximately \$75k in annual processing fees could be assessed for one commercial member account.

- Motion was made and seconded to approve accepting credit card payments from Residential and Small Service and other rate classes under 50 kVA. Rate classes requiring 50kVa and over and irrigation will be excluded from accepting credit card payments. **MOTION** carried.

8. Operations – Hall

- Various kWh graphs, Outages (27), Work Orders, and Line Loss reports reviewed. Sold 20M more kilowatt hours in 2024 than in 2023.
- Rolling line loss was equivalent to \$56,312.
- Jace Noe (former employee) has been hired to fill Warehouseman position in La Junta.
- Colin Lindo has been hired as apprentice lineman in Lamar.
- Hall attended Mesa Hotline School Board meeting in Grand Junction.
- Trey Redner and Tyler Schwartz passed the Mesa Hotline School Journeyman’s test.
- Five employees will attend meter school in March.
- Hall will appear in El Paso County court on electric theft case.
- Quarterly Safety Committee met in December.

9. Human Resources – Bamber

- December payroll = \$471,915; (overtime = \$12,073); (other \$42,363) - includes employee on-call time and unpaid leave for tracking purposes. 50 Employees.

Staffing Changes & Postings:

- Colin Lindo hired as an Apprentice in Lamar.
- Frank Rinker, La Junta warehouseman, resigned 12/19/24. Position posted.

10. Affiliate Organization Board Reports

A. Western United Electric (WUE)-Anderson

- WUE written report in board packet.

B. Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) - Phillips

- Attended virtual CREA Board special meeting (minutes in board packet.) Co-ops were encouraged to have a Wildfire Mitigation Policy.

C. Tri-State (T/S) G&T- Brase

- A draft of the All Requirements Wholesale Electric Service Contract was presented.
- Brase asked if Directors wanted him to vote in favor of 20% self-generation. Brandon responded we would have the option to choose to use it or not.
- Reported on Contract Committee meeting.
- La Plata asked Tri-State if they could change their mind about withdrawing from Tri-State.
- Mountain Parks will no longer be a Tri-State member as of next month.
- Brase invited Tri-State Todd Telez and a Tri-State attorney to attend SECPA board meeting.

11. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded to enter executive session at 2:40 p.m. for personnel matter.

MOTION carried.

- Staff except Brandon and Bamber were excused.
- Brandon left exec session at 3:15 p.m.
- Bamber left exec session at 3:55 p.m.
- Hall joined exec session 4:00-4:35 p.m.
- Brandon joined exec session at 5:15 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 5:35 p.m.

Motion was made and seconded to ratify Director poll taken to change monthly board meetings to the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning with February meeting (meeting will be held February 26th.)

MOTION carried.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.



President



Secretary