

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 **November 15, 2023**, 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 12:25 p.m. Directors present were Clint Anderson, Lawrence Brase, Brad Buck, Michelle Gardner, and Merlin Rushton. Randy Phillips participated via video conference.

Staff present: CEO Kevin Brandon, COO Mark Hall, CHRO Angela Bamber and Executive Assistant Debbie Howard. Ann Jefferson, outside legal counsel associate, participated via video conference.

2. Agenda Modifications - None.

3. Member and/or Public Participation – None.

4. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve October 18, 2023, Board minutes. **MOTION** carried.

5. Chief Executive Officer – Brandon

- Presented proposed banking Resolution 23-03 removing Craig McBrain from all banks and accounts, including Frontier Bank, and authorizing Kevin Brandon and Mark Hall to conduct financial transactions for SECPA. Motion was made & seconded to approve Resolution 23-03 as presented. **MOTION** carried.

Presented proposed banking Resolution 23-04 removing Craig McBrain from all banks and accounts, and authorizing Kevin Brandon and Scott Monarco to conduct financial transactions for SECPA Charity Classic. Motion was made & seconded to approve Resolution 23-04 as presented. **MOTION** carried.

- Attended CREA Energy Innovations Summit and CEO Managers meeting October 30-31.
- Tri-State (T/S) filed an amendment to rate filing at FERC November 2. T/S still plans to implement rate increase January 1, 2024 even though FERC has not ruled on the request yet.
- SECPA may need to do a pass-thru on the rate increase. Brandon has reached out to rate consultant with new rates. He presented rate comparisons with amended rates (copy in Board packet.) SECPA must give 90-days notice to membership before implementing a rate increase. Brandon is proposing a power cost adjustment to show at December meeting. He asked Directors if they want to increase the monthly access charge; charge has been \$29.25 since 2015.
- Brandon had emailed 2022 Form 990 to Directors; asked if anyone had questions.
- CREA Annual meeting to be held in February; Howard will send information to Directors.

6. Finance & Membership – Brandon

- Reviewed October Income Statement, Balance Sheet, various graphs & Check Register. (Included in Board packet.)
- October Net Margins, \$455,750; YTD, \$2,255,138.
- Discussed options for purchasing vehicles.

- There were 30 new memberships; 34 withdrawals.

7. Operations – Hall

- Various kWh graphs, Outages (44), Work Orders, and Line Loss reports reviewed. (Included in Board packet.)
- Rolling line loss was equivalent to \$27,300. Substation in La Junta was put back in service last Tuesday.
- Inventory conducted last week; Hall was proud of the crew for doing a great job with inventory , especially

with all of the storm activity this Summer.

- Witcher Ranch near Midway wants to convert from propane to electricity; conversion should be complete by Monday.
- Safety Report given including training completed.
- Line Superintendent Mike Trumble and Safety Manager John Parker attended CREA training.
- Hall attended Eastside Operations Manager's meeting September 26th.

8. Legal – Martin

- Attorney invoice \$1,595; YTD \$24,283 (\$3,600 YTD for revising/editing Board policies.)
- Legal fees YTD for SECPA & SECOM total \$43,791.

9. Human Resources – Brandon

- October payroll = \$411,641 (overtime = \$11,952); (other \$15,193 - includes employee on-call time); 50 employees
- Staffing Changes & Postings
Craig McBrain, CFO – separation 11/7/23; position has been posted with a salary range \$110k-150k. Brandon is considering possibly utilizing outside sources in the interim.
- In response to Anderson's question regarding Employer's Council (EC), Bamber explained SECPA pays \$6,500/year for 20 hours of service. EC offers free handbook review, assists with union negotiations, & other resources. Bamber feels membership is worth the cost.

10. Affiliate Organization Board Reports

A. Western United Electric (WUE) - Anderson

- Written report in Board packet.

B. Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) – Phillips

- Written report in Board packet includes CREA 2024 proposed budget: 1) General Administration budget shows average 5.8% increase 2) Colorado Country Life magazine cost increase from 28 cents to 30 cents per issue; and Safety & Loss Control increase of 5%.
- Liz Feddes, CREA, is retiring after 32 years. Julie Baker will replace Feddes.
- Brandon related CREA will maintain safety coverage with only two employees (due to co-ops exiting CREA.)

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

- Written report in Board packet.
- United is negotiating with T/S. Adams County case has been settled.
- Brandon announced La Plata Electric has filed a lawsuit against T/S.

11. Executive Session

Motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. for personnel matter. **MOTION** carried.

Hall, Bamber, Howard and attorney associate left the meeting.

-Meeting reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

12. Adjourn - There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



President



Secretary