

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 16, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Highline Electric Association was held at the office of the Association in Holyoke, Colorado at 9:00 A.M. on March 16, 2023.

ROLL CALL

President Mike Bennett presided at the meeting. Directors present in person were:

Mike Bennett	Pam Stieb
Steve Oestman	Merlin Prior
Lisa Schilke	David Carlson
Leo Brekel	Ted Carter

Directors Aaron Sprague and Jim Lueck attended via video conference.

Manager Dennis Herman and Attorney Levi Williamson were present in person. Director Brad Stromberger was absent. Staff members Jim Jackson, Rance Ferguson, Alex Astley, Elise Pocock, and Tadius Huser were present in person or via video conference. Attorney Levi Williamson recorded the minutes of the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was approved as presented.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the February 16, 2023, regular meeting of the board of directors were presented. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Herman presented the Manager's Report. He presented graphs of kWh Purchased, kWh Sold, Operating Revenue, Billing Summary, Expenses, Operating Margins, and Cash & Investments through February 2023. Aaron Sprague reported on the RRWCD Board of Directors' trip to Washington D.C. to lobby legislators regarding the Farm Bill.

Herman presented the CAMU survey of rates. Herman reported on a member inquiry regarding a potential 10-20MW load. A member also approached Highline about purchasing energy from the member's solar DG project. Herman discussed potential projects under Tri-State Policy 115 utilizing federal tax credits and forgivable RUS loans to build projects owned by Highline. A bill at the Colorado legislature would require distribution co-ops leaving Tri-State to meet the same renewable energy standards as the wholesale power suppliers. Herman reported that a non-member left a mess in the community room. He will be suggesting changes to the board policy governing use of the community room.

Highline received its Ford F-150 Lightning electric vehicle.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Rance Ferguson presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on the status of the transmission line north of the Sterling office. Several vehicles on order have been cancelled. Ferguson reported on personnel matters.

Jim Lueck left the meeting.

Ferguson presented the Safety Report. There were no accidents in February. He presented the outage report.

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. He discussed new services, rebates, renewable systems, RLF loan activity, and EV charging station activity.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineering Manager Alex Astley presented the Engineering Report. He reported on projects in the IT, metering, staking, and communications departments. Astley reported on large projects, including repair of the Iliff transformer, the Sterling-West Plains Transmission Line rebuild, and the Atwood Substation.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of February 28, 2023. Highline paid \$3,484.67 in fees on \$275,229.03 worth of credit card payments in February. Jackson presented a summary of the 2022 load control program. Highline recognized estimated savings of \$885,548 in 2022. Jackson presented the Form 7, cash flow report, and check register.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Revised Policy 1-5 Check Signing
- b. Policy 2-1 Employment
- c. Revised Rules & Regulations
- d. Safety Committee Report Approval
- e. New Members and Membership Refunds
- f. Subordination Agreements or Release of Liens
- g. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

A membership refund request was pulled from the consent agenda on Attorney Williamson's recommendation.

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

HOLYOKE BREAKER PROJECT

Alex Astley presented information regarding staff's recommendation to install a new 69kV breaker at the Holyoke Substation. He requested approval of a \$150,000 addition to the 2023 budget for the project.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to increase the 2023 budget by \$150,000 for the project.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 11:58 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Policy 2-16 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility

General Manager Herman presented new Policy 2-16. The Policy was revised. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Policy as revised.

IRA and IIJA

General Manager Herman reported that Highline joined the NRECA consortia pursuing funding from the IRA and IIJA. Herman reviewed the proposed funding for Highline.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve pursuing the funding as presented.

HAXTUN HOSPITAL DISTRICT REDL&G LOAN

General Manager Herman presented a resolution approving the borrowing of \$1,500,000 and accepting \$300,000 in grant funds from Rural Development. The funds will be loaned to the Haxtun Hospital District. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the resolution as presented.

TRI-STATE

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors. He presented a table of revenue for all Tri-State members. Highline is the seventh largest consumer of energy. Brekel presented a table showing outstanding capital credits by member. Tri-State paid \$9 million to mitigate the impact of a transmission line on the lesser prairie chicken. Tri-State discovered an error while preparing the SEC 10k which required recognizing an additional \$8.8 million from the rate stabilization fund. The Tri-State Board reviewed the Rate Committee's recommended rate in executive session. Tri-State will likely be in an RTO by 2027. Tri-State filed to amend the CTP withdrawal procedure for cost recovery related to members who provide notice but fail to withdraw.

CREA

Mike Bennett reported on his attendance at the CREA Annual Meeting.

NREA

Merlin Prior reported that there was no regular meeting of the NREA Board of Directors. Prior reported on pending Nebraska legislation.

WESTERN UNITED

Ted Carter reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Western United Electric Board of Directors. Sales are 5.8% better than last year. Western is increasing its inventory to serve customers better.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT


There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT