

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 20, 2025

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 20, 2025.

ROLL CALL

Secretary Merlin Prior presided at the meeting. Directors present in person:

Leo Brekel	David Carlson
Steve Oestman	Merlin Prior
Aaron Sprague	Pam Stieb
Brad Stromberger	Jim Lueck
Mike Bennett	Ted Carter
Lisa Schilke	

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

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the February 20, 2025, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors were presented. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as presented.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Herman presented the Manager's Report. He reported on kWh Purchased, kWh Sold, Operating Revenue, Billing Summary, Expenses, Operating Margins, and Cash & Investments through February 2025.

Brad Stromberger reported on the status of the Perkins Canal project.

Aaron Sprague reported on his attendance at the RRWCD legislative session in Washington D.C.

Herman reported that the NRECA membership removed their standing resolution regarding DEI.

Highline will likely need to make changes to its employee retirement plans to satisfy federal discrimination rules. Herman reported on Highline's compliance with recent Nebraska legislation regarding the country of origin of electric utilities' facilities in close proximity of U.S. military installations.

Herman led a discussion on the 4-10 workweek implemented last year. Highline will continue the same schedule for another year and evaluate next year.

Herman presented a summary report of Highline's legal spending on the FERC Tri-State rate proceeding.

Jason Doleshall gave a demonstration of the new outage reporting system to be implemented this year.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

The board reviewed Operations Manager Kris Camblin's Operations and Safety Report.

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. He reported on new services, rebates, RLF loans, renewable DG installations, and preparation for the annual meeting. He presented the EV charger summary.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Alex Astley presented the Engineering Report. He reported on project work in engineering, information technology, metering, staking, and communications. He reported on the status of large projects, including the Chase transformer upgrade, the Y-WEA construction work plan, and the Lamar substation.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of February 28, 2025. Highline paid \$3,083.09 in fees on \$259,361.25 worth of credit card payments in February. Highline's auditors should be finished by early April. Jackson reported on activity in the HEA Cares fund in February.

Jackson presented the balance sheet, Form 7, cash flow report, and check register.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-5 Check Signing (no recommended changes)
- b. Policy 2-1 Employment (recommended changes)
- c. New Members and Membership Refunds
- d. Subordination Agreements and Release of Liens
- e. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

One estate capital credit refund was pulled due to incomplete information. The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Herman presented revised Rules and Regulations. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Rules and Regulations as presented.

2025 ANNUAL DONATIONS

Herman presented a summary of past donations, with matching funds from Tri-State, CoBank and Basin. Herman presented recommended donations for 2025.

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

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Herman presented an update on pending Highline grants and applications. DOLA rejected Highline's application for grant funds for a battery project. Funds for the federal grants have been put on hold due to President Trump's executive orders.

FERC UPDATE

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding Tri-State FERC matters, with the following present: all directors, except Leo Brekel, and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and Attorney Williamson. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session. Brekel re-entered the meeting.

REVENUE DEFERRAL

Dennis Herman reported that Highline received a larger than expected patronage capital allocation from Tri-State for 2024, resulting in higher-than-expected margins. Herman recommends no changes to the revenue deferral plan.

RLF

General Manager Herman reported that the Town of Ovid expressed interest in a bridge loan from the RLF as part of a \$12M water project. Staff will continue to discuss the project with the Town and expects to receive an application in April.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

TRI-STATE

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors. He reviewed Tri-State's 2024 financials. Tri-State continues to work with Colorado legislators on fire mitigation legislation. The Tri-State Board of Directors approved its 2024 SEC 10-K. Tri-State now has 628,000 meters compared to 522,000 meters before United Electric's withdrawal.

General Manager Herman reported on his attendance at the Tri-State sponsored "fly-in" to D.C. to lobby regarding New ERA funding. Herman reported on his attendance at the Tri-State contract committee meeting.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding Tri-State resource plan, with the following present: all directors and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and Attorney Williamson. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

CREA

Jim Lueck reported that there was no meeting of CREA Board of Directors since the last Highline Board meeting. Lueck reported on potential legislation that would impact Highline.

NREA

Merlin Prior reported that there was no meeting of the NREA Board of Directors.

WESTERN UNITED

Ted Carter reported that there was no meeting of the Western United Electric Board of Directors.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

There was no emergency business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT