

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
April 16, 2026

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 April 16, 2026.

ROLL CALL

Vice President Jim Lueck presided at the meeting. Directors present in person:

Leo Brekel	Brad Stomberger
Ted Carter	Jim Lueck
Steve Oestman	Merlin Prior
Lisa Schilke	Aaron Sprague
Pam Stieb	

Directors David Carlson and Mike Bennett were absent.

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

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was adopted as presented.

OFFICERS

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers of the cooperative:

President-Mike Bennett  
Vice President-Jim Lueck  
Secretary-Merlin Prior  
Treasurer-Pam Stieb

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the March 19, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Directors and March 31, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Directors were presented. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the minutes as presented.

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of the 2026 annual meeting of members.

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 March.

Aaron Sprague reported that the RRWCD's General Manager, Deb Daniel, resigned.

NREA

NREA General Manager Rick Nelson, President Vance McCoy, and Vice President Don Scheer entered the meeting. Nelson reported on happenings at NREA. He reported on Nebraska legislation impacting electric utilities. Nelson, McCoy, and Scheer left the meeting.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED

Herman reported on the status of Highline's new phone system. He reported on Tri-State's re-filed HILT. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding the HILT, with the following present: all directors present at the meeting, except Leo Brekel, staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and attorney Williamson. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

Leo Brekel rejoined the meeting.

#### OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Herman presented the Operations and Safety Report as prepared by Operations Manager Kris Camblin. Herman presented the Safety Committee Report. There were no accidents. Herman presented the outage report.

#### AUDIT

General Manager Herman presented the written audit report as prepared by Highline's auditor. The auditor was available by telephone for questions. There were no questions.

#### MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. He reported on new services, rebates, RLF activity, the on-bill repayment program, and renewable distributed generation. Huser reported on Highline's planned move to the Tri-State irrigation load control program in 2027. Brad Stromberger reported on his attendance at the public hearing regarding the Perkins county canal project.

#### 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 Lamar substation upgrade and Amherst substation battery energy storage system project.

#### CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of March 30, 2026. Highline paid \$4,333.13 in fees on \$372,601.32 worth of credit card payments in March.

Highline filed for an extension for its IRS Form 990. Highline's consultant will begin the cost-of-service study next month. Jackson presented the balance sheet, Form 7, cash flow report, and check register.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-3 Qualifications for Directorship (recommended change)
- b. Policy 1-9 Annual Meeting (no recommended changes)
- c. Policy 1-17 Storm Restoration Procedure (recommended change)
- d. New Members and Membership Refunds
- e. Subordination Agreements and Release of Liens
- f. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

HIGHLINE MISSION STATEMENT

General Manager Herman presented staff's recommended Highline mission statement. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the mission statement as presented. Director Prior voted no.

2027 ANNUAL MEETING

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to hold the 2027 Annual Meeting of Members on March 23, 2027 at the Phillips County Event Center and to establish the record date for determination of members entitled to notice and to vote as February 22, 2027.

AUDIT REPORT

The Board discussed the audit report.

MEMBER ORGANIZATION DELEGATE ELECTIONS

General Manager Herman presented a list of Highline's incumbent delegates to member organizations. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the incumbent delegates and alternates to member organizations.

TRI-STATE

Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors and the annual meeting of Tri-State members. Tri-State entered SPP on April 1. The DOE issued a 202(c) order directing Craig Unit 1 to run April 10-15. LaPlata exited Tri-State on April 1. Two more Tri-State members, Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative and Wheatbelt Public Power District, delivered notices of intent to withdraw from Tri-State. Brekel reviewed Tri-State's financials through February.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to enter executive session for confidential discussion regarding potential BYOR projects and eastern interconnect members, with the following in attendance: all directors present at the meeting, all staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and attorney Williamson. Leo Brekel attended only the portion of the executive session regarding BYOR projects and left the meeting during discussion of the eastern interconnect Tri-State members. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

Leo Brekel rejoined the meeting.

CREA

Director Jim Lueck reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors. Lueck reported on potential legislation that would impact Highline and other electric cooperatives. General Manager Herman reported that the Colorado Clean Energy Plan may be amended to change goals for resource regulated generation.

Vice President Lueck recessed the meeting at 12:01 p.m. for lunch.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

WESTERN UNITED

Ted Carter reported that there was no meeting of the Western United Board of Directors. March Sales were up 3% compared to the same period last year.

AUDIT REPORT

The Board continued review of the audit report. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to accept the 2025 audited financials.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to direct staff to present a written statement of appreciation of Highline's linemen for Lineman Appreciation Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

  
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SECRETARY

  
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PRESIDENT