HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 23, 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 July 23, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Director Pam Stieb and was absent.

General Manager Dennis Herman, and Attorney Williamson were present in person. Staff members Jim Jackson, Kris Camblin, Alex Astley, and Elise Pocock were present in person or via video conference. Nathaniel English and Ariel Durham, interns with the Colorado Rural Justice Internship program, attended with Attorney Williamson. Williamson recorded the minutes of the meeting.

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was revised and was approved as revised.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the June 25, 2026, 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 June.

Aaron Sprague reported that the Republican River Water Conservation District offered the General Manager position to a candidate and is waiting to hear back from the candidate. Brad Stromberger reported on water issues on the South Platte River basin.

Herman reported that he is participating in discussions with general managers of other Eastern Colorado cooperatives about the possibility of shared services. NRECA CEO Jim Matheson requested that NRECA members sign the White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge. The Pledge is a voluntary initiative to ensure that the energy related costs of AI data centers are born by the developers and not other utility customers. The consensus of the board is that General Manager Herman should sign the pledge on Highline's behalf. Herman reported on the status of the eagle protection project and Highline's transition to the Tri-State DERM irrigation program.

The Holyoke Community Childcare non-profit corporation is seeking donations to establish an operating fund. General Manager Herman recommended donating $2,000.00. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to donate $2,000.00 to Holyoke Community Childcare.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Kris Camblin presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on damage to Highline's system from the June 29 storm. Camblin reported on contractor and Highline crew projects. He presented the fire mitigation report.

Camblin presented the Safety Committee Report. There were no accidents.

Camblin presented the Outage Report.

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

The board reviewed the Member Services Report as prepared by Member Services Manager Tadius Huser.

ENGINEERING REPORT

The board reviewed the Engineering Report as prepared by Engineering Manager Alex Astley.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of June 30, 2026. Highline paid $3,651.68 in fees on $280,202.12 worth of credit card payments in June. Jackson reported on the status of the cost-of-service study.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

a. Policy 1-6 Board Committees (no recommended change)
b. Policy 1-13 Memberships in Organizations (no recommended changes)
c. Policy 3-2 Consumer Complaints and Service Inquiries (no recommended changes)
d. New Members and Membership Refunds
e. Subordination Agreements and Releases of Liens
f. Estate Capital Credit Refunds

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

BESS UPDATE

General Manager Herman reported on the Amherst BESS project. He is working through Davis Bacon prevailing wage issues with a tax consultant. Tri-State changed its BESS DERM program, reducing the potential financial benefits to Highline. Herman still forecasts positive cash flow in the worse case scenario.

Alex Astley entered the meeting via telephone conference.

KRTA

General Manager Herman presented the executive summary of the 2025 CFC KRTA. He reviewed ratios where Highline fell in the top or bottom 10% of all respondents.

Alex Astley entered in person.

TRI-STATE

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance via telephone conference at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors. The Tri-State Board will consider revisions to the Rate Design Policy in August. Tri-State staff continues to work on rate issues related to data centers. Tri-State is planning a 200MW BESS project connected to the NIYOL wind project. The Basin Electric membership will consider a bylaw amendment to allow NRPPD to become a Class A member of Basin.

CREA

Director Jim Lueck reported on his virtual attendance at the regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors. CREA hired a new legislative aid.

WESTERN UNITED

Director Ted Carter reported on sales and financials for June.

NREA

Director Merlin Prior reported on the JT&S program.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Jim Lueck as Highline's delegate and Dennis Herman as the alternate to the Basin Electric Annual Meeting.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Leo Brekel as Highline's delegate and Jim Lueck as the alternate to the NRECA Region 7/9 Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding confidential RLF loan matters, Tri-State BYOR information, and personnel matters, with the following in attendance: all directors and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, Attorney Williamson, and interns Nathaniel English and Ariel Durham. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to hire two additional employees and add a Construction Foreman position.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS

Herman presented an Assurance Agreement under Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964. The agreement is a requirement for borrowing from RUS. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the agreement as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Merlin R. Prior
SECRETARY

[illegible]
PRESIDENT