

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 20, 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 August 20, 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	Pam Stieb
Steve Oestman	

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

AGENDA APPROVED

The agenda was revised and was approved as revised.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Bruce Gerk entered the meeting. He addressed the board regarding the availability of operations crews out of the Ovid office and his concerns about response times for outages in the Ovid area. General Manager Herman explained Highline's plan for coverage in the Ovid area.

Gerk left the meeting.

LINEMAN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Highline employee, Luke Bracelin, entered the meeting. He reviewed Highline's lineman apprenticeship program.

Bracelin left the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the July 23, 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 July.

Aaron Sprague reported that the Republican River Water Conservation District hired a new General Manager. Brad

Stromberger reported on litigation regarding the Platte Valley Water Partnership.

Herman reported that he will hold the donation to Holyoke Community Childcare until January. Herman reported on his attendance at the Phillips County public meeting regarding land use zoning for data centers. Director Lisa Schilke reviewed how Chase County is handling data center zoning.

Herman reported that Highline is encountering issues with railroad companies charging unreasonable fees and imposing unreasonable insurance requirements for crossing railroad tracks. Herman reported on issues encountered with the public using the community room.

Herman updated the board on the status of the cost-of-service study. Tri-State's preliminary budget contains a 6.52% rate increase for 2027, which would amount to a 6.6% increase to Highline. Highline's medical benefit premiums will increase 18-20% in 2027.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for discussions regarding confidential member information, with the following in attendance: all directors and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and attorney Levi Williamson. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

Herman continued his report. RUS is now offering partially forgivable loans for renewable energy BESS projects. Herman will investigate the potential for a BESS project at the Riverview Solar site.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Kris Camblin presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on substation maintenance and Highline's BESS project. Camblin reported on contractor and Highline crew projects. He reported on personnel matters. He presented the fire mitigation report.

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

Camblin presented the Outage Report.

MEMBER SERVICES REPORT

Member Services Manager Tadius Huser presented the Member Services Report. He reported on new services, rebates, the on-bill repayment program, revolving loan fund participation, renewable projects, and the new load control program.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Engineering Manager 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. He reviewed July load control activity. The board and staff discussed the new load control program.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 12:00 noon for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of July 30, 2026. Highline paid \$3,629.89 in fees on \$286,794.87 worth of credit card payments in July. Jackson reported on the transition to new enterprise software and 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 1-15 Air Travel (no recommended change)
- b. Policy 1-16 Medical Insurance (no recommended changes)
- c. Policy 1-21 Voting and Elections (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.

SERVER MIGRATION

General Manager Herman reported that the cost of servers has increased substantially since the 2026 budget was approved. He requested authority to spend up to \$200,000.00 for two local servers.

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to authorize staff to spend up to \$200,000.00 on two local servers. Director Prior voted no.

AMHERST SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Engineering Manager Alex Astley presented bids for the Amherst substation construction contract. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to accept the bid from Ward Electric.

BYLAW AMENDMENT

General Manager Herman presented proposed amendments to Article V, Sections 8 and 9 of the Highline Bylaws. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to authorize publication of the amendments for approval at a future board meeting.

RLF APPLICATION

The board reviewed an application for a loan from Highline's Revolving Loan Fund. After discussion, it was the consensus of the board that Highline not approve the application.

TRI-STATE

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors. Wyoming legislator, Harriet Hageman, met with the Tri-State Board. Tri-State hired a

third-party to conduct member assessment. Tri-State received an implementation notice for its New ERA application. SPP continues to issue various levels of advisories and alerts for the western grid. Brekel reviewed the June Operations Report and June financials. Tri-State's margins are \$7.2 million worse than budget Y-T-D.

General Manager Herman reported that Tri-State appointed him to a committee tasked with proposing strategies to increase Tri-State's equity level.

CREA

Director Jim Lueck reported that there was no regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors.

NREA

Director Merlin Prior reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the NREA Board of Directors. The NREA Board elected committee members. Prior reported on the status of the new JT&S program.

WESTERN UNITED

Director Ted Carter reported on Western United sales and financials for July.

BASIN ANNUAL MEETING

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the Basin Electric Annual Meeting. The membership approved a bylaw amendment that allows NWPPD to become a class D member. Basin settled litigation with McKenzie Electric. Basin and other parties to the litigation are paying McKenzie Electric \$40 million.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The directors discussed attendance at upcoming meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding confidential Tri-State BYOR information, with the following in attendance: all directors and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and Attorney Williamson. Leo Brekel attended the executive session except for the portion during which BYOR project financials were discussed. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT