

HIGHLINE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 17, 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 September 17, 2026.

ROLL CALL

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

Mike Bennett	Leo Brekel
Brad Stomberger	Jim Lueck
Merlin Prior	David Carlson
Aaron Sprague	Pam Stieb
Steve Oestman	

Directors Ted Carter and Lisa Schilke were absent. General Manager Dennis Herman and Attorney Williamson were present in person. 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.

MINUTES APPROVED

The minutes of the August 20, 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 August.

Aaron Sprague gave an update on the expansion of the Republican River Water Conservation District pipeline.

Herman reported on his conversations with the Town of Holyoke regarding the Town's electric system. Herman and staff met with Phillips County commissioners regarding the County's proposed land use zoning requirements. Highline is in discussions with NextEra Energy regarding station service for its planned BESS project at its Niyol Wind Farm.

Herman reported that he approved the purchase of a pickup that was in the 2026 budget. The purchase price was below the budgeted amount and was the lowest price of the bids received. The consensus of the board was that if the vehicle is included in the budget and the purchase price is below budget, the board does not need to otherwise approve the purchase in advance. The board would like to receive reports on vehicles purchased.

OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REPORT

Operations Manager Kris Camblin presented the Operations and Safety Report. He reported on substation maintenance and storm damage. He reviewed challenges encountered with a railroad crossing. He reported on personnel matters. He presented the fire mitigation report. Camblin reported on contractor and Highline crew projects. Camblin updated the board on the application for grant funds for Highline's drone.

Camblin presented the Safety Committee Report. There were no accidents. Camblin reported on Highline's mayday training.

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 August load control activity.

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Corporate Services Manager Jim Jackson presented the Corporate Services Report. Jackson presented CFC Commercial Paper Investments as of August 30, 2026. Highline paid \$3,513.59 in fees on \$276,035.90 worth of credit card payments in August.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contained the following items:

- a. Policy 1-20 Records Management (no recommended change)
- b. Policy 2-5 Drug & Alcohol Abuse for CDL and other Company Drivers (no recommended changes)
- c. Policy 2-6 Blood Borne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan (no recommended changes)
- d. New Members and Membership Refunds
- e. Subordination Agreements and Releases of Liens

The Consent Agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

POLICY 2-2 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

General Manager Herman presented revised Policy 2-2 Employee Benefits. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to approve the policy as presented.

PRELIMINARY COST OF SERVICE STUDY

General Manager Herman presented the executive summary of the cost-of-service study. Discussion followed.

UNDERGROUND FAULT LOCATOR REPLACEMENT

General Manager Herman reported that the underground fault locator needs replaced. He presented a quote for a new unit. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to authorize purchase of the unit as presented in the quote.

RUS PART PROGRAM

General Manager Herman updated the board on investigation of the feasibility of a BESS project utilizing RUS PART program funding.

WARN GRANT

Kris Camblin and Tadius Huser updated the board on potential uses of WARN grant funding. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to authorize staff to submit a proposal for up to \$100,000 for advanced technology under the WARN grant program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to go into executive session for confidential discussion regarding BYOR projects, Tri-State matters, and personnel. All directors and staff present at the meeting, General Manager Herman, and Levi Williamson attended the executive session. It was properly moved, seconded, and carried to exit executive session.

President Bennett recessed the meeting at 12:00 noon for lunch and reconvened the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

TRI-STATE MEMBER SURVEY

General Manager Herman completed the Tri-State survey with input from the Board.

LAND LEASE

General Manager Herman reported on the possibility of leasing Highline land near a substation to a data center developer.

TRI-STATE

Director Leo Brekel reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the Tri-State Board of Directors. The Tri-State Board approved the 2027 budget, which will result in a 6.5% overall rate increase to Tri-State members. Tri-State's High Impact Load Tariff was accepted by FERC for consideration. Brekel reviewed Tri-State's July financials.

General Manager Herman was appointed to the Tri-State equity committee. Herman reviewed issues related to Tri-State's equity position.

CREA

Director Jim Lueck reported on his attendance at the regular meeting of the CREA Board of Directors. CREA hired new outside general counsel.

NREA

Director Merlin Prior reported that there was no meeting of the NREA Board of Directors. Prior reported on the status of the new JT&S program and Nebraska legislative issues.

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 was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT