

White River Electric Cooperative  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021  
Board Meeting Report

The White River Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors met in regular session at the Branson Headquarters on Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 beginning at 9:00 am. The meeting was held in the Community Room to allow for social distancing due to the Missouri COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.

The Board began by reviewing and unanimously approving items on the consent agenda which included; July Board Meeting Agenda, June Board Meeting Minutes and the June Board Summary.

Next Vice President Whorton, Chair of the Bylaw, Governance and Member Engagement Committee, updated the Directors on the 2022 CEO goals, stating the main discussion would be held during the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

Whorton then informed the Board about a phone call she had received from a member of the community who expressed concern about the escalation of real estate property taxes in Taney County. These increases impact the Cooperative and many of its members as well. CEO Hamon reported to the Board that he is aware of the tax increases and stated that many businesses and individuals are communicating with the county commissioners to address this situation. This increase is not only in Taney County but all other counties White River serves have increased as well. Hamon will continue to keep the board updated on this situation.

Director Funk, Chair of the Finance and Equity Management Committee, stated the Committee had not recently met, so he had nothing to report at this time.

President Hyatt stated there were no officer reports to present.

Updates were given by the following departments: Safety and Training, Accounting and Office Operations, Communications and Member Engagement, Engineering and Development, Information Technology and Operations.

During the departmental updates, information was provided on the following subject matters: June financials, YTD financials, 2021 Annual Meeting of Members, 2020 Annual Report, member communications, WRVEC construction workplan, current pole inspections, new services, cyber security, the AVL system and current COVID protocols.

Larry Hughes, Manager of Safety and Training updated the board on the pole top rescue training the linemen performed on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Hughes stated the training went outstanding and many of the men that were close to the required maximum time of four-minutes last year really stepped it up and lowered their time. Average rescue time of all the Lineman that participated was approximately two and a half minutes. There were a few linemen that were unable to participate in this training and they will schedule a time to make this up soon.

During the Accounting and office Operations update, Manager Tim Shafer presented an update on the asset clean up project. This project identifies assets no longer in service or no longer in existence and eliminates such assets from our balance sheet. This will provide clarity to what WR owns and maintains accountability on its location.

Next during the Communications and Member Engagement Department report, Manager Cassie Cunningham, reviewed the changes to White Rivers mail-in and online voting procedures. Members will now receive a unique 6-digit PIN. This PIN will be located on the front page of the member's bill. This special PIN, along with the members account number and the name on the account will be required to vote. Adding this PIN allows secure voting by primarily verifying the account number and PIN. The name on the account is still required but will not be as sensitive, as it will not be required to match exactly as printed on the bill, avoiding some difficulties experienced last year. This same information will also be required to request a mail-in ballot. Mail-in ballots will be requested by calling the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperative directly. Mail-in ballots will be watermarked, then postage-paid ballots are mailed directly to AMEC. The voting window for will begin August 23<sup>rd</sup> and end on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021.

Cunningham then reviewed and handed out White Rivers 2021 Annual Report that will be going out to all members with the August Rural MO.

Manager of Engineering and Development, Beau Jackson reported new construction development is still strong as WR has added 378 new services this year in 2021. Jackson then presented the board with an update of the pole replacement program, stating approximately 900 poles have been replace this year.

JC Zalog, Manager of Information Technology, reported on a recent training he participated in, the Cooperative Security Forum hosted by Associated Electric in Springfield. This forum included discussion on the latest security threats targeting electric cooperatives. Zalog also updated the board on Associated Electric Cooperative's cybersecurity operations center is now offering cybersecurity technology/resources to all cooperatives, subsidiaries, and statewide organizations to improve protect, detection and response capability. White River will begin the process of implementing this service, the operation/software cost for the center will be covered by Associated.

Manager of Operations, John Combs reported it was a rough week for the Branson office as they experienced a big wave of people suffering with the COVID-19 virus. Branson office was forced to shut down to interrupt this cycle. Combs also discussed the recent loss of foreman and lineman Raymond Roy. Roy was an outstanding leader and had a genuine love for White River and his community. He will be greatly missed.

Monthly reports on Cooperative activities/programs were presented by the following: Chris Hamon, CEO; Angie O'Dell, Manager of Executive Business Administration; the KAMO Report was presented by Director Short; the Sho-Me Report was presented by CEO Hamon; the Legal report was presented by Attorney Christiaan Horton.

During the Executive Business Departmental report, Manager Ange O'Dell reported the 2021 board meeting calendar was revised due to a conflict on the October calendar date previously approved. The Board of Directors October meeting will now be held on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The calendar will be revised to show such change.

Attorney Christiaan Horton, updated the board on the nominating committee meetings. All went very well and stated there was only one board candidate that the committee did not recommend based off current requirements.

An Executive Session of the Board was then held to discuss a couple confidential matters. Attorney Horton first updated the Board on a litigation matter involving the Cooperative. CEO, Hamon then brought the Board up to date on the current WRVEC Strategic Initiatives, and the

Board had full discussion regarding the CEO's goals for the coming year. Only the Board, Board Legal Counsel, CEO Hamon, Manager of Engineering Beau Jackson, Manager of Finance and Office Operations Tim Shafer and Manager of Executive Business Administration Angie O'Dell were present for this portion of the meeting. The Executive Session then concluded.

During Executive Session, a non-confidential board action item was discussed and the following motion was made;

- A motion to approve the Utility Agreement (Construction Phase Work) and the Escrow Agreement, both with the City of Branson, and related to the Highway 76 beautification project, as presented, and to authorize the CEO/GM Chris Hamon or his designees to execute any and all agreements or documents for or on behalf of the Cooperative as necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution. Motion unanimously carried. **#07-22-2021-001**

The next regular meeting of the White River Valley Electric Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. This meeting will be held at the Branson Headquarters in the Community Room unless governmental health orders are mandated that would prevent in-person assembly of the Board, in which case, the meeting will be held by teleconference. Additional notice will follow in advance of the meeting to confirm location and method.

Jenny Whorton / Vice-President