



Board Meeting Summary

December 14, 2021

The White River Valley Electric Cooperative Board of Directors met in regular session at the Branson Headquarters on Wednesday, December 14, 2021, at 9:00 am, opening with the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

The Board began by reviewing and unanimously approving items on the consent agenda which included the December Board Meeting Agenda, November Board Meeting Minutes, November Board Summary and the December Special Board Minutes.

Director Rowland, Chair of the Bylaw, Governance, and Member Engagement Committee, stated the Committee had convened for a very productive meeting on November 22, 2021, at the Branson headquarters. Rowland reported on the Committee's discussion regarding the continued use of employee comment "black boxes" located at all of the Cooperative's district offices. The Committee's consensus is to remove these boxes and encourage all employees to simply communicate within proper channels and chain of command on matters of importance related to their work. The full Board agreed, and staff was requested to remove the boxes accordingly.

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

Updates were given regarding 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: field inspections, in-field first aid kits, 2021 property taxes, inventory, material supply chain issues, Tri-Annual Survey/ACSI Survey, economic development, legislative update, rebates, ORU update, Share the Harvest update, new service connections, net metering, IT security procedures, and 2022 right-of-way contracts.

During the Accounting and Office Operations report, Department Manager Tim Shafer asked the Board for approval of the 2021 Write-offs. The Write-offs as presented are for the year 2018 in the amount of \$37,521. Tim reported and the Board recognized that the team has done an outstanding job

with collections this year. A motion was made to approve the Write-offs as presented. A second was given. Motion carried. #12-14-2021-001.

Tim Shafer then submitted the Cooperative's annual 219's consisting of Work Orders and Specialized Equipment for Board approval. A motion was made to approve the 2021 Specialized Equipment allocation of \$2,720,480.46 and the Completed Work Orders total of \$2,661,975.76. A second was given. Motion carried. #12-14-2021-002. Finally, Mr. Shafer informed the Board about the significant increase in the Cooperative's property taxes (18.14%) and plans to challenge future increases of this magnitude should they arise.

During the Communications and Member Engagement Department report, Department Manager Cassie Cunningham asked for approval of additional funds (\$4,000) for the 2022 yearly corporate contributions to the AMECPAC. A motion was made to approve of the additional contribution as presented. A second was given. Motion carried. #12-14-2021-003. Increased efforts in communication with Cooperative members has led to 2.8 million unique points of contact in 2021, more Operation Round-Up grants, Power Up applications, and rebate utilization by our members.

During the Engineering Report, Engineering and Development Manager Beau Jackson was excited to share the amount of new Cooperative service connections and the positive growth outlook for service projected for the next year. Manager Jackson asked for approval of the 2022 Pole Replacement Contract #1 with BBC Electrical Services, Inc. to provide pole replacement services through 2022 year-end. This contract amount is not to exceed the pole replacement contractor budget which was approved in the November 2021 Board Meeting. A motion was made to approve the contract as presented and to authorize the CEO/General Manager or his designees to execute any agreements or documentation for, on behalf and in the name of the Co-operative as may be necessary to carry out the intent of the resolution. A second was given. Motion carried. #12-14-2021-004. The re-investment into our system for pole replacements and other improvements will contribute to lowering the Cooperative's incremental costs overall.

Operations Manager John Combs advised the Board on right-of-way (ROW) maintenance and reported that nearly 800 miles of the Cooperative's ROWs have been trimmed and maintained during 2021 compared to previous year levels in the range of 300 miles. This year over 500 miles of ROW have been sprayed which has also proven to be a very cost-effective way to manage vegetation growth. This dedicated maintenance work for the protection of the Cooperative's lines and facilities will significantly reduce risk of outages during inclement weather.

CEO Chris Hamon updated the board on recent storms and the diligence of our team to get the lights back on promptly with some discussion on preparedness for the winter season and the electric grid. Supply chain issues were a hot topic again with Mr. Hamon explaining the steps the Cooperative is taking to make sure it has the supplies, equipment, and materials needed for its operations.

Angie O'Dell, Manager of Executive Business Administration, informed the Board of the reopening of all Cooperative offices to the public effective Jan. 1 after long closure due to COVID-19 safety protocol which will aid with the delivery of member services are our District offices.

Meeting adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the White River Valley Electric Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at the Branson headquarters.

Neal Crum / Vice-President