

**DELAWARE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**September 15, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at Delaware Electric Cooperative headquarters in Greenwood, Delaware, on Wednesday, September 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Chair Patricia S. Dorey called the meeting to order. The following directors were present: William J. Wells, Michael K. Brown, Thomas E. Brown, Hunter J. Emory, Bruce A. Henry, Laura T. Phillips, Charles L. Towles, Jr., Bruce R. Walton, and Blaine M. Daisey.

Also present at the meeting were Gregory Starheim, Tom Beamon, David Shapley, Dwayne Street, Jesse Spampinato, Rob Book, Jeremy Tucker, Troy Dickerson, Jamie Nutter and Monika Lowe, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES & ORGANIZATIONAL MINUTES**

The Minutes of the regular meeting of August 18, 2021 were approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President & CEO Gregory Starheim provided a brief update on the stats of the cooperative, including an update on COVID-19 cases within Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) and the State of Delaware. Starheim reported the increase of COVID-19 cases are increasing and surpassing previous years cases.

CEO Starheim advised the board that in consultation with the Executive Committee, the holiday dinner will be cancelled for 2021 due to COVID-19.

**HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

Vice President of Human Resources, Dawn Smart, introduced Brice Holzhauer, a new hire in the Technology Department. Brice will be working under Ben Galvacky as Cybersecurity Engineer.

Vice President Smart reported no injuries for the month of August. Smart reported the 101 Critical Days of Summer have been completed.

Vice President Smart reported an overview on union grievances.

Vice President Smart presented DEC's current COVID-19 update, and protocols DEC is taking to protect employees and members.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chief Financial Officer Tom Beamon reviewed the financial highlights for the period ending in August 2021.

CFO Beamon presented actions that have been taken to address 2020 auditor recommendations. Beamon reported that billing adjustments, bank reconciliation reviews, and capital expenditure tracking will be performed monthly. Beamon reported that DEC is in the process of reviewing its annual calculation methodology related to employee vehicle fringe benefits. DEC is considering transitioning from owning vehicles, to providing a vehicle allowance program to those employees who are provided the fringe benefit.

CFO Beamon reported the total allocations of 2020 margins are \$19,073,555. Allocations will be applied to member accounts during the final week of September 2021.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS & INNOVATION REPORT**

Vice President of Special Projects and Innovation, David Shapley, presented an update on the cooperative's renewable energy resources and initiatives.

Vice President Shapley reported 87% of AMI meters have been installed on DEC's system. Read rates continue to improve at 99.56% compared to last month at 99.53%.

Vice President Shapley reported that 800 AMI meters are to be changed out by the end of 2021 and that all remaining PLC meters will be changed out by the first quarter of 2022.

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Vice President, Troy Dickerson, reported new work requests have increased by 20% year-to-date and jobs engineered have increased by 22% year-to-date.

Vice President Dickerson presented an Infrared Thermography Report, the technology which is used for preventative maintenance and avoid future outages.

Vice President Dickerson reported on the progress of the planning efforts of new Dorey Substation.

Vice President Dickerson reported a 44% increase on the price of some hardware used for new construction and line revamps.

## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Vice President of Operations, Jesse Spampinato, presented the Operations Report to the Board. Vice President Spampinato summarized events for the month of August.

Vice President Spampinato reported on DEC's reliability for the month of August. Spampinato reported reliability and preventative maintenance outages were all above average for the month of August.

Vice President Spampinato reported an update on the progress of the 2021 Annual Work Plans (AWP).

Vice President Spampinato reported load control was run eight times, with four being the month's average.

Vice President Spampinato reported the impact of Tropical Storm Ida that occurred on September 1<sup>st</sup> and lasted a total of eight hours. The total number of members affected were 214.

## **ODEC REPORT**

Director Bruce Henry reviewed the ODEC report summarizing facts released from the September 2021 ODEC Board Meeting.

## **MEMBER SERVICES REPORT**

Vice President Rob Book reported the Delaware Agricultural Museum will be one of four sites featured for the Smithsonian traveling exhibit, Crossroads. DEC also has an exhibit within the Delaware Agricultural Museum which will be featured.

Vice President Book reported the Energy Safe Kids Program has scheduled for DEC to host school presentations to fourth grade classes in Kent and Sussex counties the end of September.

Vice President Book reviewed with the board the Rate Comparison Chart and where DEC's rates compare to other surrounding energy providers.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairwoman Pat Dorey called for an Executive Session. The Executive Session meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

## **RETURN OF REGULAR SESSION**

Due to unfinished business the board returned to regular session.

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Director Towles presented the legislative report to the board.

## **TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

There was no Technology Report this month.

## **NRECA REPORT**

Director Michael Brown reported NRECA CEO Jim Matheson, wrote a letter supporting a proposed bill, relating to direct-pay incentives to cooperatives for green energy technologies.

## **VMD REPORT**

There was no VMD Report this month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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Chairwoman

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Secretary