

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

**July 21, 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, August 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Chairwoman 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, William P. Haughey, Jr., 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, Bruce Campbell, Tom Beamon, Mark Nielson, David Shapley, Dwayne Street, Jesse Spampinato, Kevin Yingling, Tony Rutherford, and Monika Lowe, who recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the regular meeting of July 21, 2021, were approved, as amended, upon a motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President & CEO Gregory Starheim presented an overview of short-term goals which include focusing on company policies, retail rate structure and strategic planning early in the year 2022.

**HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT**

Vice President of Human Resources, Dawn Smart, presented the safety report to the board. One accident occurred during the month of June, causing no injuries and minimal damage to a company vehicle.

Vice President Smart reported all safety inspections met expectations for the month of June.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

CFO Beamon presented a resolution authorizing CEO Gregory Starheim as a signatory for all financial institutions. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the resolution.

### **AUDIT REPORT**

John Cheatham with Adams, Jenkins, and Cheatham reviewed the Audit Report with the board. Mr. Cheatham reported DEC received the highest level of assurance overall.

A motion was made and unanimously approved by the board to approve the 2021 Audit.

### **TREASURY & RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Vice President of Risk Management, Bruce Campbell, provided an update on the utilization of the CoBank line of credit.

### **ENGINEERING, PLANNING & INNOVATION REPORT**

Vice President of Engineering, Strategy and Innovation, David Shapley, reported Miss Utility tickets were up 19% for the month of July and up 18% YTD.

Vice President Shapley reported 85% of RF meters have been installed on DEC's system. Read rates continue to improve at 99.53% compared to last month at 99.40%.

Vice President Shapley presented a preliminary layout of battery storage planned to be installed in the Dirickson substation.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Assistant Vice President of Engineering, Troy Dickerson, reported new services continue to increase by more than 25% YTD.

Assistant Vice President Dickerson reported work on 53 new developments has been initiated for future services and 47 staked developments are being sent to construction for primary wire and infrastructure.

Assistant Vice President Dickerson reported five substations will have wildlife protection installed to help prevent service disruptions by discouraging birds from nesting on electrical equipment.

Assistant Vice President Dickerson reported supplies may be delayed due to longer lead times on products and lack of drivers to deliver inventory.

Assistant Vice President Dickerson presented an update of the 2021 Annual Work Plan (AWP) to the board as well as an updated outline of the AWP budget.

### **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE REPORT**

Vice President of Operations, Jesse Spampinato, presented the Operations Report to the Board. Vice President Spampinato presented an overview of all 23 substations.

Vice President Spampinato reported the Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) was an average of 50 minutes for the month of June.

Vice President Spampinato reported preventative maintenance numbers for the month of June. Vice President Spampinato reported June's SAIDI minutes were 9.97 and SAIFI interruptions were .194 month to date.

Vice President Spampinato presented a summary of outages that took place in June.

### **REGULATORY REPORT**

Vice President of Staff Services, Mark Nielson, provided the Board with an update on the Bruce A. Henry Solar Farm.

Vice President Nielson provided an update on the ODEC/EDF projects.

Vice President Nielson reported settlement for the property on Cedar Grove Road, which is the future location of a new substation, will occur before the end of the year.

### **ODEC REPORT**

Director Bruce Henry reviewed the Confidential ODEC report summarizing facts released from the June 2021 ODEC Board Meeting. Director Henry reported no committee meetings were held during the month of June.

### **MEMBER SERVICES REPORT**

Vice President of Member Services, Rob Book, presented the member services report to the board. Vice President Book reported an increase in social media followers and e-mail subscribers in the past month.

Vice President Book reviewed the annual meeting schedule and location with the board.

Vice President Book reported DEC's Delaware Living Magazine is in the printing process and will be delivered to members the first week of August.

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Director Charles Towles presented the legislative report.

Jamie Nutter, Esquire, reported that during redistricting the Delaware Legislature will likely be adding one additional seat in the House and Senate due to growth in Sussex County.

### **TECHNOLOGY REPORT**

Chief of Information, Dwayne Street reported on the use of artificial intelligence to improve reliability in areas historically known for outages caused by vegetation. Street reported vegetation analysis will be completed on three different substations. The process will include the use of historical data and tree health to create a risk assessment for vegetation related outages.

CIO Street reported a recent ransomware attack involving a third-party associated with DEC. DEC was not affected by the ransomware attack and the third party immediately exterminated these services.

**NRECA REPORT**

Director Michael Brown advised the board to review his report in the drop box.

**VMD REPORT**

Director Pat Dorey reminded the board of the VMD Annual Meeting on July 25th.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Wells called for an Executive Session. The Executive Session meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The Board exited Executive Session to approve CEO relocation expenses up to \$22,500.00 for reimbursement.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously voted to name the new substation located off Cedar Neck Road after former Director Dean C. Belt.

---

Secretary

---

Chairman