

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc. was held at 150 Christian Drive, Rayville, Louisiana at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 20, 2021.

Directors present were Thad H. Waters, Jr., Alton L. Welch, Jr., Richard Strong, Weldon Fitch, Charles Hixon, Ronald Pippin and Steve Pylant. Others present were Jeff Churchwell, General Manager, Nora Pylant, Accountant, Jim Berry, Attorney and Connie Smallwood, Auditor with Heard, McElroy and Vestal.

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order. Mr. Churchwell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Mr. Churchwell introduced Johnny Williams as operations superintendent for the Winnsboro office. Mr. Williams addressed the Board.

Ms. Smallwood presented the 2020 audit report.

Mrs. Pylant read the minutes of the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Mr. Churchwell gave the safety report for March 2021, there were no reported accidents.

Mr. Churchwell discussed the service territory of the Winnsboro and Bastrop offices. During the Winter Storm Uri, some of the Bastrop linemen covered the northern end of the Winnsboro territory. Mr. Churchwell requested that two starting positions be added to the Bastrop office, therefore creating three, two-man crews, one of which would cover an additional 75 square miles. The Bastrop office would then serve 225 square miles. After much discussion concerning the hiring of two additional men, Mr. Pippin suggested Mr. Churchwell provide the total miles served out of the Oak Grove office at the May meeting and this topic will be discussed again.

Mrs. Pylant presented the Manager's Report and Income Statement for March 2021. Mr. Churchwell informed the Board that the PCA calculation reflected the reduced fuel charge, CLECO allowed NELPCO to spread the March fuel cost across three months. Mr. Churchwell reviewed the residential rate comparison for April.

Mr. Churchwell reviewed the crossclaim filed by ETC. Mr. Berry explained that this is a common practice, and he believes the claim has no merit. As of this date, the trial is scheduled for July 2021.

Mr. Fitch discussed the vote by 1803 to set up a cash position of \$10 million. Mr. Fitch and Mr. Churchwell voted against on the basis that the vote came prior to the NELPCO Board meeting. The proposed funds would originate from a \$.49/1,200 kWh charge pass-through cost to the Membership. After much discussion, Mr. Fitch explained he and Mr. Churchwell would continue to update the Board concerning 1803.

Mr. Fitch stated that there had been a meeting of the VOLT managers, the current offers are being considered. Mr. Waters made a motion that NELPCO withdraw from any broadband venture and let other companies pursue broadband deployment. Mr. Waters changed his motion, he moved that NELPCO withdraw from supporting VOLT Broadband, LLC expenses except what is currently payable, VOLT Broadband, LLC pay all other expenses. Mr. Pylant seconded the motion. Mr. Welch and Mr. Hixon voted against the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Pylant suggested the NELPCO membership be surveyed concerning their interest in NELPCO going into the broadband business. On motion made by Mr. Strong, seconded by Mr. Pippin and carried, none opposed, the issue is tabled until the May 2021 board meeting.

Mr. Churchwell reviewed the ETC amendment. The amendment extends the contract through December 31, 2024. On motion made by Mr. Waters, seconded by Mr. Hixon and carried, none opposed, the amendment was approved.

Mr. Fitch acknowledged the open seats on the Board. Currently there are two open seats, Mr. Pylant recommended taking one seat at a time, after discussion, it was decided to fill Mr. Moroni's seat first. Mr. Fitch indicated the officers would interview potential candidates to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Moroni. Mr. Pylant voiced his concern that he should be on the committee since he was a director from Franklin Parish. Mr. Fitch acknowledged his concern and indicated that the committee would be Mr. Pylant, Mr. Welch, and Mr. Hixon.

Mr. Churchwell reviewed the Operation RoundUP Board nomination process and explained the Morehouse Director had to step down for personal reasons. Mr. Fitch nominated Mr. Gary Guice to replace Mrs. Cindy Hendrix as the Morehouse representative. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hixon and carried, none opposed.

Mr. Strong moved the Board enter executive session; Mr. Waters seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session. Mr. Strong moved the Board exit executive session, Mr. Waters seconded the motion, the Board exited executive session. Mr. Waters made a motion that the Board follow Mr. Churchwell's suggestions discussed in executive session, Mr. Hixon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Churchwell invited the Board to attend a dinner sponsored by NELPCO on Monday, April 26, 2021 at the office of Scott Kirkpatrick with Pelican State Partners. The dinner will be an opportunity for the NELPCO directors to visit with legislators.

On motion made by Mr. Strong, seconded by Mr. Waters and carried, none opposed, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the following capital credits totaling \$ 29,190.32 be paid on behalf of deceased members: (List on file at NELPCO office)

On motion made by Mr. Waters, seconded by Mr. Strong and carried, none opposed, the following applicants totaling 88 members be accepted as new members of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc.: (List on file at NELPCO office)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

S/ Weldon Fitch, President

S/ Charles B. Hixon, Secretary