

REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 23, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. (the "Cooperative") was held Tuesday, January 23, 2024, in the boardroom of the Cooperative's headquarters office located at 75 Airport Road in Indiana, Pennsylvania.

Call to Order

The Board Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:56 p.m. A Director gave the invocation and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

All Board of Directors were present. Also in attendance were the Cooperative's President & CEO, the Cooperative's attorney and Executive Assistant.

Reading REA Cooperative Core Value #6

The President and CEO read aloud REA Energy's Cooperative Core Value #6.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, Regular Board meeting. Motion carried.

Additions to Agenda

No Additions were added at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Change of PREA Legislative Conference Date to May 6, 2024

The President and CEO announced a change of date for the PREA Legislative Conference in Harrisburg, PA to Monday, May 6, 2024. This normally is an overnight stay in Harrisburg. The President and CEO also answered a few questions from the Directors regarding the timeline of events during the PREA Legislative Conference.

ITX Board Meeting Date

The In The Stix Broadband board meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

Escheats Committee Date

The Escheats Committee meeting was scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

NRECA Legislative Conference Discussion

The NRECA Legislative Conference dates are set for April 21st-24th, 2024 in

Washington D.C., but Congress will not be in session at this time. NRECA and PREA are encouraging co-ops to still attend the conference, and to meet with the legislatives' aides during this time. REA Energy's HR Administrator sent out an event invite via Boardable to all Directors to get a headcount on who is planning to attend before registration and hotel reservations are due.

ACTION - Board Resolution - NRECA Adoption Agreement – Amendment

A change was made to the NRECA Agreement for In The Stix Broadband, LLC employees' 401(k) match.

Motion was to approve the NRECA Adoption Agreement. Motion carried.

Solar

The President and CEO spoke about the recent policy changes for REA Energy's Distributed Generator members. Several DG members had difficulties obtaining an umbrella policy on their generation systems, and the decision was made to roll back the insurance requirement for those whose systems generate less than 25kW. Those members with systems who generate above 25kW or are commercial accounts will still be required to get an umbrella liability insurance policy.

The Indiana Gazette reached out the REA Energy regarding some questions that Solar United Neighbors (S.U.N.) had regarding our policies. REA Energy's Communications and Marketing Manager provided a list of answers and responses to the Gazette, to which the Gazette printed in an article.

REA Energy was also made aware that some members spoke with Representative Ryan Bizzarro (Erie, PA) regarding recent policy changes for DG systems. Complaints were filed with Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Insurance Commission regarding the DG policy changes. REA Energy has since rolled back the insurance requirement for those members' systems that are producing less than 25kW.

ACTION - Annual Meeting Guest Speaker Invitation

PREA recently sent a letter stating that they would like to send a representative as a guest speaker for REA Energy's 2024 Annual Meeting. A Director motioned to request Matt Leonard from PREA to be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting.

Motion was to invite a guest speaker to the 2024 REA Energy Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

LEGAL UPDATE

REA Energy's Attorney remarked that the Cooperative is not involved in any legal matters at this time.

PRESIDENT & CEO REPORT

The President and CEO spoke on several items, including:

- Medical leave of approximately six (6) employees

- We have five (5) applicants for REA Energy's engineering position. Interviews will be conducted over the next few days.
- The President and CEO will be attending a fiber training in February 2024.
- REA Energy met with Bryon Stauffer and the Indiana County Commissioners to discuss timelines and payouts for the ITX fiber build out with ARC grant. The funding for the build was reinstated on January 2nd, 2024, and REA Energy/ITX has been asked to resubmit mapping and payment breakdowns to Byron Stauffer for approval. Upon approval, REA Energy/ITX will be able to purchase materials needed for the build. Current outstanding invoices to the County should be paid by the end of January 2024.
- Community Connect Grant's requirements were reworked to downgrade the service requirement to 10 mbps download / 1 mbps upload speeds, which disqualifies most of Indiana County. REA Energy/ITX filed complaints with local representatives regarding this post-submission change.
- ARPA Grant: We should know in February 2024 if REA/ITX was awarded funding.
- REA Energy has switched to Davey Resource Group for meter exchanges.
- REA Energy has updated the leasing contract for ITX regarding fiber placements on REA Energy owned utility poles. REA Energy has also reached out to Comcast and other communication companies to renegotiate the leasing contracts.
- REA Energy is continuously monitoring our C-Tag poles and replacing the ones that are necessary.
- Senator Pittman reached out to REA Energy to commend low outage numbers and timelines for restoring power during recent windstorms. He also thanked REA Energy for changing the Capital Credits policy regarding estates.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Retirement

The Reliability Supervisor retired on January 5, 2024, after 21 years of service to REA Energy.

Open Positions

REA Energy currently has three (3) open positions: Field Application Technician, Electrical Distribution Design Engineer, and Electrical Engineer Intern. Five (5) applicants have been selected for interviews for the Electrical Distribution Design Engineer.

Trucks and Equipment

REA Energy should receive a new bucket truck sometime in 2024.

ACTION – Accept new members

77 New Members for December 2023.

Motion was to accept 77 new members for December 2023. Motion carried.

The Board Chairman declared a brief break at 5:53p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 6:12 p.m.

Secretary / Treasurer's Report

The Board's Secretary and Treasurer discussed financial reporting from December 2023

REPORTS

PREA / Allegheny

The Board's PREA representative discussed the PREA meeting held on January 18th, 2024. The meeting involved discussions regarding pre-audit procedures, NRECA resolutions, and had a planning session with CFC. They also discussed the rise of Artificial Intelligence and how it could affect cooperatives in the future.

The Board's Allegheny representative discussed the Allegheny meeting from January 17th, 2024. Mr. Neese received his committee selection, which is power supply. The meeting discussed lines of credit with CFC and a calendar of events.

An area update has been scheduled for March 27, 2024 at the Indiana Hilton Hotel.

The following were reviewed by the Board of Directors:

Form 7 - December 2023

Will be available for February Board Meeting.

Form 7 Significant Variance

Will be available for February Board Meeting.

Power Bill Cost / Revenue

Will be available for February Board Meeting.

Escheat Balance Report

Will be available for February Board Meeting.

Other Accounting Reports

NISC SmartHub Report

Accident Report

Engineering Update Report

Fourth Quarter 2023 Communications/Marketing Update

Website Visits for REA Cooperative & REA Services

Penn Lines and Watt's New

REA Energy Social Media Analytics

REA Services Activity Report

ACTION -

Approval of SUMMARY of November 28, 2023 Board Meeting

Motion was to amend the SUMMARY of November 28, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was to approve the SUMMARY of November 28, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

ACTION-

Approval of all Reports as presented.

Motion was made to approve the reports as presented. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Director requests that we revert to older version of the engineering report.

A Director requests that all of 2024 board meeting dates are posted for the Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The Board Chairman adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.