

NORTHEAST LOUISIANA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

WINNSBORO, LOUISIANA

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc. was held at 1411 Landis Street, Winnsboro, Louisiana on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Directors present were Weldon Fitch, Thad H. Waters, Jr., Steve Pylant, Charles Hixon, Ronald Pippin, Alton L. Welch, Jr., Davin McMurry and Richard Strong. Others present were Jeff Churchwell, General Manager, James Berry, Attorney, and Nora Pylant.

Mr. Fitch called the meeting to order. Mr. Churchwell led the invocation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag.

The minutes of the August 27, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

Mr. Churchwell stated that there were no accidents reported in August. He reported that the 2024-2025 training program and monthly safety meetings have begun. He also noted that NELPCO participated in the LDCC lineman training program graduating ceremony, there were 10 graduates.

Mrs. Pylant presented the August income statement and the Manager's Report. Mr. Churchwell reviewed the wholesale power bill and the residential rate comparison.

Mr. Churchwell updated the Board concerning the NELPCO Base Rate Case at the LPSC. Mr. Churchwell, Mr. Piontek, Mrs. Pylant and Mr. Proctor met with LPSC Staff attorneys to discuss elements of the rate case, LPSC Staff requested additional reports detailing expenses from the cost-of-service study through the current dates. Mrs. Pylant informed the Board that there would be a change in the procedural schedule related to the Rate Case.

Mr. Churchwell presented the Board with right-of-way expenses for the last three years. Mr. Churchwell proposed that NELPCO contracts its right of way clearing and maintenance. Mr. Berry will prepare a contract with a three-year term. After much discussion, Mr. Welch made a motion to move forward with a three-year contract with a right of way contractor, the motion was seconded by Mr. Hixon and approved unanimously.

Mr. Fitch updated the Board concerning 1803 Electric Cooperative, Inc. He reported that the 1803 team is working with USDA grants on potential green projects, including securing a solar provider. Mr. Churchwell reported that Gridforce has a five-year contract to monitor transmission assets and is working with 1803 and Cooperative representatives to ensure that the assets are operational prior to 12/31/2024.

Mr. Berry reported that the September 19 hearing date was canceled. The Judge is waiting on the court of appeal to rule on the plaintiff's writ prior to continuing the scheduled hearings.

Mr. Churchwell updated the Board on Volt Broadband's progress. Mainline construction is expected to be completed this week. The cabinet at Como will be set up later this week and the splicing will start on the Como feeders.

Mr. Churchwell reported that the 2024 annual meeting will be held at Black Bear Conference Center in Delhi, LA. The nominating committee met on September 12 and all current directors were nominated for another term.

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

RESOLVED, that the following capital credits totaling \$ 8,262.07 be paid on behalf of deceased members: *(List on file at Winnsboro office)*

On the motion made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Strong and carried, none opposed, the following applicants totaling 51 members be accepted as new members of Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative, Inc.: *(List on file at Winnsboro office)*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

s/ Weldon Fitch, *President*

s/ Ronald Pippin, *Secretary*