

Berkeley Electric Cooperative  
Board Meeting  
September 26, 2022  
Minutes

The Berkeley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustee's meeting was held **Monday, September 26, 2022, at 1:00 P.M.** at the Moncks Corner Headquarters.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeWitt, Mr. Vandross gave the invocation and we stood to honor the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Trustees were present:

<b>Connie Shuler</b>	<b>Henry H. Chavis, Sr.</b>	<b>Robert Vandross</b>
<b>Willis Sanders</b>	<b>H. Wayne DeWitt</b>	
<b>Sam Gourdine</b>	<b>Sheila Powell</b>	

Mr. Harry Brunson participated via telephone. President & CEO Michael S. Fuller, Executive Administrator Ashley Edens, and the following staff: VP of Finance Joel Stevens, VP of Engineering and Operations Tim Mobley, VP of Human Resources Louise Meade, VP of Marketing and Government Affairs Tony Vincent, Manager of Key Accounts and Economic Development Bert Walling as well as General Counsel John B. Williams were in attendance.

Chairman DeWitt called for approval of minutes from the August board meeting which was held on August 22, 2022. Upon motion by Mr. Sanders, seconded by Mrs. Shuler, and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the minutes of the August 22, 2022, as presented.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **ECSC Board Report-Willis Sanders**

Mr. Sanders stated that the projected 2023 ECSC Dues would be \$1,035,636 amount to be billed per month would be \$86,303.03. Mr. Sanders also discussed their two-year ECSC budget comparison and their projected 2023 income statement. Mr. Sanders stated we need to select a ECSC membership classification. Upon a motion by Mr. Chavis, seconded by a Mrs. Shuler and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves that Berkeley Electric will participate in the gold membership classification for ECSC.**

### **Central Meeting Report – Mr. DeWitt**

Mr. DeWitt stated that John Brantley will be retiring, and Central's senior staff has taken the opportunity to improve efficiency by combining the information technology and operation technology functions. Mr. DeWitt stated that Mr. Hochstetler discussed the 2023 Business Plan. Central will continue to work closely with Statewide on wholesale power related regulatory, government relations, and communication issues, and the Executive Committee charter will be modified to reflect this evolving role.

### **CEEUS Meeting Report-Mr. Gourdine**

Mr. Gourdine stated there was no CEEUS board meeting this month.

### **Financial Reports- Mr. Stevens**

Mr. Stevens reviewed the financial reports from July 2022. Mr. Stevens reviewed over portions of the statement of operations and the balance on the Form 7.

### **President/CEO Reports-Mr. Fuller**

Mr. Fuller gave the Board an update on Hurricane Ian and stated that BEC has a plan in place for storm restoration. He will be on a call at 3pm today with Statewide to start preparing for crew assistance if needed.

### **Fund Request for Awendaw Water System-Mr. Vincent and Mr. Walling**

Mr. Walling stated that he received a letter from the Town of Awendaw asking for support in this project. Mr. Walling stated this is a state grant application. He reviewed over the two proposed options from Thomas and Hutton. We have given a letter to support this project, but no money amount has been set yet.

### **Affirmative Action Plan-Mrs. Meade**

Mr. Fuller called on VP of Human Resources, Louise Meade, to present the 2022 Affirmative Action Plan. Upon a motion by Mr. Sanders seconded by Mrs. Powell, and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees adopt the 2022 Affirmative Action Plan as submitted.**

### **Executive Session**

The Chairman then called for an Executive session and upon motion by Mrs. Shuler, seconded by Mr. Chavis and unanimously passed, the Board went into Executive Session. A contractual matter and the wage and salary proposal was discussed. Upon a motion by Mrs. Powell, seconded Mr. Gourdine and unanimously passed the Board came out of Executive Session.

### **Wage and Salary 2022-2023 Proposal-Mr. Stevens**

Mr. Stevens gave a brief overview of what was approved back in 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Executive Committee met prior to the board meeting and their recommendation is to approve an 8.0 % base raise (COLA 6.3%, Merit 1.7%) for employee raises. Also recommended is a \$500.00 per employee totaling \$150,000. This would be paid out to employees on November 17, 2022. Upon motion by Mr. Sanders, seconded by Mrs. Powell, and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approve an 8.0% base raise for employee raises and a \$500 Christmas bonus to be issues on November 17, 2022.**

### **Mill Brach Substation at Camp Hall -Mr. Mobley**

Mr. Mobley stated that we have received three bids for the Mill Branch Substation at Camp Hall. After reviewing these bids for accuracy and compliance with our specifications, as your engineers we recommend that you execute a contract with Sumter Utilities, Inc. for this contract. Mr. Mobley is seeking board approval to award the construction contract for the Mill Branch Substation project to Sumter Utilities for a total of \$2,795,371.77 contract. The materials will be furnished by Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be in the amount of \$1,340,745.18 and the contractors bid for labor/materials is \$1,454,626.59. Upon a motion by Mr. Gourdine, seconded by Mr. Vandross and unanimously passed: it was

**RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc., has awarded to Sumter Utilities, Inc. the construction contract for the Mill Branch Substation Project. The contract total amount is \$2,795,371.77. The materials are to be furnished by Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be in the amount of \$1,340,745.18 and the contractor's bid for labor/material is \$1,454,626.59**

**Attorney Report-Mr. Williams**

Mr. Williams discussed a few legal cases that he is working on.

**2022 Credential Committee Meeting- Mr. Williams**

General Counsel John B. Williams brought it to the attention of the Board that the 2022 Credentials Committee met on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

**Pursuant to a notice mailed by the Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc., on September 9, 2022, the Credentials Committee members met at the Cooperative's Office in Moncks Corner, South Carolina this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. to approve that the following candidates are qualified and will be listed on the ballot for the 2022 Annual Meeting of Members:**

**District 2:     Sheila Powell  
                      Mark Murray**

**District 5:     Denver Lee Clayton II**

**District 8:     Harry Brunson  
                      Robert C. Jenkins  
                      Eugene Forney**

**District #3     William Jones, Chairman**

**District #8     Margaret Holst, Secretary**

**ECSC Voting Delegate-Mr. Williams**

Mr. Williams advised that the Board needed to elect a voting delegate for ECSC for their annual meeting. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Sanders to serve as the voting delegate and Mr. Fuller as the alternate.

**Bid Discussion for Old Propane Building-2700 Hwy 52 Moncks Corner-**

Mr. Williams discussed the several bids that were received for the 2700 Hwy 52 building. The Board agreed to accept the second highest bidder. Mr. Williams stated that he will contact them and would need Board approval once the price was agreed on.

**New Business-**

The Chairman then called for new business. There was none.

**Old Business – None.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn.



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H. Wayne DeWitt, Chairman



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Connie Shuler, Secretary