

Berkeley Electric Cooperative
Board Meeting
June 22, 2026
Minutes

The Berkeley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustee's meeting was held **Monday, June 22nd at 1 P.M.** at the Moncks Corner Headquarters.

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

The following Trustees were present:

Connie Shuler	Henry Chavis	
Willis Sanders	Robert C. Jenkins	Donald C. Helms
Sam Gourdine	Deborah C. Bryant	Robert Vandross

H. Wayne DeWitt participated via telephone. President & CEO Michael S. Fuller, Executive Administrator Ashley Edens, General Counsel, John (Jack) Williams, and the following staff: VP of Finance Joel Stevens.

Chairman DeWitt called for approval of minutes from the May's board meeting which was held on May 26, 2026. Upon motion by Mr. Chavis, seconded by Mr. Jenkins, and unanimously passed; it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the minutes of May 26, 2026, board meeting as presented.

Leadership Program Certificate Presentation-Ms. Halverson and Mrs. Kent

Two employees were recognized for earning their BEC Leadership Certificates: Andrew Hilton and Jeremy Harrell.

Committee Reports

Policy and Bylaw Committee Meeting-Mrs. Shuler

Mrs. Shuler stated that Mr. Stevens proposed changes to Policy 112 Equity Management, and it was approved to present the changes to the full Board for approval. Upon motion by Mr. Chavis, seconded by Mr. Gourdine, and unanimously passed; it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approve the proposed changes to Policy 112 Equity Management (see attached).

ECSC Board Report-Mr. Sanders

Mr. Sanders stated that there was an ECSC board meeting this month on June 3, 2026, it was held at the Summer Conference at Isle of Palms. Mr. Sanders covered a few items that were discussed at the meeting.

CEEUS Board Report-Mr. Gourdine

Mr. Gourdine stated they met for the CEEUS board meeting on June 2nd, it was held at the ECSC Summer Conference at Isle of Palms. Mr. Gourdine asked Mike to review over a couple slides that were covered at the CEEUS board meeting this month.

Financial Report-Mr. Stevens

Mr. Stevens reviewed the financial reports from April 2026. Mr. Stevens reviewed portions of the statement of operations and the balance on the Form 7.

President/CEO Reports-Mr. Fuller

Mr. Fuller discussed correspondence mailed regarding the three outages that occurred on Johns Island. There was a meeting scheduled with Johns Island officials last Wednesday and Mr. Fuller will follow up with them by next week to make sure their concerns were resolved (see attached letter).

Executive Session-

Vice Chairman Sanders called for an executive session to discuss a business matter. Upon a motion by Mr. Chavis, seconded by Mrs. Bryant and unanimously passed, the Board entered executive session. There was open discussion about a business matter. Upon a motion by Mr. Chavis, seconded by Mr. Vandross, and unanimously passed, the Board returned to regular session. The Board then voted to ratify the action taken in executive session upon a motion by Mr. Vandross and seconded by Mr. Helms and unanimously passed.

Attorney Report-Mr. Williams

Mr. Williams discussed a few legal cases that he is working on and there was no action needed.

Appoint Nominating Committee-Mr. Williams

General Counsel John B. Williams brought it to the attention of the Board that the 2026 Nominating Committee needed to be appointed. Upon motion by Mr. Chavis seconded by Mr. Helms and unanimously passed; it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby appoints the following members to serve on the 2026 Nominating Committee: The three incumbents running for re-election (District 1, 4 and 7) did not name anyone to the Nominating Committee.

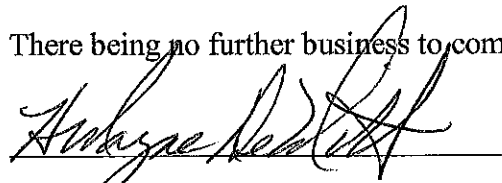
District 1	Mrs. Patricia Casey	District 6	Mr. Joe L. Wade
District 2	Mr. Ruehl Flores	District 7	Mrs. Lynn Dehay
District 3	Mrs. Tamera Barnette	District 8	Mr. Tim Nixon
District 4	Mrs. Peggy Williams	District 9	Mr. Ryan Rushton
District 5	Mr. Jerry Harrison		

New Business-

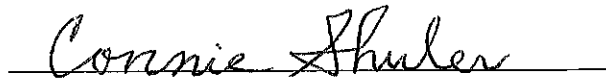
The Chairman then called for new business. There was none.

Old Business – None.

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



H. Wayne DeWitt, Chairman



Connie Shuler, Secretary

Petition of Johns Island Businesses

For reliable electric power and cellular service

To: The Board of Trustees and management of Berkeley Electric Cooperative, and to AT&T, Verizon, and T-Mobile.

Re: Ongoing power outages and loss of cellular service on Johns Island, and the resulting harm to local businesses.

Date: June 2026

The undersigned businesses operate on Johns Island, South Carolina. We are writing together because the two services we depend on most, electric power and a working cellular connection, fail too often, and their consistency and reliability have not improved in years. We are asking for specific, measurable commitments to fix them.

THE PROBLEM

Power on Johns Island goes out far too often, often for hours. Losing it once a week is not unusual. Recent weeks have been worse. In one three-week stretch, businesses in our area lost power three separate times, with causes that ranged from a pole fire to a tree limb on the line to an equipment failure.

When the grid goes down, the cellular and data network tends to go down with it. Parts of the island already have weak or no data coverage on an ordinary day, and during an outage even the areas that normally work go dark. For any business that runs on a connection, that is the line between inconvenient and impossible.

Together, the two failures stop a business cold, and it impacts almost every kind of business on the island: Booking systems go dark, card readers will not authorize, and registers will not complete a sale. A restaurant loses refrigeration and the stock inside it, cannot prep or cook, and cannot seat or serve a table. An office sits idle with no systems and no connection. A trades or service business loses its scheduling and its only line to its customers. In every case the costs keep climbing: staff are paid to stand around, perishable inventory is thrown out, customers leave frustrated, and many do not come back. A generator alone does not save most businesses because backup power is worthless without a backup connection, and the connection fails at the exact moment we need it. Across the businesses on this island the losses run into the tens of thousands of dollars a year, and in a bad stretch the hundreds of thousands, due to frequent power outages.

What is hardest to accept is that this is preventable. The approach here is reactive: equipment is repaired after it fails instead of upgraded before it does, and the cost of those failures falls on us business owners rather than on the providers. In a coastal area that sees storms through the summer and hurricanes most years, the lines that keep going down are the ones that should have been hardened or placed underground long ago, as storm-exposed regions elsewhere have already done. Berkeley Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative that answers to its members, and the national

carriers are enormously profitable while the data service here stays substandard. Neither has been held to account for the gap between what we pay for and what we actually receive. We have each raised this on our own for years with nothing to show for it. We are raising it together now.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF BERKELEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Berkeley Electric is a member-owned cooperative. The businesses signing this petition are members and co-owners of it, not only customers. We ask the Board of Trustees and management to:

1. Provide a full disclosure of all significant and intermittent power outages across Berkeley Electric's network over the past 365 days, organized by date, time of day, length of outage, and geographic region.
2. Provide a written reliability plan for the specific feeders that serve Johns Island, including the outage frequency and duration figures already on record, and a clear timeline for measurable improvement.
3. Commit funded work on those feeders, including tree clearance, equipment replacement, and the hardening or undergrounding of the lines that fail repeatedly.
4. Notify affected members before and during outages with the cause and an honest restoration estimate, and follow each multi-hour outage with a written explanation of what failed and what will keep it from happening again.
5. Address business interruption honestly. Revenue lost during an outage is a real cost to us, not simply a damaged appliance, and the standing offer to file a property-damage claim does not answer it. If the cooperative will not account for and reimburse business revenue loss caused by power outages, then helping fund backup power for the businesses it affects is the minimum reasonable alternative.
6. Accept this petition as new board meeting business affecting the membership as a whole; place it before the Board, and respond to it ahead of the next Annual Meeting of Members.
7. Meet with representatives of the signing businesses, at the Johns Island district office, within thirty days of receiving this petition.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING OF AT&T, VERIZON, AND T-MOBILE

A network that fails every time the power fails is not one a business can rely on. We ask each carrier to:

1. Install and maintain battery and generator backup at the cell sites serving Johns Island, sized to keep voice and data running through the multi-hour outages we actually experience.
2. Identify and fix the parts of Johns Island that have no usable data coverage even when the power is on.

3. Provide a written resiliency plan for this service area, describing how voice, data, and access to 911 are kept available during a commercial power outage.
4. Give local businesses a named point of contact who can act on continuity problems, rather than a general consumer support line.

This is not without precedent. After Hurricane Katrina the Federal Communications Commission adopted a backup power standard for cell sites, and California's utility regulator now requires major carriers to keep sites running for up to seventy-two hours during outages, and to file resiliency plans, in its highest-risk areas. What has been required of these same companies elsewhere can be done here.

RESPONSE REQUESTED

We ask each addressee for a written response within thirty days, and for a meeting with representatives of the signing businesses to agree on specific commitments and dates. Copies of this petition are being provided to the Charleston City Council District 3, Charleston County Council District 8, the offices of our State House Districts 115, 116, and 119, and Representative for Federal House District 1, the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff, and the Federal Communications Commission.

SIGNATURES

By signing below, each business confirms that the problems described in this petition affect its operations and that it supports the requests made here.

Organized by **Charleston Aqua Park at Trophy Lakes**, 3050 Marlin Road, Johns Island, SC 29455.