

## **BOARD CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES**

**May 26, 2020**

- ❖ **Call to Order** – Mr. Elkins called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.
- ❖ **Invocation** – Mr. Scott Jones offered an invocation on behalf of the group.
- ❖ **Attendance**
  - Hez Elkins, President
  - Richard Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
  - Phillip Fincher
  - Rand Killgore
  - Lane Davidson
  - Scott Jones
  - Leroy Perritt
  - Butch Sensley
  - Others in attendance
    - Mark Brown, CEO
    - Bill Dye, CFO
    - Paul E. Kitchens, Corporate Counsel
    - Lisa Ledbetter, Administrative Assistant
- ❖ **Request for Items to be Added to the Agenda** – – No items were added to the agenda.
- ❖ **Consent Agenda** – Mr. Elkins entertained a motion by Mr. Davidson that was seconded by Dr. Fincher to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
  - Approve April 28, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - Approve Expense Reports
  - Accept New Members
  - Approve Capital Credits – Withhold payment for Eddie W. Austin while we await further information.
  - Approve Monthly Loss Control & Safety Report
  - Approve Homer & Farmerville Operations Report
- ❖ **Attorney Report** – Mr. Kitchens made a brief report on the legal matters currently facing the Cooperative. Mr. Kitchens' report was then approved on a motion by Mr. Sensley and seconded by Mr. Noles.
- ❖ **ALEC Report** – Mr. Davidson stated the ALEC meeting was held by conference call this month with the next conference call scheduled for June 29, 2020. Mr. Davidson and Mr. Brown encouraged all Directors to contact members in their district requesting they contact their Representative for support in amending SB406. As the bill stands now, Cooperatives will not be able to enter the broadband market due to restrictions incorporated into the bill. Mr. Davidson's

report was approved on a motion made by Mr. Perritt that was seconded by Dr. Fincher.

- ❖ **1803 Power Supply Cooperative** – Dr. Fincher stated the 1803 meeting was held by conference call this month. Dr. Fincher reported the bid process for power supply contractors has been extended to May 29<sup>th</sup> deadline with an estimated 40 entities expected to submit bids. Mr. Mark Brown reported the contract is still pending approval of revisions but that most of the changes recommended had been incorporated into the contract. Dr. Fincher’s report was approved on a motion made by Mr. Noles and seconded by Mr. Killgore.
  
- ❖ **Financial Report** – Mr. Dye made his monthly financial report.
  - April 2020 Financial Report – This report was approved on a motion made by Mr. Noles and seconded by Mr. Killgore.
  - CFC Loan Refinance Report – Mr. Dye reported a reduction in interest rates on CEC debt which will save the Coop approximately \$168,000 per year in interest expense.
  - Operation Roundup Report – Mr. Dye called attention to the Roundup report indicating that \$20,667.51 in grants were awarded this period with a total of \$1.6m in grants being awarded since inception of the program.
  
- ❖ **CEO’s Report** – Mr. Brown called attention to his written report presented to the Directors’ and invited any questions on the following subject matter:
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  - LPSC’s No Disconnect Order
  - SB406
  - COVID-19 Plan

A brief discussion followed regarding LPSC No Disconnect Order. Mr. Brown stated that no disconnects are permitted at this time unless initiated by the customer. He stated the LPSC requires that payment arrangements for past due accounts must be made according to the LPSC schedule. Mr. Brown presented a proposal being advocated by Dr. Greene to refund all member deposits. Mr. Brown stated that he and Mr. Dye have been analyzing the pros and cons of such an endeavor. He reported this could save the Coop \$107,520 in the first year.

Mr. Brown reported that SB406 will hit the House floor May 27,2020 and again encouraged everyone to contact their Representative requesting amendment to the bill to allow Cooperatives to enter the broadband market.

After a brief discussion, it was recommended that the Coop will continue operating under the current COVID-19 plan through June 30, 2020.

Mr. Brown’s report was approved on a motion made by Mr. Killgore and seconded by Dr. Fincher.

- ❖ **Approve Meeting Expenses** – Mr. Elkins then accepted a motion made by Mr. Noles and seconded by Mr. Sensley to approve the expenses associated with this meeting. The motion carried.
- ❖ **Confirm Next Meeting Date** – Mr. Elkins confirmed the date for Board Candidate Interviews, CEO Evaluation, and our next Board meeting.

*Board Candidate Interviews, Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 6:00 pm, Meeting Room  
CEO Evaluation, Tuesday, June 23, 2020 following Interviews, Meeting Room  
Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, June 30, 2020, 6:30 pm.*

- ❖ **Adjourn** – The meeting was then adjourned upon a motion made by Mr. Killgore and seconded by Mr. Davidson.

**The minutes above were approved by the board of directors during its regularly scheduled meeting held on July 1, 2020.**

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**Hez Elkins, President**

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**Richard Noles, Secretary -Treasurer**